Guide to the James W. Temple Papers

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Guide to the James W. Temple Papers, 1857-1865

Collection number: Wyles SC 935

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Descriptive Summary
Title: James W. Temple Papers,
Date (inclusive): 1857-1865
Collection Number: Wyles SC 935
Creator: Temple, James W.
Extent: .02 linear feet (1 folder)
Repository: University of California, Santa Barbara. Library. Department of Special Collections
Santa Barbara, California 93106-9010
Physical Location: Vault
Language: English.
Access Restrictions
None.

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Acquisition Information
Purchase.

Biography
James W. Temple was born in Ohio in 1828, and was married to Bessie P. Cook of Vermont in October of 1854. They settled in Knox County, Illinois, where James Temple made a good living as a farmer. He was well-educated, and was also something of an amateur poet. He served in the Union Army during the Civil War, and by 1864 was a captain in Company D of the newly-organized 101st Regiment of the United States Colored Infantry. The USCI was made up of former slaves under
the command of white officers like Temple. He was stationed in Tennessee until the war ended, when he returned to his family in Illinois. Soon after the war, he became a clerk of the Circuit Court of Knox County. Sometime between 1870 and 1896, Bessie died, and in December 1897 Temple married again, to a widow named Lucy B. Cook Steele (no relation to his first wife). By this time, Temple was retired and quite wealthy. They lived in Knox County until his death around 1910. He was buried in West Truro Cemetery in Truro Township, Illinois.

**Scope and Content of Collection**

The collection contains ten handwritten documents related to James W. Temple from before and during the Civil War: three letters between Temple and his wife Bessie while he was stationed in Tennessee; six pages of poetry written in Temple’s hand, some showing revisions of the same work; and an unsigned letter addressed to "Solomon & Co." that describes James and Bess Temple getting stuck in a flood in Truro Township in early 1857.

Also included is a receipt signed by Lt. Thomas Nichols of the 101st Regiment USCI for equipment returned to the U.S. Army by Captain Temple, dated June 30, 1865, including 90 “much worn” knapsacks and 92 “nearly unserviceable” canteens.

**Indexing Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.

| Box | Ten handwritten documents related to James W. Temple from before and during the Civil War, 1857 - 1865 |