

Collection #
SC 0040

**SARAH BAILEY GILBERT
PAPERS, 1820-1895**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 6 manuscript folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1820-1895

PROVENANCE: Ohio Book Store, 544 Main Street, Cincinnati, Ohio in July 1959.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1959.0712

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Sarah Bailey Gilbert (fl. 1835-1881) was a resident of Richmond, Indiana, from at least 1853 to 1884. According to the 1880 census, she was 45 years old in 1880 which places her birth circa 1835. She married William D. Gilbert on December 25, 1865, but separated from him in early 1881 or late 1880. They had two children, Allie and Charlie Grant. Additionally, for at least one year, they fostered an orphan from the Soldier's Orphan's Home named Rebecca. Sarah Bailey's father was James Bailey. The name of her mother is unknown. Sarah had at least five siblings, Henry H., Ann, Mary, Edward, and Charles.

Sources:

Materials in the Collection

Morgan, B.F. *Farmer's Directory of Wayne County, Indiana* (1884).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is made up of six folders arranged chronologically and contains letters between family and friends, mostly written between 1855 and 1870. The letters written between 1863 to 1865 were generally from friends and family who fought in the war. These men served in the 13th, 16th, 30th, 51st, 69th, and 86th Indiana Infantries, 2nd, 3rd, and 6th Indiana Cavalries, 17th Veteran Reserve Corps, and 9th U.S. Veterans Volunteers Infantry. Additionally, one notable correspondent, James Caseley, served on the Confederate side but it is unclear what regiment he served in.

The letters in this collection surround topics of family, business, farm, and local news, war updates, and personal matters like love and marriage proposals. Among the correspondents who served in the war, Bailey's cousin, John Wetherald, was particularly fond of serving and often described the engagements he was involved in as a member of the 3rd Indiana Calvary. Bailey's friend, Lant Allenson Study, was more focused on the aftermath of battles. Study also discussed guarding prisoners of war at Camp Morton, general camp life, and other war-related events around Indianapolis such as the parading of bounty jumpers through the streets. James Caseley was very open in his letters about his emotions and struggles. Caseley wrote a series of letters following his decision to join the Confederate Army where he talks about his reasons and defends the south. There is an additional photocopied version of one of James Caseley's letters where he discusses why he joined the Confederate Army.

These letters originate from a wide variety of locations in and out of Indiana. Indiana locations include Thorntown (Boone County), Granville (Delaware County), Knightstown (Henry County), Cambridge City (Wayne County), and Williamsburg (Wayne County). Other points of origin include Pennsylvania, Kentucky, North Carolina, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Georgia, Ontario, Canada, and Yorkshire, England.

An old calendar of correspondence is within the first folder of the collection for reference.

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CONTAINER

Correspondence, April 20, 1853 – April 15, 1858
Certificate of Marriage dated March 8, 1820 for Isaac Massey
and Eliza E. Brown.

Folder 1

Correspondence, June 23, 1859 –December 9, 1863

Folder 2

Correspondence, January 6, 1864 – June 19, 1864

Folder 3

Correspondence, July 23, 1864 – December 28, 1864

Folder 4

Correspondence, January 18, 1865 – December 10, 1865

Folder 5

Correspondence, January 4, 1866 – November 28, 1895

Folder 6