

Collection #  
BV 5370

**THE GOLDEN SHEAF,  
25 FEBRUARY 1870**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 Bound Volume.

COLLECTION DATES: 1870

PROVENANCE: Purchased from King V. Hostick, Springfield, Illinois, 1960.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1960.0107

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The exact origins of *The Golden Sheaf* are not known. Students may have put this illustrated literary journal together as school project. Alternatively, it may have been a piece developed by a group of friends. It is unlikely that this was ever meant to be professionally published.

There are four Wayne County schools mentioned in the piece: Fairfield, Frog Pond, Horney's, and Sugar Creek. Of these four, three were mentioned in an 1865 publication about the schools in Wayne County. Each of these schools was recorded as being in Clay Township. The one not listed in that publication, Fairfield, is the origin of this particular work. Though there is no place named Fairfield in Wayne County today, there is a cemetery by that name in the Greens Fork area of Clay Township. It is believed that this is the geographic area in which the publication was created. Notations within the West Grove Monthly Meeting for the Society of Friends (Quaker) records also note the location of their meeting as Fairfield. The West Grove Monthly Meeting was originally part of the Whitewater Monthly Meeting and was set off from that meeting in 1818. The name of West Grove later changed to the Centerville Monthly Meeting. This meeting was laid down, meaning disbanded, in 1985.

It is difficult to determine who the editor, Miss R.E.G., and the illustrator, J.W.B., are given the use of initials only. For some of those with full names provided in the publication, research indicates that they typically ranged in age from their mid to late teens. Many of the names also appear in Society of Friends records, mostly in connection to the West Grove Monthly Meeting. Information was uncovered about many of the names listed.

Samuel and Maggie [Margaret] Clawson, born in 1852 and 1854, were siblings. Their parents were Josiah and Sarah Clawson. They were about seventeen and fifteen respectively at the time *The Golden Sheaf* was produced. Records indicate that the family was members of the West Grove Monthly Meeting in Wayne County.

Frank [Francis] and Ella [Ellen] Dean, born about 1852 and 1854, were siblings. They were the children of William and Sarah Dean. There are indications that this family may have also been associated with the West Grove Monthly Meeting.

Oscar Baker, son of Jacob and Viletta, was fifteen at the time the publication was produced having been born in 1854. It is unclear if the Baker family were members of the Society of Friends.

Hannah Albertson, daughter to Ellwood and Mary, was born in 1856. She was fourteen at the time of publication. The Albertsons were members of the West Grove Monthly Meeting.

Tenis Adkinson [John Tennis Atkinson] was born in 1850 and was nineteen at the time *The Golden Sheaf* was produced. He was the son of William Henry and Rachel Atkinson. It is unclear if his family were members of the Society of Friends.

John and Emma Martindale, another pair of siblings, were twenty and seventeen. They were the children of James and Lydia Martindale and members of the West Grove Monthly Meeting living in Fairfield.

Alpheus [James Alpheus] Baldwin was born in 1854, the son of Jonathan and Mary Ann Baldwin. The family was members of the West Grove Monthly Meeting. Alpheus Baldwin and Emma Martindale married in 1872.

Ollie Burdsol [Olive Burdsal] was born in 1854, the daughter of Aaron and Sarah. It is unclear if her family were members of the Society of Friends.

Josephine [Joe or Josie] Harris was born in 1856 to Allen and Rebecca Harris. It is unclear if her family were members of the Society of Friends. However, she and her husband, William H. Coffin, and three of their children are listed in a record book for the West Gove Monthly Meeting, though they moved to the Spiceland Monthly Meeting prior to their deaths.

John Coffin was born in 1848, to William H. and Sarah Coffin. He was a member of the West Grove Monthly Meeting with his family. He was the brother of William H. Coffin, born in 1850, though William was not mentioned in the publication, he married Josephine Harris.

Alphus [sometimes Alpheus] Williams was the son of Solomon and Margaret Williams. He was born in 1851, making him nineteen at the time this piece was created. He was a member of the West Gove Monthly Meeting.

#### Sources:

J.C. Power, editor, *Directory and Soldiers' Register of Wayne County, Indiana*, Richmond, Ind.: W.H. Lanthurn & Company, 1865.

*Indiana Yearly Meeting Records* [finding aid], Friends Collection and Earlham College Archives,  
<https://archives.earlham.edu/index.php?p=collections/findingaid&id=541&q=&rootcontentid=55020>, accessed 28 June 2018.

*What do Quakers mean when they say...?*  
<http://www.chapelhillfriends.org/popups/glossary.html>, accessed 28 June 2018.

*Quaker Records*, accessed through Ancestry Library edition, accessed 23 June 2018.

*1860 United States Census*, accessed through Ancestry Library edition, accessed 23 June 2018.

*1870 United States Census*, accessed through Ancestry Library edition, accessed 23 June 2018.

Findagrave.com, accessed 23 June 2018.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains one manuscript copy of *The Golden Sheaf*. This is noted as the first volume of an illustrated literary journal published in Fairfield, Indiana, February 25, 1870. It is thought that this may have been produced as a class project due to the ages of the contributors at the time of its production. Furthering this notion, there is a poem included about "Teacher Nellie." A variety of papers have been used in the construction of the piece as well, with one section created on a different size paper altogether. This is an illustrated piece with cover art and a few additional drawings inside, some color was used in the illustrations. The volume is bound by a dark blue silk ribbon which has a gold band (similar to a wedding ring) tied to it.

*The Golden Sheaf* was edited by Miss R.E.G. and illustrated by J.W.B., and though it cannot be determined what these initialisms stand for, there are many other names throughout the work. A full list of the names included in this work are as follows: Waldo Halido, Jess Warner, Dorothy Fernle, Lili Price, Sam Clawson, Ella Dean, Oscar Baker, Hannah Albertson, Tenis Adkinson, Maggie Clawson, Emma Martindale, Lin Clawson, Frank Dean, Alpheus Baldwin, Ollie Burdsol, Byron Coffin, Joe Harris, John Coffin, John Martindale, John Coffin, Josephine Harris, and Alphas Williams. There are some spelling errors within the names, which was discovered during research into the contributors and those mentioned.

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*The Golden Sheaf*

CONTAINER

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