

Collection #
SC 2724

HIRAM FINTON CIVIL WAR LETTERS, 1865

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1 March–August 1865

PROVENANCE: Wendy Hurley, North Manchester, IN, 21 March 2003

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ACCESSION 2003.0321
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NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

On 10 December 1837, Elizabeth Wolf Finton gave birth to her son Hiram near Roundhead in Logan County, Ohio. Both she and her husband, John Finton, were born in Pennsylvania. Elizabeth died in 1838. After her death, John married Sarah Hendershott in Logan County. John and his brother James moved their families to Kosciusko County, Indiana. They settled in Washington Township in 1846 and John had an active life as a farmer, justice of the peace, and businessman. John Finton died in 1858, leaving behind his widow Sarah and several children including Hiram.

Hiram Finton was eight years old when the family moved to Kosciusko County. He helped on the family farm until he was eighteen years old, when he began to study masonry and plastering. He married Priscilla Bennett in September 1861 in Kosciusko County. Priscilla was a native of Indiana, born around 1841. The couple lived near Pierceton, Ind., for most of their married life and had eleven children. Their first-born son, Marion, was born before Hiram Finton served in the Civil War and the letters that are in this collection are addressed to Priscilla and Marion.

On 16 February 1865, Hiram Finton mustered into the 152nd Indiana Infantry, Company D, as a private. During that year of the war his unit was stationed in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia and in the Kanawha Valley, West Virginia. In June, Priscilla Finton gave birth to their second son Charles. Hiram mustered out of the army on 30 August 1865.

When he returned from the war, Hiram Finton became a contractor specializing in masonry and plaster in Washington Township. He and Priscilla were members of the Presbyterian Church, where Hiram was an elder. He was also a Mason, a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, and was the commander of the John Murray Post. No. 124, G.A.R of Pierceton. Finton died on 10 January 1923 in Washington Township, Kosciusko County, and is buried in Hillcrest Cemetery in Pierceton.

Sources:

Ancestry Plus: <http://search.ancestry.com> 29 April 2004

Biographical and Historical Record of Kosciusko County, Indiana. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1887. General Collection: F532.K8 B6 1887

Adjutant General's Office. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana*. Vol 7, p. 598. Indianapolis: A. H. Connor [etc.] State Printer, 1865–69. General and Reference Collection: E506.2.I39 T4 1865

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

During his service in the Union army, Hiram Finton exchanged correspondence with his wife Priscilla. In this collection there are thirteen complete letters from Hiram to Priscilla, five partial letters, two empty envelopes, and two newspaper clippings. The dated letters range from 1 March 1865 to 2 August 1865. There is also one fragment of a letter from Daniel Bennett, Hiram's relative, to his wife Rachel.

The letters discuss army life, Hiram's concern for his wife and babies, and news about their friends and family in Kosciusko County. Several of Hiram's friends from home served in the same regiment, and his letters discuss his adventures with his comrades. He also discusses events including the capture of Jefferson Davis. The newspaper clippings announce the deaths of Peter Finton and Opal Grogg.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Letters, 1 March–2 August 1865, and no date

CONTAINER

Folder 1

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, SC 2724).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.