

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

<p>Name of collection:</p> <p>Funk Family Correspondence, 1833-c.1860</p>	<p>Location:</p> <p>Misc. mss. boxes "F" Octavo volumes "F"</p>
<p>Size of collection:</p> <p>3 folders; 2 octavo volumes</p>	<p>N.U.C.M.C. number:</p> <p>N.A.</p>
<p>Finding aids: For biographical information see: John W. Wayland, <u>Joseph Funk-- Father of Song in Northern Virginia</u>, (Dayton, Va.: The Ruebush-Kieffer Co., n.d.) and Wayland, <u>A History of Rockingham County Virginia</u>, (Dayton, Va.: Ruebush-Elkins Co., 1912) and Irvin B. Horst, <u>Joseph Funk, Early Mennonite Printer and Publisher</u>, (Reprinted from Mennonite Quarterly Review, Oct., 1957). For genealogical information see: Abraham James Fretz, <u>A Brief History of Bishop Henry Funck and other Funk Pioneers</u>, (Elkhart, Ind.: Mennonite Pub. Co., 1899), pp. 289-308.</p>	
<p>Source of collection:</p> <p>Purchased, c.1932</p>	
<p>Collection Description:</p> <p>Members of the Funk family of Rockingham County, Virginia, represented in this collection are Joseph Funk (1777-1862) and his sons, Joseph (1816-), David (1818-1870), Samuel (1819-), John (1822-), Timothy (1824-1909), Solomon (1825-1880), and Benjamin (1829-).</p> <p>Joseph Funk resided in Singers Glen, near Harrisonburg, Virginia. He was a land owner and farmer, schoolmaster, translator of religious works, the author and publisher of music books and several controversial pamphlets, head of a printing, publishing and bookbinding firm, and a famous itinerant teacher of vocal music. He is credited with having established the first Mennonite printing press in the United States, in 1847.</p> <p>Much of the correspondence concerns business arrangements for the printing and distribution of Joseph Funk's book, <u>A Compilation of Genuine Church Music...</u> It includes letters from men scattered throughout Virginia and bordering states who acted as sales agents for his book. Funk, often teaching music away from home, wrote his sons extensively describing his travels, the schools he taught in, and particularly discussing printing matters. His son Timothy worked in their publishing firm (Joseph Funk and Sons) as a bookbinder, while Solomon, assisted by Benjamin, was the printer. John remained in Rockingham County, farming his land and that of his father. The family correspondence also related local and family news. Benjamin Funk wrote home describing his studies and living conditions while attending Richmond College.</p> <p>The collection also contains numerous letters from Funk's sons, Samuel, David, and Joseph. These pioneers settled in Tennessee, Ohio, and Missouri, respectively.</p>	

Manuscript Collections

Collection description (cont'd.)

Funk Family Correspondence

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In addition to their farming activities, they served as sales agents for their father's publications.

Octavo volume #2 is a letterbook, 1856-1859, of Joseph Funk, Sr., mostly containing extracts of letters concerning business transactions, such as the mailing of music books or arranging for music lessons. There is also personal correspondence. Each entry includes the name and address of the recipient, the date, and a brief summary of the contents.

The collection also contains a manuscript of a pamphlet written by Joseph Funk, Sr., which was apparently never printed. It was a response to a review and refutation of Funk's translation of a religious piece. The pamphlet is entitled "Vindication and Support of Truth in Opposition to Elder John Kline's Strictures and Reply," and was written about 1860.

25 January 1977

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