

Collection #
SC3661

**MATHIAS SMOCK FAMILY
CORRESPONDENCE, 1848-1865**

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Processed by

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

www.indianahistory.org

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

**VOLUME OF
COLLECTION:** 3 manuscript folders, 1 cased image

**COLLECTION
DATES:** 1848-1865

PROVENANCE: Heidi Brandon, Alpharetta, GA

RESTRICTIONS: None

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FORMATS:**

**RELATED
HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION
NUMBER:** 2020.0189

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Reverend Mathias Smock (September 5, 1818-December 20, 1908) was born in Bullitt County, Kentucky to Henry and Sarah Burch Smock. At some point the family made their way to Flat Rock, Bartholomew County, Indiana. Smock enlisted in the Union Army on June 19, 1861, serving as a Private in the 13th Indiana Infantry, Company K. He was mustered out of the army on July 1, 1864. By the 1870 Census, Smock is living in Nodaway County, Missouri, where he is also buried. Smock worked as a farmer but also was a Baptist preacher. Near the end of his life, he had a book published called *Smock's Life and Sermons*, which was published by the Battle Creek Republican newspaper.

The majority of the letters from Mathias Smock are directed to Tunis Quick (March 13, 1797-February 24, 1883), a friend and neighbor in Clifford, Flat Rock, Bartholomew County. Quick was a Virginia native who arrived in Bartholomew County in 1819 and purchased 160 acres of land. He was a farmer, and he studied law books in order to practice locally. In addition, Quick served as a probate judge, and spent two years as a state legislator. He was married to Susanna Records Quick, and the couple had eleven children, eight of whom reached maturity.

Smock also corresponds with his sister, Rachel Burch Smock (1831-1910), who was living in Bartholomew County, Indiana during the Civil War. She married Emanuel Snepp on February 2, 1871, and she had two children, Susan and Rufus. In their elder years, the Snepps left Bartholomew County to live with their son Rufus's family in Boone County, Indiana.

Sources:

Ancestry.com

"Tunis Quick—Pioneer Landowner, Carpenter, Militiaman, Judge, Lawyer, and Legislator." *The Columbus Herald*. 24 February 1956, Page 5.

Battle Creek Republican. 21 June 1901, Page 1.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains fifty-seven letters, mostly written by Mathias Smock during his time serving in the Union Army in the Civil War. His letters, mostly to his friend Tunis Quick, briefly detail his present location, some details about battles or skirmishes his regiment was involved in, gossip and speculation about where they might be sent next, and religious commentary. The 13th Indiana Infantry saw action in such battles as Cheat Mountain Pass, Greenbrier River, Winchester, Port Republic, and the Siege of Suffolk. One interesting detail from the letters is that it seems as though one of the Smock brothers, Samuel, initially joined the Confederacy, and once he is back home, on April 10, 1862, Smock writes, “I am glad you have left the Rebel Army and came home and I think your judgement leads you by this time to think different and as for the old flag I love it still as any good citizen ought to...” and then goes on to brag about the superiority of the Union forces. Smock later comments that he will put Samuel back into his will if Samuel will continue to “act patriotic.” Towards the end of the correspondence in this collection, Smock is sending Tunis Quick multiple installments of an essay/sermon he’s working on about the concept of eternal life, with the overarching theme of “in him was life; and the life was the light of men.” Smock appears to have made it through his time in service with no major incidents, aside from a few weeks stay in the hospital for an “acute attack of the liver.” While he is there, he has his sister, Rachel, send him his license so he can be free to preach to his fellow patients.

Also included in the collection is a cased image, likely of Mathias Smock in his Union Army uniform.

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Correspondence, n.d.

Correspondence, 1848; 1858; June 1861-June 1862

Correspondence, July 1862-May 1864; 1865

[Portrait of Mathias Smock], ca. 1861

CONTAINER

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Cased Images