

GOVERNOR OLIVER P. MORTON PAPERS FINDING AID AND COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

The papers of Oliver P. Morton, Governor of Indiana during the American Civil War, have recently been reorganized by the Indiana State Archives. The reorganization, putting the records in a chronological order from the previous alphabetical order, will afford easier access and research in the records. The records were reprocessed to ensure future preservation of the papers. A history and description of the collection will assist the reader/researcher to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the Morton papers, and to identify other records that complement these materials.

Provenance/History

The Governor Oliver P. Morton Papers constitute a significant portion of the official documentation in the Indiana State Archives on the tenure of Gov. Morton (1861-1867) and affairs in Indiana during the Civil War. The papers primarily consist of letters and reports sent to Gov. Morton and his staff during the Civil War. Unfortunately, only a relatively small number of manuscripts written by Morton survive. After the war and the completion of Morton's gubernatorial tenure, these records apparently remained in the possession and custody of Morton and his private secretary and brother-in-law, W.R. Holloway. Evidence suggests that Holloway, after Morton's death in 1877, allowed access to the records to biographers (most notably William Dudley Foulke), journalists and other persons interested in the life of the governor. Holloway himself apparently retained the papers with the intention of preparing a biography of Morton. In all events, Morton's son Oliver T. Morton and grand-nephew Edward Morton Holloway (grandson of W.R. Holloway), both employed by the federal courts at Chicago, Illinois, retained possession of the papers.

In 1936 a team of researchers working under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration (W.P.A.) came across the papers while undertaking a records survey of the federal courthouse in Chicago. They discovered the records bound up in burlap bags, stored in the attic of the courthouse and forgotten by all. The records, in complete disarray, were identified as Morton's papers from the period when he was Governor of Indiana. The W.P.A. team transferred the papers to the Indiana State Archives, then part of the Indiana State Library, in 1937.¹

In the late 1950s and early 1960s staff of the Indiana State Archives undertook to organize the Morton papers, choosing to arrange the manuscripts by the name of their authors. In the process, three item-by-item card files/finding aids were created:

¹See Harvey Wish, "New Indiana Archival Documents" Indiana Magazine of History 32 (1936), pp. 360-369, and Harvey Wish, ed., "Civil War Letters and Dispatches" IMH 33 (1937), pp. 62-74.

- 1) alphabetical by name of writer/author;
- 2) calendar (chronological order) of the manuscripts, and
- 3) subject file of the manuscripts.

Both 1) and 2) have a brief abstract of the text of the document.

Records Description

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Nearly six thousand records relating to Gov. Morton's gubernatorial tenure were discovered by the W.P.A. in Chicago. Of these, over two thousand were telegraph dispatches sent from and to Gov. Morton and his staff during the Civil War. These telegraph dispatches have been indexed and reorganized in conjunction with the Morton telegraph books and Adjutant General telegraph books, in which the dispatches often were recorded for documentation purposes. A computer database index comprising over twelve thousand telegraph messages was created recently by State Archives staff. Original dispatches were matched to the messages recorded in the telegraph books to compile the database index. This database index is available to be searched by date, author/recipient of the telegram, and subject (this database has also been introduced on the Internet world wide web, where it is available to millions of individuals around the world). If a researcher finds a subject of interest in the database index, s/he is welcome to contact the State Archives to arrange to read the dispatches. Both the original dispatches and the telegraph books have been microfilmed for preservation and patron use.

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The remainder of the Gov. Morton records discovered in Chicago constitute the collection known as the Gov. Morton Papers. In the organization of thirty years ago, State Archives staff created two separate components of the Papers. These were 1) the Papers, the majority of the records arranged alphabetically by author's name, and 2) the Civil War Miscellany, a subject-oriented group. The Civil War Miscellany also included some related records of the Adjutant General of Indiana. The Civil War Miscellany is calendared and abstracted in the card files created at the time. For the current reorganization, the Civil War Miscellany has been retained for the sake of continuity.

Other Records for Civil War/Morton Research

The Indiana State Archives has large holdings of records relating to Indiana's participation in the American Civil War. Many of the records originally derived from Gov. Morton's office, but were preserved by the Adjutant General of Indiana prior to transfer to the Indiana State Archives. Still others derived from other executive offices (ie., Treasurer of State, Auditor of State). The researcher should consult these separate record groups in the course of research into Indiana's role in the Civil War for a more complete understanding of affairs in Indiana.

Other record groups pertaining to the Civil War include:

- 1) Gov. Morton telegraph books (noted above); 2004384

- 2) Gov. Morton letterpress books--these constitute a large amount of correspondence of the Governor and his staff; however, many of the letterpress books are in poor condition and illegible;
- 3) Records of the Adjutant General(s) of Indiana--as the the chief military officer of Indiana, the Adjutant General oversaw much of the administrative machinery during the war. These records include muster rolls and extensive correspondence files of all Indiana volunteer regiments and artillery batteries;
- 4) Indiana Legion Papers--the Legion was Indiana's state militia created at the beginning of the rebellion. Legion units organized along Indiana's Ohio River border saw action during the war, mostly related to repelling guerrillas.

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While many documents written and signed by Morton are to be found in the Gov. Morton Papers and other record groups in the Indiana State Archives, by no means all of his writings are to be found in them. Evidence, both substantial and inferential, suggests that many records, written both by Morton and others, were removed from the collections over the years. Morton and Holloway themselves probably extracted materials thought to be sensitive or damning. They also may have given manuscripts away to other persons interested in various subjects (some of these records appeared later in private collections and are now in the hands of private manuscript libraries). Other signs point to the records being rifled through and items removed during their time in Chicago.

It is important to note here that a comparison of the card file calendar to the actual Gov. Morton Papers will reveal several missing records. While present staff has relocated a number of the misplaced records, it is feared that others were stolen and unrecoverable. For this reason, and also for the sake of future preservation of the records, the Gov. Morton Papers have been microfilmed. The microfilm of the papers is available to patrons for research purposes.

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Microfilm
1995015

Arrangement

The records are arranged in chronological order, month/day/year. Where incomplete information for the date of the record exists, records were arranged as follows:

-when month and year were identified but not the day, the item was placed at the beginning of the month in the proper year;

-when year only was identified, the item was placed at the beginning of the year;

-when month and day were identified but not the year, the item was placed in the undated materials;

-undated materials, including fragments, were filed behind the dated materials at the end

of the group.

Box Inventories

1937001

- Box 1 1860-September 17, 1861
- Box 2 September 18, 1861-March 31, 1862
- Box 3 April 1, 1862-August 10, 1862
- Box 4 August 11, 1862-January 12, 1863
- Box 5 January 13, 1863-October 31, 1863
- Box 6 November 1, 1863-April 30, 1864
- Box 7 May 1, 1864-September 30, 1864
- Box 8 October 1, 1864-May 31, 1865
- Box 9 June 1, 1865-1869; undated materials
- Box 10 Undated fragments; miscellaneous materials

Indiana State Archives
Indianapolis, Indiana
October, 1995

State of Indiana
Executive Department
Indianapolis

Paul V. McNutt
Governor

January 5, 1937

Honorable Will N. Sparks
United States Circuit Court of Appeals
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Judge:

I am asking your assistance in obtaining possession for Indiana of several documents that are of great value to the State.

As you may recall, the Chicago Daily Tribune and Chicago Daily Times of June 29, 1936, and the Chicago Daily News of June 30, 1936, announced the discovery by employees engaged in a Survey of Federal Archives in the United States Court House at Chicago of official correspondence of Governor Oliver P. Morton, and in one instance of Governors Dunning, Willard, Wright and Lane.

A subsequent visit to the Court House by Dr. Christopher B. Coleman, Secretary of the Indiana Commission on Public Records, of which I am chairman, revealed that documents probably sufficient to fill a three or four drawer filing cabinet had been found in gunny sacks among discarded material on a floor of the Court House then used for storage. In this collection there were a few documents of Governors Dunning, Willard, Wright and Lane, and a great mass of documents of Governor Oliver P. Morton. These latter included a great number of telegrams received by Governor Morton, letters written to him by his representatives in this State and those on visit to army camps, hospitals, etc., drafts of speeches and a variety of other documents.

No one knows how these documents came to be in the Federal Court Building in Chicago. Dr. Coleman believes, however, that they must have been removed from the Governor's office where they belonged and have been taken to Chicago in connection with the private literary work of William Robeson Holloway. Mr. Holloway, I understand, helped the late William Dudley Foulke compile and write his life of Oliver P. Morton, to whom Mr. Holloway was private secretary from 1861 to 1864; later Consul General at St. Petersburg, Russia, according to our records Mr. Holloway died in Chicago in 1911. The information we have is that his son Edward M. Holloway, was in 1905 clerk of either the U. S. District Court or the Circuit Court in Chicago. It would seem that these papers were stored for convenience by one or both of the Holloways in storage space in the Federal Court Building.

It has been impossible for Dr. Coleman to learn who has immediate custody of the building, which I understand is now used by your Court. The Regional Director of the Survey of Federal Archives is Dr. Russell H. Anderson, and his assistant is Mr. W. E. Austin with offices at Room 909, 343 South Dearborn Street, Chicago. The man in immediate charge of the Survey of the Federal Court House is Dr. Wish. All three of these gentlemen promised Dr. Coleman to

1/5/37

Honorable Will N. Sparks
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do what they could to have the documents returned to the office of the Governor of Indiana. They stated, however, that it would embarrass them in the completion of their Survey of Federal Archives if publicity were given to the removal, or attempted removal, of documents as a result of the survey.

Presuming that the person immediately responsible for the custody of these documents was the Superintendent of the Court House, Dr. Coleman wrote to Dr. Anderson on July 18, 1936, enclosing a letter to the Superintendent in which it was stated that the documents in question belonged to the office of the Governor of Indiana, and asking for their transfer to the Indiana Commission on Public Records. Dr. Anderson was requested to deliver the letter to the Superintendent at the earliest opportune occasion. No reply to this letter to the Superintendent has been received.

The State of Indiana is anxious to recover these documents as soon as possible. As you know, the papers have no possible connection with the United States Court, nor with the Postoffice Department, and it is not presumed that formal legal proceedings will be necessary to obtain permission to transfer them to the custody of the Indiana Commission on Public Records.

The members of the Commission on Public Records, including Dr. Coleman and myself, will greatly appreciate any aid that you can give in this connection.

With kindest regards, I am

Cordially yours,

(Signed) PAUL V. McNUTT

Paul V. McNutt

PVM K

CHRONOLOGICAL INVENTORY OF CIVIL WAR MISCELLANY
 DRAWER 107, FOLDER 84
 [location: L816]
 CORRESPONDENCE

DATE	FROM	TO	
4/16/61	Wm.H. Reed Decatur Co. Auditor	Gov. Morton	Govt arms in the co. in possession of Brig. Gen. James R. Foley
8/1/61	W.P.Squibb and Co. Aurora	Gov. Morton	Goods being shipped to South
8/26/61	Isaac M. Brown, Terre Haute	Gov. Morton	Illegal trade with South
9/26/61	John M. Cooper, Jeffersonvil le	Gov. Morton	A Mr. Cain a rabid secessionist who should have his pension stopped
2/24/62	anon., Barth. Co.	Gov. Morton	Southern sympathizers active in county
7/20/62	Robert S. White, Jefferson City, MO	Gov. Morton	Certain officers in his battery are sesech, disloyal, and inefficient
7/27/62	W.H.H. Terrell, Cincinnati	Gov. Morton	Col Leonidas Metcalfe wants to send rich secessionist prisoners to Michigan City
7/29/62	Wm C. Swezey, Switz. Co.	Gov. Morton	Unusually large numbers of strangers passing through county
8/30/62	Jacob Early, LaPorte	Gov. Morton	Discussion that 9th District will go to Turpie in Fall election
9/6/62	Samuel F. Platt, Cannelton	Gov. Morton	Elijah Drum, secessionist, not worthy of any appointment
3/23/63	J.H. Chappell,	Gov. Morton	President of Union League. Reports on

	Steuben Co.		speech made. Asks if such speeches should be allowed
3/23/63	D.R. Wisel, Steuben Co.	Gov. Morton	Surrounded by sesech traitors; tells of public meeting where a Van Vocken [sic? Van Valkenburg] claimed brotherhood with armed traitors. Asks if these rebel sympathizers may be killed
3/24/63	L.F.C., Bedford	Gov. Morton	Claims to be an officer in K.G.C.; reports on their activities
4/2/63	A.N. Flinn, Medora	Gov. Morton	Reports existence of societies to resist draft and assist deserters in Lawrence Co.
4/8/63	N. Field, Jeffersonville	Gov. Morton	Asks that he do not appoint Benj. Ray as Falls Pilot as he is a negro bounty hunter
4/25/63	G.P. Anderson, Jennings Co. Auditor	Gov. Morton	Reports on K.G.C.
4/30/63	Asahel Stone, Quartermaster General	T.B. Wood, Thorntown	Requests certificates of a loyal person and Co. Auditor for arms
5/6/63	Thomas J. Downs, Jeff- ville	Gov. Morton	Thomas Grey, applicant for Falls Pilot, not a loyal man
5/9/63	James Guthrie, Darke Co, Oh	Gov. Morton	Traitors in Sullivan Co threaten the Union Christian College (where he is principal)
6/5/63	Henry B. Carrington, Columbus, OH	Gov. Morton	Reports on events and mood in Ohio, etc.

6/19/63	R.H. Calvert, Fulton Co.	Gov. Morton	Reports on K.G.C. State should form home militia for protection
7/29/63	Isaac Dick, Clinton Co.	Gov. Morton	Reports treasonable activities in county
n.d. [1863?]	James D. Hosea, Scott Co.	Gov. Morton	Overheard a meeting of a secret society, giving bylaws, names, etc.
n.d. [1864?]	anon., Terre Haute	Gov. Morton	Report of suspicious activities of men in town
1/5/64	Michael Foley, Chicago	Gov. Morton	Coming to Indiana. Letter endorsed "can't discover it"
7/16/64	Jonathan F. Earnhart, New Albany	Gov. Morton	Reports on speech of E.J. Preston upholding the cause of the war
8/15/64	Col. S.M. Houston, Crawfordsville	Gov. Morton	Danger of uprising. Wants arms for his Montgomery regiment
10/15/64	Jonathan J. Speed, Louisville, Ky	Gov. Morton	Congratulations on recent election victory
11/18/64	Charles H. Mason, Cannelton	Gov. Morton	Hawesville, Ky, across the river is a rendezvous for guerrillas
12/27/64	D.E. Williamson, Greencastle	Gov. Morton	Attorney General's opinion on feeder dam across Calumet River
3/2/65	Nancy Dolens	Gov. Morton	Complains of rebels who abuse the soldiers
4/7/65	[petition], Franklin Co.	Gov. Morton	A secessionist, Isaac K. Lee, elected Justice of the Peace
4/11/65	Samuel F. Winter, Editor, Huntington	Gov. Morton	Responding to Morton's insolent letter of 4/10/65 re Ind. troops transferred to Mass.

	<u>Democrat</u>		draft credit
4/15/65	Charles H. Mason, Cannelton	Gov. Morton	Remonstrance against commissioning Alfred Critchfield as a J.P.
4/15/65	anon., Indianapolis	Gov. Morton	Advises him to employ a bodyguard to protect himself
4/20/65	Robert H. Richardson, Ripley Co.	Gov. Morton	Reports on events in Milan on 18th; wants to know if they can punish abusers of Lincoln's memory
4/23/65	Lewis Griffith, Wells Co.	Gov. Morton	Reports on John Rupright, Adams Co., a rank secessionist
4/24/65	J. Bollinger, Tell City	Gov. Morton	Reports on men who applauded Lincoln's murder
4/25/65	Samuel Richey, Cassville	Gov. Morton	Reports on men who expressed happiness at Lincoln's death
4/26/65	H.H. Sayre, Chattanooga, TN	Gov. Morton	Sends list of 3 Indiana soldiers who expressed satisfaction at Lincoln's death
5/11/65	B.J. Gregory, Williamsport	Gov. Morton	?
5/16/65	Alfred Stevenson, Springfield, IL	Gov. Morton	Reports overheard conversation on train that Morton would be assassinated
5/22/65	Alexander McPheeter, Lavonia	Gov. Morton	Requests that Bowles not receive a reprieve
6/8/65	G.R. Faulkner	Gov. Morton	Complains of promotion of another over his son

Office of the Clerk
United States Circuit Court of Appeals
For the Seventh Circuit

Frederick G. Campbell, Clerk
725 United States Court House
Chicago, Illinois

January 11, 1917

Dear Judge Sparks:

I talked to one of the men here who has been going over records in this building for the archives of the United States, and he stated that the files relating to Governor Morton were still in this building.

The way they happened to be here is that William Holloway, Edward M. Holloway's father, brought these files here for the purpose of working on a book relating to Governor Morton and the Civil War days in Indiana, and he died before he completed the book. These files are stored on the top floor of the dome of this building along with quite a number of other files of this office, containing extra copies of records, briefs, etc. The clerk of the Circuit Court had some files there also. Part of the roof gave way up there and all of the files that were there were water soaked and as they were on wooden shelves built in the center of the room the weight of the water caused the shelves to fall, and all the files were piled in a heap when we next saw them. As our files which were stored there were all copies, of which we had duplicates in our office on the seventh floor, we did not attempt to salvage any of them, but permitted the building to take them out. The files relating to Governor Morton must have been overlooked, or perhaps Mr. Holloway thought they were of no value since his father was dead.

I understand from the man I talked to this morning that most of these files are the official files of the State of Indiana during Governor Morton's administration. If the estate of Mr. Holloway has any claim on them I am sure Mrs. Holloway and her daughter would waive their claim and want them to be sent to Indiana and not to Washington. He also stated that his superior thought these records should be sent to the archives of the United States, at Washington, and after that the State of Indiana should requisition from that department. This seems to be an unnecessary proceeding, as certainly the United States has no claim on these papers.

The men who have been working here have been under the supervision of the P. W. A., and Doctor Russell Anderson, of 343 South Dearborn Street, has been in charge of the men doing the work. P. M. Hamer, of Washington, D. C., is the Director of Survey, in charge of this work, and R. D. W. Connor, of Washington, is archivist of the United States.

The man with whom I talked suggested that we first get in communication with Doctor Anderson, and if he does not have full authority he will probably suggest who does. This man also stated that he thought Doctor Anderson had recommended to the archives that these papers be turned over to the State of Indiana.

If you want me to do anything further regarding this matter, please advise me.

(Signed) F. G. C.

P.S. I have written to Doctor Anderson, and when I receive a reply will notify you.

(See copy of letter attached)

January 12, 1937

Doctor Russell Anderson, Regional Director
of Survey of Federal Archives,
343 South Dearborn Street,
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Sir:

Some time ago some of your men in going through the files of the District and Circuit Courts here discovered a lot of documents pertaining to the administration of Governor Oliver P. Morton, who was governor of Indiana during the Civil War. Since these documents were discovered I remembered how they happened to be in this building. They are no part of the files of either the District Court or of the old Circuit Court, which was abolished. For a time they were stored on the top floor of the dome of this building, which was jointly used for the storage of old papers. Several years ago parts of the roof gave way and all of the papers stored there became water soaked, and were so heavy that the wooden shelves on which they were stored gave way and one day we found them all on the floor in a very bad condition. Practically all of the files of this court that were there were duplicates of what we retained in the Clerk's office on the seventh floor of this building, so we did not try to salvage any of our files, but we had overlooked that these documents were stored there.

Years ago these documents were brought here by Colonel William R. Holloway, who was a relative of Governor Morton, and served as his secretary during the time he acted as governor of Indiana. I think Mr. Holloway was engaged at the time of his death in writing a book pertaining to Indiana during the Civil War period, but he died before it was completed. Edward M. Holloway, his son, was at that time the clerk of this court, and he died in 1931. That accounts for these documents being in this building.

Judge William M. Sparks, one of the judges of this court, has just received a letter from the Governor of Indiana asking him to do what he can to have these documents placed in the custody of the Indiana Commission of Public Records. Judge Sparks is very anxious to help, as he thinks these records should be there.

Anything that you may be able to do in this matter will be greatly appreciated. If you do not have the authority to have these documents transmitted to the Indiana Commission, any suggestions you may make as to what further proceedings Judge Sparks should take will also be appreciated.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) F. G. C.

Documents

CIVIL WAR LETTERS AND DISPATCHES

Edited by HARVEY WISH

In the December issue of the *Indiana Magazine of History*, a descriptive account of certain newly discovered Indiana documents at Chicago was presented by the writer.¹ This collection of the official correspondence of Indiana's governors from 1840 to 1867 pertains chiefly to the administration of Governor Oliver Perry Morton. The following documents are more representative of the political material than of the administrative files, which constitute the larger part of the collection. These letters and dispatches reveal, in an intimate way, certain aspects of Indiana's problems during the Civil War concerning contraband trade, defeatist organizations, such as the Knights of the Golden Circle, and other important political questions of that era.² Many of the details given here are entirely new in that they do not appear in the numerous publications dealing with Indiana's history from 1861-1865.

[LETTERS]

Office of the Secretary of State,
Frankfort [Kentucky], June 14, 1861

Dear Sir:

Information is received at the Executive Department of this state that one hundred bags of coffee shipped from Baltimore to Messrs. Buchanan & Co., Louisville, is now detained at Indianapolis by a vigilance committee or some other such authority. It is presumed that this

¹ The discovery of Indiana archival material in Chicago, as described in the December issue, was made by the Illinois unit of the Survey of Federal Archives directed, in that state, by Dr. Russell H. Anderson, and sponsored by both the National Archives and the Works Progress Administration. Acknowledgments are due to Dr. Philip M. Hamer, National Director of the Survey, and Chief of the Division of the Library, National Archives, for his support and guidance of this and similar projects throughout the country. This collection was transferred to the Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, Indiana, in January, 1937.

² From a recent interview with Mr. Frederick G. Campbell, Clerk of the United States Circuit Court of Appeals at Chicago and a former resident of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, several important facts concerning the provenance of the documents were obtained. When the Court was first organized in 1891, both Oliver Perry Morton, son of the Indiana Governor, and Edward Morton Holloway, a grand-nephew, were employed in its offices in the old Federal Building on the present site of the United States Courthouse (also known as Federal Building), at Clark and Adams Streets, Chicago.

Mr. Campbell came to Chicago in 1899 to take up his work in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Appeals, then located temporarily in the Monadnock Building while the new Federal Court House was in the process of construction. Edward M. Holloway was then the Clerk and also the custodian of a large amount of Indiana archival documents which were kept in the office. His father, Colonel William R. Holloway, formerly Private Secretary to Governor Morton, came frequently to peruse the material, evidently with the intention of writing upon some aspects of Indiana history. He had already collaborated with William D. Foulke upon a biography of Governor Morton, but expected to complete an independent work of his own—a hope never realized. Whether he or the younger Morton was responsible for the transfer of the Indiana documents to Chicago could not be determined by the writer. When the Clerk's office was reestablished in the United States Courthouse, about 1902, the documents were packed away in the huge dome and soon forgotten.

infracton of private rights has been perpetrated without your knowledge or consent and that your attention need only be called to this wrong to secure prompt remedy. I am therefore instructed by Governor Magoffin³ to call your attention to the fact and await your action.

Very Resp.,
Thos. B. Monroe, Jr.
Secy. of State

To
Gov. O. P. Morton,
Indianapolis

Louisville, June 20, 1861

Wm. H. Schlater, Esq.,⁴

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 18th inst. enclosing copy of T. B. Monroe's of the 14th is at hand. Mr. Buchanan applied to me some time ago as a lawyer to endeavor to get his coffee for him. I then told him that if he would give me satisfactory assurances that the coffee should be sold only for home consumption that I would go out and get his coffee for him without fee or reward. This he declined to do and I declined taking any step for him.

The coffee is undoubtedly intended for the southern market. It strikes me that the best course would be to let the coffee come to Jeffersonville and then be seized by the collector. That places the matter in the hands of the U. S. government and releases Gov. Morton from all responsibility on the subject.

There is no fear of the collector at Jeffersonville failing in his duty. If he errs at all it will be the other way. Messrs. Buchanan & Co. are secessionists, but they are gentlemen whose promises would be held sacred and if they gave assurances that the coffee should be sold only for home consumption in Ky., I would not hesitate to let it pass.

Yours truly,
Thos. W. Gibson⁵

Aurora, Ind., Aug. 1st, 1861

Gov. O. P. Morton,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Dr Sir we deem it our duty to inform you that for some time past the Madison Packets have been bringing Bacon and Mess Pork from Cinti [Cincinnati] to this place and leaving it on the wharfboat where it remains a day or two, when the Louisville Boats take it below. And that there is something wrong about it is evident from the fact that it is not shipped direct to its destination. Some of it is directed to citizens

³The well-known secessionist sympathies of Governor Beriah Magoffin of Kentucky and his persistent attempts to preserve the "neutrality" of his state during the early part of the Civil War created special difficulties for Governor Morton who was called upon to organize the Union sentiment of Kentucky. The contraband problem was but one phase in the duel between the two governors.

⁴Secretary to Governor Morton.

⁵A military agent for Governor Morton. Many of Gibson's letters, as well as those of other agents whose reports are included in the collection, reveal the detailed events at the front and behind the lines.

of this place but is never hauled up town. We do not wish to act without authority but we are determined that Provisions shall not be carried through our place to Secessiondom.

By directing your attention to the above you will oblige many citizens and the subscribers.

Your Obt. Svts.
W. P. Squibb & Co.

Terre Haute, Ind., Aug. 26/61

Gov. Morton—

Dear Sir—Feeling it to be my duty under existing circumstances, and in obedience to the laws of our country, to give all the information in my possession to arrest the progress of traitors and to bring to justice all offenders, I beg to call your most earnest attention to the following case which I hope and trust you will take immediate steps to ferret out:

About the middle of May last, Carey W. Barbour and Wolsey Barbour^o of this county, loaded two flat boats at their landing above the city, and dropt down to this city where they completed their loading. The freight consisted of corn, hay, oats, bacon, etc. and was designed for a house in New Orleans that had advanced \$2000. on the load. Our citizens, learning these facts, and hearing that the boats were ready to cut loose from their moorings, repaired to the river in a body and took off the oars, tied up the boats and told the Barbours that the boats must not be sent out. Their reply was that they would do as they pleased about the matter,—they had received \$2000. on the load and were bound to make their contract good. In about ten days after this, in the dead of night the boats were cut loose, manned by three or four noted sympathizers of this city. The impression was created by this crew after their return that the boats were unloaded at Cairo, for the army at that point. Not satisfied with this, I refered to the matter several times through my paper [*The Atlas*] and demanded an explanation. To one of these notices the Journal replied that the two boats were unloaded at Smythland, Ky., and the loading shipped over the Louisville and Nashville Road to Memphis, Tenn. Since this time I have found a man who is now in Camp Nigo, as a private, that says he saw the produce at the landing in Memphis, and for the truth of this, refers to the following persons and circumstances: The boats were stopped at Smithland and towed up the Cumberland River to some point, and finally reached Nashville by some circuitous route. The steamboat St. Francis was employed for this purpose, the capt. living at Henderson. You are also refered to—Jondan and F. I. Martin, at Mayfield, Ky., also to Miss—Gregory, Wing Curve, three miles from Doublin, Ky., and Mrs. D. Tucker, seven miles below Wing Curve, Ky. These facts are worthy of attention and I now ask your cooperation in this matter that these two persons may be brought to justice. Our citizens offered to pay the Barbours the \$2000. advanced to them by the rebels, but were refused. I can procure all the names of the crew—one of them, E. Lane, of this city has told two tales

^o These two Barbours may have been related to Cromwell Woolsey Barbour, prominent lawyer, state legislator, and later, in 1861, a farmer in Fayette Township. Blackford Condit, *The History of Early Terre Haute* (New York, 1900), pp. 112-113.

about the matter. The first was that the boats landed at Cairo, but seeing what the Evansville Journal said, he changed the story to this—*The secessionists took the boats above Cairo, drove the crew off, and landed the boats at Smithland.* This matter must be looked into, and as I am in possession of these facts, many of our best citizens have requested me to acquaint you with the same that you may order the arrest of these two offenders, and the crew, as aiders and abettors. The man referred to in Camp Nigo is Jesse K. Kendall, in Capt. Welch's company.

Trusting that you will take immediate and efficient steps to ferret out this matter.

I remain your humble Serv't,
Isaac M. Brown.⁷

Bedford, Ind., March 24, 1863.

Gov. O. P. Morton,
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Dear Sir:

I think it highly important & beneficial to Indiana and the adjoining States to address you thus—as a friend. It is well known to you that there is such a Society⁸ in Indiana as k.g.c. [Knights of the Golden Circle]. And to be plain & honorable I wish to inform you that I have been a member of that order for about three months and having served in the capacity of an officer in the Central lodge of my County & of course I have the opportunity of knowing all the important moves that is being or going to be made throughout all the different lodges in the State & adjoining States.

Sir it will be putting my life at Stake to expose the Secret organization above mentioned, though I think that it is very important that it should be, for a proper exposition of this Secret order will keep down a rebellion among our people, although there will be some difficulty to overcome the attempts that is now being made, yet with proper information it can be done with more than usual Success. Now Sir if you feel disposed to act in good faith and will justify me for so doing I will furnish you with a written or verbal statement of all its proceedings from its introduction in Indiana up to the present, viz., a copy of the oath of each degree, the Signs grips and passes also the Signs grips and passes when they change, the accurate number of firearms held by this order the principal points where kept, the intentions and designs of this order and in short—everything necessary for information belonging thereto by bringing things before the public in this manner, this Secret order like a ball in the air must fall. In order that full information may be had from time to time it is necessary for me to remain a member of

⁷ Before editing the *Atlas*, Isaac M. Brown had been foreman of the *Terre Haute Express*, owned by David S. Donaldson. His suggestion to the latter that the *Express* was ready for a daily issue, bore fruit in the establishment of *Terre Haute's* first daily paper (May 12, 1851). Condit, *op. cit.*, pp 135-6.

⁸ The anti-war activities of the Knights of the Golden Circle were exposed in the treason trials of 1864 through the efforts of General H. B. Carrington, Governor Morton, and a host of secret service men. The membership was estimated at 50,000 and its funds at \$200,000. Charles M. Walker, *Sketch of the Life, Character, and Public Services of Oliver P. Morton* (Prepared for the *Indianapolis Journal*, Indianapolis, 1878), pp. 106-7.

this order. I trust therefore that you will not drop any hint or expose the name of your humble Correspondent in any way whatever as it would not only expel me from this order but would bring my life at Stake. If after a proper consideration of the ideas dropped in this letter you should think it expedient to answer Address me at Bedford, Lawrence County, Indiana and I will either come to Indianapolis and see you personally or will write as you may think best.

Very respectfully your humble servant
L. F. C.

P.S. Direct your letter to the initials signed at the bottom of this letter and in Care of Isaac Recter.

Bergetts Corner
July 29, 1863

Dear Sir I feel it my duty to inform you of some Things going on in this neiborhood that I must confess that I dont understand we have men that thir [their] conversation and actions is tresonble throughout thir [they] are desturbing the Peace of all good Loyel men in every way [If] they can they Go to Church on the Sabbeth Day waring thir buternuts for brest pins and Cursing and Swaring and daring any and evry body to take them of and say if they are drafted They will fight and die at home. All that I want to No if there is any way to Stop such action of being cared on. Last Sabeth I saw myself ten or twelve armed men at Church in [and] return home firing their pistols from wagons amongst Wimen and Children. I tell Govner us union folks is geting Weary of Such Carings on if There is anyway to Stop Copperheads and buternuts from Talking treason I wish to No it and if you think it best to let them say and do as they Pleas I wish to no it. I can give names if you want them please Send me a few Lines and give your opinion.

Address Bergets Corner, Clinton Co. Ind. I must Close for the Present.

Yours Respectfully,
Isaac Dick

North Salem,
Mar 20th 1863

Honeable [*sic*] O. P. Morton Govner of Ind.
Honead [*sic*] Sir

Do please pardon me for imposing on your Honer, by informing you of Some Matters Existing with the Disloyal party of our neighborhood. The Citizens of our Town and Township are becoming Alarmed. Thoes abominable Trators are holding at night & sometimes in the day Secret Meetings. They have procured all the amunition in Town they could get. Arming themselves with pistols and guns making all sorts of threats They are becomeing Very Impertinent and Sassy. make threats what they will do if thir Should come another draft and I firmly believe their is devastation and trouble at our doors. Some goes so far as to Say they are in hopes the union mens heads will be maid to ache yet and good many Such Threats. We have a Toleable bad Butternut hole in this part of Hendricks Co Ind. I have been Selling Dry goods here

for 30 years & am pretty well acquainted with the greater part of all persons. I am positively afraid to buy goods this Spring and my Neighbor merchants are also alarmed as to buying goods as I suppose this Eelriver Township is the most disloyal Township in the County.

Hon. Governor Morton,
Dear Sir:

Salem, Steuben Co., Ind.
March 23, 1863.

We the loyal people of Salem Tp. Steuben Co. Ind. are Surrounded by Cecesh of the deepest dye, and wish to know, what can be done to stop them in their mad career.

At a public meeting last nite, their speaker (Van Nocken) upheld Cession, claimed brother-hood with armed traitors, openly denounced everything and everbody that were in favor of the Suppression of the Rebellion. And heaped the bitterest curses that his Hell deserving soul could rake up on the President and his Cabinet. In short it was well calculated to stimulate the ignorant Copperheads to acts of outrage of which they have already threatened. The treasonable speech was cheered by all present except Six [Union men].

Now Governor what can be don for God's Sake tell us. Will we be justified by Law if we use the rope? May we shoot them or will you have them arrested?

Your humble Servant,
D. R. Wisel¹⁰

Ossian, Wells Co., Indiana,
April 23, 1865.

Your Excellency O. P. Morton

Sir My duty prompts one to drop you a few lines and the citizens of Adams County prays they may be heard. A man named John Rupright living in Preble Township, Adams Co., Ind. being a rank Cessionist has been a Source of annoyance to us for the last 4 years he was the leader of the society called the knights of the golden circle and came very near getting our Township raised in arms against the draft and further more on Saturday the 15th the news reached us of the death of Mr. Lincoln. I was standing in my yard about 20 Steps from the public road when the Said John Rupright and another man named George Judd passed my house with the team. Mr. Rupright asked me if I had heard of the death of Lincoln. I told him I had and felt Sorry for it and said at the top of his voice he was God Damed glad he was Dead they passed on a few rods further and on meeting some Ladies the above named George Judd remarked to them that Lincoln died this morning at seven o'clock and went to hell and after they got home they gathered up all the bells and old pistols I suppose they had and marched up and down the road untill near mid-

⁹ The writer, J. S. Woodward, goes on to make a request for his son's discharge from a Union hospital.

¹⁰ Daniel R. Wisel was president of the local Union League. Later he served as Commander of the McLain Post, Company D. 13, Ohio Cavalry, a veterans' organization. He is described as a "hail, affable comrade" who "always attends to the interest of his post and takes just pride in same." *The War for the Union* (War Record of Steuben County, Indiana, 1888-9), pp. 70-71.

knight rejoicing over his death this we think is more than we can bear and we beg of the authorities to bring them to justice this statement I have mad here I am ready to be qualified to at any time if necessary my post office address Ossian Wells Co. Indiana.

From Yours,
Lewis Griffith

(Anonymous)

A plain Statement of facts:

Col. Helm (as they call him) of Louisville came in on the morning Express train on Saturday last (24th) with considerable baggage accompanied by 2 young women. They went up to his brother's (Dr. James T. Helm)¹¹ and on Saturday Evening there was a lively group gathered there; *they were seen in close confab*. The group seen comprised Dan'l W. Voorhees,¹² W. D. Krumbhaar,¹³ B. Frank Clark and the two Helms—On Monday afternoon (26th) this Col. H. bought 2 tickets for Buffalo & one ticket for one of the females to Detroit via Sidney Last Evening this B. Frank Clark was seen making some very suspicious movements, backing & filling around a corner towards Dr. Helm's at 10 o'clock at night (perhaps $\frac{1}{4}$ of 10) and this morning he (Clark) bought a ticket for Greencastle Junction (a direct connection for Louisville). He seemed to have plenty of money (which is in itself great cause for suspicion as he is known and acknowledged as a veritable Jeremy Diddle).¹⁴ Before the train started he was seen in close confab with Co. Thomas Dowling¹⁵ *These things all have great weight & significance* since facilities are closed via Adams & other Expresses in sending correspondence to the traders at the South, they must have private messengers. From all things gathered by a *watchful eye* these men have a great plan to be carried out in connection with Col. Helm's visit. *All the men* whose names are above mentioned are intimate & in closest connection with that miserable specimen, John G. Davis,¹⁶ meeting him at the train when he arrives here and coming down with him when he departs, and when in the city closeted with

¹¹ The connection of the Helms of Louisville with Grand Commander Harrison H. Dodd of Indianapolis, of the Order of Sons of Liberty, seems to have been suspected by the detective, Felix G. Stidger. A reference to Dr. James Helm appears in Stidger's *Treason History of the Order of the Sons of Liberty, 1864* (Chicago, 1903), p. 108. No place or date given for this communication. It was evidently written at Terre Haute, and probably in 1863.

¹² The evidence, as later presented during Carrington's raid upon Voorhees' office, appears to be inconclusive as to the guilt of the latter. Voorhees denied that the office belonged to him in August, 1864, the time of the raid. Stidger, *op. cit.*, pp. 100, 137-139.

¹³ Possibly William F. Krumbhaar, Warden of St. Stephens Protestant Episcopal Church of Terre Haute. Condit, *op. cit.*, p. 84.

¹⁴ The improvident character in James Kenney's farce, *Raising The Wind*. (London, 1803). Jeremy borrows small sums continually from his acquaintances whom he later cannot repay.

¹⁵ Colonel Thomas Dowling, founder of the Terre Haute *Express*, ended his newspaper career in 1845. He served several times as a member of the state legislature; then as trustee of the Wabash and Erie Canal; City Councillor in Terre Haute; and County Commissioner. He died in 1876. Condit, *op. cit.*, pp. 133-135. Also mentioned in William Wesley Woolen's *Biographical and Historical Sketches of Early Indiana* (Indianapolis, 1883), p. 96.

¹⁶ John G. Davis, an anti-war Democrat, was active in the Vallandigham peace movement in the Old Northwest. His correspondence, declared by Carrington to reveal disloyal plans, was seized in Voorhees' office at Terre Haute. William D. Foulke, *Life of Oliver P. Morton* (Indianapolis, 1899), I, *passim*.

him—*Something must be done* in examining these suspected messengers as they arrive and depart. They are known and closely watched by true-hearted men who long to cooperate with the proper authorities in suppressing this mighty scheme, that is being carried on via *Terre Haute*.

Fulton, Fulton [County] Ind.

Mr. Morton:

June 19th, 1863.

Dear Sir, knowing that you must have a multiplicity of business on your mind I will detain you with only a few lines—

Seeing the condition of our Country, and the imminent danger to which the honest and Loyal citizen[s] of this State are Exposed on account of this *Banditi of Unholy men*; I allude to *Knights of the Golden Circle*, who are holding their night meetings throughout the length and breadth of the land. Evidently—I think to adopt plans, and ways, by which to greatly weaken if not, entirely frustrate, the movements of the Government, in the prosecution of this war—In a word they are rebels in heart and will be so in practice—very soon.

Unless they can be check'd immediately.—I would therefore recommend the propriety of enforcing Martial Law throughout the State, *Immediately*. I believe it would be a wise and proper movement also for the Governor to Issue a proclamation making it the duty of all the males over Eighteen and under 45 years to form themselves into companies, allowing older men the privilege of joining in with them, and all such companies to be put, under obligation to *drill* on Saturday afternoon of each week and to be called the *home militia*. Men who have had some practise in military tactics can be obtained in the country to drill such companies without calling home any from the regular army.

Then if Government Should find it necessary hereafter, to furnish such companies, with arms, it would be a great advantage to have men already drill'd who could go into action without farther delay. But I must close by advising you to keep a body guard of honest men, around your person. Please write to me soon if you can get the time as I am very anxious to hear how things are moving at Indianapolis—My address is Fulton, Fulton Co., Ind. I am a member of the N. W. Ind. Conf. of M. E. Church & 22 years a travelling Preacher. Brothers J. L. Smith, Wm. Wills, R. Hargrave are well acquainted with me.

Respectfully yours,
R. H. Calvert

(Private)

Columbus, O., June 5, 1863

Dear Governor:

We are watching Judge Davis¹⁷ course at Chicago with great interest, opinion being divided as to his probable course. I feel that some homogenous policy is necessary and wish it would be adopted by

¹⁷ Judge David Davis (1815-1886), Justice of the United States Supreme Court, then serving in the Circuit Court at Chicago. This may be a reference to General Burnside's arbitrary arrests of civilians and his interference in the policies of Democratic newspapers such as the *Chicago Times*.

the government. The Copperheads here are bold and defiant and seem to gather courage. The "Crisis"¹⁸ reprints the article that caused the World¹⁹ to be interdicted. The republicans are beginning to divide into factions looking to the presidency, though Gov. Tod will be nominated again for Governor by consent it seems.

The recent operations in Illinois²⁰ & the course of Vallandigham²¹ south, confirm me in what I believe as to the intent of the K.G.C. in Illinois & the northwest, and the value of a thorough, but uniform policy in those states. I have not yet failed to see cause, since before the war commenced, to stand by my conclusions whether accidental or otherwise, as to measures of public policy & feel daily renewed confidence in what I have regarded as the wise policy for the management of the west & northwest.

I have seen few Indianapolis papers and hardly know what you are doing.

The order restoring Dawson²² states that he was recommended to executive clemency.

I have no idea or intimation of my particular destination.

With sincere regard,

I am truly your friend,

Henry B. Carrington²³

Colfax²⁴ writes me he received numerous petitions about me but did not use them, being a neighbor of Gen. Haskell.

Cincinnati, May 12, 1865

Gov. O. P. Morton,
Indianapolis.

Dear Sir: I notice by orders recently issued from Washington, that

¹⁸ The Cincinnati *Crisis*, an organ favorable to the Vallandigham peace party, was suspended shortly thereafter by military order. Samuel Klaus, editor, *The Milligan Case* (New York, 1929), pp. 19-23.

¹⁹ The New York *World*, a Democratic newspaper, was likewise suspended by General Burnside because it was "calculated to exert a pernicious and treasonable influence". Klaus, *op. cit.*, p. 20.

²⁰ For details of the Chicago Conspiracy and the "Copperhead" activities in southern Illinois, see I. Winslow Ayer, *The Great Northwestern Conspiracy* (Chicago, 1865), pp. 55-60.

²¹ Clement L. Vallandigham (1820-1871), a leader of the "peace movement" in the Old Northwest. He had been arrested on May 5, 1863 by General Burnside for "declaring disloyal sentiments", but subsequently deported to the South by President Lincoln. After a cool reception from Jefferson Davis, Vallandigham escaped to Canada to direct from there his campaign for governor of Ohio. James L. Vallandigham, *A Life of Clement L. Vallandigham* (Baltimore, 1872).

²² Major Samuel K. Dawson, 19th Regiment, U. S. Infantry, Dept. of the Ohio, sentenced on January 9, 1863, by a General Court Martial to be cashiered. He was recommended to Lincoln soon after for executive clemency and subsequently reinstated in command. Thomas M. O'Brien and Oliver Diefendorf, editors, *General Orders of the United States War Department, 1861-3* (New York, 1864), Vol. II, p. 157.

²³ General Henry B. Carrington, federal mustering officer, acted in close collaboration with Governor Morton in setting up an espionage system which finally brought about the exposure of the Knights of the Golden Circle and other defeatist groups.

²⁴ Schuyler Colfax (1823-1885), later Vice-President of the United States during the Grant Administration, was active in Indiana state politics. Possibly the reference here to petitions concerning Carrington relates to the resentment among anti-war Democrats against the "letter-thief of Indiana" (Carrington) for his espionage activities. His "neighbor", General Milo Haskell, was at that time Commander of a small federal force in Indianapolis stationed about the city to protect government property against the alleged "Copperhead" plot to attack the city. Mayo F. Slater, "Secret Political Societies in the North During the Civil War", *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. XIV, p. 211.

Bowles, Milligan, and Horsey²⁵ are to be executed within a few days at your place. Governor I believe you will do me the justice to say, that I have never been the apologist for punishment to traitors in arms against the government but when I see the rebellion put down and remember that we who still survive the fearful ravages of this wicked rebellion, whether we sided for or against the government, are at last, all brothers and countrymen, and that now we have beaten them fairly at war, had we not better cease the shedding of any more blood except the blood of miserable assassins of our beloved Lincoln and those who still continue in arms for plunder. Rivers of brothers blood has flown in this unholy and useless war, you, our Governor, have it in your power to save the lives of three fellow beings, two of whom at best are far in the journey of life. I appeal to you Governor by our past political and friendly associations to stay the hand of the executioner, and not to rest until you have it from the hands of the President a full and free pardon of these men. I know the aggravation to you is great but rise above all this and show to our countrymen that whilst victorious, you are more than generous; but let not a moment elapse, time is precious and a life once taken cannot be recalled. Do this Governor and whilst there may be some who will condemn, take my word for it, imitate our saviour be merciful and not only will your own conscience applaud but thousands of your fellow citizens will sing hosannas to you for being able to rise above party and personal feelings and thus save the lives of three persons who are reputed to have been your personal and political enemies. I will mention still further, that I am not personally acquainted with either of these parties condemned; but feel that there is no good to result to our country from their execution, and therefore ask your interposition in their favour, which I know if done settles it.

In a political point of view it can work [our] party no good to shed more blood but on the contrary, if we are merciful, the child is not yet born who will see the defeat of the Republican party, whilst on the other hand, if we are not, the reaction will come and probably the coming year will witness our overthrow. All considerations point to mercy, you have it in your power to be so [illegible]

As ever your Friend,
Silas F. Miller²⁶

²⁵ The trio, Dr. William A. Bowles, Lambdin P. Milligan, and Stephen Horsey, were the principal defendants in the great treason trials of 1864. They were charged with various disloyal activities among which were a project to seize the federal and state arsenals in Indiana, a plot to lead an uprising of prisoners in cooperation with the Confederates, and in other ways "giving aid and comfort to the enemy." The case, *ex parte Milligan*, famous in our constitutional history, grew out of these treason trials and became the test case of conflicting civil and military authority. President Lincoln refused to take any action in the case of the three defendants during the course of the war but gave assurance that he would pardon them upon the return of peace. The evidence of the guilt of these men which had been accepted by a military commission, appeared to be flimsy indeed. After Lincoln's death, President Andrew Johnson signed the order for execution, but Governor Morton successfully intervened in behalf of the men who were alleged (among other crimes) to have threatened his life. Horsey, Bowles and Milligan were released during April, 1866, after eighteen months imprisonment. Milligan subsequently (1868) brought suit for damages against the members of the military commission (*Ex parte Milligan*). Fouke, *op. cit.*, I, pp. 424-432; also Klaus, *op. cit.*, *passim*.

²⁶ Colonel Silas F. Miller of the Galt House in Louisville, an extravagant admirer of Morton's.

New Harmony, Ind.

Jan. 16, 1861

[Letter of Edward Murphy to Governor Morton: Discussion of several personal differences among the members of an Indiana committee conducting a Geological Survey. The portion of this letter that follows has political interest in view of the importance of the individuals involved.] Our last ground of opposition to Dr. Richard Owen²⁷ is: He and his associates are as strong opponents of Republicanism as their capacities permit them to be; throughout the Presidential Campaign they have supported Douglas by the customary Democratic methods. Dr. R. Owen's conduct on January 5th will serve as a specimen. His brother, Robert Dale Owen,²⁸ had called a meeting for the day. The Republicans attended in greater number than was expected, and it was known that the night before, the Republican Club of New Harmony, had declared against compromise. Dr. R. Owen made a passionate attack upon the Republicans; he told them that there were some present who were opposed to compromise, and that as the party favorable to compromise had paid the expenses of the room, those opposed to compromise had not anymore right to be present than infidels would have to be present at a church-meeting or Methodists at a Tom Paine celebration. Robert Dale Owen said he must oppose his brother for he had called the meeting and had urged all the inhabitants to attend.

When Dr. R. Owen spoke again, he poured out a rhapsody to the effect that amalgamation is the chief Republican principle, that mulattoes are tuberculous that Negroes are made to be used by the Anglo-Saxon race in hot climates, and that to prevent all the pestilential consequences of "amalgamation" they must be kept south of a certain line; not the line that suits the Republicans but the Crittenden line, or that line with his brother's modification.

[DISPATCHES]

Washington, D. C., Sept. 22, 1861

To Gov. O. P. Morton,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Have just ordered General Fremont²⁹ to send up gunboat if he can spare it.

A. Lincoln

²⁷ Dr. Richard Owen, (1810-1890) youngest son of Robert Owen, the famous philanthropist, was Assistant, and later, State Geologist of Indiana. In 1859 and 1860, he conducted the geological survey of the state to which the letter makes reference. Despite the impression given here, Owen's loyalty to the Union is evidenced by extensive military service for which he received flattering acknowledgments from Secretary Edwin M. Stanton. His scientific contributions are noteworthy. *A Biographical History of Eminent and Self-Made Men of the State of Indiana* (Cincinnati, 1880), Vol. I, p. 38; also Arthur H. Estabrook, "The Family History of Robert Owen", *Indiana Magazine of History*, Vol. XIX, pp. 63-101.

²⁸ Robert Dale Owen (1807-1877), oldest son of Robert Owen, is noted for his philanthropies, particularly in behalf of the Negro and the community experiment at New Harmony, Indiana. He enjoyed an extensive literary and political career; was elected as a state representative on the Democratic ticket and twice as a national representative during 1843-7. During the Civil War, he acted as purchasing agent for Indiana arms in close collaboration with Governor Morton. On the war activities of Robert Dale Owen, see the official report of William H. H. Terrell, *Indiana in the War of the Rebellion* (Indianapolis, 1869), pp. 317, 433-6, *passim*. Many of Owen's letters, written in his capacity as purchasing agent, are in the collection.

²⁹ The counterpart to this telegram appears in the *Official Records of the Union*

Washington, D. C., Sept. 26, 1861

To Gov. O. P. Morton,
Indianapolis, Ind.

We are supplying all the demands for arms as fast as we can.³⁰ We expect to order a lot to you tomorrow. I think there is no concentration of railroads at Muldrough's Hill. A week ago we heard that the enemy was encamped on Muldrough's Hill. Now our friends³¹ are encamped upon it and the enemies pickets are in sight. That is an improvement.

A. Lincoln

Washington, D. C., Sept. 29, 1861

To Gov. O. P. Morton,
Indianapolis, Ind.

I have just shown your message to General Scott. He says he will be glad if the report of Zollicoffers³² having left Cumberland Gap shall be confirmed. I intend writing to you today. Arms going to you and Anderson³³ as fast as we can send them.

A. Lincoln

Jackson, Tennessee

[No date, but probably 1862, after Donelson]

To Governor Morton,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Glad to have you furnish clothing for the regiments named also for the twenty third and fifty second Indiana. If you can would also like to have more Indiana regts to be clothed.

Major-General Ulysses S. Grant

and Confederate Armies, Series I, Vol. IV (Washington, 1882), p. 265. Lincoln telegraphed on September 22, to General Fremont, then stationed at St. Louis, the headquarters of the Western Department, that he had just received a plea for help from Morton. Owensborough, Ky., forty miles above Evansville, was reported to be in possession of the Confederates and the Governor had demanded a gunboat to recapture the town by an attack along the Green River. Fremont complied at once by sending the gunboat *Lexington* to the scene but when it arrived no enemy was in sight. *Ibid.*, p. 274.

³⁰ Morton had wired to Simon Cameron on September 12: "Can you not send arms at once? Our border is nearly defenseless". *Official Records*, Series I, Vol. IV, p. 257.

³¹ General William T. Sherman, in charge of the Home Guard of Kentucky and a force under Colonel Rousseau, recaptured Muldrough's Hill at this time thus securing a strategic position necessary for the defense of Louisville. The breakdown of railroad communications, to which reference is made in the above telegram seemed to isolate Sherman who asked for more troops. *Official Records*, Series I, Vol. IV, p. 278.

³² General Felix Zollicoffer of the Confederate forces led the invasion into Kentucky which swept aside the last remnants of "Kentucky neutrality" fostered by Governor Magoffin. This precipitated a crisis in which Morton came forward as the leader of the Union element in Kentucky. Three days after Lincoln's telegram quoted above, the Governor issued a proclamation to the people of Indiana urging the support of the Unionists in Kentucky to repel Zollicoffer's invasion. *The Life of Oliver P. Morton*. (Prepared by the Indiana Republican State Central Committee, Indianapolis, 1876), pp. 34-5. Morton's anxiety over Kentucky, which is reflected in his repeated telegrams to Lincoln on the subject, can be seen in this message of September 2, 1861, to Thomas A. Scott, Assistant Secretary of War:

"At the risk of being considered troublesome I will say the conspiracy to precipitate Kentucky into revolution is complete. The blow may be struck at any moment, and the southern border is lined with Tennessee troops, ready to march at the instant the Government is ready to meet them. If we lose Kentucky now, God help us". *Official Records*, Series I, Vol. IV, p. 256.

³³ Major Robert Anderson of Fort Sumter fame, then organizing Union volunteers in Kentucky. A number of his reports and telegrams appear in the collection.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 15, 1863

To Gov. Morton,
Indianapolis, Ind.

The movements of the rebel forces in Virginia are sufficiently developed to show that Gen. Lee with his whole army is moving forward to invade the states of Md. & Penna. & other states. The Prest. to repel this invasion promptly has called upon Ohio, Penna, Maryland, & Western Virginia for one hundred thousand militia for six months unless sooner discharged. It is important to have the largest possible force in the least time & if other states would furnish militia for a short term to be credited on the draft it would greatly advance the object. Will you please inform me immediately what number in answer to a special call of the Prest. you can raise & forward of militia or volunteers without bounty for six (6) months unless sooner discharged and to be credited on the draft of your state.⁸⁴

Edwin M. Stanton.

Washington, D. C., June 18, 1863

To Col. W. R. Holloway,⁸⁵
Indianapolis, Ind.

Send to the President secretaries, Governors & New York papers my late proclamation. The rebel raid in Penna. is beginning to be believed humbug.⁸⁶

O. P. Morton

Washington, D. C., Nov. 15, 1864

To Gov. O. P. Morton,
Indianapolis, Ind.

Please send as soon as practicable exact or approximately the aggregate number of votes cast in your state at the late election. It is desired with reference to the forthcoming messages.⁸⁷

A. Lincoln

⁸⁴ Morton's call for volunteers in response to this telegram was issued in June, 1863. Four regiments were raised in Indiana and sent to eastern Tennessee. Terrell, *op. cit.*, p. 18.

⁸⁵ Secretary to Governor Morton.

⁸⁶ The governor's proclamation of June 11, 1863, was a restatement of the drastic penalties imposed by state and federal authorities against those counselling or participating in resistance to the conscription laws. Terrell, *op. cit.*, Document 132, pp. 341-8. Secretary Terrell later wrote: "By personal visits to Washington and frequent suggestions by letter and telegram, he [Morton] continually pressed his views upon the Government and there is abundant evidence that these efforts had important, if not controlling, influence upon the conduct of the war". *Ibid.*, p. 26. Shortly afterwards, Morton prevailed upon the War Department to strengthen the army by the reenlistment of veterans (General Orders No. 191 of June 25, 1863.) Gettysburg was to prove the Governor a mistaken prophet.

⁸⁷ Lincoln's Fourth Annual Message to Congress of December 6, 1864, included several comments on the presidential election and a table of comparative statistics on the elections of 1860 and 1864. He cited the figures to prove that the country had indicated their loyal support of the Union cause and that the man-power of the North, far from being exhausted, was actually increasing. James D. Richardson, editor, *A Compilation of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents, 1789-1897* (Washington, 1900), Vol. VI, pp. 243-255.

New Indiana Archival Documents

By HARVEY WISH

During the past seven months, the Federal Archives Survey of Illinois, directed by Dr. Russell H. Anderson, and sponsored jointly by the National Archives and the Works Progress Administration, has been preparing a detailed inventory of historical materials located in the federal depositories of the state.¹ This task has included in many instances the service of rescuing historical documents from certain destruction. Most striking of the Survey's discoveries has been a vast amount of Indiana letters and dispatches—some 5887 items—pertaining to the administrations of Indiana Governors from James Whitcomb to Oliver Perry Morton. The bulk of this material represents Morton's official gubernatorial correspondence.

This material was found interspersed with Federal court records in some twenty burlap scrap-bags on the second floor of the old United States Court House Building at Clark and Adams Streets, Chicago. Here the records had been stored for at least a year. Previously they were kept in a large case under the building's dome and undoubtedly subjected to serious inroads by stamp collectors, souvenir hunters, and more common types of vandals. Despite the effects of time and neglect, the Indiana material is in surprisingly good condition. In only a few instances are the letters or dispatches illegible or mutilated, but it is evident that the collection is far from complete. Several hypotheses have been advanced as to the reason for Indiana material being found in Chicago, but the explanations are not convincing. The presence of certain other documents found together with the Indiana material suggests that the latter was taken to Chicago some time shortly after the World's Fair in 1893. As for the question of authenticity, no elaborate tests of internal or external criticism are required to establish this point even for the most meticulous historian.

The collection, as it will be noted, falls within the years 1840-1866, almost exclusively, although a few documents belong to an earlier period. Such material represents the files of

¹ Dr. Harvey Wish was for more than a half year associated as Assistant Regional Director with Dr. Russell H. Anderson, Regional Director for Illinois of the Survey of Federal Archives.

seven governors of Indiana in varying proportions. Beyond the subject-matter that is of local value appears much that is of prime national interest. The American historian, for example, needs no introduction to the significant role of Governor Morton in helping to maintain the iron wedge that finally crushed the Confederacy. An attempt to suggest some of the possibilities for new writings is made in the inventory here presented.

I. SPECIAL POLITICAL MATERIAL

This collection of sixty-seven letters contains thirty-seven items dealing with the defeatist movement along the Ohio River for the years 1863-4. Among Morton's chief tasks was that of keeping Indiana with its large southern elements loyal to the Union; next in importance was the problem of restraining the activities of Kentucky secessionists under the inspiration of Governor Beriah Magoffin. An intricate trade in contraband across the border carried on by small bands of southern sympathizers, demanded constant surveillance. Defeatist organizations like the Knights of the Golden Circle constituted a threat to the Union cause.

Most of the letters in this unit contain descriptions of pro-southern activities in the state and are addressed to Governor Morton by citizens of southern Indiana. Excerpts from a letter written by James D. Hosea of Scott County are vividly illustrative:

I was at Auston and I noticed that there was a meeting in that place I found that it was to be in the School house. I then went and got into a dark corner so that I was not noticed. Then tha all com in and seeted themselves 54 in No. tha then elected there cheareman, his Sir name was SIRRUP, Editor and a lawyer. He then sd that he would after making of a few remarks proseed to read the rules

Article 1st—We will not go nor assist nor pay any more to soport the government against the south.

Sect 2nd—We will not Soport any woman nor children of any man who has gon, or may go to fight against the People of the South

Sect 3—We will protect aney man who may leve the federal armye from being taken back to the U.S. Service.

The cheareman Mr. SIRRUP sd that there order was one million strong

This confidential report contains references to the names of other eye-witnesses. Another letter, written by James Guthrie, Principal of the Union Christian College [Merom, Indiana] gives these details:

Let me assure you that a government Reporter or a company of troops is *absolutely needed there* [Sullivan County] The fiends [pro-southern faction] destroyed Rev. John Phillips' Mill so as to prevent his sawing and then threatened his life and thus drove a useful Christian minister from the county. Four of them by night three weeks since came to the house of a respected old farmer [Mr. Widener], tried to force passage into his house, threatened to kill him and were only deterred from outrages by his boldly confronting them with a gun. You say, Why do we permit it? Because that neighborhood now numbers more than ten devils to one honest man. They are positively organized and armed; they have marked for death about fifteen Union men.

Two loyal citizens of Salem, evidently alarmed by "copperhead" activities, wrote strong letters of protest to Governor Morton. One asked: "Will we be justified by law if we use the rope? May we shoot them or will you have them arrested?"

Similar reports of subversive actions are written from: North Salem, Hendricks County; Medora, Jackson County; Cannelton, Perry County; Marion, Grant County; Greenfield, Hancock County; Terre Haute, Vigo County; Stips Hill, Franklin County; Ossian, Wells County; Jeffersonville, Clark County; Fulton, Fulton County; La Porte, La Porte County; and from Jefferson County. A few letters refer to defeatist activities in Ohio and Illinois. A manuscript copy of a resolution passed by the Union League of Indianapolis on August 23, 1864, declares the existence of a "deep and damnable conspiracy against the National and State Governments" and the intention of the League to aid "in crushing the rebels in our midst."

The assassination of Lincoln gave occasion for rejoicing to many "copperheads" as is clear from a number of letters protesting against this demonstration of joy in southern Indiana. Many feared that the assassin's bullet awaited Governor Morton whose active pro-Union policy exposed him to considerable danger. This feeling became pronounced during the trial of Dr. William Bowles, L. P. Milligan, and Stephen Horsey, accused of a conspiracy against the Union cause. One anonymous letter, written from Franklin, Kentucky, to Morton on May 10, 1865, contains an open threat of assassination:

I understand that there is 3 men to be swung on [in] this month. Sir if Mr. Milligan is one of the victims you shall fall in the same fate that Mr. Lincoln did. Now remark those words. . . . Milligan is of the Anglow Saxton race, he has sworn Allegance to protect the Union before you Ever did; he must not be a victim to the Lover of the God damn African. Remember what I say and get out of the way. . . .

Another citizen (writing from Springfield, Illinois, at this time), declared that while he was a passenger on the Great Western Railroad he had overheard a plot to assassinate Morton in the event that the trio were hanged. He warned the governor to take extreme measures of precaution.

Some of the "copperheads" found the business of kidnaping Negroes a lucrative wartime industry. Mr. N. Field of Jeffersonville took occasion to write several letters protesting against this situation during the spring of 1863:

He [Benjamin Ray] and his father have become regular and professional bloodhounds or Negro catchers. They spend their time prowling about the houses of Negroes and watching the depot. Free Negroes travelling through the state to Ohio as well as contrabands who have deserted from the Rebel armies while in Kentucky on their way to Canada, are arrested by these men and their associates here, taken across the river and lodged in the Louisville jail and after being imprisoned for weeks are sold for want of a claimant.

There are some 10 or 15 men in this city devoted to this nefarious business. They pay no regard whatever to law or to humanity in their daily and nightly kidnappings.

A similar letter contains a newspaper clipping regarding an attempted Negro kidnapping in Jeffersonville. Lists of disloyal individuals are frequently appended to these letters. An anonymous letter from Terre Haute makes several accusations against Daniel W. Voorhees, Congressman from Indiana, and others.

Contraband trade flourished along the border. Several merchants of Anna wrote to Morton on August 1, 1861:

For some time past the Madison Packets have been bringing Bacon and Mess Pork from Cin'ti [Cincinnati] to this place and leaving it on the wharfboat where it remains a day or two when the Louisville boats take it below. And that there is something wrong about it is evident from the fact that it is not shipped direct to its destination. We . . . are determined that Provisions shall not be carried through our Place to Secessiondom.

A letter of Isaac M. Brown of Terre Haute, written on August 26, 1861, gives the details of an elaborate system of smuggling which had developed in that area. Traders loading flatboats with produce ostensibly destined for a loyal town would secretly unload their cargo at Smythland, Kentucky, and from that point transport it over the Louisville and Nashville Road to Memphis, Tennessee. The steamer *St. Francis*

was employed to tow such boats up the Cumberland River to a secret place from which the cargo reached Nashville. Two letters deal with a controversy between Governor Magoffin's Secretary, Thomas B. Monroe, of Frankfort, Kentucky, and Morton's agent, William A. Schlater, regarding a shipment of contraband coffee.

An important subject relating to which there are twenty-seven letters and several pamphlets in the collection is that of the Negro Colonization project for Liberia. The "all absorbing subject" of the time, according to a letter of June 6, 1854, was the attempt of a number of abolitionists to transfer the Negro to that remote African state. Many of the recipients of these philanthropies appear to have been extremely reluctant to leave their homes. This attitude is evident from the following, written to the Reverend J. Mitchell on June 6, 1854:

We have about 75 or 80 Negroes in our County [Harrison] but they are all opped to emigrating to Liberia or in fact anywhere else. Their ideas of that country are very erroneous and they won't be convinced.

An unusually interesting letter from a Negro colonist describes the situation in Liberia, the problems confronting the newcomer, the wars with the natives, and the details of new settlements. Among the related materials are an issue of the *New York Colonization Journal* for January, 1854, a pamphlet of twenty-four pages on "Information about Going to Liberia" (Washington, 1852), a four-page pamphlet entitled, "Where Shall We Go?", and a map (24x36 in.) of the West Coast of Africt, comprising Guinea and the British possessions at Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast, and Liberia which is based on a map by John Arrowsmith of 1843.

II. DISPATCHES

The greater portion of this large unit of dispatches (2,384 items) deals with the efforts of Governor Morton and his agents to equip the troops of Indiana and to direct their daily operations. The most common topics are the problems of feeding, clothing, and recruiting the soldiers from the state; military operations, appointments, finance, hospital affairs. Other tasks of war-time administration also represent a large part of the dispatches. Numerous telegrams reveal the hourly details of such invasions of Indiana soil as those of the Confederate leaders, John Morgan and Kirby Smith. Five telegrams are from Lincoln to Morton regarding certain important mil-

itary operations. The Secretary of War, Edwin M. Stanton, is responsible for a fair number of the telegrams which deal with a variety of war problems. Among the names of other notables whose telegrams appear more than once are those of William H. Seward, Ulysses S. Grant, W. T. Sherman, Lew Wallace, George H. Thomas, Robert Dale Owen, John C. Fremont, Simon Cameron, Robert Anderson, Lorenzo Thomas, Don C. Buell, Richard Yates, F. H. Pierpont, H. W. Halleck, W. S. Rosecrans, Schuyler Colfax, John A. McClernand, Salmon P. Chase, Ambrose E. Burnside, Andrew Johnson, Joseph Hooker, and all of Morton's agents as well as the Governor, himself.

III. MILITARY OPERATIONS

Although the voluminous nature of military records for the Civil War that have been published would tend to lessen the value of such material, even in manuscript form, there are a number of interesting letters and other documents relating to military affairs in this unit (1,164 items) which appear to be unique. Several first-hand accounts of important battles such as that of Bull Run give a more intimate picture of the soldier than is afforded by the usual formal report. Details of local guerrilla operations along the border can be obtained from these documents. James H. McNeeley, writing from Evansville to Morton on June 13, 1864, described the scene on the border:

The general impression here and on the whole border is that serious trouble is brewing in Kentucky. Society there is in a very feverish state and the whole country up and down the Ohio, and along the Green River, is full of guerrillas, singly and in small bands. The majority of persons among the white men who have been drafted have joined the guerrillas. The enlistment of Negroes has enraged the rebels and their sympathizers and made them ready for any measure however desperate, when they may deem it safe to resort to violence and retaliation on Union men amongst them and on this side of the River.

The struggle for Kentucky absorbed much of Morton's attention and his agents kept him informed of political and military developments in that state. During this critical period many requests for military assistance came to Morton from Union officers stationed in Kentucky and in several instances at least (as is evident from the letters) the aid was given.

John Morgan's raid into southern Indiana during the summer of 1862 brought about the statewide organization of

the Legion which was intended to prevent similar invasions. This system gave rise to complaints that the Legion was a failure and inferior to an efficient militia "such as our fathers had."

A citizen of Switzerland County on the border, reported that "suspicious looking strangers from Kentucky" were coming in large numbers through "those neighborhoods most strongly tinctured with disloyalty." He anticipated a concerted effort of "copperheads" to aid another Confederate raid into Indiana.

Besides the topics indicated there are numerous letters dealing with camp problems, military appointments and removals, recruiting, furloughs, the soldier's vote in the election of 1864, etc. A small portion of the material includes the administrations of Governor Joseph A. Wright (12 letters), Governor Ashbel P. Willard (70 letters), Governor Abram A. Hammond (2 letters), and Governor Henry S. Lane (1 letter).

IV. MILITARY HOSPITALS

Next to the task of recruiting and other military problems, more of Governor Morton's energies seem to have been devoted to the care of the Indiana troops. Although the dispatches also deal with this topic, it is probable that the letters (410 in number) will be more useful to the historian. Morton's humane efforts in behalf of his soldiers earned for him his reputation as "the Soldier's Friend" but gave the Indiana men an advantage that occasionally created discontent among the soldiers from other less fortunate states. This fact, suggested by several reports of Morton's agents, seems to be supported by a reply of General Grant (over the signature of a subordinate) to Morton's request for an office at Vicksburg for the benefit of Indiana soldiers. It is dated August 5, 1863, and was sent from Grant's headquarters at Vicksburg:

The privilege herein requested cannot be granted. The troops from Indiana, as those from all other states in the United States service, are cared for under the rules and regulations established by law and proper authority. Nothing looking to the continuance of State Control where no exigency demands it can be countenanced by the Maj.-General commanding; this is particularly to be held as the rule in the Medical Department.

The numerous detailed reports of Morton's agents, particularly those of Isaac W. Montfort, A. Stone, B. P. Tuttle,

R. Bosworth, Frank E. Howe, and W. J. Elliott, are of obvious value as first hand accounts of the social conditions at the front.

V. FINANCES

Indiana's state finances, already seriously weakened before Morton's administration, sank to a low ebb with the onset of war conditions and party strife. After the election of 1862, which resulted in the choice of a Democratic majority in the Assembly hostile to a vigorous war policy, the state government was left without appropriations for ordinary expenses due to the factional struggle. To circumvent the Democrats all of the Morton Republicans withdrew from the Legislature leaving that body without a quorum and thus compelled it to adjourn without further legislation, either favorable or hostile to the Governor. The Governor sought revenue from many sources: private bankers, county treasuries, federal appropriations, and revenue derived from profitable arsenal operations. These activities can be followed in some detail through the letters of this unit (297 items) and by the dispatch material. The numerous letters to Morton's Finance Secretary, W. H. H. Terrill, are informative as to payments for munitions, bounties, soldier's compensation or relief, bank loans, and property damages incurred through Morgan's Raid. Many letters of Robert Dale Owen, son of the famous philanthropist, Robert Owen, and a fiscal agent for Morton, are included.

Accusations of fraud in army contracts were frequent and in many instances well founded. John O'Flanigan of New York City, in a letter to Morton, described the ingenious system of accounting used to cover fraudulent acts. Morton himself was frequently accused of illicit operations, a charge probably without foundation. Charges were made by the *Huntington Democrat* that the governor was profiting financially by transferring Indiana's credit for volunteers in excess of its quota to Massachusetts. A dozen letters and newspaper clippings give both sides of the case.

Two printed financial reports of Secretary Terrill for 1864 and 1867 are included in this unit. A small portion of the letters pertain to the administration of Governors Paris C. Dunning (17 letters), Wright (17 letters), and Willard (31 letters).

VI. PENITENTIARY AFFAIRS

Most of the letters in this unit (687 items) deal with requests for pardons, commutation of sentences, remission of fines, prison finances, and warden's reports. The earlier administrations, particularly those of Wright and Willard are best represented. Occasionally the letters are of special historical value. One letter, for example, contains a copy of an indenture bond for a Negro boy under the system prevailing in the states of the Old Northwest which differed very little from chattel slavery. It is written from Livermore on May 23, 1864, and signed by William C. Stevens:

I have hired this day of Mrs. Ann H. Kincheloe, her black boy Henry until Christmas for the sum of Seventy Dollars to be paid on the 25th of December next. I am to clothe and feed and lodge him comfortably.

A letter, written by a prison official, Joseph E. Wheat, to Governor Morton, dated June 12, 1864, is a proposal to pardon the state's convicts in a wholesale fashion and equip them for war service and thus "fight the devil with fire." Morton, however, refused to consider the suggestion. A federal pardon proclamation of March 8, 1873, for a train robber bears the signatures of President Ulysses S. Grant and Secretary of State Hamilton Fish.

VII. SWAMP LANDS

This material deals with the problems connected with the administration of Indiana's great swamp area and represents the period from 1840 to 1866. During the administration of Governor Joseph Wright, particularly, a concerted movement was initiated to reclaim the wet lands which were of great potential value. An essay contest was held upon the subject of land reclamation. Some of the essays furnish useful materials for a study of prairie agricultural methods of the mid-century. Among these documents (295 items) are lists of various tracts of land, legal descriptions of swamp land, and land title entries. Many official letters are included of Thomas A. Hendricks, Land Commissioner, later Governor of Indiana, and in his last year Vice-President of the United States during the early months of Cleveland's first administration.

VIII. APPOINTMENTS

In this group all of the governors from Dunning to Morton (1848-1867) are represented. Recommendation of candi-

dates for official appointments constitute the bulk of the letters (300 items). Occasionally a controversy over the merits of a candidate brings much of local politics to light. Party services of "deserving" Democrats or Republicans are recounted and recriminations directed against rivals. Possibly a genealogist would find additional material of value here in the identification of local figures which is afforded by this type of correspondence.

IX. PROCLAMATIONS, BROADSIDES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS

Although much of this unit (74 items) consists of such formal material as Thanksgiving Proclamations issued by various governors, there are several manuscript copies of secession ordinances from Georgia and Louisiana. Georgia's Ordinance of Secession is signed by Secretary A. R. Lamar. The broadsides, such as the one for bounty claims, are interesting, but few.

X. GENERAL MATERIAL

Unclassified items, some of historical utility, are filed in this unit (155 items). Many letters of 1852 deal with the proposed reception in Indianapolis of Louis Kossuth, Magyar patriot. One of the telegrams is from Kossuth himself. A number of letters deal with legislative matters and the Morton project of encouraging white immigrants to Indiana.²

²The writer has attempted to reduce the documents in this collection of Indiana material to a chronological arrangement within each major division. Some units are in monthly sections (e.g. dispatches); others are in semi-annual divisions (e.g. military and military hospital letters). Further sub-division would require a knowledge of the ultimate disposition of the material and the system adopted by the permanent depository. This information was not available at the time of writing. A more detailed inventory of the collection has been prepared for the use of the archivist.

Microfilm Acc. 1993059
Hard Copy Acc. 2004384

GOVERNOR OLIVER P. MORTON TELEGRAM BOOKS, 1861-1865

Governor Morton was in constant communication with political and military leaders during the Civil War. The seventeen telegram dispatch books document these communications and the role that Morton played in the conduct of the war.

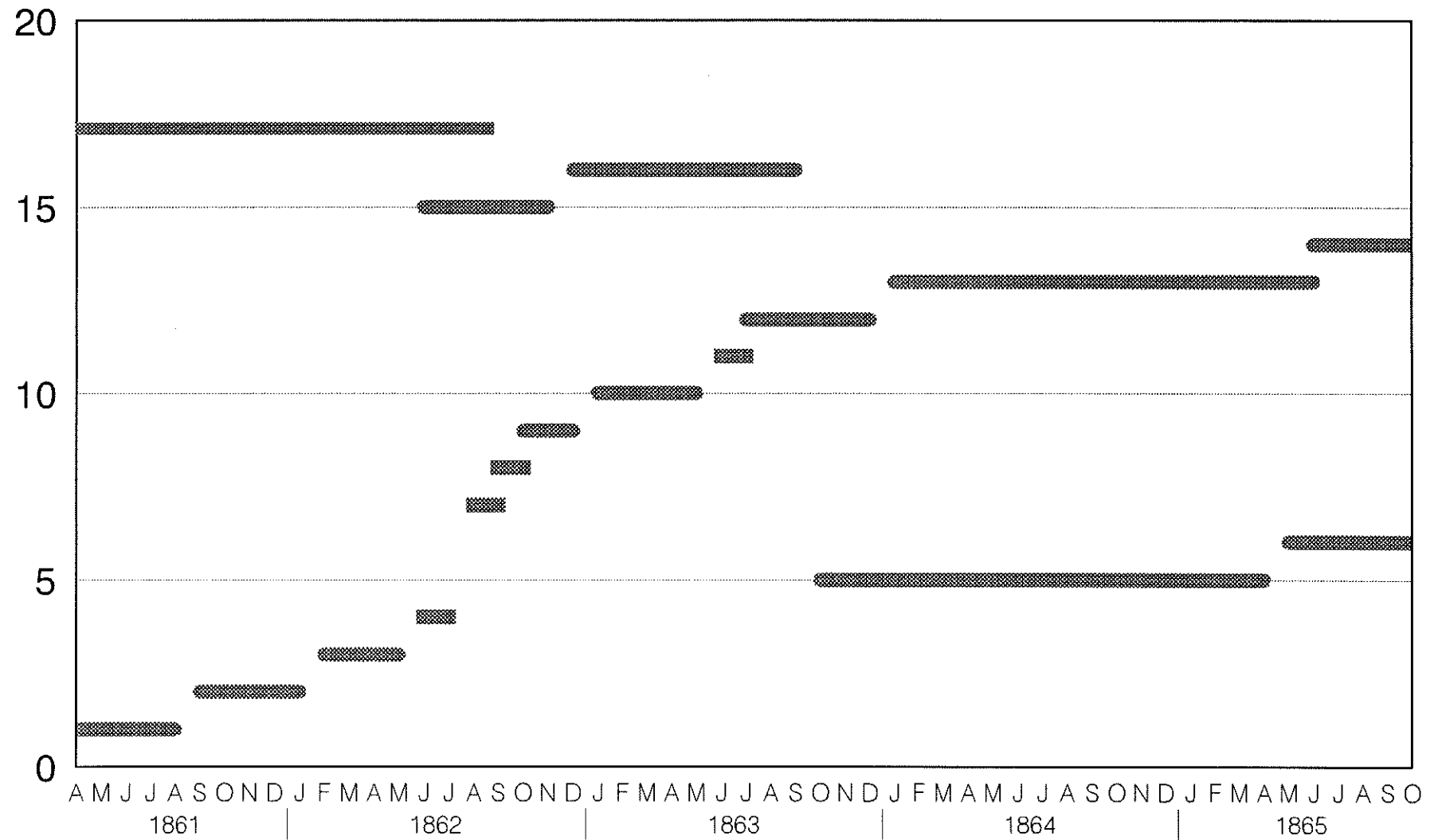
Some of the telegram books follow chronological order; but, owing to the chaotic command atmosphere and an apparent (and aborted?) effort to segregate the most politically sensitive messages into different books, the numerical order of the books broke down. Thus, books one through four chronicle the early stages of the conflict, but the chronological order skips to book seven and continues through book fourteen. Other volumes overlap chronologically. An example: three books (numbers seven, "private" [ie., more politically sensitive] one, and fifteen) cover the month of August, 1862.

The telegram books were filmed and appear in the following order:

- 1.) General Dispatch Book ("GD") #1, 4/15/61-9/4/61
- 2.) GD #2, 9/5/61-2/4/62
- 3.) GD #3, 2/3/62-6/10/62
- 4.) GD #4, 6/11/62-7/31/62
- 5.) GD #7, 8/1/62-9/2/62
- 6.) GD #8, 9/2/62-9/29/62
- 7.) GD #9, 9/30/62-12/31/62
- 8.) GD #10, 1/1/63-5/9/63
- 9.) GD #11, 5/10/63-7/11/63
- 10.) GD #12, 7/11/63-12/24/63
- 11.) GD #13, 12/28/63-6/13/65
- 12.) GD #14, 6/14/65-9/27/65
- 13.) "Private" Dispatch book #1, 4/23/61-9/19/62
- 14.) GD #15, 6/13/62-11/26/62
- 15.) GD #16, 11/28/62-9/23/63
- 16.) GD #5, 9/21/63-5/5/65
- 17.) GD #6, 5/3/65-9/24/65

Morton Telegraph Books

Timeline: Books 1-17 (P1=17)



~~4455~~

CONTENTS OF BOX ONE

2004384

- 1.) Gen. Dispatch Book #1
- 2.) GD #2
- 3.) GD #3
- 4.) GD #4
- 5.) GD #5
- 6.) GD #6
- 7.) GD #7

111287

43-A-3

~~21455~~
CONTENTS OF BOX TWO

- 1.) Gen. Dispatch Book #8
- 2.) GD #9
- 3.) GD #10
- 4.) GD #11
- 5.) GD #12
- 6.) GD #13

2004384

111288

43-A-3

CONTENTS OF BOX THREE

~~6/14/62~~

2004384

1.) Gen. Dispatch Book #14

111289

2.) GD #15

43-A-3

3.) GD #16

4.) Private Dispatch Book #1

~~5.) Adjutant General, Orders and Telegrams Book, 8/26/61-4/30/62~~

6.) A.G., Telegram Book (muster out of regiments, 1865)

7.) A.G., Military Contingency Fund account book, 1861

8.) A.G., Call[s] for Troops (and related communications), 1861

Item 5 moved to Accession 2005018

Items 6, 7, & 8 =

Accessions 2005036

2005037

2005038

2005039

SOME WAR HISTORY

From the Private Dispatch Book of Governor Morton.

Important Meeting in Regard to the Occupation of Kentucky.

Indications of Several Differences with the Great War Secretary, and Other Interesting Matter.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND., May 16. —[Special.]—A few days ago the private dispatch book used by the late Governor Morton during the war came into my possession, and in glancing through its pages I find many things of historical interest that, so far as I know, have never been published. The history of the war has not yet been written, and it never can be fully written without a close study of the private dispatches sent and received by the various States during the war. There was no Northern Governor who was more active, energetic or wise than Morton, and some of the dispatches contained in his volumes show the discouragements under which he labored and the efforts he constantly made, not only to furnish from Indiana all the troops the Government could ask from the State, but to see that they took the field in the very best condition, and after they were in the field to see that they were rightly treated. There are many things that are of interest to the general public in the dispatches, while there are many things which more nearly interest Indiana. Governor Morton was one of the first of the public men of the North to see that war was sure to follow secession, and to set forth that the Government, when she entered on the war, should do so with its mind made up for a long and bloody contest, and with a determination never to quit fighting until the victory was completely won by one side or the other, saying in a public speech it would be far better to yield to secession after a struggle of seven years, and when we were completely whipped, than to give up the struggle. He was also among the first to see the importance of doing all that could be done to sustain and develop whatever there was of Union sentiment in the border States. Among the matters of interest in the book referred to is the memorandum of a very important meeting held in this city, at which were present Governor Dennison, of Ohio; Governor Yates and Senator Trumbull, of Illinois; General McClellan and Governor Morton. The meeting was held at the Bates House on the 21st of May, 1861. At that time the attitude of Kentucky was a very serious matter to the Government, and great difficulty was experienced in arriving at a conclusion as to what was best to be done in the premises. The State had assumed a very anomalous position, that of "armed neutrality," and grave fears were expressed that if the Government interfered in any way Kentucky would be added to the list of seceded States. The rebel element was using every effort to drive her into secession.

The memorandum of the meeting is as follows:

"We concur in the opinion that the United States should, at an early day, take possession in force of prominent points in Kentucky, such as Louisville, Covington, Newport, Columbus, &c., and the railroads crossing from the same south. If Colonel Anderson and others who are loyal to the Government can raise regiments of loyal men in Kentucky to occupy these points in the first instance, and the Government has the means of arming them, it would be advisable to have them thus occupied. If Kentuckians can not be found for this purpose U. S. regulars would be the next best for the purpose, but in our judgment they should be occupied at an early day, if it has to be done by the volunteers from adjoining States. We believe this course will save Kentucky to the Union, otherwise that in the end the secessionists will control her. If these suggestions are approved, Major General McClellan should at once be advised and clothed with the necessary authority.

"It is important that the plan of the campaign in the West should be fixed upon, and that the Major General of the division should be furnished the means, and be instructed to shape the military movements of his department so as to carry it into effect at the earliest period. We also think that the force called out in Major General McClellan's department should be materially increased. Before any movement South takes place the loyalty of Kentucky should be secured, which can be done this summer before troops are moved to more Southern States.

"To the extent of the appropriations made by the Legislatures of the several States represented by the undersigned, in aid of the General Government, we desire it to be understood those appropriations will be promptly available for the uses of the Government as its necessities, if any, shall require, and to sustain the Government in the vigorous prosecution of the war further aid may be relied upon from the respective States if required."

This memorandum is signed by Governors Dennison, Yates and Morton. Notwithstanding this earnest urging by the three loyal Governors, the Government did not formally occupy any points in Kentucky until the 1st of the following September, although several loyal Kentucky regiments were recruited, some in Ohio and some in Indiana, and one at least in Central Kentucky. During the same time recruiting went on just as zealously for the Federal army, and several times the State the secessionists attempted to force attempts were thwarted, but all such There is no doubt in the mind of loyal citizens.

the slightest disparagement to the troops of other States, I feel safe in saying that Indiana volunteers are not inferior in material and discipline to any that have entered the field. All officers from other States who have witnessed their maneuvers are most lavish in their praises. Their drill is incessant, and no expense has been or will be spared to put them into the best possible condition and equipment. The reputation of Indiana suffered by incompetent officers in the Mexican war, and the determination is that it shall be redeemed, cost what it may. All we ask is a chance."

It appears that Governor Morton at one time seriously contemplated entering the army himself, as is shown by the following dispatch to President Lincoln, dated August 9, 1861:

"Indiana will soon have 37,000 men in the field, infantry, cavalry and artillery. The last 10,000 I desire to organize into a complete army corps and command them myself in the Southwestern expedition. I intend it to be the most complete volunteer army that ever took the field on this continent. Schools of instruction will be opened for the officers, and the privates practiced at shooting at the target. No labor or pains will be spared to make officers and men most efficient. Lieutenant Colonel Wood, of the U. S. Army, who is the mustering officer in this State, is an able and highly accomplished officer, and I desire that he may be made a Brigadier General and appointed to a command in this corps."

Why he finally abandoned the idea of entering the field is not known. Had he done so there can be no doubt he would have risen to very high distinction, and ranked with such volunteer officers as Logan and Blair, for he possessed just the kind of ability out of which great Generals are made. Had he gone into the field Indiana would have lost her great war Governor, and perhaps much of the reputation she gained in the promptness with which she met all the demands made on her by the General Government.

The dispatches show that the Governor had several spats with Stanton when he was Secretary of War. They abound in criticisms of some holding official positions, and criticisms are sometimes harsh. For instance, in a dispatch to Secretary Seward, he says of Major Montgomery, who at the time was the U. S. Quartermaster at this place: "Major Montgomery will not tolerate the least interference on my part, and on all occasions repudiates my authority. One of our regiments was sent to Kentucky in rags, and I am now negotiating with Captain Dickenson, of Cincinnati, for outfits for three regiments. Montgomery is an honest man, but no business man, being very technical and exceedingly jealous of his authority." On the 11th of August, 1862, he telegraphed to Secretary Stanton: "I have had embarrassments in transacting business with General Ripley from the beginning of the war. On the 7th of August Assistant Secretary of War, Mr. Watson, telegraphed that six thousand three hundred Springfield rifled muskets would be sent here. General Ripley cuts them down one-half. Ripley also sends to Simonson a large quantity of Enfield ammunition. He has no place to put it, and besides, we have an arsenal here and large quantities of fixed ammunition of every kind on hand. This fact General Ripley understands. Colonel Simonson declines having anything to do with the arms and ammunition, and doesn't know what to do with them. Simonson says he has asked to be relieved from duty here. I hope the request will be granted. He is superannuated, forgetful and slow, and not very much superior to General Ripley as a business man. The amount of business growing out of the new levies is entirely beyond his capacity."

It is to be regretted that all the dispatches were not preserved, for I find many that refer to preceding ones that are not on file. From one such it seems the Governor had made some suggestions to Secretary Stanton that the latter thought were impertinent and in the nature of complaints. To this the Governor replies, and after telling the great War Secretary that he regrets that suggestions made respectfully in the interests of the public service should be looked upon as complaining, he curtly concludes with the following: "I give you credit for doing what you can for the cause, and claim the same for myself in my limited position. If the Government understands the conditions of the service in Indiana, of course information from me is not required." Among others is a dispatch to Mr. Mark E. Reeves, of Cincinnati, thanking him in the name of the State for securing for the Governor a loan of \$100,000 at a very critical time. There are many other dispatches of historical value in the books, and some of them that will perhaps shed light on several disputed points of history.

W. H. S.

COVINGTON.

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Dennison, of Ohio; Governor Yates and General Trumbull, of Illinois; General McClellan and Governor Morton. The meeting was held at the Bates House on the 21st of May, 1861. At that time the attitude of Kentucky was a very serious matter to the Government, and great difficulty was experienced in arriving at a conclusion as to what was best to be done in the premises. The State had assumed a very anomalous position, that of "armed neutrality," and grave fears were expressed that if the Government interfered in any way Kentucky would be added to the list of seceded States. The rebel element was using every effort to drive her into secession.

The memorandum of the meeting is as follows: "We concur in the opinion that the United States should, at an early day, take possession in force of prominent points in Kentucky, such as Louisville, Covington, Newport, Columbus, &c., and the railroads crossing from the same south. If Colonel Anderson and others who are loyal to the Government can raise regiments of loyal men in Kentucky to occupy these points in the first instance, and the Government has the means of arming them, it would be advisable to have them thus occupied. If Kentuckians can not be found for this purpose U. S. regulars would be the next best for the purpose, but in our judgment they should be occupied at an early day, if it has to be done by the volunteers from adjoining States. We believe this course will save Kentucky to the Union, otherwise that in the end the secessionists will control her. If these suggestions are approved, Major General McClellan should at once be advised and clothed with the necessary authority.

It is important that the plan of the campaign in the West should be fixed upon, and that the Major General of the division should be furnished the means, and be instructed to shape the military movements of his department so as to carry it into effect at the earliest period. We also think that the force called out in Major General McClellan's department should be materially increased. Before any movement South takes place the loyalty of Kentucky should be secured, which can be done this summer before troops are moved to more Southern States.

"To the extent of the appropriations made by the Legislatures of the several States represented by the undersigned, in aid of the General Government, we desire it to be understood those appropriations will be promptly available for the uses of the Government as its necessities, if any, shall require, and to sustain the Government in the vigorous prosecution of the war further aid may be relied upon from the respective States if required."

This memorandum is signed by Governors Dennison, Yates and Morton. Notwithstanding this earnest urging by the three loyal Governors, the Government did not formally occupy any points in Kentucky until the 1st of the following September, although several loyal Kentucky regiments were recruited, some in Ohio and some in Indiana, and one at least in Central Kentucky. During the same time recruiting went on just as zealously for the Federal army, and several times the State the secessionists attempted to force attempts were thwarted by loyal citizens. There is no doubt in the mind of any one that had the Government promptly acted on the suggestions contained in the above memoranda the Union sentiment in Kentucky would have been greatly strengthened, and thousands of recruits kept from the rebel armies. During those months until September there were two armed forces confronting each other in the State—the "Home Guards," which were loyal, and the "State Guards," which were disloyal—and conflicts between them were narrowly averted on several occasions, especially after General Nelson began the work of openly recruiting in the State for the Union armies.

From the tenor of some of the dispatches contained in the volume, it would seem that the Government was very solicitous, at a very early stage of the conflict, as to the moral standing of the officers who were to lead the troops to action.

In a dispatch from Simon Cameron, who was Secretary of War, to Governor Morton, dated May 22, 1861, the attention of the Governor is called to the plan of organization of troops adopted by the President, containing the following suggestions:

- First—To commission no one of doubtful morals or patriotism, and not of sound health.
- Second—To appoint no one to a lieutenancy (second or first) who has passed the age of twenty-two years, or to a captaincy over thirty years, and to appoint no field officers, Major, Lieutenant Colonel or Colonel, unless a graduate of the U. S. Military Academy, or known to possess military knowledge and experience, who has passed the respective ages of thirty-five, forty and forty-five years.

"The Department feels assured that it will not be deemed offensive to your Excellency to add yet this general counsel that the higher the moral character and general intelligence of the officers so appointed, the greater the efficiency of the troops, and the resulting glory to their respective States."

Governor Morton was very anxious about the kind of arms furnished to the troops from this State, and I find many dispatches on that subject addressed to the Secretary of War and other high officials. Not long ago, in speaking of the late Robert Dale Owen, in the Commercial Gazette, I stated that early in 1861 he was sent by Governor Morton to Europe to purchase arms for the State, and that he was the only State on such a mission.

The papers, and it was denied by certain Eastern not go to Europe for any arms, that Mr. Owen did in this book of private dispatches the substance of my statement. It bears the date of May 30, 1861, and is as follows:

"The Hon. Robert Dale Owen is hereby appointed agent for the State of Indiana to visit the Eastern States and Europe in order to purchase arms for the use of said State. He is to exercise his best diligence to purchase arms for military purposes on the best terms. He is to select the best quality of approved modern arms, rifles or rifled muskets, and one thousand carbines. These arms are to be forwarded to this city as fast as possible, and the arms to be purchased in Europe are to be paid for by drafts upon the State of Indiana at the office of Winslow, Lanier & Co., in the city of New York. No arms to be bought until after full inspection and trial as to their quality and fitness for service. Mr. Owen is to proceed to the execution of his mission with all diligence."

In a dispatch to Secretary Cameron Governor Morton gave his reasons for sending Mr. Owen to purchase arms, and at the same time told him the facts as to the kind of arms that were being furnished by the Government. He says: "It is the opinion of military men here that it would be little less than murder to send troops into battle with such arms as are a large majority of the muskets altered from flint to percussion locks. While not intending

kind on hand. This fact Governor understands. Colonel Simonson and anything to do with the arms and and doesn't know what to do. Simonson says he has asked to be duty here. I hope the request will be superannuated, forgetful not very much superior to General business man. The amount of being out of the new levies is entirely capacity."

It is to be regretted that all were not preserved, for I find in preceding ones that are not one such it seems the Governor suggestions to Secretary Stanton thought were impertinent and complaints. To this the Governor after telling the great War Secretary regrets that suggestions made the interests of the public seemed looked upon as complaining, includes with the following: "I for doing what you can for claim the same for myself in tion. If the Government under conditions of the service in India information from me is not required others is a dispatch to Mr. McClellan, thanking him for the State for securing for the Government \$100,000 at a very critical many other dispatches of his the books, and some of them shed light on several disputatory.

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