

## **Guest Register of the Union Inn, aka Indianapolis Hotel, 1833**

*Patricia Shires Orr*

Two guest registers from the Union Inn in Indianapolis are part of the John Elder Papers in the Indiana Historical Society William Henry Smith Memorial Library.<sup>1</sup> Guests signed these registers from November 1833 to April 1836. The registers, originally kept by Elder and Joseph Mathers and later by Elder alone, indicate that the hotel was a busy place. From the first entry on November 24, 1833, to the last on April 6, 1836, the registers contain more than 4,600 signatures (several guests stayed at the hotel more than once). Most guests were from Indiana. A few were from other states, one from as far away as Connecticut.

The registers are a source of genealogical data for those fortunate enough to find an ancestor's name in their pages. At a minimum they establish the ancestor's presence in a specific place and time and provide a copy of his or her signature. When a guest added a remark, the researcher may uncover that person's occupation, political leanings, or reason for the trip to Indianapolis.

The register pages are divided into nine columns with the headings (reading from left to right): arrival date, guest's name, meal taken, room number, place of residence, destination, departure date, registration number (sequential through the registers with 1 to 4,082, followed by a few unnumbered entries, in the first volume and 4,114 to 4,663 in the second volume), and remarks. The "remarks" column is undoubtedly the most interesting. Many guests left no remarks, and some who did simply commented on the weather or the poor condition of the roads. As the 1836 election drew near, more guests felt compelled to identify their chosen candidates or to express their political sentiments. One entry, however, stands out as especially poignant. Opposite registration number 1,879, dated December 10, 1834, is the following: "John Bobbs son of Catherine Bobbs clothes caught fire died & buried on the 12<sup>th</sup> inst."

The 209 register entries for 1833 have been transcribed and are listed below.<sup>2</sup> To facilitate locating a name and to save space, the names have been alphabetized, the columns rearranged, and the "meal taken" and "room number" columns eliminated.

[This introduction has been abridged from “The Union Inn, aka Indianapolis Hotel, Indianapolis, 1821 to 1836,” by Patricia Shires Orr, which originally appeared in *The Hoosier Genealogist: Connections*, volume 46, issue 4.]

1. Family Papers, 1820–1908, M 0093, BV 0257–0259a, Indiana Historical Society. This collection consists of three document boxes of letters to and from John Elder and his family, one document box of architectural material, and four bound volumes pertaining to the Union Inn.
2. There are 211 registration numbers for 1833, but two have no entries.

*Patricia Shires Orr, formerly a corporate librarian, became interested in genealogy several years ago and is currently working on the Orr family lines. As a former THG volunteer, she authored numerous articles and proofread transcribed source material for the journal and also maintained the THG exchange database.*

NAME	REG. NO.	ARRIVAL DATE	PLACE OF RESIDENCE	DESTINATION	DEPARTURE DATE	REMARKS
	56	12/03/1833	Jefferson City [MO]	Left	12/03/1833	
	82	12/06/1833				
	119	12/08/1833		Home	12/10/1833	
[---]	104	12/08/1833	East	Left	12/09/1833	
[---]rest, Fielding	105	12/08/1833	East	Left	12/09/1833	
Adams, A.	72	12/04/1833	Perry County [PA]	Home	12/05/1833	
Adams, Jessie	76	12/04/1833	Rush County	Left	12/05/1833	
Alcorn, Mr.	193	12/26/1833	Indianapolis	Left	12/31/1833	
Allcorn, [Mr.?)	195	12/27/1833	Indianapolis	Left	12/31/1833	
Allgier	47	12/02/1833	Cincinnati	Home	12/12/1833	
Allison, C.	75	12/04/1833	Marion	Home	12/05/1833	
Amsden, John	1	11/24/1833	Hamilton [OH]	Left	11/27/1833	
Anderson, George W.	68	12/04/1833	Indianapolis	Cincinnati	12/05/1833	
Atwood, A.	43	12/01/1833	Johnson	Home	12/02/1833	
Ball, Zopher	165	12/21/1833	Montgomery Co.	East	12/21/1833	

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NAME	REG. NO.	ARRIVAL DATE	PLACE OF RESIDENCE	DESTINATION	DEPARTURE DATE	REMARKS
Beck, James	78	12/05/1833	Elkhart County	East	12/05/1833	
Beck, James	142*	12/11/1833	Elkhart Co.	Home	12/12/1833	
Bennett, Wm. H.	37	12/01/1833	Union	Home	02/04/1834	Once Clay, now for any quald western man
Berry, William	110	12/08/1833	Bloomington	Home	12/11/1833	
Black, M. C.	137	12/09/1833	Fountain Co.	Home	12/12/1833	
Blankinship, J. W.	6	11/24/1833	Mooreville	Home	11/[---]/1833	
Bond, Mr.	182	12/24/1833	East	Left Christmas	12/25/1833	
Boothe	60	12/03/1833	Logansport	Left	12/03/1833	
Borone, D. B.	22	11/29/1833	Middletown [OH]	Indianapolis		
Borone, D. B.	77	12/04/1833	Lexington [KY]	Fort Wayne	12/06/1833	Member of Pottersfield
Browne, D. B.	62	12/03/1833	Middletown	Lexington, KY	12/06/1833	
Brigham, E.	187	12/25/1833	Galena	N. York	12/27/1833	
Busby, John	83	12/06/1833	Madison County	Home	12/06/1833	
Cambel, Mr.	189	12/25/1833	Jefferson Co.	Logansport, In	12/28/1833	
Campbell, Joseph	17	11/29/1833	Martinsville	Home	12/04/1833	
Carney, G. M.	49	12/02/1833	Morgan County	Home	12/03/1833	
Carol, Wm. H.	63	12/03/1833	[KY]	Home	12/04/1833	
Clearwaters, Thos	177	12/22/1833	Franklin Co.	West	12/23/1833	
Cline, J. G.	5	11/24/1833	Mooreville	Home	11/25/1833	
Cline, Wm. C.	3	11/24/1833	Mooreville	Left	11/30/1833	
Clopen, Jas.	190	12/25/1833	Greenfield	Home	12/26/1833	
Cogswell, F. B.	113	12/08/1833	Hamilton County	Home	12/10/1833	
Coldwell	61	12/03/1833	Logansport	Left	12/03/1833	
Cole, A. B.	198	12/27/1833	Noblesville	Home	12/28/1833	
[Colwell?], A. N.	96	12/08/1833	Urbana [OH]	Home	12/10/1833	
Craft, Mr.	201	12/29/1833	Vincennes	Left		
Crane, Mr.	122	12/08/1833	Jackson Co.	Left	12/10/1833	
Crews, Jonathan	29	11/30/1833	Boon [sic] County	Left	12/01/1833	
Cromwell, O.	128	12/09/1833	Gospport, Owen Co.	Left	12/10/1833	

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NAME	REG. NO.	ARRIVAL DATE	PLACE OF RESIDENCE	DESTINATION	DEPARTURE DATE	REMARKS
Deford, Wm.	210	12/30/1833	Indianapolis			
[Depera?], B.	125	12/08/1833	Paoli	South	12/12/1833	
Dickson, Amos	139	12/10/1833	Sugar Creek, Shelby Co.	Home	12/11/1833	
Dobson, D. M.	66	12/03/1833	[TN]	Left	12/04/1833	
Dobson, D. M.	109	12/08/1833	Bloomfield	Home	12/10/1833	
Duford, Wm.	27	11/30/1833	Indianapolis	Left	12/17/1833	
[Duning], Wm.	127	12/09/1833	Gospport, Owen Co.	Left	12/10/1833	
Ellison, Charles	172	12/21/1833	Marion Co.	Home	12/22/1833	
Ellison, Maj.	180	12/24/1833	Marion Co.	Home	12/25/1833	
[Erwai?], John W.	102	12/08/1833	Richmond	Home	12/11/1833	
Evans, W.	46	12/02/1833	Cincinnati	Home	12/12/1833	
Ewing, Wm.	142*	12/11/1833	Indianapolis	Left	12/13/1833	
Ewing, Wm.	155	12/16/1833	Indianapolis	Mooreville	12/20/1833	
Ewing, Wm.	204	12/29/1833	Indianapolis	Left	12/30/1833	
Fearnby, John	194	12/27/1833	Indianapolis			
Ferguson, Thos. J.	176	12/22/1833	Boon [sic] County	Brookville	12/23/1833	
Ferguson, Wm.	175	12/22/1833	Boon [sic] County	Brookville	12/23/1833	
Finch, Mr.	126	12/08/1833		Home	12/11/1833	
Fix, Henry	184	12/25/1833	Clark Co.	Home	12/26/1833	
Fix, Wm.	185	12/25/1833	Jefferson	Home	12/26/1833	
Foster, David	7	11/24/1833	Mooreville	Home	11/30/1833	
Francis, Willis	161	12/17/1833	Sugar Creek, Shelby Co.	Home	12/18/1833	
Frasier, A.	129	12/09/1833	Gospport, Owen Co.	Left	12/10/1833	
Frazer, Jno.	103	12/08/1833	Richmond	Home	12/11/1833	
Furgeson, G.	35	12/01/1833	Union	Home	02/04/1834	Members of Legislature
Gapen, Eli	10	11/25/1833	Raysville	Home	12/05/1833	
Gar[---]m, Tho.	170	12/21/1833	Bluffs	Home	12/22/1833	
Garrigus, T.	136	12/09/1833	Park [sic] Co.	Home	12/10/1833	
[Gea---m?], James C.	18	11/29/1833	Martinsville	Home	11/30/1833	
Goble, E.	84	12/06/1833	Henry County	Home	12/06/1833	
Goodman, William L.	98	12/08/1833	Lafayette	Left	12/08/1833	

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<b>Goodwin,</b> Moses	80	12/05/1833	Union County	Home	12/05/1833	
<b>Goodwin,</b> Moses	88	12/07/1833	Marion County	Left	12/08/1833	
<b>Goodwin,</b> Moses	124	12/08/1833	Union County	Danville Hen- drix [ <i>sic</i> ] Co.	12/19/1833	
<b>Goodwin,</b> Moses	153	12/15/1833	Union County	Left	12/16/1833	
<b>Goodwin,</b> Moses	162	12/18/1833	Union County	Left	12/19/1833	
<b>Goodwin,</b> Moses	174	12/22/1833	Union Co.	North	12/23/1833	Maj. Jack Downing Prest.
<b>Goodwin,</b> Moses	183	12/24/1833	Union Co.	East	12/26/1833	Maj. Jack Downing Prest.
<b>Goodwin, Mr.</b>	169	12/21/1833	Union Co.	East	12/21/1833	Collector
<b>Graham, [---]</b>	40	12/01/1833	Bedford	Home	12/03/1833	
<b>Grove, George B.</b>	13	11/26/1833	Greencastle	Home	11/27/1833	
<b>Gyner, William</b>	117	12/08/1833	Greenfield	Home	12/10/1833	
<b>Hadley</b>	48	12/02/1833	Cincinnati	Home	12/03/1833	
<b>Hall, John</b>	166	12/21/1833	Montgomery Co.	East	12/21/1833	
<b>Hall, Moses</b>	108	12/08/1833	Bloomington	Home	12/12/1833	
<b>Harman, David</b>	121	12/08/1833	LaPorte	Home	12/10/1833	
<b>Harrison, Wm.</b>	140	12/10/1833	Harrison Co.	White River, Marion Co.	12/11/1833	
<b>Hart, J. B.</b>	207	12/29/1833	Greenfield	Home	01/01/1834	Clay
<b>Hattan, Gen<sup>l</sup> M.</b>	45	12/01/1833	Bridgeport	Left	12/02/1833	
<b>Hattan, Genl M.</b>	107	12/08/1833	Bridgeport, Marion County	Home	12/12/1833	
<b>Haynes, John</b>	50	12/02/1833	Marion County	Left	12/03/1833	
<b>Henderson, Thos.</b>	38	12/01/1833	Union	Indianapolis	12/10/1833	
<b>Herrin, John</b>	167	12/21/1833	Fountain County	East	12/21/1833	
<b>Hoover, Hiram</b>	100	12/08/1833	Richmond	Home	12/10/1833	
<b>Huffman, Jonas</b>	52	12/02/1833	Marion County	Home	12/05/1833	
<b>Hughey, James</b>	130	12/09/1833	Strawtown, Hamilton Co.	Home	12/10/1833	

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Hunt, Jonathan	67	12/04/1833	Mooreville	Home	12/05/1833	
Irving, Joseph	2	11/24/1833	Middleboro [OH]	Left	11/27/1833	
Jackson, [M.?)	91	12/08/1833	Tippecanoe County	Indianapolis Home	12/11/1833	VanBurin [sic]
Jackson, A.	8	11/24/1833	Mooreville	Home	11/30/1833	
Johnson, A.	71	12/04/1833	Perry County [PA]		12/05/1833	
Jones, Master	197	12/27/1833	Greenfield	Indianapolis	12/30/1833	
Jones, Richd. K.	196	12/27/1833	Greenfield	Home	12/30/1833	
[K?]arvy, A.	156	12/16/1833	Montgomery	Richmond, Indiana	12/17/1833	
Kendle, Logan	147	12/13/1833	Rush Co.	Home	12/15/1833	
[Kiroyer?], Valentine	51	12/02/1833	Marion County	Left	12/03/1833	
[Lamax], Joseph	101	12/08/1833	Wayne	Home	12/10/1833	
Langster, George	24	11/29/1833	Marion County	Left	11/30/1833	
Leathers, James M.	4	11/24/1833	Mooreville	Home	12/05/1833	
Lee, Josiah	30	11/30/1833	Rush County	Wabash	12/01/1833	
Lenen, Saml.	149	12/14/1833	Hamilton Co.	Home	12/14/1833	
[Lenron?], John M.	120	12/08/1833	LaPorte	Home	12/10/1833	
Leviston, [J.?)	36	12/01/1833	Union	Home	02/04/1834	Members of Legislature
Lewis	58	12/03/1833	Vevay	Left	12/03/1833	
Lewis	59	12/03/1833	Vevay	Left	12/03/1833	
Long, Robert	146	12/12/1833	Indianapolis	Left	12/20/1833	
Long, Robt.	200	12/29/1833	Indianapolis	Left	01/02/1834	
M[---]aught, John M.	115	12/08/1833	Logansport	East	12/10/1833	
Macy, Esqr	54	12/02/1833	Henry County	Home	12/05/1833	
Malcrief, Mr.	188	12/25/1833	Jefferson Co.	Logansport, In	12/28/1833	
Mangham, W. G.	106	12/08/1833		Left	12/09/1833	
Martin, Benj.	42	12/01/1833	Bedford [PA]	Home	12/02/1833	
McCane, James A.	133	12/09/1833	Greenfield	Home	12/11/1833	

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McCarty, Benj.	55	12/02/1833	LaPorte County	Left	12/03/1833	
McCarty, Benj.	211	12/31/1833	Laporte	Left	12/31/1833	
McCarty, E.	34	12/01/1833	Franklin	Home	02/04/1834	Members of Legislature
McCormick, Jos.	93	12/08/1833	Fountain	Home	12/12/1833	VanBuren
McCoy, Mr.	179	12/24/1833	Marion Co.	Home	12/25/1833	
McCulloch, Saml.	150	12/14/1833	Delaware Co.	Home	12/15/1833	
McIntire, Robt.	92	12/08/1833	Fountain	Home	12/12/1833	VanBuren
[McQuirty?], Hiram M.	132	12/09/1833	Boon [ <i>sic</i> ] County	Home	12/10/1833	
McRae, C. B.	206	12/29/1833	Greenfield	Home	01/01/1834	Clay
[Merryorder?], Roberts	154	12/15/1833	Fayette County	Left	12/19/1833	
Mill, [B. ?]	186	12/25/1833	Galena	Washington Cty.	12/27/1833	
Miller, W.	131	12/09/1833	Greenfield	Left	12/10/1833	
Mills, H.	57	12/03/1833	Jefferson City [MO]	Left	12/03/1833	
Milner, J.	39	12/01/1833	Tazwell [ <i>sic</i> ] County [IL]	Pennsylvania	12/02/1833	Seven cities claimed the honour of the m[---]able Poet (Homer)
[Milsoy?], Saml.	114	12/08/1833	Delphis	Home	12/11/1833	
Mitchell, Robert	135	12/09/1833	Park [ <i>sic</i> ] Co.	Home	12/10/1833	
Monroe, Henry C.	44	12/01/1833	Washington	Left	12/02/1833	What is the meaning of Pandora and her Box---
Morland, John	21	11/29/1833	Yankeetown	Shelbyville	12/08/1833	
Morris, Wm.	15	11/27/1833	Mooreville	Home	11/27/1833	
Nalls, Mr.	145	12/12/1833	Indianapolis	Left	12/13/1833	
Nees, Wm.	134	12/09/1833	Union Co.	Home	12/10/1833	
Nelson, Daniel	97	12/08/1833	Lafayette	Home	12/11/1833	
Noble, [Benj. ?]	31	12/01/1833	Brookville	Indianapolis		
North, D. G.	12	11/26/1833	Mooreville	Home	11/29/1833	
North, D. G.	41	12/01/1833	Mooreville	Home	12/03/1833	
[Pattan?], S.	111	12/08/1833	Bloomington	Home	12/11/1833	

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Patton, Perry	116	12/08/1833		Left	12/09/1833	
Payne, Benj.	144	12/11/1833	Indianapolis	Left	12/13/1833	
Payne, Benj.	157	12/17/1833	Indianapolis	Left	12/20/1833	
Payne, Benj.	168	12/21/1833	Indianapolis	South	12/22/1833	
Payne, Benj.	192	12/26/1833	Indianapolis	Bridgeport, Ind.	01/02/1834	
Payne, J. L.	23	11/29/1833	Bloomington	Left	11/30/1833	
Payne, J. L.	26	11/30/1833	Bloomington	Left	12/03/1833	
Pence, Peter	65	12/03/1833	Shelbyville	Home	12/04/1833	
Pence, Peter	199	12/27/1833	Shelby Co.	Laport <i>[sic]</i>	12/28/1833	Very sick tonight
Philips, Abram	171	12/21/1833	Boon <i>[sic]</i> County	Home	12/22/1833	
Probasco, G. W.	20	11/29/1833	Middletown	Left	12/13/1833	
Probasco, G. W.	151	12/14/1833	Middletown [OH]	Left	12/18/1833	
Ray, Martin M.	79	12/05/1833	Wayne	Left	12/07/1833	
Ray, Saml.	86	12/07/1833	Marion	Left	12/07/1833	
Reagan, Jesse	53	12/02/1833	Marion County	Home	12/05/1833	
Reece, John	148	12/13/1833	Mooreville	Home	12/14/1833	
Reece, Mr.	159	12/17/1833	Henry County	Left	12/18/1833	
Reid, Col.	33	12/01/1833	Franklin	Home	02/04/1834	Members of Legislature
Reid, Daniel	99	12/08/1833	Richmond	Home	12/10/1833	
Remy, John T.	85	12/07/1833	Franklin County	Left	12/07/1833	
[Rhine?], Abraham	123	12/08/1833	Hancock	Left	12/09/1833	
Richard, J. W.	9	11/24/1833	Mooreville	Home	11/30/1833	
Russell, [---ecal]	19	11/29/1833	Martinsville	Home	11/30/1833	
Sailor, Jacob	152	12/14/1833	Carroll Co.	Home	12/15/1833	
Sample, James	74	12/04/1833	Hancock County	Home	12/05/1833	
Scott, John	28	11/30/1833	Hamilton County	Home	12/01/1833	
Scott, John	163	12/20/1833	Logansport	North Country		Col. R. J. Johnson President
Shealey, Joseph	203	12/29/1833	Shelby Co.	Indianapolis	12/30/1833	



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<b>Shirley, Mr.</b>	25	11/30/1833	Marion County	Home	12/01/1833	
<b>Smiley, Thomas</b>	94	12/08/1833	Tippecanoe County	Left	12/10/1833	VanBuren
<b>Snow, Martin</b>	202	12/29/1833	Shelby Co.	Indianapolis	[12/1833?]	For Maj. Jack Downing
<b>St. John, Mr.</b>	138	12/10/1833		Home	12/10/1833	
<b>Stewart, Jacob</b>	32	12/01/1833	Brookville	Home	12/31/1833	
<b>Stout, Mr.</b>	191	12/25/1833	Jefferson Co.	Logansport, In	12/28/1833	
<b>Strong, A.</b>	73	12/04/1833	Marion	Home	12/05/1833	
<b>Strong, Mr.</b>	89	12/08/1833	Marion County	Madison	12/08/1833	
<b>Tarrence, Wm.</b>	64	12/03/1833		Home	12/04/1833	
<b>Terrell, A.</b>	14	11/26/1833	Dayton [OH]			
<b>Troxel, G.</b>	208	12/29/1833	Greenfield	Home	12/31/1833	Clay
<b>Tynen, Lewis</b>	118	12/08/1833	Greenfield	Home	12/10/1833	
<b>Waggoner, Mr.</b>	90	12/08/1833	Marion County	Madison	12/08/1833	
<b>Walls, [Mr. ?]</b>	158	12/17/1833	Indianapolis	Left	12/20/1833	
<b>Walls, [Mr. ?]</b>	181	12/24/1833	Marion Co.	Bellville, Indiana	01/02/1834	
<b>Watson, Joseph</b>	69	12/04/1833		East	12/05/1833	
<b>Welch, Benj.</b>	164	12/21/1833	Montgomery Co.	East	12/21/1833	
<b>White, W. B.</b>	95	12/08/1833	Fountain	Home	12/12/1833	Jackson during good behavior
<b>Wickersham, James</b>	160	12/17/1833	Laporte [ <i>sic</i> ]	Wilmington, Ohio	12/18/1833	
<b>Wilkinson, Daniel</b>	209	12/30/1833	Nightstown [ <i>sic</i> ]	Home	12/30/1833	
<b>Williams, A.</b>	141	12/10/1833	Johnson Co.	Home	12/11/1833	
<b>Williams, Mr.</b>	16	11/28/1833	Mooreville	Home	12/05/1833	
<b>Williams, Mr.</b>	173	12/21/1833	Noblesville	Home	12/22/1833	
<b>Willson, [Lesser?]</b>	112	12/08/1833	Hamilton County	Home	12/10/1833	
<b>Wilson, James</b>	70	12/04/1833	Vigo County	East	12/05/1833	
<b>Wilson, Joseph</b>	87	12/07/1833	Marion	Home	12/08/1833	
<b>[Winn?], Jesse G.</b>	81	12/06/1833	[VA]	Home	12/06/1833	
<b>[Wins?], Josh</b>	178	12/23/1833	Richmond, Wayne County	Home	12/24/1833	Jno. M. Lane Prest.

<b>NAME</b>	<b>REG. NO.</b>	<b>ARRIVAL DATE</b>	<b>PLACE OF RESIDENCE</b>	<b>DESTINATION</b>	<b>DEPARTURE DATE</b>	<b>REMARKS</b>
<b>Woodyard, H. M.</b>	205	12/29/1833	Greenfield	Home	01/01/1834	Clay
<b>Wyatt, E. S.</b>	11	11/25/1833	Hamilton County	Home	11/26/1833	

\* There are two registration numbers 142, but no registration number 143.

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