

Collection #  
SC 3008

## OLIVER P. MORTON SCRAPBOOK 1907

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1907

PROVENANCE: Gift; Ohio Historical Society

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS: SC 1117, Oliver P. Morton Papers (1861-1876)

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2014.0053

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Oliver Perry Throck Morton was born in Salisbury, Indiana of Wayne County, on August 4, 1823. Before becoming Indiana's fourteenth governor, Morton made his living as a lawyer. Morton remained a staunch Democrat until 1854, when, dissatisfied with the party's conduct, he became one of the founders of Indiana's Republican Party. After an unsuccessful campaign in 1856, he became the party's first governor in 1861. During his two terms as Indiana's governor, Morton focused on the Civil War, establishing himself as a powerful politician and one of Abraham Lincoln's stoutest state supporters. When a Democratic House majority threatened to compromise Indiana's contributions to the war effort in 1863, the Federal government helped Morton secure private New York loans, allowing him to retain control of state finances.

Throughout the war, Morton went to great lengths to provide proper equipment and financial support to Union troops. His efforts established the first state-run Sanitary Commission, which provided medical supplies and much-needed aid for servicemen's families, wounded veterans, orphans and widows of Indiana troops. He was reelected for a second term as Governor in 1864. Although he suffered a stroke that largely paralyzed the left side of his body in 1865, he remained a very talented and popular orator.

After the war, Morton was elected for two consecutive terms in the United States Senate, serving from 1867 until his death. During his first term, he became one of the most dedicated defenders of black rights, and helped to pass the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments. He lobbied hard for a congressionally controlled reconstruction. After being reelected in 1873, he served as a member of the Senate Committee on Elections and Privileges. He was considered as a potential Republican candidate for the 1876 Presidential campaign, but lost to Rutherford B. Hayes. A year later he suffered a second stroke and died in Indianapolis on November 1, 1877 at the age of 54.

### Sources:

Bodenhamer and Barrows. *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Indiana University Press. 1994. 1023. [rr F 534 .I55 E4 1994].

Kenneth M. Stamp, *Indiana Politics in the Civil War Era*, Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1978.

Lorna Lutes Sylvester, "Oliver P. Morton and Hoosier Politics during the Civil War," Ph.D. diss., Indiana University, 1968.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This scrapbook contains numerous newspaper clippings detailing the ceremonies accompanying the unveiling of the Oliver P. Morton Monument in front of the Indiana State Capitol in 1907. Many of the articles include verbatim accounts of the speeches preceding and following the monument's unveiling. Short biographical accounts of Morton's life and political career are also included.

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## 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 3008).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.