

THE INDIANA LEGION PAPERS: AN INTRODUCTION

The papers of the Indiana Legion represent a new window through which to view Indiana's Civil War history. The Legion, the state militia raised during the war, played an important part in the defense of Indiana. Its role, however, has been overlooked by many historians who have studied Indiana in the Civil War. The chief reason for this inattention to the Legion's activities and service has been the inaccessibility and disorganized state of the Legion papers housed in the Indiana State Archives. These papers have now been organized to allow historians ready access.

The papers, when examined, yield many insights into various facets of Indiana's part in the Civil War. Formed after the passage of the Militia Act of May 11, 1861, the Legion figured largely in the plans and activities of Indiana Governor Oliver P. Morton. While its primary function was to defend the state from invasion during the rebellion, the Legion also participated in offensive campaigns into Kentucky to roust out rebel guerrilla bands that threatened the Ohio River border counties. The Legion further served as a military police force in the state, cooperating with state authorities and federal military authorities to quell riots and arrest deserters and other persons deemed disloyal to the Union (northern) war effort.

The papers include correspondence and reports of the commanders of the various Legion companies, regiments, brigades and divisions. These papers detail local events related to the war, providing vivid glimpses of local attitudes and official policies of state political and military authorities. Also included are muster rolls of the Legion companies, reports of company strength, requisitions for supplies issued to them, and other related records.

The Legion records are organized by county, with the correspondence of multi-county division and brigade commands filed separately. Some counties are fully documented, while other counties have little or no surviving documentation. Correspondence and reports are arranged chronologically within county or command files.

Other sources in the Indiana State Archives will supplement these papers to provide a full picture of the Legion. First and foremost, the telegraph books of Governor Morton document the planning and activities of the Legion, showing how Morton employed the Legion to defend the state during such crises as the 1862 rebel invasion of Kentucky and the Morgan Raid into southern Indiana. Correspondence in the Governor Morton and Adjutant General papers (written, for the most part, to the Governor and Adjutant General), the letterbooks of Governor Morton and his staff, and other records in the State Archives all document the Legion's significant role in the war.

November 9, 1994

Accession

1994035

BOX INVENTORY OF INDIANA LEGION PAPERS

BOX NO.	LOCATION	CONTENTS
1	L828- 47-4-5 26-J-1	Executive Department, Headquarters correspondence, etc.
2	L827	Unidentified correspondence; regimental correspondence (counties: Marion, Montgomery, Orange, Parke, Vigo); regimental correspondence: First-Sixth
3	L819	Regimental correspondence: Seventh- Twelfth
4	L507	Adams-Clark
5	L507	Clay-Dekalb
6	L507	Delaware-Fayette
7	L507	Floyd-Fountain
8	L507	Franklin-Grant
9	L507	Greene-Hancock
10	L507	Harrison
11	L508	Hendricks-Huntington
12	L508	Jackson-Jay
13	L508	Jefferson
14	L508	Jennings
15	L508	Johnson-Kosciusko
16	L509	LaGrange-Madison
17	L509	Marion
18	L509	Marshall-Monroe
19	L509	Montgomery-Noble
20	L509	Ohio-Owen
21	L509	Parke-Porter (note: Pike and Porter missing)
22	L510	Posey-Putnam

Accession
1994035

23	L510	Randolph-Rush
24	L510	St. Joseph-Shelby
25	L510	Spencer
26	L510	Spencer
27	L510	Starke-Sullivan
28	L504	Switzerland
29	L504	Tippecanoe-Union
30	L504	Vanderburgh
31	L504	Vermillion-Warrick
32	L511	Washington-Whitley