

Collection #
SC 2855

**WILLIAM COCKRUM
LETTERS, 1863**

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Processed by

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder (2 letters); 1 framed tintype

COLLECTION DATES: 1863

PROVENANCE: Alexander Autographs, Cos Cob Connecticut, November 2008

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Cockrum, William. *Pioneer History of Indiana*. Oakland City, Ind.: Press of the Oakland City Journal, 1907. [F 526 .C66 1907]; Cockrum, William. *History of the Underground Railroad as it was Conducted by the Anti-Slavery League*. Oakland City, Ind.: Press of J. W. Cockrum Printing Company, ca. 1915. [E 450 .C64 1915]

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2008.0351

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Cockrum (1837–1924) was born in Gibson County and worked as a farmer. An anti-slavery Baptist, Cockrum assisted in helping runaway slaves via the Underground Railroad. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Cockrum enlisted in the 42nd Indiana Regiment as a second lieutenant in Company F. Cockrum rose to the rank of lieutenant colonel and was twice wounded, the last time at Chickamauga on 20 September 1863 at which time he was taken prisoner and sent to Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia, where he remained for eight months. After his release, Cockrum, now crippled for life, was assigned to be commandant of a military prison in Nashville, Tennessee. After the war Cockrum returned to Oakland City in Gibson County and resumed farming. Cockrum was also an author and among his books is *A Pioneer History of Indiana* (1907).

Cockrum was twice married. He and his first wife, Sarah Barrett had seven children. After her death, he married Lucretia Harper in 1856 and they produced nine children.

Sources:

Stormont, Gil R. *History of Gibson County, Her People, Industries and Institutions*. Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen, 1914. [microfilm 3:63 no. 247]

Horrall, S. F. *History of the Forty-Second Indiana Volunteer Infantry*. Chicago: Donohue & Hennberry, 1892. [E 506.5 42nd .H6 1892].

Information with collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains two letters written by Cockrum while at Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia, November and December 1863. The first one date 29 November is to his parents and the second, dated 18 December is to his wife. In both letters he relays that his wounds are improving and hopes to be exchanged and freed soon. Both letters are written on stationery watermarked "Old Point Comfort, Virginia" and the envelopes bear U.S. postage stamps.

Also included is a tintype portrait of Cockum in his officer's uniform housed in brass table frame.

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Letters, November–December 1863

Tintype Portrait of Lt. Col. William Cockrum, ca. 1863

CONTAINER

Folder 1

Tintypes
Box 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 2855).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.