

Collection #
SC 2797

**WILLIAM A. LATTA
CIVIL WAR LETTERS, 1862-1863**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	3 folders
COLLECTION DATES:	1862-1863
PROVENANCE:	Historical Collectible Auctions, Graham, NC. 6/13/2003.
RESTRICTIONS:	None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2003.0438

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William A. Latta was a private in Company D, 47th Indiana Infantry during the Civil War. Latta enlisted into the army on Oct. 21, 1861 in Wabash County, Indiana at the age of 21, and served under Captain Bruner's Company. While serving the Union Army, Latta was involved in battles at Riddles Point, MO, and Fort Pemberton, MS, among others. His tour in the 47th Infantry included visits to Ohio, Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee. Latta eventually became sick and died of typhoid fever on Feb. 26, 1863. Most information about his life before enlisting into the army is unknown.

The 47th Indiana Infantry served a three year tour of duty during the Civil War. The regiment organized in Anderson, IN on Dec. 13, 1861, and was assigned to General Wood's brigade of General Buell's army in Bardstown, KY. During that time, the 47th served under the Army of Ohio, Army of the Mississippi, Department of Missouri, Department of the Tennessee, and the Army and Department of the Gulf. Among the conflicts that the 47th regiment was involved in were conflicts outside of Vicksburg, as well as playing an active part in the surrender of Mobile, among other duties. The regiment's tour concluded in Shreveport, LA, where they witnessed the surrender of General Price and his army. The infantry, which originally started with 977 men, grew at one point to a total of 1,748 men suffered at total of 312 deaths and/or casualties.

Sources:

<http://www.civilwardata.com/active/hdsquery.dll?SoldierHistory>. 9/21/06.

<http://www.civilwardata.com/active/hdsquery.dll?RegimentHistory>. 9/21/06.

<http://www.civilwardata.com/active/hdsquery.dll?RegimentAssignment>. 9/21/06.

Service Records found within the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains two letters, with their transmittal envelopes, from Private William A. Latta to Miss Elizabeth Patterson of Stockdale, Indiana. Along with the letters, the collection also contains a poem from Elizabeth Patterson. The letters, both of which were written by Latta in 1862, consist mainly of general correspondence detailing some of

his duties and day-to-day activities. While the letters do not speak of any combat fighting, there is one letter that does report about an incident regarding the capture of a southern black spy and southern animosity towards the Union Army.

Latta wrote these letters while on his campaign in Memphis, TN and Camp Helena, AK in 1862. It is also unclear the relationship between William Latta and Elizabeth Patterson. In the letters, Latta refers to Patterson as a dear friend or "sis," though Miss Patterson did express sincere love for him after his death in a poem written in 1863. The collection also contains a copy of Latta's service records.

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CONTENTS

CONTAINER

Private William A. Latta Civil War Letters, Poem,
and Envelops

Folder 1

Transcripts of Civil War Letters and Poem

Folder 2

Private William A. Latta's Service Records

Folder 3

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 2797).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.