

Collection #
M 0203
OM 0748

**SOLOMON MEREDITH
PAPERS, 1833-1898**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes; 1 oversized folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1833-1898

PROVENANCE: Robert G. Miller, Muncie, Indiana, October, 1968

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Civil War Portraits (P 0132)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1968.1007

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Solomon Meredith (1810-1875) was born in Guilford County, North Carolina, to Quaker parents. In 1829 he moved to Wayne County, Indiana, where he did various jobs including farming and shop keeping. He eventually moved to Cambridge City where he owned a large farm and became a noted cattle and other live-stock breeder. In 1836 he married Anna Hannah and they had four children, three sons and a daughter who died in infancy.

In addition to his business interests, Meredith was engaged in politics and was a ardent supporter of the Whig and later Republican parties. In 1834 he was elected as Wayne County Sheriff, and from 1846-1849 elected to the Indiana House of Representatives from 1846-1849, U.S. Marshall for Indiana, 1849-1853, and state representative again in 1855. In July, 1861, he was named colonel of the newly formed 19th Indiana Regiment which was sent to Washington, D.C. where it became part of the Iron Brigade. In October, 1862, he was promoted to Brigadier General and commanded the regiment at the Battle of Gettysburg. He was severely wounded during the battle on 1 July 1863 being struck in the head by shrapnel. The blow also killed his horse which fell on him breaking several ribs and injuring his leg. Meredith spent the remainder of the war doing administrative work at ports along the Mississippi River at Cairo, Illinois, and Paducah, Kentucky. In 1864 he ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. House of Representatives against. The two candidates feuded to the point where Meredith beat Julian senseless with a whip although no charges were filed.

Meredith returned to his farm after the war but never completely recovered from his war wounds. He served briefly as county tax assessor from 1866-1867, and surveyor general for Montana Territory from 1867-1869 before returning to his Cambridge City farm where he died in 1875.

Other family members prominent in the collection are Meredith's son, Henry C. and his wife Virginia Claypool Meredith. Henry C. Meredith (1843-1882) assumed operations of the family farm and livestock business following the death of his father. He was also editor of the Cambridge City *Tribune* (1869-1872), a member of the Indiana House of Representatives (1881), and president of the state board of agriculture (1882). Virginia C. Meredith (1848-1936) married Henry C. Meredith in April, 1870, and resided with her husband on the family farm near Cambridge City. She assumed household operations when her mother-in-law died in 1871. She became involved in the raising of livestock while her husband served in the state legislature and assumed operations of the farm when he died the following year and evolved into the foremost female authority on agriculture. She was also President of the Board of Women Managers for 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Another son, Samuel H. Meredith, served as a lieutenant with his father in the 19th Indiana. He was wounded at the Battle of Gainesville in 1862 and never fully recovered, dying at home two years later

Sources: Fox, editor. *Memoirs of Wayne County and the City of Richmond, Indiana*. Madison, Wisconsin: Western Historical Association, 1912.
Wikipedia, accessed 27 July 2020.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is comprised of the papers of Solomon Meredith and his family members. Included are letters to Solomon Meredith regarding the appointment of deputies while he served as U. S. Marshall, 1849-1853; official and personal papers relating to his Civil War service including correspondence, his diary from 1862, letters to his wife while commanding the 19th Indiana in Virginia, 1862-1863, and correspondence while commanding forces in Western Kentucky, 1864-1865. In addition, there is a folder of materials relating to his run for the U. S. House of Representatives, 1864. Other Solomon Meredith material include his diaries, 1857, 1858, 1872, primarily dealing with farm, and his legal and financial papers dealing with farming, canals, and railroads, 1847-1860.

Also included are the diaries of his son, Henry C. Meredith, 1863, 1873-1881, primarily centering on farm accounts; diaries and related materials of his wife, Virginia Claypool Meredith, pertaining to her role with the Bureau of Lady Managers for the Columbian Exposition in Chicago, 1890-1898; and the muster in and out rolls for Lieutenant Samuel H. Meredith, 1861, 1864.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Solomon Meredith Papers and Diaries, 1833-1879

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Land Documents, 1833-1853	Box 1, Folder 1
Correspondence, 1850 (bound)	Box 1, Folder 2
Papers, 1854-1859	Box 1, Folder 3
Correspondence, 1860-1863	Box 1, Folder 4
Military Papers and Correspondence, 1861-1864	Box 1, Folder 5
Military Papers and Correspondence, Feb.-May, 1865	Box 1, Folder 6
Military Papers and Correspondence, June-Dec., 1865	Box 1, Folder 7
<i>The Federal Union</i> , Paducah, Kentucky, 18 May 1865	OM 0748, Folder 1
Congressional Election Papers, 1864	Box 1, Folder 8
Business Correspondence, 1866-1879	Box 1, Folder 9
Accounts, 1838-1845	Box 1, Folder 10
Diary, 1857	Box 1, Folder 11
Diary, 1858-1859	Box 2, Folder 1
Diary, 1862	Box 2, Folder 2
Diary, 1872	Box 2, Folder 3

Series 2: Henry C. Meredith Papers, 1863-1879

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Henry C. Meredith Diary/Accounts, 1863	Box 2, Folder 4
Henry C. Meredith Diary/Accounts, 1873	Box 2, Folder 5
Henry C. Meredith Diary/Accounts, 1874	Box 2, Folder 6
Henry C. Meredith Diary/Accounts, 1875	Box 2, Folder 7
Henry C. Meredith Diary/Accounts, 1876	Box 2, Folder 8

Henry C. Meredith Diary/Accounts, 1877	Box 2, Folder 9
Henry C. Meredith Diary/Accounts, 1878	Box 3, Folder 1
Henry C. Meredith Diary/Accounts, 1879	Box 3, Folder 2
Henry C. Meredith Diary/Accounts, 1881	Box 3, Folder 3

Series 3: Meredith Family Members And Printed Items, 1850-1898

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Muster Rolls (3) for Samuel H. Meredith, 1861; 1864	OM 0748, Folder 1
David Meredith Military Papers, June-Dec., 1864	Box 3, Folder 4
Meredith Account Book, 1896-1897	Box 3, Folder 5
Virginia C. Meredith Papers, 1890-1898	Box 3, Folder 6
Virginia C. Meredith, Bureau of Lady Managers Awards, 1893	Box 3, Folder 7
Virginia C. Meredith, Bureau of Lady Managers Awards, 1893-1896	Box 3, Folder 8
Pocket Bible, 1850 (Inscribed to Solomon Meredith)	Box 3, Folder 9
Pocket Bible, 1850 (Inscribed to Henry C. Meredith)	Box 3, Folder 10
Almanac, 1860	Box 3, Folder 11
Cook's International Traveling Tickets, n.d.	Box 3, Folder 12