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## BAKER, OBADIAH ETHELBERT PAPERS 1856-1923

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>San Marino, California

### Contact Information:

- Manuscripts Department
- The Huntington Library
- 1151 Oxford Road
- San Marino, California 91108
- Phone: (626) 405-2203
- Fax: (626) 449-5720
- Email: [lgarcia@huntington.org](mailto:lgarcia@huntington.org)
- URL: <http://www.huntington.org/huntingtonlibrary.aspx?id=554>

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### Descriptive Summary

**Title:** Baker, Obadiah Ethelbert Papers

**Date (inclusive):** 1856-1923

**Creator:** Baker, Obadiah E., (1856-1923)

**Extent:** 350 pieces 2 boxes

**Repository:** The Huntington Library

San Marino, California 91108

**Language:** English

### Access

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### Preferred Citation

Baker, Obadiah Ethelbert Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

### Acquisition Information

The collection was purchased from Argonaut Book Shop in June 1966.

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The collection numbers approximately 350 pieces and is contained in 2 boxes.

Inclusive dates: 1856-1923.

### **Historical Note**

Obadiah Ethelbert Baker, native of Eden, N.Y., moved to Iowa with his parents, settling in Strawberry Point in 1856. At 21, he began teaching a class of 72 students the local district school. In 1860, he married Melissa Dalton (1844-1918). In 1860's, Melissa, formerly a student of his, later taught school in the same district.

In Sept. 1862, Baker enlisted in the Second Iowa Cavalry Regiment. The regiment was organized at Davenport August and September 1861, and was posted at Benton Barracks, Mo. until February 1862, and then moved to New Madrid. The regiment took part in the operations at New Madrid, Island No. 10, and advance on and siege of Corinth, Miss., action at Iuka, battle of Corinth, Miss., Grant's Central Mississippi Campaign, operations in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Tennessee. In 1863, Baker spent several months in various hospitals in Missouri and Tennessee. He was honorably discharged in Washington, D.C. in Apr. 1865.

After the war Obadiah E. Baker taught school in Mississippi and then returned to Iowa. In 1874, the Bakers left Iowa for Shasta Co., California. In Shasta and Modoc Counties, Baker taught school, sold farm implements and medicines. In 1900 the Bakers moved to Kenwood. Obadiah E. Baker active in Civil War veteran affairs.

Obadiah and Melissa Baker had four children: a son who died in infancy, daughters Grace Amelia (1870-1876) and Caroline Melissa (1866-1896), and son Milo Samuel (1868-1961), a renowned botanist. In 1881-1887 Caroline and Milo attended San Jose Normal School. During the war, Baker and his wife exchanged journals containing daily letters to each other. In 1870-1880's, while working on a book of memoirs, Obadiah E. Baker made fair copies of some of these letter books.

### **Scope and Content Note**

Civil War: Military operations of the 2 nd Cavalry Regiment on the Western front. Camp life of a Civil War soldier: payments, foraging; drills and inspections, picket duty; roads, recreations, hospitals, medical care; doctors and nurses, especially work of Catholic Sisters of Charity, and Confederate prisoners. Civil War experience and memory as reflected in poetry and reminiscences created in 1860' s-1900.

Baker family: family news; business and financial affairs; Baker's teaching experience.

### **Organization and Arrangement**

The consists of correspondence and individual manuscript volumes and is organized in the following manner:

Box 1: Baker, Obadiah Ethelbert, Journals. 13 pieces.

Box 2 (oversize): Baker, Melissa Dalton, Journal (1862); Baker, Obadiah Ethelbert, Notebooks, Poems, Essays, (1893-1923); Correspondence, 1880- 9 envelopes;

Baker, Obadiah Ethelbert

Baker, Melissa Dalton

Baker family.

United States. Army - Iowa Cavalry Regiments, 2 nd.

Schools - Iowa - 19 th century.

Corinth, Battle of, 1862.

United States - History - Civil War, 1861 - 1865 - Personal narratives.

United States - History - Civil War, 1861 - 1865 - Medical care.

United States - History - Civil War, 1861 - 1865 - Literature and the war.

Iowa - Social life and customs.

Mississippi - Description and travel - Civil War, 1861 - 1865.

Tennessee - Description and travel - Civil War, 1861 - 1865.

Missouri - Description and travel - Civil War, 1861 - 1865.

California - Description and travel.

California - Social life and customs.

Diaries

Letters (correspondence)

Memoirs

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Newspaper clippings  
Photographs  
Poems

Box 1      **Journal No. 11859, Dec. 6 - 1860, Apr. 13, Strawberry Point, Iowa. (ff. 1016) 1862, Apr. 4-7. Manchester, Ten. 1874 1**

**Physical Description:** 29 leaves. Fills half of an 1814cm notebook. The portion of the army diary was added later.

**Scope and Content Note**

Life in Strawberry Point, Iowa: teaching district school; Meetings at Methodist Church; Temperance lecture; Courting Melissa and troubles at school. (ff. 1-26)  
Camp at Manchester, Ten.  
Expenses

Box 1      **Journal No. 2 1862, Sept. 19 - Nov. 5 1A**

**Physical Description:** Fair copy. 74 leaves; fills a 24 20 cm. Notebook.

**Scope and Content Note**

Iuka, Sept. 19-20. Battle of Corinth, Oct. 3-4; pursuit to Ripley, Oct. 5-12; Capture of Ripley and Orizaba, Nov. 2.  
Contains poems Battle of Corinth and After the Battle.

Box 1      **Journal No. 2A 1862, Sept. 16-28 2**

**Physical Description:** Original pocket diary. 15 9 cm.

Box 1      **Journal No. 3 1862, Nov. 6 - Dec. 24 2A**

**Physical Description:** Fair copy 84 leaves 22 18 cm. notebook

**Scope and Content Note**

Grant's Central Mississippi Campaign: LaGrange, Coldwater, Hudsonville, reconnaissance to Holly Springs, Holly Springs, expedition to Ripley, Waterford, Tallahatchie River, Oxford, expedition against Mobile & Ohio RR, Ripley.

Box 1      **Journal No. 3A 1862, Dec. 16-30 3**

**Physical Description:** 18 leaves Original pocket diary

Box 1      **Journal No. 3B 1862, Nov. 5 - Dec. 17 4**

**Physical Description:** 56 leaves 21 17 cm. Composition book.

Box 1      **Journal No. 4 1863, Jan. 23-Mar 17 4A**

**Physical Description:** Fair copy. 41 leaves 21 19 notebook

**Scope and Content Note**

Camp life; hospital in Germantown, Ten.

- Box 1      **Journal No. 5A 1863, May 18 - July 16 5**  
**Physical Description:** Original pocket diary.
- Box 1      **Journal No. 5 1863, Mar. 18 - June 2 4B**  
**Physical Description:** 124 pages 21 17 notebook  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Overton hospital, Memphis, Ten. Catholic Sisters of Charity.  
Lawson hospital, St. Louis, Mo.
- Box 1      **Journal No. 6 1863, June 3 - Sept. 8 6**  
**Physical Description:** Fair copy 152 pages, 21 7 notebook  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Lawson Hospital, St. Louis, Mo.
- Box 1      **Journal No. 7 1863, July 26 - Sept. 7 7**  
**Physical Description:** Original pocket diary
- Box 1      **Journal No. 8 1864, Mar 7 - 31 8**  
**Physical Description:** Original pocket diary
- Box 1      **Journal No. 9A 1864, May 3 - 30 9**  
**Physical Description:** Original pocket diary
- Box 1      **Journal No. 9 1864, May 3 - Aug. 28 10**  
**Physical Description:** Fair copy 21 7 notebook  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Furlough  
Camp at Washington, D.C.
- Box 1      **Journal No. 10 1864, Aug. 3 Sept. 16 11**  
**Physical Description:** Original pocket diary  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Giesboro Point, Va. Washington, D.C.
- Box 1      **Journal No. 10A 1864, Aug. 29 - Dec. 4 12**  
**Physical Description:** Fair copy
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Box 1            **Journal No. 11 1865, Feb. 26 - Apr. 7 13**  
**Physical Description:** Original pocket diary.  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Giesboro Pt. Washington, D.C.

Box 2, Env.# 22 **Baker, Melissa Dalton 1862, Aug. 6-12**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Journal/Letters to Obadiah E. Baker  
Civil War

Box 2, Env.# 18 **1876**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Notebook  
Trip to California

Box 2, Env.# 21 **Baker, Obadiah E. 1878-1910**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Misc. tax receipts

Box 2, Env.# 14 **Baker, Obadiah E. 1891-1897**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Notebook containing poetry and drafts of a Civil War memoir.  
Civil War

Box 2, Env.# 15 **Baker, Obadiah E. 1900, not after**  
Missing!!!  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Notebook

Box 2, Env.# 19 **Baker, Obadiah E. 1900, not after**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Notebook  
Accounts

Box 2, Env.# 17 **Baker, Obadiah E. 1900-1923**  
**Scope and Content Note**  
Notebook containing poetry and drafts of a Civil War memoir.  
Civil War

Box 2, Env.# 16 **Baker, Obadiah E. 1903**

**Scope and Content Note**

Notebook containing poetry and drafts of a Civil War memoir.  
Civil War

Box 2, Env.# 20 **Baker, Obadiah e. 1914, not after**

**Scope and Content Note**

Notebook  
A

Box 2, Env.# 23 **Photographs**

Box 2, Folder# 2 **Baker, Samuel K. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1852, Oct. 25**

**Scope and Content Note**

To John Baker  
Estate of John Baker

Box 2, Folder# 1 **Baker, Obadiah E. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1863-1865**

**Scope and Content Note**

Journal fragments; contains letter to Melissa Baker (6 pieces)  
Civil War

Box 2, Folder# 5 **Baker, John CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1877, Jan. 25**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah and Melissa Baker  
Family news

Box 2, Folder# 6 **Baker, John CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1877, Apr. 15**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah and Melissa Baker  
Family news

Box 2, Folder# 1 **Baker, Obadiah E. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1879, May 4**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Caroline and Melissa Baker  
Family news

Box 2, Folder# 2 **Clark, Mary A. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1879, May 11**

**Scope and Content Note**

To John Baker and Ruth Baker  
Family news

Box 2, Folder# 4 **Baker, David CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1880, Sept. 17**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah E. Baker  
Estate of John Baker

Box 2, Folder# 8 **Baker, Melissa Dalton CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1881, Dec. 11**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah E. Baker  
Family news

Box 2, Folder# 3 **Baker, Caroline Melissa & Baker, Milo Samuel. 3 ALS CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1882-1883**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah E. Baker  
San Jose Normal School

Box 2, Folder# 1 **Baker, Caroline Melissa, Baker, Milo Samuel, and Baker, Melissa Dalton. 6 ALS CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1882-1883**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah E. Baker  
San Jose Normal School

Box 2, Folder# 9 **Baker, Melissa Dalton & Baker, Caroline Melissa, 21 ALS. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1882-1897**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah E. Baker  
San Jose Normal School Family news

Box 2, Folder# 1 **Baker, Caroline Melissa. 9 A.L.S. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1882-1887**

**Scope and Content Note**

Obadiah E. Baker  
San Jose Normal School

Box 2, Folder# 2 **Morley, A.E. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1883, May 7**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah E. Baker (?)

Box 2, Folder# 1 **Baker, Milo Samuel & Baker, Melissa Dalton. 4 A.L.S. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1883-1886**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah E. Baker  
San Jose Normal School

Box 2, Folder# 1 **Baker, Milo Samuel. 5 A.L.S. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1883-1886**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah E. Baker  
San Jose Normal School

Box 2, Folder# 2 **Baker, Caroline Melissa & Baker, Melissa Dalton CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1886, Aug. 16**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah E. Baker  
San Jose Norman School

Box 2, Folder# 1 **Baker, Milo Samuel CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1889, Feb. 3**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Melissa Dalton Baker

Box 2, Folder# 3 **Willard, Frances Elizabeth CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1889, July 1**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Sarah J. Churchill  
Woman's Christian Temperance Union

Box 2, Folder# 2 **Bell, S.G. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1899, Jan. 20**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah E. Baker

Box 2, Folder# 2 **Haylin, N.L. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1899, June 21**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah E. Baker  
Veterans

Box 2, Folder# 3 **Willard, Frances Elizabeth CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS1890(?) Apr. 9**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Sarah J. Churchill  
Woman's Christian Temperance Union

Box 2, Folder# ~~1~~ **Baker, Obadiah E. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS**Ca. 1900

**Scope and Content Note**

Memoir fragments  
Civil War

Box 2, Folder# ~~1~~ **Baker, Obadiah E. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS**1900, not after (1874?)

**Scope and Content Note**

Fragment of journal  
Arkansas

Box 2, Folder# ~~7~~ **Baker, Obadiah E. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS**1900-1918

**Scope and Content Note**

To Milo Samuel Baker

Box 2, Folder# ~~3~~ **Baker, Obadiah E. CORRESPONDENCE AND DOCUMENTS**1877-1910

**Scope and Content Note**

Misc. documents  
Pension certificates, etc

Box 2, Folder# ~~N~~ **ewspaper clipping re: provenance of the Baker papers**

Box 2, Folder# ~~1~~ **Baker, Obadiah E. POEMS AND ESSAYS**1859-1900 (?)

**Scope and Content Note**

Poems

Box 2, Folder# ~~3~~ **Baker, Obadiah E. POEMS AND ESSAYS**1860-1923

**Scope and Content Note**

Poems

Box 2, Folder# ~~2~~ **Baker, Obadiah E. POEMS AND ESSAYS**1860-1923

**Scope and Content Note**

Poems

Box 2, Folder# ~~2~~ **Baker, Obadiah E. POEMS AND ESSAYS**1860-1923

**Scope and Content Note**

Poems

Box 2, Folder# ~~1~~ **Baker, Obadiah E. POEMS AND ESSAYS1860-1923**

**Scope and Content Note**

Poems

Box 2, Folder# ~~2~~ **Baker, Obadiah E. POEMS AND ESSAYS1860-1923**

**Scope and Content Note**

Poems

Box 2, Folder# ~~2~~ **Baker, Obadiah E. POEMS AND ESSAYS1885-1890**

**Scope and Content Note**

Poems

Box 2, Folder# ~~2~~ **Baker, Obadiah E. POEMS AND ESSAYS1900-1923**

**Scope and Content Note**

Poems

Box 2, Folder# ~~3~~ **Baker, Obadiah E. POEMS AND ESSAYS1860's**

**Scope and Content Note**

Misc. essays

School compositions; speeches, articles written for the Strawberry Point newspaper the Crystal Fountain.

Box 2, Folder# ~~ND~~ **POEMS AND ESSAYS**

**Scope and Content Note**

Index to Baker's Civil War Journals

Typescript

Box Envelope **Baker, Obadiah Ethelbert Shasta County, CA Call # 14**

**Scope and Content Note**

Notebook

Poems of the Civil War. Drafts of a Civil War memoir.

1891-1897

Box Envelope **Baker, Obadiah Ethelbert Shasta County, CA Call # 17**

**Scope and Content Note**

Notebook

Poems of the Civil War. Drafts of a Civil War memoir.

1900-1923

Box Envelope **Shasta Co., Cal.** Call # 18

**Scope and Content Note**

Pocket book  
Trip from Strawberry Point, Iowa to Northern California, penned by a relative or friend of Obadiah Baker.  
1876

Box Envelope **Baker, Obadiah Ethelbert Shasta County, CA** Call # 16

**Scope and Content Note**

Notebook  
Poems of the Civil War. Drafts of a Civil War memoir.  
1903

Box Envelope **Baker, Obadiah Ethelbert Shasta Co., Cal.** Call # 19

**Scope and Content Note**

Notebook  
Accounts, etc.  
1903

Box Envelope **Baker, Obadiah Ethelbert Modoc Co., Cal.**

**Scope and Content Note**

Receipts  
Bonds, receipts, mostly re: state and county taxes (Modoc Co., Cal. Report of the Treasurer of the 1st Congregational Church of Las Guilers, CA. Poem: Life's Mystery.  
1878-1910

Box Envelope **Baker, Melissa Dalton 8/6/1862 Strawberry Point, Iowa.** Call # 22

**Scope and Content Note**

Journal  
Letters to Obadiah Baker, War news, pride of my brave and patriotic husband. Poems Also on file: Bakes, Obadiah Ethelbert, To Melissa Dalton Baker. A.L.S. 1862, June 5, 1862.  
1862, Aug. 6-12

Box Envelope **Baker, Obadiah Ethelbert 1914** Call # 20

**Scope and Content Note**

Notebook  
Poems, including "Death of Lincoln"  
Family records  
Roosevelt, Theodore  
Baker family

Box Folder **Baker, Caroline Melissa 10/29/1882 San Jose, Cal. Call # 1**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah Ethelbert Baker  
9 letters School news; paintings,  
1882-1887

Box Folder **Baker, Caroline Melissa 8/16/1886 San Jose, CA Call # 2**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah Ethelbert Baker

Box Folder **Baker, Caroline Melissa, Samuel and Milo 12/10/1882 Call # 3**

**Scope and Content Note**

Obidiah Ethelbert Baker  
3 letters School news  
1882-1883

Box Folder **Baker, David 9/17/1880 Strawberry Hill, Iowa Call # 4**

**Scope and Content Note**

Obadiah Ethelbert Baker  
Estate.

Box Folder **Baker, John 1/25/1877 Strawberry Point, Iowa Call # 5**

**Scope and Content Note**

Obadiah Ethelbert Baker and Melissa Dulton Baker  
Family news

Box Folder **Baker, John 4/15/1877 Strawberry Point, Iowa Call # 5**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah and Melissa Baker  
Family news

Box Folder **Baker, Melissa Dalton Call # 7**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Milo Samuel Baker

Box Folder **Baker, Melissa Dalton 10/11/1881 Call # 8**

**Scope and Content Note**

To Obadiah Ethelbert Baker  
Family news

