

C Bundy, S.G. (1836-1917), Autobiography, 1912
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INTRODUCTION

The collection contains an autobiography of a farmer, pioneer, rural school teacher, Union soldier, and Methodist missionary and minister.

DONOR INFORMATION

The State Historical Society of Missouri acquired this collection in an unknown manner (Accession No. 888).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Smith G. Bundy was born on his family's farm near Otego, New York, on 17 February 1836. As a young man Bundy spent several years traveling throughout Wisconsin, Iowa, and Nebraska Territory, trying his hand at farming, trading, and various business ventures.

A protracted illness forced Bundy to return home to New York. He received his teaching certificate soon after and began studying for the ministry while teaching to support himself.

Bundy married Cornelia W. Knapp, also of Otego, on 10 June 1859. After the birth of their first child, Jennifer, a year later, Bundy moved his family to Indiana to manage a friend's stock farm.

By 1861 Bundy was in Ewington, Illinois, teaching and running a small farm. He volunteered for the 62nd Illinois regiment in 1862 but was discharged six months later due to recurring bad health. Bundy returned to Ewington but soon moved to Waupun, Wisconsin.

In 1863 Bundy volunteered for the 32nd Wisconsin. His regiment was sent to Memphis, Tennessee, after training and joined the 17th Corps under General James McPherson. Bundy saw action in Jackson and Meridian, Mississippi; Nashville, Tennessee; Atlanta, Georgia; and South Carolina.

Upon his discharge in 1866, Bundy returned to Waupun and teaching. A year later he moved to Boonville, Missouri, where he served as a missionary to freed blacks. Bundy later moved to Osage County and joined the Missouri Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Between 1872-1875 Bundy ministered to the communities of Salem and West Plains. To augment his income, Bundy also served as principal of the Mountain Grove Academy for two years. He was finally made a full member of the Conference in 1875 and spent the next seventeen years teaching, farming, preaching, and doing missionary work among the Ponca Indians.

Bundy's wife Cornelia was killed during a river crossing in October of 1890, and his daughter's death in childbirth followed a few months later. Bundy sent his three youngest

children to live at the orphanage in York, Nebraska, until his marriage to Alice E. Smith in February 1892. Bundy moved his family back to New York that same year and took over a rural Baptist church.

In 1894 Bundy assumed the management of his father-in-law's farm, remaining a year. He then went on to Rensselaeville but returned to the Smith farm two years later.

Bundy moved back to Otego in 1905. A year later he was off to Schuyler Lake, returning to Otego in June of 1909. The following year he took over the Westville church, retiring a few years later to care for his invalid wife and write his autobiography.

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