

# Iloff, James A., Papers

James A. Iloff Papers  
1870-1878



## Title Statement

Iloff, James A., Papers James A. Iloff Papers, 1870-1878 Ms.1988.099

**Author:** John M. Jackson

## Publication Statement

**Publisher:** Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

Special Collections and University Archives, University Libraries (0434)  
560 Drillfield Drive  
Newman Library, Virginia Tech  
Blacksburg, Virginia 24061  
Business Number: 540-231-6308  
specref@vt.edu  
URL: <http://spec.lib.vt.edu>



2021 (CC0 1.0)

## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2023-08-07 13:38:20 -0400.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Revision Description

<b>2020-08-26</b>	Finding aid notes updated to new department standards. juliags
<b>2021-04-21</b>	LM Rozema added missing notes for an unprocessed collection, added FA title, added FA date from EAD, and added component with instances previously attached to collection level.

## Descriptive Summary

### Unit ID

Ms.1988.099

### Unit Date

1870-1878

### Language

The materials in the collection are in English.

### Abstract

Papers assembled by James A. Iloff of Indiana, formerly a lieutenant in the 24th and 41st U. S. Infantry, to obtain a reinstatement after what Iloff considered his wrongful discharge from the U. S. Army.

### Creator

Iloff, James A.

**Extent**

0.1 Cubic Feet 1 folder

**Repository**

Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech

## Administrative Information

**Conditions Governing Access**

The collection is open to research.

**Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

The copyright status of this collection is unknown. Copyright restrictions may apply. Contact Special Collections and University Archives for assistance in determining the use of these materials.

Reproduction or digitization of materials for personal or research use can be requested using our reproduction/digitization form: <http://bit.ly/scuareproduction>. Reproduction or digitization of materials for publication or exhibit use can be requested using our publication/exhibition form: <http://bit.ly/scuapublication>. Please contact Special Collections and University Archives ([specref@vt.edu](mailto:specref@vt.edu) or 540-231-6308) if you need assistance with forms or to submit a completed form.

**Source of Acquisition**

The James A. Iliff Papers were purchased by Special Collections and University Archives in 1988.

**Processing Information**

The processing and description of the James A. Iliff Papers commenced and was completed in May, 2021.

**Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: [identification of item], [box], [folder], James A. Iliff Papers, Ms1988-099, Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Va.

## Biographical Note

James Arthur Iliff, son of Richard W. and Mary M. Drake Iliff, was born in Newton, New Jersey on August 13, 1845. Around 1850, the Iliffs moved to Indianapolis. Iliff enlisted in Company G, 107th Indiana Infantry on July 9, 1863, and was mustered out just nine days later at Indianapolis. On May 18, 1864, he enlisted in Company A, 132nd Indiana Infantry (a 100-day regiment), and was mustered out on August 1, 1864. On February 1, 1865, he enlisted in the 109th U. S. Colored Troops; he was promoted to 2nd lieutenant on November 8, and mustered out of service February 6, 1866. Iliff married Cynthia A. Willard (1845-1893), and the couple would have six children. In 1867, Iliff returned to military service, serving in the 24th and 41st U. S. infantry regiments before being discharged in 1870. Following his military service, iliff was a member of Iliff Brothers, an Indianapolis hat business; later he worked as a floorwalker in the hat department of Bliss, Swain & Co. and at Saks & Co. James A. Iliff died on July 1, 1908, and was buried in Crown Hill Cemetery, Indianapolis, Indiana.

## Scope and Content

This collection contains papers of James A. Iliff of Indiana, formerly a lieutenant in the 24th and 41st U. S. Infantry. The papers document Iliff's fight against what he saw as a wrongful discharge from the U. S. Army in 1871, and they appear to have been submitted to John Hanna, Iliff's representative in Congress, to enlist Hanna's assistance in Iliff's attempt to be reinstated.

Among the papers are copies of the orders discharging Iliff and other officers; documents confirming Iliff's good standing with the War and Treasury departments; character references from Fred Knefler, Indianapolis; Capt. Charles E. Clarke, 17th U. S. Infantry; and W. E. Horton, Washington, D. C. The collection also contains a lengthy letter from Iliff to President Rutherford B. Hayes, in which Iliff provides a summary of his military career, a defense of his character and service, and justification for an investigation and reinstatement.

The papers also contain three items addressed to John Hanna that seem to have no relation to Iliff's case: a letter from Treasury Department clerk James H. May, of Washington, D. C., requesting Hanna's assistance in obtaining a promotion; and two form letters from First Assistant Postmaster General James H. Mann, informing Hanna that two appointed Indiana local postmasters, Watson Taylor and James D. Lowe, had failed to qualify for the positions.

## Rights Statement for Archival Description

The guide to the James A. Iliff Papers by Special Collections and University Archives, Virginia Tech, is licensed under a CC0 (<https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/public-domain/cc0/>).

## **Description of Subordinate Components**

### **Papers**

**Unit Date** 1870-1878

**folder** 1