

Collection #
OM 0601

**ABRAHAM LINCOLN
PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION POLL BOOK,
NOVEMBER 1860**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 oversize manuscript folder
COLLECTION DATES:	1860
PROVENANCE:	Cowan's Auctions, Inc., 2015
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None
RELATED HOLDINGS:	
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2015.0412
NOTES:	

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The presidential election of 1860 was undoubtedly a pivotal moment in United States history. Abraham Lincoln ran under the newly formed Republican Party against Democrat Stephen A. Douglas, Southern Democrat John G. Breckinridge, and Constitutional Unionist John Bell. Douglas, a United States senator from Illinois and his vice presidential candidate, Herschel V. Johnson of Georgia, ran under the platform of "popular sovereignty." It stated that citizens within territories entering the Union should vote for the right to enter as a free or slave state. Lincoln's platform promised to prohibit the spread of slavery but to allow it to continue in states where it was already practiced. Two years prior, Douglas had defeated Lincoln for the Illinois senatorial seat, where they engaged in seven formal debates, now known as the Lincoln–Douglas Debates of 1858. Although Lincoln won the popular vote, Douglas was re-elected to the U.S. Senate by the state's legislature.

Indiana's demographic landscape at the time of the 1860 election consisted of approximately 1.35 million citizens, about eleven thousand who were disenfranchised African Americans. During the presidential election, Lincoln and his running mate, Hannibal Hamlin of Maine, won fifty-one percent of the vote in Indiana, defeating Douglas both in the state and nationwide. With Lincoln's election the sectional crisis over slavery came to a head, and South Carolina seceded from the Union on December 20, 1860, before Lincoln's March 4, 1861 inauguration. Ten other southern states followed suit, forming the Confederate States of America. Following an outbreak of artillery fire at Fort Sumter, South Carolina on April 12, 1861, the United States entered into a brutal four year civil war.

Sources:

Harris, William C. *Lincoln's Rise to the Presidency*. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2007.

Nation, Richard Franklin and Stephen E. Towne, *Indiana's War: the Civil War in Documents*. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2009.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains one 5-leaf poll book and one oversize (17 1/2" x 23") tally sheet from the 1860 U. S. presidential election, collected in New Amsterdam in Washington Township, Harrison County, in the state of Indiana. The 5-leaf poll book contains the names of Indiana electors along with the amount of votes submitted for each candidate. The tally sheet contains tally marks for each elector. Both documents list the inspector as Joseph Sonner, the judges as Joseph Amy and Adam Kintner, and the clerks as Lincoln W. Deen and John P. Sonner. Also included is one blank legal size letter head that reads "Collection of Frank J. Kinst."

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"Poll Book of an Election, held at New Amsterdam in Washington Township, Harrison County, and State of Indiana," 5-leaf manuscript, November 1860

"Tally Paper of an Election, held at New Amsterdam in Washington Township, Harrison County and State of Indiana," 17 1/2" x 23" manuscript, Nov. 1860

"Collection of Frank J. Kinst," blank legal size manuscript, n.d.

CONTAINER

Folder 1

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