

**Collection #**

**M 0608  
OM 0756**

**ALLEN HAMILTON  
FAMILY AND LEGAL PAPERS, 1814-1924**

Collection Information	1
Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

Processed by  
Ellen Swain  
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Revised by  
Amy Veda  
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	Fifteen Manuscript Boxes, Two OM Folders
COLLECTION DATES:	1814-1924
PROVENANCE:	Gift of Mrs. Holman Hamilton, 220 Barrow Road, Lexington, KY, 15 October 1982
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:	None
RELATED HOLDINGS:	A.A. Cole Papers (M0586, OM0263)
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1982.1007
NOTES:	

## SKETCH

Allen Hamilton (1798-1864) was an Irish immigrant who settled in Lawrenceburg, Dearborn County, Indiana in 1820. There, he married Emeline J. Holman, the daughter of a prominent judge. In 1823, the family moved to Fort Wayne, Allen County, Indiana where Hamilton was appointed deputy clerk in the United States Land Office. An early founder of the town, Hamilton held such positions as Allen County sheriff (1824-1826), postmaster (1825-1831), and county auditor, clerk, and recorder (1831-1838).

Hamilton's prominence in the county and later the state was due to business and political endeavors. In the 1820's, Hamilton, in partnership with Cyrus Taber, established the firm of Hamilton and Taber with the intent of capitalizing on Indian trade. The firm was prosperous and through such trade Hamilton won the trust and confidence of many of the native peoples in the region, particularly Chief Richardville. In 1834 and 1838, he was appointed to the United States Commission to Negotiate Treaties with the Miami in Northern Indiana, and in 1840, he served on the Commission to Extinguish Indian Titles in Indiana. Hamilton was also the United States Indian Agent to the Miami from 1841 to 1845.

In 1851, Hamilton entered the Indiana political arena as a Whig delegate to the Indiana Constitutional Convention. He won election to the Indiana State Senate in 1859 and served one term. Until his death in 1864, Hamilton remained active in business as President of the Fort Wayne branch of the Indiana State Bank and of the Allen Hamilton National Bank in Fort Wayne.

### Sources:

Brice, Wallace, *History of Fort Wayne*. Fort Wayne: D.W. Jones and Son, 1868

Pumroy, Eric, *A Guide to Manuscript Collections of the Indiana Historical Society and Indiana State Library*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1986.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection, spanning the years of 1822 to 1924, consists of fifteen manuscript boxes arranged by subject. Legal cases (1828-1924) comprise half of the collection and are concerned primarily with land grants. Title papers belonging to Hamilton and Taber, Phoebe Taber, and Charlotte A. Taber are also included. Correspondence between Hamilton and John Tipton, a militia officer, politician, and Indian agent, offers insight into Indiana-settler relations of the day. Written during Tipton's service in the United States Senate, 1831-1839, these letters concern Tipton's efforts, first to have a treaty negotiated with the Miami people; second, to have a treaty ratified by the Senate; third, to make a profit out of such a treaty for himself and Hamilton by purchasing land or by providing goods to the Government with which to pay the native peoples. Indian agent General William Marshall is repeatedly referred to as a negative influence. Some letters refer to the appointment of Jesse L. Holman as a federal judge.

Also included are papers dealing with Tipton's estate as well as various deeds and land grants. Correspondence between Spear S. Tipton and Hamilton largely concerns Tipton's difficulties in obtaining ready cash to settle his father's estate. The answer by Hamilton details the tracts of land obtained by Hamilton and Tipton as a result of the Miami Treaty of 1834. The remainder of the collection consists of deeds, surveys, and land descriptions, as well as the estate and business papers of Hamilton, George C. Taber, and Stephen C. Taber. A ledger containing a schedule of town lots in Rochester, Fulton County, Indiana (circa 1840s) and an autograph book comprise the final box.

Some materials were removed to oversize storage after Conservation treatment. Their original locations are noted and interfiled within the collection guide.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

Legal Cases, 1828-1829

Legal Cases, 1829-1832

Legal Cases, 1832-1833

Legal Cases, 1833-1834

Legal Cases, 1834

Legal Cases, 1835

Legal Cases, 1835

Legal Cases, 1835-1836

Legal Cases, 1836

Legal Cases, 1836-1837

Legal Cases, 1837-1838

Legal Cases, 1838

Legal Cases, 1839

Legal Cases, 1839

Legal Cases, 1839

Legal Cases, 1839

Legal Cases, 1840

Legal Cases, 1840

Legal Cases, 1840

Legal Cases, 1840-1842

Legal Cases, 1842

Legal Cases, 1843

Legal Cases, 1843

### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10

Box 1, Folder 11

Box 2, Folder 1

Box 2, Folder 2

Box 2, Folder 3

Box 2, Folder 4

Box 2, Folder 5

Box 2, Folder 6

Box 2, Folder 7

Box 2, Folder 8

Box 2, Folder 9

Box 2, Folder 10

Box 2, Folder 11

Box 2, Folder 12

Legal Cases, 1843	Box 3, Folder 1
Legal Cases, 1843-1844	Box 3, Folder 2
Legal Cases, 1844	Box 3, Folder 3
Legal Cases, 1845	Box 3, Folder 4
Legal Cases, 1846	Box 3, Folder 5
Legal Cases, 1847	Box 3, Folder 6
Legal Cases, 1847	Box 3, Folder 7
Legal Cases, 1847-1848	Box 3, Folder 8
Legal Cases, 1848-1849	Box 3, Folder 9
Legal Cases, 1849-1850	Box 3, Folder 10
Legal Cases, 1850-1851	Box 4, Folder 1
Legal Cases, 1851-1852	Box 4, Folder 2
Legal Cases, 1853	Box 4, Folder 3
Legal Cases, 1853-1854	Box 4, Folder 4
Legal Cases, 1854-1856	Box 4, Folder 5
Legal Cases, 1856-1857	Box 4, Folder 6
Legal Cases, 1857-1858	Box 4, Folder 7
Legal Cases, 1858	Box 4, Folder 8
Legal Cases, 1858-1860	Box 4, Folder 9
Legal Cases, 1860-1863	Box 4, Folder 10
Legal Cases, 1863-1864	Box 4, Folder 11
Legal Cases, 1864	Box 4, Folder 12
Legal Cases, 1865-1868	Box 5, Folder 1
Legal Cases, 1868-1871	Box 5, Folder 2
Legal Cases, 1871	Box 5, Folder 3

Legal Cases, 1871	Box 5, Folder 4
Legal Cases, 1872	Box 5, Folder 5
Legal Cases, 1873	Box 5, Folder 6
Legal Cases, 1873	Box 5, Folder 7
Legal Cases, 1873-1876	Box 5, Folder 8
Legal Cases, 1877	Box 6, Folder 1
Legal Cases, 1878-1879	Box 6, Folder 2
Legal Cases, 1879-1880	Box 6, Folder 3
Legal Cases, 1880-1881	Box 6, Folder 4
Legal Cases, 1881	Box 6, Folder 5
Legal Cases, 1881	Box 6, Folder 6
Legal Cases, 1881-1883	Box 6, Folder 7
Legal Cases, 1884-1888	Box 6, Folder 8
Legal Cases, 1888-1889	Box 6, Folder 9
Legal Cases, 1890-1891	Box 6, Folder 10
Legal Cases, 1891-1894	Box 7, Folder 1
Legal Cases, 1894	Box 7, Folder 2
Legal Cases, 1897-1899	Box 7, Folder 3
Legal Cases, 1901-1902	Box 7, Folder 4
Legal Cases, 1903	Box 7, Folder 5
Legal Cases, 1903-1905	Box 7, Folder 6
Legal Cases, 1906-1907	Box 7, Folder 7
Legal Cases, 1908	Box 7, Folder 8
Legal Cases, 1908	Box 7, Folder 9
Legal Cases, 1910-1916	Box 7, Folder 10

Legal Cases, 1920	Box 8, Folder 1
Legal Cases, 1922	Box 8, Folder 2
Legal Cases, 1923	Box 8, Folder 3
Legal Cases, 1924	Box 8, Folder 4
Hamilton and Taber Title Papers, 1846	Box 8, Folder 5
Hamilton and Taber Title Papers, 1858-1862	Box 8, Folder 6
Hamilton and Taber Title Papers, 1863	Box 8, Folder 7
Hamilton and Taber Title Papers, 1865-1866	Box 8, Folder 8
Hamilton and Taber Title Papers, 1866-1867	Box 8, Folder 9
Hamilton and Taber Title Papers, 1880-1916	Box 8, Folder 10
Phoebe A. Hamilton Title Papers, 1835-1839	Box 8, Folder 11
Phoebe A. Hamilton Title Papers, 1839	Box 8, Folder 12
Phoebe A. Hamilton Title Papers, 1839-1844	Box 9, Folder 1
Phoebe A. Hamilton Title Papers, 1885-1895	Box 9, Folder 2
Phoebe A. Hamilton Title Papers, 1898-1899	Box 9, Folder 3
Phoebe A. Hamilton Title Papers, 1902-1903	Box 9, Folder 4
Phoebe A. Hamilton Title Papers, 1904	Box 9, Folder 5
Phoebe A. Hamilton Title Papers, 1904-1913	Box 9, Folder 6
Phoebe A. Hamilton Title Papers, 1915-1922	Box 9, Folder 7
Charlotte A. Taber Title Papers, 1851-1853	Box 9, Folder 8
Charlotte A. Taber Title Papers, 1853	Box 9, Folder 9
Charlotte A. Taber Title Papers, 1854-1856	Box 9, Folder 10
Charlotte A. Taber Papers, 1856	Box 9, Folder 11
Charlotte A. Taber Title Papers, 1857-1862	Box 9, Folder 12
Charlotte A. Taber Title Papers, 1863-1866	Box 10, Folder 1

Charlotte A. Taber Title Papers, 1866-1868	Box 10, Folder 2
Charlotte A. Taber Title Papers, 1871-1886	Box 10, Folder 3
Charlotte A. Taber Court Proceedings, 1856	Box 10, Folder 4
John Tipton Correspondence, 1831-1835	Box 10, Folder 5
John Tipton Correspondence, 1836-1837	Box 10, Folder 6
John Tipton Correspondence, 1838-1839	Box 10, Folder 7
Deeds Signed by John Tipton, 1835	Box 11, Folder 1
John Tipton Correspondence, 1826-1836	Box 11, Folder 2
John Tipton Estate Papers	Box 11, Folder 3
Spear S. Tipton Correspondence, 1836-1845	Box 11, Folder 4
Tipton Deeds, 1840-1854	Box 11, Folder 5
Tipton—Taber Land Contract, 17 July 1847	Box 11, Folder 6
Enclosure Letter from Office of Indian Affairs, 1847	Box 11, Folder 7
Taber—Coles—Holman Family Papers	Box 11, Folder 8
Richard Holman Law License and Notary Public License, 1838	Box 11, Folder 9
Stephen Coles Army Discharge, 1814; Land Grant (copy), 1825; Letter from Joseph Coles, 1840	Box 11, Folder 10
James J. Hamilton, Jr. Receipt for Syrup for Consumption, 1814	Box 11, Folder 11
Hamilton and Taber Descriptions of Property, 1843-1857	Box 11, Folder 12
Allen Hamilton Letter and Deed to Cyrus Taber, 1852	Box 11, Folder 13
Allen Hamilton, Cyrus Taber Wills	Box 11, Folder 14
Samuel D. Taber Letter to Stephen Taber, 1857-1860	Box 11, Folder 15

George C. Taber, Jesse Taber Loree Correspondence regarding sale of land in Logansport, Indiana for a federal building, 1902-1903	Box 11, Folder 16
L.F. Loree, George C. Taber Correspondence regarding location of Post Office in Logansport, Indiana, 1902-1903	Box 11, Folder 17
Stephen C. Taber Letter to Allen Hamilton, 1862; Stephen C. Taber Letter to A.H. Hamilton, 1878	Box 11, Folder 18
Stephen C. Taber Personal Property Assessment Lists, 1862-1869	Box 11, Folder 19
Stephen C. Taber Personal Property Assessment Lists, 1870-1871	Box 11, Folder 20
Stephen C. Taber Personal Property Assessment Lists, 1872-1878	Box 12, Folder 1
Stephen C. Taber Personal Property Assessment Lists, 1879-1886	Box 12, Folder 2
Stephen C. Taber Personal Property Assessment Lists, 1887-1890	Box 12, Folder 3
Stephen C. Taber Personal Property Assessment Lists, 1891-1895	Box 12, Folder 4
Stephen C. Taber Personal Property Assessment Lists, 1895-1898	Box 12, Folder 5
Stephen C. Taber Personal Property Assessment Lists, 1899-1903	Box 12, Folder 6
Stephen C. Taber Personal Property Assessment Lists, 1904-1909	Box 12, Folder 7
Records of Partition—Hamilton and Taber, Heirs, 1864	Box 12, Folder 8
Records of Partition—Hamilton and Taber, Heirs, 1865	Box 12, Folder 9
Certified Complete Records of W.G. and G.W. Ewing and Hamilton Taber and Pollard Partition; Hamilton, Taber and Pollard Partition, 1863, part I	Box 12, Folder 10

Certified Complete Records of W.G. and G.W. Ewing and Hamilton, Taber and Pollard Partition, part II	Box 12, Folder 11
Miscellaneous Papers, 1830s-1840s	Box 13, Folder 1
Land Descriptions, 1865, 1877, 1886	Box 13, Folder 2
Surveys, 1890s	Box 13, Folder 3
Miscellaneous Letters, 1837-1912	Box 13, Folder 4
Insurance, 1844-1853	Box 13, Folder 5
Mortgages, 1835, 1836, 1867	Box 13, Folder 6
Lists of Charlotte Walker's Lots in Fort Wayne, Indiana, n.d.	Box 13, Folder 7
Correspondence Regarding Adams County Bank, 1886-1888	Box 13, Folder 8
Burial and Disinterment Permits, 1870, 1906	Box 13, Folder 9
Deeds, 1833-1838	Box 13, Folder 10
Deeds, 1839-1840	Box 13, Folder 11
Deeds, 1846-1854	Box 13, Folder 12
Deeds, 1853-1883	Box 13, Folder 13
Deeds, 1889-1902	Box 13, Folder 14
Deeds, 1902-1919	Box 13, Folder 15
Deeds, 1922-1923	Box 14, Folder 1
Pennsylvania Railroad System (P.C.C.&St.L.R.R.) track map showing F. Godfroy's Reservation No. 4, 3 miles east of Logansport (Oversize document removed from Box 14, Folder 1)	OM0756, Folder 1
Deeds Held by Native People, 1836-1855	Box 14, Folder 2
Deeds Held by Native People, 1836, 1838, 1851 (Oversize documents removed from Box 14, Folder 2)	OM0756, Folder 1
Deeds Held by Native People	Box 14, Folder 3

Deeds Held by Native People, 1835 (Oversize document removed from Box 14, Folder 3)	OM0756, Folder 1
Deeds, Surveys, Land Descriptions of Land Held by Miami People, 1823-1871	Box 14, Folder 4
Deeds, Surveys, Land Descriptions of Land Held by Miami People, 1823-1871 (Oversize documents removed from Box 14, Folder 4)	OM0756, Folder 2
Land Grants for Michigan Road Lands, 1833	Box 14, Folder 5
Land Grants, 1822, 1836	Box 14, Folder 6
Abstract of Title, 1865, 1873	Box 14, Folder 7
Autograph Book	Box 15, Folder 1
Ledger, 1840s	Box 15, Folder 2