

Collection #  
SC 2973

**THOMAS A. HENDRICKS  
LETTER, 23 NOVEMBER 1863**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION  
DATES: 23 November 1863

PROVENANCE: Dr. Leonard Bornstein, Millburn, NJ

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS: Thomas A. Hendricks Papers, SC 0737, BV2684-2685

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2012.0209

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thomas A. Hendricks (September 7, 1819—November 25, 1885) served as a Representative and Senator from Indiana before he went on to serve as the state's governor and later as the Vice President of the United States. Hendricks, the nephew of Governor William Hendricks, was born near Zanesville, Ohio, but the family moved to Madison, Indiana in 1820. Hendricks attended Hanover College, where he enrolled in classical studies. Upon his graduation from Hanover in 1841, Hendricks moved to Chambersburg, Pennsylvania to study law. He was admitted to the bar in 1843 and started a practice in Shelbyville, Indiana. Hendricks married Eliza Morgan in 1845, and they had one son, Morgan, who died at the age of three.

Perhaps inspired by his family's involvement with politics, Hendricks won a seat in the Indiana House of Representatives in 1848, where he served as speaker of the house. In 1850, he was elected to the United States House of Representatives, where he served as Chairman of the Committee on Mileage and the Committee on Invalid Pensions. Hendricks' position of popular-sovereignty and the extension of slavery to the western United States was unpopular in his district, so he did not win re-election in 1854. Hendricks moved to Indianapolis in 1860 and ran an unsuccessful campaign for Governor. Instead, he opened a law practice, but had to leave when the Indiana General Assembly elected him to the United States Senate in 1863. Hendricks, a Democrat, was in the minority party, and was opposed to the post-war 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> constitutional amendments. However, he only served one term, as the Republicans came into power in Indiana, and he was replaced by Oliver Morton.

On his third attempt, Hendricks was elected Governor of Indiana in 1872. He was the first Democratic governor elected in a Northern state after the Civil War. After his term as governor, Hendricks set his sights on national politics again, unsuccessfully running for Vice President in 1876, and then successfully running in 1884 under Grover Cleveland. However, Hendricks was not in good health at that time, and died in his sleep on a trip home to Indianapolis in 1885.

Sources:

Biographical Directory of the United States Congress. <http://bioguide.congress.gov>

"Indiana Governor Thomas Andrews Hendricks," Indiana Historical Bureau. <http://www.in.gov/history/2701.htm>

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains a letter, written and signed by Thomas A. Hendricks to General Seymour, requesting a promotion to lieutenant for his brother, James Hendricks.

## **CONTENTS**

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Letter, 23 November 1863

### 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 2973).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.