

Collection #  
SC2820

## GOVERNOR OLIVER P. MORTON LETTERS, 1862, 1864

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

Brent Abercrombie  
July 2007

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 folder
COLLECTION DATES:	1862, 1864
PROVENANCE:	David Taylor, Sylvania, OH; Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, Inc., Chicago, IL
RESTRICTIONS:	None

**COPYRIGHT:**

**REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:** Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** SC 1117

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2006.0120; 2005.0220

**NOTES:**

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Oliver P. Morton was born August 4, 1823 in Centerville, Indiana of Wayne County. Before Morton became Indiana's fourteenth governor, he spent two years at Miami University (Ohio) and one term at Cincinnati College Law School. Politically, Morton was originally a Democrat, but in 1854 he left the party and helped launch the new Republican Party in Indiana. Two years later, Morton was the party's first nominee for governor, though unsuccessful. Four years later however, Morton was elected as lieutenant governor, and a year later became governor when then Governor Henry Lane resigned to enter the U.S. Senate in 1861.

Morton's time as governor was focused towards supporting Union, specifically Indiana, troops during the Civil War. Shortly after the start of the war, Morton offered 10,000 troops to the government, and worked there after to ensure other mandated quotas were filled. Along with supporting the Union troops, Morton was also a strong advocate for the rights of blacks. Morton served a second term as governor before being elected to the U.S. Senate. There he was a strong support of radical Reconstruction. In 1876, Morton lost out for the Republican presidential nomination to Rutherford B. Hayes. Morton died a year later on November 1, 1877 at the age of 54.

**Sources:**

Calhoun, Charles W. *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Indiana University Press. 1994. p. 1023.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection consists of three letters. One letter written by Governor O.P. Morton to General C.P. Buckingham, on July 17, 1862, concerns the hiring of new assistant surgeons for the army. The letter discusses how the assistants would be paid and who would pay them. The collection also contains two signed letters written to Governor Morton. The first letter dated Aug. 22, 1862, is from Brigadier General Thomas John Wood written from Verville, Tennessee. He is requesting additional troops from Indiana. The other letter written by Brigadier General Edward Moody McCook, dated Aug. 28, 1864 is from Cartersville, Georgia. He writes to Governor Morton to defend his honor and deny rumors that were printed in the newspapers that his men and officers were drunk during a recent raid. There are typed transcripts for those two letters.

**CONTENTS**

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

## **CATALOGING INFORMATION**

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC2820).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.