

# **James Nelson Shepherd collection**

## **L311**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

May 05, 2016

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts  
140 North Senate Avenue  
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204  
317-232-3671

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Rare Books and Manuscripts
<b>Creator</b>	Shepherd, James Nelson, 1838-1895
<b>Title</b>	James Nelson Shepherd collection
<b>Date</b>	1855-1958, undated
<b>Extent</b>	0.3 Cubic feet 1 manuscript box
<b>Language</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

James Nelson Shepherd collection, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

## Biographical Note

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James Nelson Shepherd was born on November 10, 1838 in Vigo County, Indiana to James and Catherine Shepherd. He enlisted in the Union army in September, 1861 and served with Company K, 31st Indiana Volunteer Infantry in Kentucky and Tennessee with a rank of sergeant. He was discharged from the army on December 31, 1862 due to a gunshot wound suffered earlier at the Battle of Fort Donelson. He married Ariminda Rhyan (1844-1925) on February 19, 1863 and they had six daughters and two sons. Shepherd was a Vigo County farmer, stock breeder, and served as the county's treasurer from 1865 to 1869. He died at the age of 57 on April 7, 1895.

Sources:

Information found within collection.

Ancestry.com. "James N. Shepherd." *Indiana Civil War Soldier Database Index, 1861-1865*. Accessed April 25, 2016. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>.

"Ex-Treasurer Dies." *Terre Haute (IN) Express*. April 8, 1895.

FindaGrave.com. "James Nelson Shepherd." *Find a Grave Index*. Accessed April 25, 2016. <http://www.findagrave.com>.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains James Nelson Shepherd's Bible (1855); his pocket diary (1861-1866) with entries from his service in the Civil War and his personal accounts; his letters to his fiancée, Arminda Rhyan of New Goshen, Vigo County, Indiana and a couple of her needlepoint items, with one using human hair (1860-1862); Civil War letters to Shepherd from his brothers, Thomas E. Shepherd of the 31st Indiana and Edgar M. Shepherd from home (1862); Shepherd's farm ledgers (1864-1866), including his record of shipments made on the steamboat *Sultana* (1864); photocopies of various newsclippings (1887-1892); and a typewritten transcript of Shepherd's Civil War diary made by his daughter, Myrtle (circa 1958).

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## Arrangement

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This collection is arranged chronologically.

## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

### Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

### Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a donation from Margaret K. Coordes on 1978/05/25.

### Accruals

No further additions are expected.

### Processing Information

Collection processing completed 2016/04/26 by Laura Eliason. EAD finding aid created 2016/04/26 by Laura Eliason.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Corporate Name(s)

- United States. Army. Indiana Infantry Regiment, 31st (1861-1865).

## **Genre(s)**

- Clippings
- Correspondence
- Diaries
- Textiles

## **Geographic Name(s)**

- Indiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Military life
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives
- Vigo County (Ind.)

## **Subject(s)**

- Account books
- Accounts
- Agriculture--Indiana
- Bibles
- Bookkeeping
- Family life
- Farmers--Indiana
- Hair
- Newspaper articles
- Souvenirs (Keepsakes)

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
Bible, 1855	1	1
Correspondence and needlepoint items, 1860-1862	1	2
Pocket diary, 1861-1866	1	3
Balance sheets, 1864	1	4
News clippings, 1887-1892	1	5
James Nelson Shepherd Civil War diary transcript, ca. 1958	1	6
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Volume</b>
Civil War diary and account book, 1860-1869	1	1
Account book, 1864	1	2
Account book, undated	1	3