

Collection #
SC 0058

JASPER BARKER
CIVIL WAR LETTERS, 1862–1864, 1865, 1916

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Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1862–1864, 1865, 1916

PROVENANCE: Loaned for copying by Robert Aker, Mooresville, Ind., 1967

RESTRICTIONS: None

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FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 1967.0411

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Enoch Jasper Barker, was twenty five years old when he enrolled as a private in Co. G., of the 99th Indiana Infantry Regiment on Aug. 15, 1862, at Clayton, Indiana. He was mustered in on Sept. 18, 1862 at Indianapolis, by Capt. Miller. Wounded at the battle of Atlanta, he was sent home where he died at Clayton, Indiana, on Dec. 13, 1864.

Shortly after Jasper went to war, his sister, Sarah Adeline Barker married William Murdock Craven in November, 1862.

Sources:

Material in collection

Archives Division, Indiana State Library, Official record of service

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains photocopies of Jasper Barker's Civil War letters addressed to his mother, Jane Caviness Barker and his sister, Sarah Adeline Barker Craven at Center Valley, Morgan County, Indiana. There is one final letter from John D. Craven who was with the 23rd Iowa Regiment, addressed to his grandfather Jacob Craven in Morgan County, Indiana.

In 1868 the boundary lines of Hendricks and Morgan counties were changed so that Center Valley fell into Hendricks county after that date. The *Hendricks County Atlas*, 1878, map of Liberty Township, shows the William H. Craven farm immediately east of Center Valley. This had previously been the Barker farm.

At the end of this collection there is a Craven family history and an obituary for Jasper's sister that gives an account of the Barker family.

The copies are difficult to read and some of them have typed transcriptions. Processors have included a brief synopsis of each letter in the collection guide.

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Oct. 23, 1862:

Barker, Jasper, Camp near Louisville, Ky. to Jane Barker and Adeline Barker [Center Valley, Morgan County, Indiana]

"Dear Mother and Sister" Hard to leave home. Who will cut your wood and gather the corn? Left Camp Jo Reynolds, Indianapolis; went to Jeffersonville by train and marched to Louisville. Rifle pits dug around Louisville for defense. Mention of John Halfhill. Direct letters c/o Capt. Read [Tilberry Read], Camp near Louisville, Ky., Co. G, 99th Regt., Ind. Vol. 3p. typed transcript. (photocopy not readable.)

Oct 31, 1862:

Barker, Jasper, Camp near Louisville, to Mother and sister. Haven't heard from home. Had snow. Some tents have stoves; hope ours will have. Getting ready for guard inspection. Formation of Brigade with 97th Indiana, and 25th Michigan Regiment. Colonel of 25th Michigan to be our General. Mention of Jerry Richardson. 99th Regiment expects to go to Bardstown to guard a train of wagons. Camp life not like country farm life.

4p. Envelope addressed to: Jane Barker, Center Valley, Morgan Co., Ind. Illustrated stationary.

CONTAINER

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Folder 1

Nov. 4, 1862:

Folder 1

Halfhill, J[ohn], M. , [near Holly Springs, Miss.] to Father. Left Memphis Oct. 27, marched to this place, 7 or 8 miles from Holly Springs, 1 mile from Talahasee River, [Tallahatchie? River]. Part of the Army is on the other side of river following the rebels. Grant came to our quarters and consulted with our General. Sherman's whole division came this way to attack up the river. Understand we have 3 divisions consisting of 120,000 men. The 53rd Ohio, with a fine band, marched just behind us and kept up our spirits. Jo Hazelwood and Major Birks, [Major John M. Berkey] each took a prisoner. Tom Fortner is ill. 300 or 400 cattle pressed from farmers; if loyal to be paid; if not, nothing. I should hate for an army to invade Central Indiana. 4p.

June 20, 1863:

Folder 1

Barker, Jasper, Hanes Bluff, near Vicksburg [Miss.] to Mother and Sister. Within 9 miles of Vicksburg. Left Moscow, [Tenn.], June 5th for Memphis. With 18 other boats, Smith's Division, came down the river. Description of many boats and union troops at mouth of Yazoo River. In recent battle 8000 prisoners taken. Murdock, [John M. Craven, Jasper's brother-in-law] can use anything I have to work with. 4p.

July 3, 1863:

Folder 1

Barker , Jasper, Warren County, Miss., to Mrs. Jane Barker, Center Valley, Morgan Co., Ind. "Dear Mother" We are at the boat landing of the Yazoo River. Weather very hot. Spread blanket over cotton for soft bed. Have supplies cut off to Vicksburg; they will soon have to surrender. 3 men got bit by the garr fish. Boat going up river was hailed by men dressed as union soldiers asking for help; boatmen went ashore, were attacked by rebels and taken prisoners; the boat the "Emerald", was31830001317406

destroyed by fire. 4p.

Aug 3, 1863:

Folder 1

Barker, Jasper, Black River, Miss. To Mother. Have nice camp about half way between Vicksburg and Jackson. Description of engagement at Jackson, Miss., July 13–16; part of the city burned. At Vicksburg 3800 Confederate officers, 9 Generals, and 32,000 men surrendered. Mentions: Wash Larimore, Elihu Coble, Aron Overstreet and Lieut. Thomas 4p.

Aug. 23, 1863:

Folder 1

Barker, Jasper, Black River Camp, State of Mississippi. Many soldiers are ill. Suggestion for dividing family farm between Adeline and self. Hopes Mother will live with him. Mention of Merdic (John M. Craven) and Halfhill (at home). 4p

Nov. 1, 1863:

Folder 1

Barker, Jap[Jasper], Florence, Alabama. Jim Bray brought notions from you. Was at Corinth on Oct. 20th, at Iuka, Oct. 22–27; on march crossed Tennessee River at Eastport. Pursuing Rebels. Florence is a nice little city; not destroyed. At a town called Cypress Creek Factory near here there are 60 women whose husbands are in the Union army. 3p

Feb. 9, 1864:

Folder 1

Barker, Jasper, Scottsboro, Alabama, to Mother, Sister and Brother [in-law], Jane Adeline and Merdick. Box received, with clothes and food in good condition. We have had easy time since we came here. Hope John Richardson and Caroline will regain health. 4p.

Apr. 30, 1864:

Folder 1

Barker, Jasper, Scottsboro, Alabama. To Mother and sister. Expecting to start on a march. 2p.

June 9, 1864:

Folder 1

Barker, Jasper, near Acworth, Ga. To Mother. Arrived here June 6th. Thankful to have escaped injury. Recently marched through Kingston, Dallas, Ga., Altoona Hills. Many people left Dalton, going further south. Fight not expected at Atlanta. 4p.

June 22, 1864:

Folder 1

Barker, Jasper. Camp on the Battle Field, near Big Cabin, Georgia. To Mother. Rebels have a strong position in the mountains. We will get Atlanta in a month. Our division is in reserve; only been in one little scrap. I am tired and want rest. Has been raining for 18 days and nights. 3p.

Aug. 6, 1864:

Folder 1

Barker, Jasper, Camp near Atlanta, Ga. I am worn out. The soldiers are worn out but determined. The Rebels are determined to fight until the last moment. If people at home would come help us we would finish this war this fall. 4p

Aug. 16, 1864:

Folder 1

Barker, Jane, to son [Jasper Barker]. Farm is doing well. Only worry is about Jasper. Thinking of having carriage fixed; should it be made into a hack, buggy or carriage? You signed up for army 2 years ago yesterday. 2p.

Jan 20, 1865:

Folder 1

Craven, John D., Kennersville, La., with Co. H, 23rd Iowa Regt. to Jacob Craven, Center Valley, Morgan Co., Ind. "Dear Grandfather," Been in army 2 ½ years. Was in Texas all last winter. Crossed the Gulf of Mexico in a storm. 3p

Dec. 31, 1916:

Folder 1

Clipping: Obituary of Sarah Adeline Barker Craven, Mrs. William Murdock Craven. Died, Dec. 31, 1916 (Clipping from a Danville newspaper with "Hendricks Co." in title. Information from reverse of clipping.)

n.d.

Folder 1

Ancestry of William M[urdock] Craven.
Family of Randolph Co., N.C. and Hendricks Co., Ind.
2 sheets

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://opac.indianahistory.org/>
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 0058).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.