

Collection #
M 1259

**BAKER FAMILY
PAPERS, 1867–2015 (BULK 1867–1909)**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 half manuscript box

COLLECTION DATES: 1867–2015 (bulk 1867–1909)

PROVENANCE: Perry Holliday O'Neal, Gulf Stream, FL; December 2015

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Conrad Baker Papers M 0008; Baker and Daniels Records SC 2240; *Baker & Daniels* KFI3078 .B35 1981

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2015.0378

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Conrad Baker (1817-1885) was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. After attending Pennsylvania College in Gettysburg he studied law in the firm of Stevens and Smyser, under Thaddeus Stevens. In 1841, he moved to Evansville, Vanderburgh County, and started a law practice. During the Civil War, Baker served for three years as a colonel in the 1st Indiana Cavalry (28th Regiment). In 1863, he was assigned to Indianapolis where he became Assistant Provost Marshall General for the state of Indiana.

Baker's political career prior to the war included one term as a state representative (1845-1846) and eighteen months as judge for the Court of Common Pleas. In 1865, Baker was nominated to run as lieutenant governor with Oliver P. Morton. After their election victory, Morton suffered a paralytic stroke in November, 1865, and was sent to Europe for recovery. Baker served as acting governor for six months in Morton's absence, and two years later he became governor when Morton was elected to the U. S. Senate. He was reelected for a full term in 1868. Among his gubernatorial accomplishments were appropriations for a soldier's home, a house of refuge for juvenile offenders, uncontrollable boys and children with unfit parents, and a woman's prison.

After his term as governor, Baker did not seek further political office and entered into partnership with the Indianapolis law firm of Hendricks, Hord & Hendricks which became Baker, Hord & Hendricks when Thomas Hendricks became governor. Baker was married twice, in 1838 to Matilda Escon Sommers and in 1858 to Charlotte Frances Chute. Baker fathered six children: Albert, William, Alice, Florence, Elizabeth and Thaddeus.

Albert Baker was born in 1851. In 1869, when he was only eighteen years old, he began to study law at Hendricks, Hord & Hendricks. He attended Wabash College and there completed his B.A. in 1874. Albert then returned to Baker, Hord & Hendricks to practice law. In 1881 Albert left the firm along with fellow colleague and Indiana native Edward Daniels to form their own office of Baker and Daniels.

In 1885 both Conrad Baker and Thomas Hendricks died. Over the next three years the two remaining senior lawyers of Baker, Hord & Hendricks also died. During this period Albert Baker and Edward Daniels assumed responsibility for that firm. In 1889 the firm's name officially changed to Baker and Daniels.

Sources:

Baker & Daniels, p. 9–15.

Collection materials

Pumroy & Brockman, *A Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana State Library*, p. 10.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains materials related to the Baker family and their practice of law. Most of the materials are correspondence, including correspondence to and from Conrad Baker and correspondence to and from Edward Daniels, among other letters. The collection also contains a 1869 Indiana Senate resolution as well as background information on Conrad Baker, Edward Daniels, and the Baker & Daniels law firm.

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Background information, 2015

Correspondence, Conrad Baker, 1867–69

Correspondence, Edward Daniels, 1901–09

Correspondence, miscellaneous, 1880–1907

Indiana Senate Resolution, 1869

CONTAINER

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Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

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