

Collection #
M 0436,
F 1683

THORNTON CLARK PAPERS, 1862–1864

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

Charles Latham
2 December 1994

Revised by Glenn McMullen
27 August 2002
Updated 2 April 2, 2004

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

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 reel of microfilm

COLLECTION 1862–1864
DATES:

PROVENANCE: California Book Auction, 220 San Bruno Avenue, San Francisco
CA 94103

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1995.0011

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Thornton Clark (d. 1864) came from Dale, Spencer County, Indiana, when he enlisted in Company B of the 42nd Regiment on 23 September 1862. He was captured a year later, and was imprisoned at Andersonville Prison in Georgia, where he reportedly died on 10 October 1864. (His wife Nancy applied for and received a pension (application no. 113,843, certificate no. 81.625, filed 26 October 1865) as a widow. W. H. H. Terrell's Adjutant General's report, however, shows Clark (spelled as Clarke) being mustered out on 12 July 1865.

The 42nd Indiana Volunteer Regiment was organized at Evansville in October 1861. It was first sent to Kentucky; then to Huntsville, Alabama; then back to Kentucky. It fought at Murfreesboro and Stone River; then at Chickamauga, Lookout Mountain, and Mission Ridge. Re-enlisted in January 1864, the regiment joined Sherman near Chattanooga, took part in the campaign before Atlanta, pursued Hood into Alabama, and ended the war pursuing Johnston through North Carolina.

Sources:

National Park Service, Andersonville National Historic Site. *Andersonville Prisoner of War Database*. Orem, UT: Ancestry, Inc., 1999. www.ancestry.com (viewed 3 July 2002); National Park Service, Andersonville National Historic Site. Anderson Prisoner Profile: <http://www.maconcountyga.org/> (viewed 5 July 2002)

National Archives and Records Administration. *Civil War Pension Index*. [database online] Provo, UT: Ancestry.com, 2000. Data indexed and imaged from National Archives and Records Administration. *General Index to Pension Files, 1861-1934*. T288, 544 rolls. Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration. www.ancestry.com (viewed 3 July 2002)

Adjutant General's Office. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana*. Volume 5, p. 307. Indianapolis: A. H. Connor [etc.] State Printer, 1865–69. General and Reference Collection: E506.2.I39 T4 1865

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains Civil War letters dated 1862-1864, all from Private Thornton Clark to his wife Nancy; family notes on the letters; and photocopies of the letters. It is arranged chronologically.

Thornton Clark, author of the letters, was a phonetic speller: "rebbe," "attact," "shugar," "ridgement." He was deeply religious, writing his wife to make sure the children attend Sunday School, and attributing thunderstorms to the wrath of the Lord against the company commander. He was sick a good deal, and missed the battle of Murfreesboro on that account. He was continually hopeful that the war would soon end. He wrote regularly until 15 September 1863. There is one short letter from Andersonville Prison dated 16 June 1864.

The collection was microfilmed in July 2002 as F 1683.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Sept.–Oct. 1862	Box 1, Folder 1
Nov. 1862	Box 1, Folder 2
Dec. 1862	Box 1, Folder 3
Jan.–Mar. 1863	Box 1, Folder 4
Apr.–June 1863	Box 1, Folder 5
July–Sept. 1863	Box 1, Folder 6
1864	Box 1, Folder 7
Summary sheets by a family member	Box 1, Folder 8
Microfilm of collection	F 1683

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, M 436).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.