

Collection #
SC 2893

**THOMAS NELSON BAKER
CORRESPONDENCE, 1852–1865**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 2 folders

COLLECTION
DATES: 1852–1865

PROVENANCE: Philip M. Coons, MD, Indianapolis, Indiana, July 2010

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS: Coons, Philip M. *In Their Own Words: Hoosier Ancestor and
Family Journeys*. Bloomington, Indiana, 2010

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2010.0196

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thomas Nelson Baker (March 1, 1831–August 14, 1865) was born in Davie County, North Carolina but he and his family soon moved to Azalia, Bartholomew County, Indiana. Before attending school in Alexandria, Virginia, Thomas Nelson Baker met Aurillia Shumway. They corresponded while Baker was away and were married on March 25, 1855 when Baker was finished with his schooling and back in Indiana. Baker worked as a school teacher, and he and Aurillia had two children, Charles and Ella. When the Civil War began, Baker believed he had a duty to serve his country, and he mustered in from Jonesville, Indiana on August 8, 1861 as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 8th Indiana Calvary/39th Indiana Infantry. Baker was promoted twice and mustered out as a Major on July 20, 1865. Less than a month later, Baker succumbed to dysentery and died on August 14, 1865. He is buried in the Azalia Methodist Cemetery. Aurillia Baker later remarried Marion E. Bland of Columbus, Indiana, a physician. They had one child together. Aurillia Bland died on February 13, 1918 at the age of 85.

Sources:

Ancestry.com

American Civil War Research Database

Materials in the collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains correspondence belonging to Thomas Nelson Baker. In the first folder of the collection are love letters Thomas wrote to his love interest, Aurillia L. Shumway, who remained in Indiana while Baker was attending school in Alexandria, Virginia. In the second folder of the collection are letters written by Thomas to his wife, Aurillia and his daughter, Ella, while he was serving as a Lieutenant in the Civil War. There is also one letter that Aurillia wrote to Thomas. In his letters home, Thomas reports on the health of himself and his friends, the status of the war (Corinth, Murfreesboro, “Morgan’s guerrillas”) and comments upon news from home sent along by Aurillia. He also writes to his children Ella and Charlie to give them instructions to mind their mother, be helpful with chores, learn their letters, and to tell them how he loves and misses them so much that “the tears blind me so I can’t see the lines.”

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CONTAINER

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