

Collection #
M 0841

**WILLIAM S. (WILLIAM STANLEY) MEAD
COLLECTION, 1846–1934**

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Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 document cases, 1 tintype, 2 oversized graphics, 143 artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: 1865–1934

PROVENANCE: Mrs. Stanley Hammond, 1987

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: David Enoch Beem Papers (M 0015); *The Grand Army Blue-Book*, E462.1.A27 A2 1889

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1987.0489

NOTES: The collection formerly numbered SC 2253 has been reprocessed and merged with this larger collection.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Stanley Mead was born on 16 April 1846 in Washington, Daviess County, Indiana. Mead served in the Grand Army of the Republic, having been mustered in at the young age of fifteen. Along with two family members, Levi S. and Alfred D. Mead, he enlisted on 12 September 1861 as a private in Company E of the Sixth Regiment of the Indiana Volunteer Infantry for three years. He was soon appointed Corporal and named Regimental Color Guard.

During his career as a combatant in the Civil War, he participated in numerous battles, including those occurring at Shiloh, Stone River, Liberty Gap, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Buzzard Roost, Resaca, Pickett's Mill, and New Hope Church. On 27 May 1864, First Sergeant Mead was wounded and captured by Confederate soldiers, who transported him to Andersonville, where he was confined until November 1864. He was then returned to the Yankees during a prisoner exchange on Thanksgiving at Fort Comfort, Virginia. Mead was discharged from military service on 5 February 1865.

He married Emma Jane Cosby, his first wife, on 11 February 1866. She died 3 October 1867. They had one child named Anna Emma. On 28 December 1871, Mead married Amma R. Beem. They had five children together: Harry S., Cyrus D., Jessie B., William L., and Mary Mead.

William Mead spent the remainder of his years in Spencer, Owen County, Indiana. He held various occupations, such as railroad auditor, bank cashier, manufacturer, and cemetery superintendent. He also was involved in various local affairs, for instance, member of the Owen County Board of Children's Guardians, President of the Indiana Association of Cemetery Officials, alternate Indiana delegate to the 1900 Republican National Convention, and Free Mason of the Spencer Lodge, No. 95. He passed away on 28 December 1934, which would have been his 63rd wedding anniversary.

Sources: Materials in the collection.

Briant, Charles C. *History of the Sixth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry of Both the Three Months' and Three Years' Services*. Indianapolis: W. B. Burford, 1891. E506.4 C5 fiche nos. 164–169.

Doll, William H. *History of the Sixth Regiment Indiana Volunteer Infantry in the Civil War, April 25, 1861, to September 22, 1864*. Columbus, IN: Republic Job, 1903. E506.4 C5 fiche nos. 170–171.

Grayson, Andrew J. *History of the Sixth Indiana Regiment in the Three Months Campaign in Western Virginia*. Madison, IN: Courier, 1875. E506.4 C5 fiche no. 172.

Kestenbaum, Lawrence. *The Political Graveyard Index*. 10 Mar. 2005
<<http://politicalgraveyard.com/index.html>>.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection primarily consists of two manuscript boxes containing documents pertaining to William S. Mead. The first series addresses materials related to personal aspects of Mead's life. Box 1 contains summaries of Mead's military and civil careers, correspondence from Mead, and letters written to him, including two letters expressing gratitude from the White House. Also included is paperwork regarding his military pension, which gives supplementary information about his service and personal life, and drafts of several speeches Mead wrote, particularly those he gave at functions commemorating Civil War soldiers. One photographic image is also included in this collection, a large tintype of Alfred D., Levi S., and William S. Mead.

The second series pertains to specific military organizations and associated events. There are four folders of rosters, programs, and other memorabilia distributed at the Grand Army of the Republic Encampments from 1888 through 1934. There are papers concerning reunions of the 6th Indiana Regiment Volunteer Infantry as well, covering several years between 1889 and 1906. Also included are a small number of materials regarding reunions and membership in the Army of the Cumberland, spanning from 1889 to 1911. A logbook of the Rousseau Brigade Association from 1890 through 1897 also acts as a scrapbook, for it has various newspaper articles and documents relevant to the group pasted into it. The final folder of the series contains printed items associated with military funeral services.

The next series contains materials directly related to the Civil War. There are incomplete documents that enumerate soldier enlistment and casualties. A majority of the materials in this series are linked with commemoration of specific battle sites, such as Gettysburg, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, and Shiloh, in all of which Mead was a participant. Of particular significance is a rather detailed map of the Battle of Chattanooga and Lookout Mountain drawn by Mead. One folder holds papers connected with the Andersonville National Cemetery, especially topics like the Indiana Monument and the memorial to Captain Henry Wirz, who commanded the prison and was condemned to death as a result of the mistreatment of its inmates. The remainder of the series is composed of wartime music for that period.

In the fourth series, there are miscellaneous printed materials beginning with newspaper clippings, the most prominent being a letter to the editor written by Mead commenting on the erection of the Wirz monument at Andersonville. Publications connected with Indiana are also incorporated into this collection, including an issue of *The Indianian*, a portion of one article having been composed by Mead. The remainder of the series includes regulation handbooks of the National Association of Ex-Union Prisoners of War, the Transportation Department, and funeral ceremonies for Master Masons in addition to assorted ephemera with items like travel souvenirs and Mead's personal stationery.

Artifacts constitute the final series, much of which was Mead's military decoration. In addition to a Stetson hat and Civil War cap, there are multitudinous buttons, badges, and ribbons, most of which pertain to the Grand Army of the Republic, the 6th Indiana

Regiment, the 4th Army Corps., and the Spencer Lodge. Other materials of interest include a knife, spirit level, coupon book, and two small American flags.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: William S. Mead Papers, 1862–1934

CONTENTS

Military and Civil Record, n.d.

Correspondence from Mead, 1889–1934

Correspondence, 1865–1904

Correspondence, 1906

Correspondence, 1910–1934, n.d.

Diaries, 1862–1865

Pension Paperwork, 1887–1917

Speech Drafts, n.d.

Alfred, Levi, and William Mead Tintype

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Visual Collections:
Tintypes, Folder 1

Series 2: Veterans Organizations, 1888–1934

CONTENTS

Grand Army of the Republic Encampment, 1888–1909

Grand Army of the Republic Encampment, 1912–1921

Grand Army of the Republic Encampment, 1928–1932

Grand Army of the Republic Encampment, 1934, n.d.

6th Indiana Regiment Reunions, 1889–1906

Army of the Cumberland, 1889–1911

Rousseau Brigade Association, 1890–1897

Military Funeral Services, 1914, n.d.

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10

Box 1, Folder 11

Box 1, Folder 12

Box 1, Folder 13

Box 2, Folder 1

Box 2, Folder 2

Box 2, Folder 3

Series 3: Civil War Printed Materials, 1883–1933

CONTENTS

Soldier Enlistment and Casualties, n.d.

Battle of Gettysburg Panorama, ca. 1883–1933

Gettysburg: The Pictures and the Story, 1913

Battles of Chickamauga and Chattanooga, 1895, n.d.

Battlefields, 1885, n.d.

Certificate: Battle of Shiloh Survivor, 1922

Andersonville National Cemetery, 1890–1908

Civil War Music, n.d.

Soldiers' Hymn-Book, n.d.

CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 4

Box 2, Folder 5

Visual Collections:
OVA Graphics,
Box 1, Folder 1

Box 2, Folder 6

Box 2, Folder 7

Visual Collections:
OVA Graphics,
Box 1, Folder 2

Box 2, Folder 8

Box 2, Folder 9

Box 2, Folder 10

Series 4: Printed Materials, 1872–1934

CONTENTS

Newsclippings, n.d.

Indiana Publications, 1889–1900

Regulation Handbooks, 1873–1889, n.d.

Ephemera, 1872–1934, n.d.

CONTAINER

Box 2, Folder 11

Box 2, Folder 12

Box 2, Folder 13

Box 2, Folder 14

Series 5: Artifacts

CONTENTS

Uniform Buttons

CONTAINER

Artifacts: Box 30, R 799–
R807, R809–R850, R863

Military Ephemera and Tools	Artifacts: Box 30, R808, R851–R862
Badges	Artifacts: Box 31, R864– R885
Badges and Ribbons	Artifacts: Box 34, R918– R932
Ribbons	Artifacts: Box 4, R188– 224
Identification tag	Artifacts: Box 31, R886
Civil War cap and cap cover	Artifacts: Box 40, R970– R971
Grand Army of the Republic Stetson hat and box	Artifacts: Box 42, R979

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, M 0841).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.