

Collection #
SC 0057

**ISAAC BARKER
CIVIL WAR LETTERS, 1864–1865**

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

Dorothy A. Nicholson and Barry Slivka
February 2015

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 2 manuscript folders

COLLECTION
DATES: 1864–1865

PROVENANCE: Marilyn Clark, R.R. 1, Westfield, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION
RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection
must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 1962.0627, 1962.0718

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Census records show that in 1860 Isaac Barker was twenty and a resident of Hamilton County, Indiana. His parents were John and Anna Barker and there was a younger sister Sarah T. Barker also at home. They were Quakers from North Carolina.

Isaac Barker married Josephine M. Kepner, Sept. 1, 1861 in Hamilton County where they farmed. Isaac enlisted on February 15, 1865 as a private in B Company of the 147th Indiana Infantry. On March 1, 1865 he mustered into G Company of the 147th Indiana Infantry. He was mustered out on August 4, 1865. He returned home and resumed farming. The couple had nine children.

The 147th Regiment was organized at Indianapolis and mustered into service on March 13, 1865. It left Indianapolis for Harper's Ferry, Va. on March 16th and was assigned to a provisional division of the Army of the Shenandoah. It was engaged in performing guard duty at several locations. The regiment was mustered out on August 4, 1865 and left for Indianapolis, arriving there on the 9th of August; a few days later the men were discharged.

William Kepner of Hamilton County, Indiana was born in Indiana in 1841 and settled in Hamilton County in 1860. He enlisted on August 29, 1861 into Company E of the 8th Indiana Cavalry. He was transferred out on August 29, 1864 and transferred into A Company of the U.S. Veteran Volunteer 1st Engineers as an "artificer." He was mustered out on September 26, 1865. After the war he was a farmer in Hamilton County.

Sources:

Cline & McHaffie. *The People's Guide: ...Hamilton County Ind.,...* RRF532.H2 P4 1874.

Helm, Thomas B. *History of Hamilton County, Ind.*, Chicago, Kingman, 1880.
RR Folio: F532.H2 H4 1880

Shirts, A.F. *A History of the formation, settlement and development of Hamilton County, Indiana...* . Microfilm 3:60 no. 240

www.civilwardata.com

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Series 1 contains twenty-three Civil War letters written by Isaac Barker to his wife Josephine M. Barker, in Westfield, Indiana from March 3–August 4, 1865 while he served in Company G, of the 147th Indiana Regiment.

Series 2 contains four letters written by William Kepner of the 1st U.S. Veteran Volunteer Engineers, Co. A, to his sister Josephine M. Barker and her husband Isaac Barker, from August 5, 1864 to August 20, 1865.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Isaac Barker Letters, March 3–August 4, 1865

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
March 3, 1865, Camp Carrington, Indianapolis: May not get home. Likely get in 154th Regt. In Wabash two nights, not well. Left bounty money with Lilburn White, \$200 cash, 250 county bonds. Keep or put in some safe. Sending note by McNeal Brown. 2 p.	Folder 1
March 5, 1865, Camp Carrington, to Josephine Barker (wife). Camp life, food; drafted and substitutes used for guard duty. Expect more volunteers for company. 153 rd left today.	Folder 1
March 8 th , 1865, Camp Carrington, Barricks no. 64, To Josephine. (Envelope: Josephine M. Barker, Westfield) Wants pair of socks. Furlough unlikely. 2p.	Folder 1
March 14, To Josephine. Received socks and letter. Those who have gone home on “French Leave” will likely be in trouble.	Folder 1
March 15 May leave tomorrow. Has given Lilburn White \$20.00 for her and suggests White handle money for her. Direct letters to Co. G., 147 th Indiana. 2p.	Folder 1
March 19 At Benwood, Va. (across Ohio River from Bellaire, Ohio) To Jo. Held up by flood; describes trip from Indianapolis; box cars cold. Scenery. Health of company. This is the fifth letter written. 4p.	Folder 1

March 22 Charlestown, Va. Trip from cars, Harper's Ferry. Difficulties setting up camp. Food. Weather cold. James F. Yow (?) and Lewis Roberts sick; left at Harper's Ferry hospital. Chaplain goes to see sick and takes mail. 4p.	Folder 1
March 26 In camp near Charlestown, Va. On U.S. Christian Commission stationary furnished by chaplain. Alfred detailed as assistant steward at hospital. Comments on officers and camp arrangements. 4p.	Folder 1
March 30 Camp near Charlestown, Va. Rain. Local citizen shot by pickets. Men in hospital with measles. Desire for home news. 4p	Folder 1
April 19 Stephens Station, Va. Letters received. "Awful news" of assassination of President. Memorial program. Alfred attending ward in hospital in Maryland. Take \$1.00 from "darky Johnson." Socks, towels, button and thread case received. Overcoats sent Dr. Haines at Noblesville; Wm. Eagles wife to take them to Westfield. 4p.	Folder 1
April 24 Summit Point, Va. Farm advice. Mentions Bill (Kepner) 3p.	Folder 1
May 5 Summit Point, Va. To be reviewed Sunday. Hopes to be home for harvest. Must get someone to cut wood. Reports on boys from Westfield. 4p.	Folder 1
May 14 Summit Point, Va. On guard duty. Ballard and Brown also. Heard chaplain preach, to 150 from two regiments. Whiskey and cards bring out larger crowd. Pay poor chance. Advises feed for cows.	Folder 1

<p>May 16 Summit Point, Va. McNeal Brown has furlough; had word wife sick. All talk of coming home. 4p.</p>	Folder 1
<p>May 21 Summit Point, Va. Acting as guard for farmer, in his home. Pleasant, good grub. 3p.</p>	Folder 1
<p>May 29 Summit Point, Va. Still at farmer's. Asks about mother. 3p.</p>	Folder 1
<p>June 4 Summit Point, Va. Berries. Reports of going home. Squirrel hunting. 4p.</p>	Folder 2
<p>June 11 Berryville, Clark Co., Va. Four deserted from company. Has returned to Regiment as it moved eight miles. Arrangements for oats: pay for half seed and have half crop</p>	Folder 2
<p>June 24 Berryville, Guard duty. Farm problems. Messages to children. 4p.</p>	Folder 2
<p>July 4 Berryville. Celebration. Pay. 4p</p>	Folder 2
<p>July 15 Harper's Ferry, Va. Temporary camp. No letter for 3 weeks. 4p</p>	Folder 2
<p>July 22, 1865 Fort Duncan, Md. Farm problems. 2p</p>	Folder 2
<p>Aug. 4 Fort Duncan, Md. Expects to be home soon. To be mustered out today. 2p.</p>	Folder 2

Series 2: William Kepner Letters, Aug. 5, 1864–Aug. 20, 1865

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

Aug 5, 1864

Folder 2

Camp near Marietta, Ga.

To “Dear Friends” Appreciated letter of July 4, just received. Efforts to burn railroads. Rebs attack on raid.

William Windall fatally wounded; Caleb Fisher missing, but other regiments suffered heavy losses.

Sherman massing forces to attack Atlanta. 4p

Nov. 27, 1864

Folder 2

Chattanooga, Tenn.

To Isaac Barker “ Dear Brother” Annoyed that father and Hen are Copperheads; wishes clothes and mare removed from their place. Voted for Lincoln by claiming residence in Tennessee. 3p.

Jan. 3, 1865

Folder 2

Decatur, Alabama.

To Isaac Barker. Christmas was working on pontoon bridge.

Aug. 20, 1865

Folder 2

Nashville, Tenn.

To “Kind Sister” Waiting for pay. Get clothes from Sarah, who has married and is moving. How does Sam enjoy being home. 4p.

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 0057).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.