

Collection #
M 0258
BV 1798–1803
OMB 0027
F 0342–0350, 0690–0717

**WILLIAM HENRY SMITH
PAPERS, 1836–1922 (BULK 1855–1895)**

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Processed by

Paul Brockman

9 November 2000

Revised 3 July 2002; 18 August 2005

Visual Material Processed by

Dorothy Nicholson

8 September 2005, August 2018

Manuscript Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	17 manuscript boxes, 6 bound volumes, 1 oversize box, 37 reels of microfilm, 1 box of photographs, 3 oversize photographs
COLLECTION DATES:	Inclusive 1836–1922 (bulk 1855–95)
PROVENANCE:	Delavan Smith, Indianapolis, 1922 Unknown
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	Microfilm
RELATED HOLDINGS:	William Henry Smith letters in Hayes Memorial Library, Fremont, Ohio, 1867–93 (F 0342); Delevan Smith Papers (M 0255); Charles W. Fairbanks Papers (M 0100); Harlow Lindley Collection (M 0186)
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1922.0001, 0000.0553
NOTES:	

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Henry Smith (1833–96) was a journalist, businessman, and historian. He began his journalism career as reporter and editor for the Cincinnati newspapers *Type of the Times*, *Commerican*, and *Gazette*, 1855–63. In 1869 Smith became general manager of the Western Associated Press based in Chicago and in 1883 the news service was merged with the Associated Press. Smith was general manager of the Associated Press until 1892 when he and Charles W. Fairbanks acquired the *Indianapolis News*. Smith remained part owner of the paper until his death four years later. Smith's son, Delavan, served as publisher of the paper from 1896–1922. William Henry Smith also served as treasurer of the Mergenthaler Printing Company.

Smith was involved in establishing the Republican Party in Cincinnati and was secretary to Ohio Governor John Brough from 1863–64. In 1864 he served as Ohio's secretary of state. A political ally of Rutherford B. Hayes and a member of the reform wing of the Republican Party, Smith participated in negotiations for electoral votes in the 1876 election. His political loyalty was rewarded when he was appointed collector of customs for the Port of Chicago from 1877–82.

An avid historian, William Henry Smith was editor of the *St. Clair Papers* (1882) and author of the *Political Economy of Slavery* (published in 1903). He also worked on an unpublished biography of Rutherford B. Hayes. His work was used in the biography by his son-in-law, Charles R. Williams.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers are composed primarily of Smith's business, political, and historical correspondence from 1855–95. Included is correspondence relating to his newspaper work in Cincinnati and Ohio (1850s–60s); the Western Associated Press and its relationships with its member newspapers and press services such as the New York Associated Press and the United Press. Other correspondence deals with Smith's interest in the Mergenthaler Printing Company, the developer of the linotype machine in the 1880s.

Smith's political papers include correspondence regarding the Republican Party in Ohio (1850s–60s) as well as his involvement in Rutherford B. Hayes' 1876 presidential campaign and the negotiations for electoral votes. There also are papers dealing with his position as collector of customs in Chicago and his role in the reform wing of the Republican Party (1870s–80s). Also contained within Smith's papers are letters from James A. Garfield to Rutherford B. Hayes (June 1880–June 1881).

Among Smith's historical papers are correspondence with bookdealers and publishers regarding his research, particularly relating to Arthur St. Clair and Rutherford B. Hayes. The Hayes research includes draft chapters of his biography. There also are transcripts of historical documents collected by Smith for his research, including letters of Henry Bouquet, Henry Clay, James Monroe, Arthur St. Clair, and Thomas Worthington. Other correspondence includes that regarding his efforts to obtain historical documents in Washington, D.C., and Europe. Also contained are Smith's research notes and a transcript of Thomas C. Donaldson's journal describing life in Washington, D.C., in the 1870s.

Smith's papers also contain personal and family correspondence, including letters from his wife and children as well as friends in Lake Forest, Illinois, and letters from his son-in-law, Charles R. Williams, one of the editors of the *Indianapolis News* and the person who completed his biography of Hayes. There also are personal business papers and accounts.

The microfilm (Series 15) generally includes all collection materials except the following, which come from boxes 13–16: Articles, speeches, transcripts of historical letters and other writings of William Henry Smith (box 26 old); Notes and draft of biography of Rutherford B. Hayes, including transcripts of Rutherford B. Hayes and John Sherman letters (box 27 old); Notes and draft of biography of Rutherford B. Hayes (box 28 old); Miscellaneous historical writing (box 29 old); Notes and writings on history and miscellaneous shorthand notes and quotations (box 30 old); Typescript journal of Thomas C. Donaldson relating to the administration of Rutherford B. Hayes (box 31 old); Daybook of W.H. Smith, 1874–1876 (BV 1798); Subscription of stock in a company for the manufacture of the Mergenthaler Typesetting and Casting Machine. Opened, December 1885 (BV 1799); Account book of Delavan Smith, Executor of the William Henry Smith Estate, 1896–1898 (BV 1800); Western Associated Press Account Book, 1891–1892 (BV 1801); and "Index Rerum" (Index of quotations), 2 vols. (BV 1802, 1803).

The visual materials (Series 16) consist of cartes de visite, cabinet cards, and tintypes of identified and unidentified portraits, probably family members and friends of Smith.

Because there was no order to the visual materials the processor established the arrangement. Those that are identified have been arranged alphabetically by name. Many of the handwritten names are unclear and in these cases the processor has placed a question mark after the name. The location of the photographer's studio has also been listed after the person's name when it was printed on the photographs. Following the identified individuals are the unidentified portraits arranged alphabetically by the state listed on the front or verso of the cartes de visite and cabinet cards. Many of the photographs were taken by the same photographers. Three prominent photographers were found among the cartes de visite; Alexander Gardner, Matthew Brady, and J.P. Ball the African American photographer. Lastly are the photographs with no written or printed information.

The oversized photographs consist of one portrait of William Henry Smith, one portrait identified as Emma Almira Smith?, and one image of the Civil War prison, Camp Chase in Columbus, Ohio. A few men can be seen outside the buildings, the camp is surrounded by trees and two rows of fencing. It is not known when the image was taken.

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- Personal business papers, mostly receipts for household goods. Also, Ohio state government printed items, 1864–67; Chicago Customs House Papers; Documents signed by Salmon P. Chase and John Forsyth F 0713
- Pamphlets: Reports, by-laws, circulars and minutes of the Western Associated Press, 1867–93. Proceedings of the Western Associated Press, 1870–90 F 0714
- Pamphlets: Proceedings of the Western Associated Press, 1890–91. Reports, by-laws and proceedings of the Associated Press and the New York Associated Press, 1871–91 F 0715
- Pamphlets: Reports, proceedings and other publications of local press associations, including General News Association of New York (1874), Kansas and Missouri Associated Press (1883), Northwestern Associated Press (1869), Southern Associated Press (1873, 1887), Trans-Mississippi Associated Press (1886), Wisconsin Press Association (1888, 1890), United Press (1891). Government documents, company reports and other publications relating to the telegraph and government regulation of the telegraph companies, 1869–72 F 0716
- Pamphlets: Government Reports, 1872–90. *Facts vs. Lies. With an incidental forecast as to the outcome of the contest between the press associations.* 1895. *The Journalist*, September 1896, which includes obituary for William Henry Smith F 0717

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1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0258).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.