

Collection #
SC 2107

SOLOMON FUSSELL LETTER, 1843

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1 November 1843

PROVENANCE: Unknown

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Published letter from Solomon and Martha Fussell to “Dear Friends and Relatives,” dated 3–4 November 1832, *Indiana Magazine of History*, 25: 242 (1929). Reference Room Collection F521 .I52

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1946.0513

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Quaker Solomon Fussell, his wife, Milcah Martha, and five of their surviving eleven children arrived at Spring Valley (Fall Creek Township, Madison County), Indiana, from Chester County, Pennsylvania, in 1832. Within a few years, Fussell’s wife and four more of his children died. Their children were Bartholomew Bond (1817–18), Priscilla Moore, Sarah Jacobs, Bartholomew Bond (1822–35), Henry Moore, Milcah Martha, Mary Lukens, Esther Lewis, Solomon, Rebecca Jane, and Marion W. Only Priscilla Moore (1818–86) and Milcah Martha (1825–78) lived to adulthood.

Fussell married Hannah Lewis (1800–74) in Milford, Wayne County, Indiana, on 1 December 1836. They were married at the Friends (Hicksite) Monthly Meeting. Lewis, formerly of Willistown, Chester County, Pennsylvania, was the daughter of Joseph and Lydia Lewis. Two children, Lydia (1838–72) and Hannah (1841– ?) were born to this union.

Fussell is buried in the Friends Cemetery in Pendleton, Madison County, Indiana.

Sources:

Material in the collection.

Agnes Longstreth Taylor. *The Longstreth Family Records*. Philadelphia: Press of Ferris & Leach, 1909.

Willard Heiss, ed. *Abstracts of the records of the Society of Friends in Indiana*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1972. Volume 4. General Collection BX7648.I6 H4.

For more information about the Pendleton mob incident see:

Thomas A. Hendrickson, “Sheltering a Famous Fugitive Slave,” Part II, *Black History News & Notes*, November, 2001. Reference Room Collection E185.93.I4 B5 1979–.

Correspondence, G.W. H. Kemper Collection, Box 1, Folder 1906–1940, Indiana Historical Society Collections, M 0173.

John L. Forkner and John La Rue, *Historical Sketches and Reminiscences of Madison County, Indiana*. Anderson, Ind.: [s.n.], 1897. General Collections F532.M2 F7 1973.

Frederick Douglass, *My Bondage and my Freedom*, New York: Miller, Orton, & Mulligan, 1855. General Collection E449.D738 1855.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The one-item collection contains a five-page carbon transcript of a letter dated 1 November 1843. The letter was written by Solomon Fussell of Fall Creek Township, Madison County, Indiana, to an unnamed nephew. It discusses family and local news and crop prices. Of particular note are Fussell's comments about a mob disturbance in Madison County involving locals and abolitionists.

The incident that took place at Pendleton on 16 September 1843 was reported in the *Boston Liberator*, 13 October 1843. Though Fussell's letter does not mention African American abolitionist Frederick Douglass by name, he was attacked by the mob, and his hand was permanently injured at Pendleton. Douglass was accompanied by William A. White and George Bradburn. Public letters commenting on the disturbance appeared in anti slavery newspapers in Boston and New York. In his letter, Fussell specifically mentions that the mob account appeared in the *Standard (National Anti Slavery Standard)*. He refers his nephew to Bradburn's published letter saying "it being very near correct." Fussell also states "I have seen Edwin's letter which I suppose you have also seen and must confess I don't like it." He also mentions that Edwin was thought to be in danger. (Edwin Fussell, a Pendleton physician and abolitionist, and the son of his brother, William, was another nephew of Solomon Fussell.) Solomon Fussell recounts the names of those he felt were involved in the incident, suggesting that many of the mob instigators were from adjacent Hancock County.

In his 1855 autobiography, *My Bondage and my Freedom*, Frederick Douglass credits "Dr. Fussell" and others with erecting a platform in the woods where he was speaking and the attack took place. Douglass also describes in vivid detail the assault upon himself, George Bradburn, and William A. White.

Note: Additional biographical information is in an unnumbered collection guide folder at the beginning of the collection.

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Letter, To "Dear Nephue," from Solomon
Fussell, 1 November 1843

CONTAINER

Folder 1

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, SC 2107).

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