

Collection #
SC 1378

**SNELL FAMILY
PAPERS, 1817–1860**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 9 items

COLLECTION DATES: 1817-1860

PROVENANCE: Children's Museum, Indianapolis, IN., October 1967

RESTRICTIONS: None

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

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 1967.1005, 1991.0185X

HISTORICAL SKETCH

This collection contains correspondence of the Snell family, centering on Judith M. Snell. Apparently the family originated in Paris, Oneida County, New York. Some members moved to Indianapolis by 1834. One, whose wife was Rebecca Snell, moved to Cincinnati, and died there in 1834. Rebecca Snell, with her daughter, Judith M. Snell, then moved to Indianapolis. Judith Snell continued to live there. By 1860 she had married a man named Conwell, and lived in Cumberland on the eastern border of Marion County.

Source: Materials in collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains nine items of correspondence, dated 1817 to 1860. It is arranged chronologically.

The letters serve mainly to help trace the peregrinations of a family on the move. A letter of 20 December 1835 from Hepzibah Head is full of religious consolations for a bereavement and of family pride at having a multitude of descendants. A letter of 27 July 1846 mentions a visit to Illinois by Samuel Merrill of Indianapolis, possibly on railroad business. A letter of 8 April 1847 from Ann Johnson (apparently a sister of Judith Snell) shows a new bride (and stepmother) making a place for herself with plants from home. A letter of 11 April 1847 from Chauncey Snell is full of youthful humor and bravado.

ITEM LISTING

9 September 1817 Israel Snell, East Bloomfield [Ohio?] to Brother and Sister. Please describe soil, timber, and water where you are, and how far you are from the Ohio River. Wm. Hirlbut is going back to Black River, but I won't. ALS 2p

7 December 1834 John and Rebecca Phipps, Saml. and Sophia St. John, Saml. and Sarah Ingersoll, Indianapolis, to Mrs. Rebecca Snell (or Page) and family, Cincinnati. We sympathize with your loss. When the roads are frozen solid, Michael McLane can come to attend to your business. We think you should come here. Let us know your decision. ALS 1p

20 December 1835 Hepzibah Head, Paris, Oneida County, New York, to Judith M. Snell, Cincinnati. Sympathize with your melancholy tidings. Trust in the Lord must be your consolation. Family news. ALs 2p

30 December 1841 R. B. Duncan, Clerk Marion County Court. Certifies that no suits are pending against Judith M. Snell, Indianapolis. ADS 1p

4 July 1844 Sarah M. Head [Hurd?], Paris, N. Y., to Miss Judith M. Snell, Indianapolis. The family think Mother [or Grandmother] should not travel alone. Could you meet her at her brother Orren's at Clarkesfield, Huron County, Ohio,

in July or August? ALS 1p

27 July 1846 H. W. Ingersoll, Danville, Ill., to Miss Judith M. Snell, Indianapolis. I hope to come to Indianapolis in two weeks. Mr. S. Merrill was here for a night last week. I might come to stay in Indianapolis, but hear you have the cholera with 8 to 10 deaths per day. Write me immediately. ALS 1p

8 April 1847 Ann Johnson, Hickory Hill, Ill., to Miss Judith M. Snell, and Brother and Sister Hill, Indianapolis. I miss you, but have a devoted and affectionate husband, and his children are kind and obedient to me. We are sodding our yard with blue grass, a new fashion, and the shrubs I brought are alive. Please send me some strawberry seeds. With no church here, we are having religious meetings at our house. (To Hills) Please tell me condition of our house. I intend to get two tombstones in St. Louis. ALS 4p

11 April 1847 Chauncey N. Snell, Fond Du Lac, Wisc. to Miss Judith N. Snell, Indianapolis. Jokes about being a bachelor. Could convert anyone he marries to his religious beliefs. Also believes in Physiognomy and Mesmerism--has put many people to sleep. "I am a boy filled with Snell blood full of ambition life and love the girls first rate." ALS 2p

7 March 1860 Kate Snell, Millhousen [Ind.?] to aunt, Mrs. Judith Conwell, Cumberland, Marion County, Indiana. Family news. ALS 3p

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://157.91.92.2/>
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 1378).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.