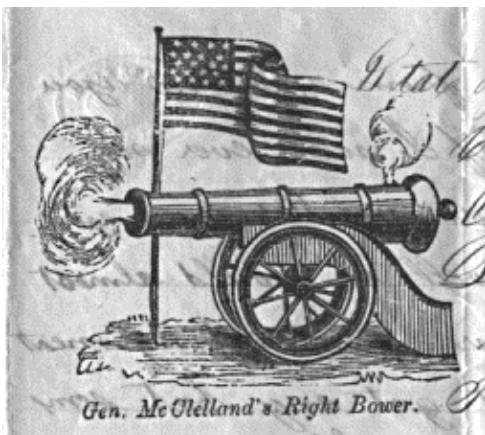


# Guide to the Matthias Davis Papers, 1861–1933

Special Collections and Rare Books, Irwin Library, Butler University



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## Summary:

### Volume of Collection

7 folders

### Collection Dates

1861–1933 (1861–1862 bulk)

### Provenance

John Davis Stegman, Ph.D., great-grandson of Matthias Davis, 3143  
Walden Ravines, Columbus, Ohio 43201-4643

### Restrictions

May not be photocopied

### Copyright

Inquire at repository

### Alternate Formats

None

### Related Holdings

None

### **Biographical Sketch**

Matthias Davis (1843?–1862) was born in southern Indiana and orphaned according to Davis's great grandson. In 1860, Davis married Martha Jane Vankirk in Ripley County, Indiana. They had one son, John Rafferty Davis, in 1861. On August 20, 1861, at Milford, Indiana, Davis enlisted as a private in Company D of the 7th Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. His regiment traveled from Indianapolis to Cincinnati and finally to West Virginia, where it established permanent headquarters at Camp Elkwater.

On October 3, 1861, Davis participated in the battle of Green Briar. Soon after, he suffered a series of sicknesses that caused him to fall behind his regiment. He stayed with Abraham McDaniels, who lived near Philippi, West Virginia, for three weeks until his health returned. Davis rejoined his regiment in Springfield, Virginia, on December 26, 1861. Unfortunately, his health once again declined, and Davis was placed on the sick list on January 26, 1862. Four days later, he broke out with the measles. On January 31, 1862, he was admitted to a post hospital in Cumberland, Maryland. Matthias Davis died on March 13, 1862, of lung fever (pneumonia) and the measles.

### **Scope and Content**

This collection includes a copy of the diary Matthias Davis kept from his enlistment to death (the donor holds the original); twenty-nine letters (1861–1862), mostly Davis to his wife; copies of marriage certificates and pension forms (the originals are in the National Archives); and miscellaneous materials, including a newspaper clipping on the Battle among the Clouds; a copy of "The Harvest is Past," a poem attributed to Matthias Davis; an anonymous love poem; and a May, 20, 1864, lottery letter from the Egerton Brothers agency in Covington, Kentucky.

### **Folder Listing:**

- Folder 1: Matthias Davis's diary, Sept. 3, 1861–Mar. 5, 1862, typed transcription
- Folder 2: Matthias Davis's letters, Sept. 4–Oct. 19, 1861
- Folder 3: Matthias Davis's letters, Oct. 27–Dec. 28, 1861
- Folder 4: Matthias Davis's letters, Jan. 7–Mar. 7, 1862
- Folder 5: Isaiah Corban to Mrs. Davis, Merit C. Welsh to Mrs. Davis, letters, Mar. 13–30, 1862

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- Folder 6: Marriage certificates/licenses and Declarations for Widow's and Children's pension forms, Mar. 11, 1860–Apr. 25, 1933, photocopy
- Folder 7: Miscellaneous, Dec. 6, 1861–Sept. 20, 1912
- Folder 8: Typed transcriptions, Sept. 21, 1861; Oct. 19, 1861; Jan. 22, 1862; Jan. 25, 1862, photocopy
- Folder 9: Matthias Davis's diary, Sept. 3, 1861–Mar. 5, 1862, typed transcription, photocopy
- Folder 10: Matthias Davis's letters, Sept. 4–Oct. 19, 1861, photocopy
- Folder 11: Matthias Davis's letters, Oct. 27–Dec. 28, 1861, photocopy
- Folder 12: Matthias Davis's letters, Jan. 7–Mar. 7, 1862, photocopy
- Folder 13: Isaiah Corban to Mrs. Davis, Merit C. Welsh to Mrs. Davis, letters, Mar. 13–30, 1862, photocopy
- Folder 14: Marriage certificates/licenses and Declarations for Widow's and Children's pension forms, Mar. 11, 1860–Apr. 25, 1933, use photocopy
- Folder 15: Miscellaneous, Dec. 6, 1861–Sept. 20, 1912, photocopy
- Folder 16: Typed transcriptions, Sept. 21, 1861; Oct. 19, 1861; Jan. 22, 1862; Jan. 25, 1862, use photocopy