

Collection #
M 0653
OM 0320

JOHN LOVE
PAPERS, 1837–1886

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

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes, 3 oversize folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1837-1886

PROVENANCE: Joyce Layton, Pendleton, IN, 2 March 1995; John Mullins, Indianapolis, IN, 15 March 1995; Kenneth W. Rendell, Inc. Wellesley, MA 02181, 28 April 1995; Robert F. Batchelder, Ambler, PA 19002, 21 September 1995, 12 September 1996

RESTRICTIONS: None

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

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: Executive files of Oliver P. Morton in Division of Public Records; M 0292, Lew Wallace Papers: Correspondence between Wallace and Love August 1860 to July 1863, Correspondence between Wallace and Richard J. Gatling, 8-2-1865 - 9-3-1865

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 1995.0321, 1995.0358, 1995.0469, 1995.0759, 1996.0756

NOTE: Re: photocopied Journal in Box 1 Folder 6 : owner unknown. May be cited but not published.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Love (1820-1881) was born in Culpeper County, Virginia, the son of Richard H. Love and of a granddaughter of Richard Henry Lee. Two older brothers died early; a third, Richard, served in the U.S. Navy until his death in 1855.

John Love attended West Point from 1837 to 1841, and then embarked on a military career. In 1841-1842 he attended a cavalry school at Carlisle, Pa. He was then assigned in the West: to Fort Gibson in Indian Territory, and to Fort Scott and Fort Leavenworth in Kansas. He fought in the war with Mexico in 1846-1848, and was brevetted captain for his part in the assault on Santa Cruz de Los Rosales in March 1848. In 1849-1850 he was Quartermaster of the First Dragoons, and in 1851-1852 he was in the recruiting service in Carlisle, Pa., where he had considerable friction with his superior, Lt. Col. P. St. Geo. Cooke.

Love resigned from the nomadic life of the Army in 1852, and moved to Indianapolis, probably because in 1849 he had married Mary F. Smith, a daughter of Oliver Hampton Smith, a prominent lawyer and Whig politician. He and his wife joined Christ Church (Episcopal), and from 1853 on he was a vestryman there. Later on he was Worshipful Master of the Ancient Landmarks Lodge of Masons, and also a charter member of the Scottish Rite. He was the first president of the Masonic Mutual Benefit Society. In politics he was a Democrat.

In Indianapolis Love was in the real estate business, and also had a large farm. The West Point Biographical Register also lists him as a railroad contractor. After 1856 he became involved, with his father-in-law, O. H. Smith, in railroad finance, particularly in connection with the Cleveland Straight Line Railroad and the Evansville, Indianapolis Cleveland Railroad. Love spent a good deal of time in the East trying to interest potential investors. Much of the time he worked closely with Willard Carpenter of Evansville, but this association led to a dispute, and to a lawsuit which stretched out until at least 1864.

Love was also interested in education. In 1858 he was appointed by the Indianapolis Common Council to be one of three school trustees. Along with his fellow trustees, Culley and Beaty, and superintendent James Greene, he did much to further the development of free public schools.

At the same time, Love kept up his interest in military matters. In 1858 he formed the Marion Dragoons, a volunteer cavalry company which soon collapsed under the heavy expense of maintaining horses as well as men. During the first year of the Civil War, he served first in West Virginia under Brigadier General Morris, and then was involved in training the volunteer troops raised by Governor O. P. Morton. At one point Calvin Fletcher approached him, as "Gov. Morton's military man," to stop letting captured Confederate officers out on parole; he "agreed to stop it." Fletcher worked to get Love promoted to brigadier. In the last months of 1862 Love commanded a division in defense of

Cincinnati. He resigned from the Army on 1 January 1863, having been requested by Governor Morton to help in his administration, as a War Democrat. However, Morgan's raid in July 1863 called him back to service, and Calvin Fletcher noted that "Genl Love with 1500 and Lu Wallace with an equal number [were] close to his heels." In November 1863, Love went with Governor Morton to the dedication of the cemetery at Gettysburg.

During the period of the war, Love began his connection with the Gatling Gun. The gun, a breech-loading cannon made like a revolver and originally firing 250 rounds a minute, was developed in 1861-1862 by Richard J. Gatling. The inventor settled in Indianapolis in 1854 and had previously patented agricultural products including a steam plow (1857). The U. S. Navy adopted the gun in 1862 and used it aboard several gunboats; the Army, experiencing difficulty with its models, held back until 1866. However the mere sight of three Gatling Guns quelled a draft riot in New York City in 1863; General Benjamin F. Butler bought some for his troops; and some were used in the siege of Petersburg.

Gatling set up his factory in Indianapolis. General Love bought stock in the company, and also represented the company as it presented the gun, now improved to fire 1200 rounds a minute, for sale to the United States and also to Great Britain, France, Prussia, Russia, Spain, Roumania, Serbia, China, Japan, and eventually Turkey. At one point in 1874, the company was considering letting its European orders be fabricated in Europe by a competitor, Alfred Nobel. William H. Talbott and several others worked with Love in Europe. The Gatling company moved to Hartford, Conn., in 1870, and soon was sold to the Colt Firearms Company. Love, though he began selling his stock in 1873, was still representing the company a year later.

Toward the end of his life, Love engaged in "the land-claim business." He was a trustee of Indiana University from 1875 to 1878, completing the term of John R. Elder. In 1877 Governor James D. "Blue Jeans" Williams appointed him to a four-man commission to erect a new State House in Indianapolis, and he served on this until his death. In 1880 he was appointed by Congress to be a manager of the National Soldiers Home, which had four branches: in Dayton, Ohio; Augusta, Maine; Hampton, Virginia; and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He also worked to get Democratic veterans to support General W. S. Hancock for President in 1880.

Sources: Materials in collection

Diary of Calvin Fletcher: VII, 145, 318, 360; VII, 74, 251n

Representative Men of Indiana, I, 128-131

Sulgrove, *History of Indianapolis*, 252, 253, 303, 368, 434

Dunn, *Indiana and Indianans*, II, 709

Littell, "Development of the Indiana School System" in *Indiana Magazine of History*, XII, 203 (Sept. 1916)

B.D. Myers, *Officers of Indiana University 1820-1950*, 293-294

Encyclopedia of Indianapolis (Articles on Gatling, Gatling Gun)

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling three manuscript boxes and three oversize folders, contains mainly correspondence, and also army rosters, printed leaflets, invitations and programs, and clippings. It spans the period 1837-1886, and is arranged chronologically in two series, one for General Love and one for his wife, Mary Smith Love.

Box 1 contains two folders of biographical material (one on General Love, one on Richard Gatling and the Gatling Gun), and John Love's correspondence, 1837-1857 (Folders 3-22). This period covers Love's early military career, as a cadet at West Point, as an officer stationed in the West, as a participant in the Mexican War, and as a recruiting officer for the First Dragoons. Two oversize folders of rosters and reports from this period are stored in OM 320. Material from 1852 on, in Folders 23-30, shows Love in business with his father-in-law, Oliver H. Smith, and Willard Carpenter-- with Love himself spending his time mainly in the East raising funds for railroad construction.

Box 2 contains Love's correspondence from 1858 until his death. (The collection does not contain much from the Civil War period; letters from that period are held by a private collector.) A considerable proportion of the material from 1865 to 1874 (Folders 7-17) shows Love's connection with the Gatling Gun and his work in Europe to sell the gun to

various governments. Material from 1877 to 1880 (Folders 22-27) shows his activity with regard to the National Soldiers Home.

Box 3 contains correspondence of Mary Smith Love, 1841-1885. The bulk of this material comes from her girlhood and early married life (from November 1849). Beginning in July 1846 she began numbering the letters she received. For about ten years she used a simple numerical system, but beginning in 1860 she jumped from 1,000 to 2,000, and in 1863-1864 to 6,000 for a least some of her letters. She did not number the letters she herself wrote, some of which appear, addressed to her mother. Her mother, a highly individual speller, was a regular correspondent. Most of the letters deal with social and family matters. Of special interest is #1055 dated 2-2-1859, in which H. B. Colton discusses slavery; he thinks it justified on the eastern seaboard, but thinks it does not belong west of the Alleghenies.

Included in the collection is an oversize folder of newspaper pages, 1875-1886, dealing with a variety of subjects: the U. S. Mint, Governor James D. Williams, the death of Oliver P. Morton, prosperous black men in Indianapolis, the dome of the new State House, and President Cleveland's marriage in the White House.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

BOX 1: Biographical; John Love correspondence 1837-1857 FOLDER

- 1: Biographical-- John Love
- 2: Biographical-- Richard Gatling, Gatling Gun
- 3: 1837-1841
- 4: 1842-1844
- 5: (OM 320) Army reports and rosters 1842-1847
- 6: Journal of First Dragoons 1843
- 7: 1845
- 8: 1846-- January-April
- 9: 1846-- May-August
- 10: 1846-- September-December
- 11: 1847-- January-April
- 12: 1847-- May-August
- 13: 1847-- September-December
- 14: 1848
- 15: (OM 320) Army reports and rosters 1848-1852
- 16: 1849-- January-April
- 17: 1849-- May-August

18: 1849-- September-December

19: 1850

20: 1851-- January-June

21: 1851-- July-September

22: 1851-- October-December

23: 1852

24: 1853-- January-June

25: 1853-- July-December

26: 1854

27: 1855

28: 1856

29: 1857-- January-September

30: 1857-- October-December

**BOX 2: John Love correspondence 1858-1886
FOLDER**

1: 1858

2: 1859

3: 1860-1861

4: 1862

5: 1863

6: 1864

7: 1865-1866

8: 1867

9: 1868

10: 1869

11: 1870

12: 1871

13: 1872

14: 1873-- January-June

- 15: 1873-- July-December
- 16: 1874-- January-June
- 17: 1874-- July-December
- 18: 1875
- 19: (OM 320) Newspapers 1875-1886
- 20: 1876-- January-September
- 21: 1876-- October-December
- 22: 1877
- 23: 1878
- 24: 1879
- 25: 1880-- January-June
- 26: 1880-- July-September
- 27: 1880-- October-December
- 28: n.d.
- 29: Envelopes

**BOX 3: Correspondence of Mary Smith Love, 1841-1885
FOLDER**

- 1: 1841-1845
- 2: 1846 unnumbered
- 3: 1846-- July-December #1-10
- 4: 1847-- January-June #11-28
- 5: 1847-- July-September #41-57
- 6: 1847-- October-December #62-81
- 7: 1848-- January-April #88-96
- 8: 1848-- May-June #97-108
- 9: 1848-- July-August #116-133
- 10: 1848-- September-December #135-147
- 11: 1849-- January-March #151-159
- 12: 1849 -- April-June #165-189

- 13: 1849-- July-August #189-215
- 14: 1849-- October-November #220
- 15: n.d. (before marriage November 1849)
- 16: 1849-- November-December
- 17: 1850-- January-December #249-271
- 18: 1851-- January-March #310-361
- 19: 1851-- July-December #367-393
- 20: 1852-- January-March #402-431
- 21: 1852-- April-December #437-497
- 22: [1853?] #545-614
- 23: 1856-1857 #787-973
- 24: 1859 #1038-1094
- 25: 1860 #2044-2083
- 26: 1863-1864 #6049-6058
- 27: 1869
- 28: 1869-1885
- 29: n.d. (after November 1849)

**OM 320
Folder**

- 1: Army reports and rosters 1842-1847
 - 2: Army reports and rosters 1848-1852
 - 3: Newspapers 1875-1886
- U.S. Mint
Blue Jeans Williams
Death of O. P. Morton
Prosperous black men in Indianapolis
State House dome
Marriage of Grover Cleveland in White House

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://157.91.92.2/>
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, M 0653).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.