

The Draft of 1862:  
Documentary Sources in the  
Indiana State Archives

In 1862, the U.S. federal government authorized each state to organize and undertake a draft of men between the ages of 18 and 45 years to serve in the Union army during the Civil War. Indiana entered into this effort in the late summer and early fall of 1862 having already filled and exceeded the volunteer quotas demanded of it. But Governor Oliver P. Morton aggressively pursued means to raise military forces large enough to suppress the Southern rebellion. The draft in Indiana acted primarily to encourage volunteer enlistments.

A variety of records documenting the state-administered draft of 1862 survives in the Indiana State Archives. The following list describes these records and their contents. Some of the records noted below are parts of larger record groups that do not directly deal with the draft.

1. **Oliver P. Morton Papers.** A collection of correspondence and other manuscript records, primarily written to Governor Morton and his staff. Letters in the Papers document the call by some Union adherents for a draft to force the "Butternuts" or "Copperheads"--anti-war Democrats--to enlist in the army to fight the war. Many also voiced fears that the Union (Republican) party's political fortunes in the upcoming fall, 1862 elections were endangered, as many pro-Unionists had already enlisted, and would be unavailable to vote. Chronologically arranged. Microfilmed. Finding aids.

2. **Telegraphic Correspondence.** Governor Morton and his staff recorded many thousands of the telegraphic messages received and sent out from his office in telegraph books. Still more telegrams were recorded in books kept by the Adjutant General, and many more thousands original telegram "slips" have survived. All told, over 13,000 telegraphic messages have been collected and preserved. A computer database index serves to assist researchers to find requested correspondence. The database (available on the internet) may be searched by subject(s), dates, and authors. Governor Morton and his staff corresponded extensively via the telegraph wires with national leaders at Washington, DC. This correspondence will illuminate much concerning the organization of the draft in Indiana in the fall of 1862, as well as problems incident with it. Chronologically and alphabetically arranged. Microfilmed. Finding aids.

3. **The Draft Enrollments of 1862.** Draft enrollment officials appointed in each county collected and compiled the names of all men between eighteen and forty-five years of age as eligible for the draft. Lists were made for each township in each county, giving name, age, and occupation information. On receiving a medical examination from the county's enrollment medical officer, many men's names were struck from the list of eligibles. These medical disabilities and exemptions are listed. The enrollment

officers also compiled a list of men from each township who had already volunteered for military service. These lists are arranged alphabetically by county, and alphabetically within each county by township. Microfilmed.

**4. Draft records, manuscripts, by county** [location: L511 022603]. Records of local draft enrollment officials submitted to the state draft commissioner J.P. Siddall. Included are lists of drafted men and volunteers in each township, also lists of substitutes provided in lieu of service. Conscientious exempts (objectors) are often identified. Some counties' files contain correspondence written to Siddall or Governor Morton concerning local problems or concerns related to the draft. Some counties' files are incomplete.

**5. Miscellaneous manuscript records** [location: L516 022627]. Four folders containing various documents:

f1: One item regarding providing substitute;  
f2: a) manuscript calculations of Indiana's quota for the call for 300,000 [query: 1862 or 1863 call?];  
b) printed broadside, J.P. Siddall to Governor Oliver P. Morton, October 10, 1862, re conscientious exempts.

f3: "List of persons who subscribed to the draft exempt fund in Harrison Township, Vigo County, Indiana", n.d.;

f4: letter, Father Edward Sorin to Governor Morton, August 12, 1862, requesting that the "community of brothers" of Notre Dame University be exempted from the upcoming draft.

**6. County Draft totals; volume** [location: L723 022898]. Arranged alphabetically by county. Contains following categories of information (numbers of): militia enrolled, volunteers enrolled, exempt [for] physical disability, conscientiously opposed to bearing arms, volunteers in service, subject to draft, total subject to draft and volunteers, quota to be drafted, quota to be drafted of conscientious exempts. Microfilmed.

**7. "Drafted Men and Substitutes Unaccounted For"; volume** [location: L723 022903]. Alphabetically arranged by name. Explanation for arrangement given on inside cover page. Microfilmed.

**8. "Draft of 1862. List of Drafted Men and Substitutes Who Reported at Camp Sullivan, Indianapolis",** six volumes, in two sets of three volumes each. Volumes list by county the men drafted in each, or the substitute furnished in lieu of the drafted man. Note: the two sets or series of volumes have, in the main, the same data. However, annotations were written into some of the volumes indicating the regiments to which the draftees were assigned. Others have lists and information not found in other volumes. Microfilmed.

a) volume 1, series A [location: L723 022885]. Counties included are: Marion, Ripley, Vanderburgh, Union, Boone, Putnam, Sullivan,

Rush, Montgomery, Noble, LaPorte, Marshall, Elkhart, Whitley, Wabash, Blackford, Hancock, Greene, Shelby and Miami.

Pp 136-209: "List of Substitutes Volunteering in the 3 Years Service", giving name, residence, for whom a substitute, residence of the drafted man, regiment in which volunteered, name of recruiting officer.

b) volume 2, series A [location: L723 022889]. Counties included are: Cass, Hancock, Dearborn, Franklin, Vigo, Henry, Pulaski, Porter, St. Joseph, Wells, Steuben, Carroll, Owen, Starke, Johnson, Orange, Fulton, and Harrison.

c) volume 3, series A [location: L723 022888]. Counties included are: Howard, Wayne, Morgan, Fayette, Washington, Hendricks, Randolph, Delaware, Lake, Fountain, Madison, Clinton, Adams, Huntington, Decatur, Grant, Jay, Kosciusko, DeKalb and LaGrange. Also includes pp. 144-155: list of drafted men and substitutes and regiments to which assigned; pp. 158-165: Capt. E.L. Billings' company, 57th Indiana Volunteer Infantry regiment; pp. 166-167: 99th IVI; pp. 170-177: Capt. Samuel's company, 83rd IVI; p. 180: "Montgomery County Men Who Volunteered to Avoid the Draft" (ten men enlisted in 10th IVI).

d) volume 1, series B [location: L723 022890]. Same counties as series A.

e) volume 2, series B [location: L723 022887]. Same counties as series A. Also includes pp. 146-169: "List of Drafted Men Volunteering in Old Regiments and Old and New Batteries".

f) volume 3, series B [location: L723 022886]. Same counties as series A.

9. **"Assignments. Draft of 1862"**; volume [location: L723 022904]. Alphabetical list by name of draftee or volunteer, showing regiment to which assigned or volunteered. Microfilmed.

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