



Mathews family letters,  
1861-1982

Collection 46

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Donica Martin and Christine Willson, November 2018

**Creator/Corporate name:** Mathews family

**Inclusive Dates:** 1861-1892

**Physical Description:** 1 box, 1.3 linear feet

**Provenance:**

The Mathews family letters were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives in August 2011 by Nanette Welch.

**Access:**

The records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

**Biographical/Historical Note:**

Milton Mathews, born March 1, 1846 moved to Urbana in 1867, where he practiced law. Eventually he would become State's Attorney, served as a State Senator in the Illinois State Legislature, and owner and editor of the Champaign County Herald until his death in 1892. His brother Samuel joined Company F of the 36th Indiana Volunteer Infantry in August 1861. He served with distinction until he succumbed to disease on July 9, 1863 in a hospital in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

**Scope and Content Note:**

This is a collection of five letters from the Mathews family, ancestors of Harold Schoenborn. Included are three letters from Samuel Mathews to sister Louise and brother Milton during his service in Company "F" of the 36th Indiana Volunteer Infantry. Of note is the letter dated January 12, 1863 in which he describes the events surrounding the Battle of Murfreesboro from his perspective. The collection also contains a letter from an old school friend to Milton Mathews. Finally, there is a brief summary of the military records of Leavitt Clough Little his wife's son Charles Dix Webster, ancestors of Schoenborn.

**Arrangement:**

Items have been placed into protective sleeves and are arranged within one box.

**Name terms:**

Mathews, Louise  
Mathews, Milton  
Mathews, Samuel

**Subject Terms:**

Mathews family



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Schoenborn family

Stones River, Battle of, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1862-1863—Letters.  
United States. Army. Indiana Infantry Regiment, 36<sup>th</sup> (1861-1865). Company F  
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Correspondence.

**Container List:**

**Box 1**

-A leather wallet (?)

Imprinted within it: Made by Cobb & Johnson, Lancaster Mass

-Two cloth bookmarks (?) in memory of Hon. Milton W. Mathews

- The military record of:

Capt. C.D. Webster (Dec 7, 1861- Mar 6, 1872)

Col. Leavitt C. Little (June 25, 1828- Jan 11, 1834)

-Hourglass family tree of Harold Frederick Schoenborn

-Three envelopes, empty

Letters:

-January 5, 1891

To: Milton W. Mathews

From: A.L. Davis (?)

Five pages, single sided, not numbered.

Davis saw Milton's name in the Chicago Herald and thought he might write a letter. He reminisces on the old school days they had together and shares how much Dublin has changed since Milton left; the people, family, and his work history (jobs and how much they paid).

- June 10, 1869

To: Father

From: Samuel A. Mathews

One page, double sided, written in blue ink

Samuel writes home to thank for the shipment of shoes and clothes. He speaks about his time during military drills.

- Dec(?) 8, 1861

To: Sister (Louise Mathews)

From: S. A. Mathews

One page, double sided

Samuel talks about military movement, his chance of getting into a battle within a week, his reason for enlisting, food, the health of his regiment, and a few things he has recently seen.

- Jan 12, 1863

To: Friends



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From: Not stated (Samuel Mathews?)

One page, double sided

In this letter he speaks about what he did around Christmas, marching, a pre battle prep talk, and how they might have fired on their own men.

-November 14, 1862

To: Friends

From: Not stated (Samuel Mathews?)

One page (large), double sided

Samuel expresses how he is glad to hear of news from home and how Father was sent home to get better. He talks about his job as 'pioneer' where he cleared the road ahead of the army, the skirmishes he took part in, a raid on a camp, and the loss of 'Gen Nielson(?)'.