

**Collection #  
SC 3356**

**JOHN C. BLACK  
LETTER, 16 JANUARY 1889**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder (1 item)

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1889

PROVENANCE: Early American History Auctions, Inc., La Jolla, CA; March  
2000

RESTRICTIONS: None

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NOTES:

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

John Charles Black was born on 27 January 1839 to Rev. John Black and Josephine Culbertson in Lexington, Mississippi. When Rev. Black died in 1847, the family moved to Danville, Illinois.

John attended Wabash College in Crawfordsville, Indiana. He enlisted as a Sergeant Major in the army on 14 April 1861 from Crawfordsville. John first served in the Indiana Eleventh Infantry from 25 April to 4 August 1861. He then served in the Illinois Thirty-Seventh Infantry from 18 September 1861 until his resignation on 15 August 1865. During his military service, John was promoted to Major, Lieutenant Colonel, and Colonel. He also received the honorary rank of Brevet Brigadier General. He also was later awarded the Medal of Honor for his involvement in the action at Prairie Grove, Arkansas on 7 December 1862.

Following his resignation from the military, John returned to Danville and studied law and passed the bar in 1867. Black unsuccessfully ran for Congress in 1866, 1876, and 1884 and for the U.S. Senate in 1879. President Cleveland appointed John the Commissioner of Pensions, where he worked from 1885 until 1889. He was elected to Congress in 1892. In 1895, John resigned from office to accept the position of U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois.

President Roosevelt appointed Black to the Civil Service Commission in 1904, where he served until his retirement in 1913. His other positions included department commander of the Loyal Legion of Illinois (1895–1897), Illinois' department commander of the Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) (1898), and Commander-in-Chief of the GAR (1903–1904). John died 17 August 1915.

Sources:

American Civil War Research Database. "John Charles Black, Soldier History." Accessed 21 September 2017. <http://www.civilwardata.com/>

Brockman, Paul and Dorothy Nicholson. Collection guide. M 292 Lew Wallace Collection, 1799–1972. Indiana Historical Society. (Guide completed September 2005)

Spence, Paul and Cheryl Schnirring. Collection guide. John Charles Black Family Papers, 1829–1951. Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library. (Guide completed 2008). <http://alplm-cdi.com/chroniclingillinois/items/show/70>

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains a letter from John C. Black to David M. Donald, dated 16 January 1889. The letter inquires about Stewart Brotherton's disability claim.

## **CONTENTS**

CONTENTS

John C. Black letter 16 January 1889

CONTAINER

Folder 1