INDIANA CIVIL WAR CASED IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1861–1865

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

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William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 boxes

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1861–1865

PROVENANCE: Gifts and Purchases from various sources
HISTORICAL SKETCH

Civil War soldiers had their pictures taken by home town photographers, itinerant photographers who traveled with the troops, or photographers in towns where they were stationed. Three types of portrait photographs produced during the Civil War were daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and tintypes. Often they would be enclosed in a small case to protect the image and make them easy to carry. This collection contains only ambrotype and tintype cased image portraits.

Daguerreotypes were images produced on silver-plated copper plates and because of the intense amount of work and expense required to produce one image their popularity was fading by the early 1860s. They were replaced by ambrotypes and tintypes. An ambrotype is a negative image on a glass plate made positive to the viewer when it is backed with a dark material. Tintypes were also negative images but on thin sheets of black coated iron with a coating of clear varnish to protect the image. The tintypes were cheaper, more durable, light weight, and could be sold in paper mats or plain as well as in a case. They were at their height of popularity during the Civil War.

Sources:

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Civil War era soldier portraits in this collection are arranged in two series, Series 1 Cased Images and Series 2 Tintypes. The named persons are in alphabetical order and information on each individual is listed along with a brief description of the image. When there is conflicting information on the individual’s name the processor listed that information in square brackets. The unknown individuals are listed at the end. Each cased image was given an ID number by the Conservation Department and those numbers are used to identify each item in the collection guide. There is a single loose tintype in Series 2 designated as Image 1.
SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Civil War Cased Images, 1862–1864, n.d.

CONTENTS

James H. Aust,
1st Indiana Volunteer Cavalry, Co. G,
Frame back engraved with date, June 22, 1864
Seated waist-length portrait
Tintype in case

CONTAINER
Cased Images:
Box 1,
ID 392

Noah Bird,
9th Indiana Infantry, Co. C,
Standing full-length studio portrait of Bird with pistol in hand
Tintype in Union case, n.d.

CONTAINER
Cased Images:
Box 1,
ID 12

Unidentified soldier, note to wife Molly A. Blades found in case

CONTAINER
Cased Images:
Box 1,
ID 394

D.F. Bordner,
DeKalb County, Indiana, 14 Jan. 1862
Seated waist-length in front of painted backdrop with flag
Tintype in case

CONTAINER
Cased Images:
Box 1,
ID 4

Joshua K. Chapman,
21st Indiana Volunteer Infantry
Seated waist-length portrait

CONTAINER
Cased Images:
Box 1,
ID 37

William A. Fordice,
115th Indiana Infantry,
Mrs. William A. Fordice holding child
Seated waist-length portraits

CONTAINER
Cased Images:
Box 1,
ID 411, 412

Lt. James J. Maddox,
from Hartford City, Indiana,
34th Indiana Regiment
Standing full-length studio portrait in dress uniform with sword and pistol
Ambrotype [glass] in Union case, n.d.

CONTAINER
Oversize Cased Images:
Box 3,
ID 124

[A. Smith or A. Miller, Indianapolis]
Standing full-length portrait with rifle in front of

CONTAINER
Cased Images:
Box 2,
painted backdrop of camp scene
Tintype in case, n.d.

[George Day Wagner],
Seated waist-length, wearing civilian clothes and a
G.A.R. badge
Tintype in Union case, n.d.

Unidentified 3 soldiers,
Standing full length, side by side in early infantry
uniforms
Tintype in case, n.d.

Unidentified private,
11th Indiana Infantry Regiment
Seated waist-length wearing first version of the
semi-Wallace Zouave uniform
Tintype in case, n.d.

Unidentified private,
11th Indiana Infantry Regiment, Company A,
Wearing second-issue Wallace Zouave uniform
Seated waist-length
Tintype in case, n.d.

Unidentified soldier
11th Indiana Infantry Regiment
Wearing Wallace Zouave uniform,
Image originated in Angola, Indiana
Seated waist-length portrait
Tintype in case, n.d.

Series 2: Civil War Tintypes

CONTENTS

Unidentified soldier
Seated with elbow on table and hand resting on chin
Tintype [marks show image was removed from case]
n.d.

CONTAINER

Cased Images:
Box 2
ID 279

Cased Images:
Box 2
ID 2

Cased Images:
Box 2
ID 5

Cased Images:
Box 2
ID 8

Cased Images:
Box 2
ID 395

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, P0311).

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