

Collection #
P 0795

**AURORA FLOOD
PHOTOGRAPHS, FEBRUARY 1884**

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

Processed by

Barbara Quigley
6 September 2019

Manuscript and Visual 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: 1 folder of photographs

COLLECTION DATES: February 1884

PROVENANCE: Purchased from Cowan's Auctions, Inc.; Cincinnati, Ohio, 2019

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2019.0246

NOTES: *See also:* Indiana Flood Photographs (P 0475)

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The town of Aurora, Indiana, along the Ohio River in Dearborn County, endured a major flood in February 1884. In Aurora and surrounding communities, a large amount of snow had fallen in December 1883, with several inches of hail on top of that. More snow fell in January, bringing the total to three feet. This was followed by warmer temperatures and days of heavy rains in early February.

In nearby Lawrenceburg, businesses were inundated, with the water level at one store rising to ten feet and five inches, and at another store there was five inches of water on the second floor. Donations were received from various parts of the country for the relief of thousands driven from their homes. There had been noteworthy floods the previous two years, but the deluge of 1884 exceeded those. The water reached its highest point on Thursday, 15 February 1884, at six o'clock in the morning.

Subsequent flooding occurred in 1907, when the water crested at sixty-six feet – the highest in Aurora since 1884. In advance of the flood of March–April 1913, Aurora residents took precautions to safeguard property, keeping damage to a minimum. However, during the flood of 1937, the water rose so rapidly that people did not have time to prepare and Aurora suffered extensive damage that year.

Sources:

History of Dearborn, Ohio and Switzerland Counties, Indiana. Chicago: Weakley, Harraman & Co., Publishers, 1885: 196–198. Reference Room: F532 .D18 W43 1885

Masing, Milton A. *Dearborn County, Indiana in Vintage Postcards*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Publishing, 1999: 12–14. General Collection: F532 .D18 M37 1999

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of two black-and-white boudoir card photographs (5 ¼ x 8 ½ inches) that show views from opposite ends of Main Street in Aurora, Indiana, during the flood, 15 February 1884.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

View of Main Street [looking south], Aurora, Indiana, during the flood, 15 February 1884 (photo by [James] J. N. Walton).

View of Main Street [looking north], Aurora, Indiana, during the flood, 15 February 1884, with several people in the foreground and others in boats in the background.

CONTAINER

Photographs,
Folder 1 of 1

Photographs,
Folder 1 of 1