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

Contact Information:
Special Collections and Rare Books
Irwin Library
Butler University
4600 Sunset Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46208-3485 USA
Phone: 317.940.9265
Fax: 317.940.8039
E-mail: schildsh@butler.edu
URL: http://www.butler.edu/library/libinfo/rare/
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
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

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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