**Document of the Month: Report of the Indiana Arsenal**

“An Act to provide for the defense of the State of Indiana, to procure first class arms, artillery, cavalry, and infantry equipments, and munitions of war, making the necessary appropriations therefor [sic], and authorizing the Governor to borrow money.” Approved April 1, 1861.

The Indianapolis Arsenal was established by Governor Oliver P. Morton in 1861. Col. Herman Sturm, who had studied ammunition manufacturing in Germany, was put in charge of operations. On July 11, 1861, Congress passed an act providing for the creation of three permanent federal arsenals, including one at Indianapolis, at a cost of $100,000 each. The Federal Ordnance Department took over operations of the Arsenal in April, 1863. Although there was only one report published, this document provides a historic look at Indiana’s contribution in the war. The abstract gives detailed records (ledgers) on the weaponry and accessories used by Regiments in Indiana and other states. For example, historians and war buffs are able to see that Col. Lew Wallace was given a voucher for ammunition May 1861. The reports are arranged by classes of weaponry, artillery, ammunitions, and other war-related items. The Report of the Indiana Arsenal can be found in the Indiana Collection, I623.4 I385, for 1861-1862.