

Collection #  
SC 3565

**CONRAD BAKER  
CIVIL WAR LETTERS, 1862**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 manuscript folder

**COLLECTION DATES:** July–August, 1862

**PROVENANCE:** Brian and Maria Green, Inc., Kernersville, North Carolina, February, 2019

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** Conrad Baker Papers (M 0008)

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2019. 0041

**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Conrad Baker (1817–1885) was born in Franklin County, Pennsylvania. After attending Pennsylvania College in Gettysburg, he studied law in the firm of Stevens and Smyser, under Thaddeus Stevens. In 1841, he moved to Evansville, Vanderburgh County, and started a law practice. During the Civil War, Baker served for three years as a colonel in the 1<sup>st</sup> Indiana Cavalry (28<sup>th</sup> Regiment). In 1863, he was assigned to Indianapolis where he became Assistant Provost Marshall General for the state of Indiana.

Baker's political career prior to the war included on term as a state representative (1845–1846) and eighteen months as judge for the Court of Common Pleas. In 1865, Baker was nominated to run as lieutenant governor with Oliver P. Morton. After their election victory, Morton suffered a paralytic stroke in November 1865, and was sent to Europe for recovery. Baker served as acting governor for six months in Morton's absence, and two years later he became governor when Morton was elected to the U. S. Senate. He was reelected for a full term in 1868. Among his gubernatorial accomplishments were appropriations for a soldier's home, a house of refuge for juvenile offenders, uncontrollable boys and children with unfit parents, and a woman's prison.

After his term as governor, Baker did not seek further political office and entered into partnership with the Indianapolis law firm of Hendricks, Hord & Hendricks which became Baker, Hord & Hendricks when Thomas Hendricks became governor. Baker was married twice, in 1838 to Matilda Escon Sommers and in 1858 to Charlotte Frances Chute. Baker fathered six children: Albert, William, Alice, Florence, Elizabeth and Thaddeus.

Source: Pumroy & Brockman, *A Guide to the Manuscript Collections of the Indiana Historical Society and the Indiana State Library*, p. 10.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains two letters written Baker from Helena, Arkansas, 4<sup>th</sup> Division Headquarters of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade. In his letter to his wife dated 14 July 1862, Baker writes to his wife of escorting a supply train to Jacksonport and engaging the enemy marching from Jacksonport to Clarendon. He also writes of the reorganization of the force and he being placed in command third brigade. The letter dated 16 August 1862 was written to Baker's brother, also from Helena, Arkansas. He sends "a notice" that he asks him to publish in *The Indiana State Journal* (Indianapolis), with the hopes it will be picked up by other Indiana papers and help recruiting. The remainder of the letter talks about his changes in assignment and duties.

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Letters, 14 July & 16 August, 1862

### CONTAINER

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