

Collection #  
M 0710  
F 0079

## JOSEPH HOTZ CIVIL WAR LETTERS, 1861–1865

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

Paul Brockman

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

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### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript box, 1 reel of microfilm.
COLLECTION DATES:	November 1861–May 1865
PROVENANCE:	Mary K. Frye, 126 East Thompson Rd., Indianapolis, IN 46226,

13 February 1998; Frederick Luther Co., Indianapolis, IN, 1961;  
Prof. Hermann E. Rothfuss, 1830 W. Grand, Kalamazoo, MI  
49007, May 1976

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: Microfilm of original letters.

RELATED HOLDINGS: Vincent Wicker Letters (SC 1573)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1998.0262, 1961.0020, 1976.0507

NOTES:

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Joseph Hotz (1832–65) was born near Kinsing (Kinzig) Baden, Germany, and immigrated to Seymour, Jackson County, Indiana, where he was a farmer. On 31 October 1861, he enlisted in Company A of the 50<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regiment. Hotz was transferred to the 50<sup>th</sup> Reserved Battalion, Company E, on 2 March 1864 and was killed at Spanish Fort, Alabama, on 28 March 1865. Hotz had a wife named Maria and daughter named Karolina.

Sources: Information in collection.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection is comprised of 25 letters written in German by Joseph Hotz while he served with the 50<sup>th</sup> Indiana Regiment to his wife, Maria, November 1861–February 1865. These letters apparently are part of a larger collection of original letters. Also included in the collection are two sets of typed translations. The first set contains transcriptions and translations of 112 letters from Hotz to his wife. Written while serving as a private in the 50<sup>th</sup> Indiana, the letters were written from Bedford, Ind., Kentucky, Tennessee, Camp Morton (Indianapolis), Arkansas, Louisiana, and Alabama, November 1861–March 1865. Hotz writes of his loneliness and is often disappointed with his wife's lack of comfort and support. He also inquires about friends and family at home, the health of his daughter, and gives financial instructions regarding the running of the family farm as well as relating the regiment's engagements and the death of friends. Also included are translations of three letters to Mrs. Hotz from Corporal V. Wicker of the 50<sup>th</sup> Indiana, Company E, in Mobile, Alabama. Wicker discusses Hotz's death and his financial accounts with soldiers in the company.

The collection also contains a reel of microfilm of approximately 108 of Hotz's letters to his wife in German and a printed copy of a second set of typed translations of these letters. Professor Hermann E. Rothfuss of Western Michigan University made the translations of the film in 1976. There is a great amount of duplication although these translations are more literal.

## **CONTENTS**

## CONTENTS

Letters, Nov. 1861–Nov. 1862

Letters, Jan.–Nov. 1863

Letters, Jan. 1864–Feb. 1865

Translations of letters, Nov. 1861–Nov. 1862

Translations of letters, Jan.–Dec. 1863

Translations of letters, Jan.–Dec. 1864

Translations of letters, Jan.–May 1865

Microfilm of letters, Nov. 1861–May 1865

Translations of microfilmed letters, Nov. 1861–June 1863

Translations of microfilmed letters, July 1863–May 1865

## CONTAINER

Folder 1

Folder 2

Folder 3

Folder 4

Folder 5

Folder 6

Folder 7

F 0079

Folder 8

Folder 9

## 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 0710).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.