ALBERT S. WHITE
PAPERS, 1840–1852

Collection Information
Biographical Sketch
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Cataloging Information

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 6 letters in one folder
COLLECTION DATES: 1840-1852
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Albert Smith White (1803-1864) was born in Orange County, New York, and graduated from Union College, Schenectady in 1822. He studied law and was admitted to the bar. He moved to Lafayette, Indiana; from 1830 to 1831 he was assistant clerk of the Indiana House of Representatives, and in 1832 he ran unsuccessfully for Congress. He was a Whig Presidential elector in 1836.

White served in the national House of Representatives from 1837 to 1839, and in the United States Senate from 1839 to 1845. He then moved to Stockwell, Indiana, near Lafayette. From there he practiced law in partnership with Rufus A. Lockwood, and was president of several railroads.

He served again in Congress in from 1861 to 1863, and was appointed by President Abraham Lincoln to a three-man commission to adjust the claims of Minnesota and Dakota for Indian depredations. Appointed a federal district judge in 1864, he served only a few months until his death.

Sources:

Biographical directory of the American Congress, 1774-1996. Dunn, Indiana and Indianans, V, 2266
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains six letters written by Albert Smith White between 1840 and 1852, and obtained from several sources. The most important is that of 17 April 1844, dealing with Indian affairs.

26 May 1840 ASW, Washington, to J. K. Paulding, Secretary of Navy. Richard S. Law, applicant for appointment as midshipman, is Judge Law's oldest son. Judge Law has no son already in the Navy. ALS 1p

7 December 1841 ASW, Washington, to [HHS]. Re: subscription to the semi-weekly Express for the Lafayette House, Lafayette. I would pay, but I cannot "command transmissible funds." ALS 1p

23 February 1843 ASW, Washington, to [Silas Stilwell]. I hope to pass a few days in your city, passing homeward. Madame has been unwell, but sends regards to Mrs. S. You would do better to correspond with David Wallace about state debts. ALS 1p

17 April 1844 ASW, Washington, to John R. Willis and Mahlon Day. I appreciate your sympathy with the Indians. I am afraid that action will be retarded: partly because of the bad relations between Pres. Tyler and Congress; partly because of frequent changes in the Secretary of War; mainly because there is no agreement about what is best for the Indians-- whether to keep them nomadic, or try to amalgamate them with their white neighbors. The "ruling passion" of our late President Harrison was "the melioration of the condition of the Indians." ALS 3p

3 September 1844 ASW, Lafayette, to Jon Chapman, Boston. Re: declining in invitation from Chapman for White to attend the Whig convention being held in Massachusetts. ALS 2p

17 July 1852 ASW, Lafayette, to A. A. Mayer. I have referred your question to Jeremiah Grover of Logansport. ALS 1p.

CATALOGING INFORMATION

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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 Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, SC 1562).

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