CHILDREN’S MUSEUM OF INDIANAPOLIS COLLECTION, 1863–1969

Collection Information

Biographical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Emily Castle
1 March 2005

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: 2 manuscript boxes

COLLECTION DATES: 1863–1969

PROVENANCE: Sally Weir, Children’s Museum of Indianapolis, 3000 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, 46205, 23 January 1998

RESTRICTIONS: None
The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis was founded in 1924. Indianapolis civic and social leader Mary Stewart Carey offered the motivation which contributed to the museum’s founding. It was incorporated in 1925. Between 1925 and 1926 the museum was housed in a carriage house behind a mansion in Indianapolis’ Old Northside and at the Garfield Park shelter house. In 1927 Carey moved the museum into her house where it stayed until 1946. It then moved to the St. Clair Parry mansion on the corner of 30th and Meridian Streets, where it remains today. In 1976 a 225,000 square foot building was built on the corner to house the museum. Since then there have been numerous additions and the building now includes more than 400,000-square-feet. The museum houses eleven major galleries that explore history, the physical and natural science, world cultures, and the arts.

Sources:

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of items dealing with four different subjects and is arranged into series by topic: Railroad, Civil War, World War I, and the writings of William P. Smith. The first three series are organized chronologically. The last series had few dates on the items so is organized by topic of the writings.

**Series 1: Railroad** This series consists of items from different railroad companies and different time periods. Included is an annual report and stock certificate from the Indianapolis Belt Railroad & Stock Yard Company, railroad passes, ticket inquiries to the Nickel Plate Road, and receipt requests from the New York Central System.

**Series 2: Civil War** The bulk of this series dates from 1864–1865. Most of the items in the collection are related to the 6th Indiana Light Artillery Battery. This battery was mustered in 7 September 1861 in Indianapolis and left the state 21 October for Henderson, Kentucky. It joined General Sherman’s command in the spring of 1862, and occupied a position at the Owl Creek Bridge when the battle of Shiloh started in April 1862.

During the summer and fall it moved around Mississippi, and was stationed at Fort Pickering until 26 November, when it joined Sherman’s forces at Tallahatchie. It returned to LaGrange, at which point one section was sent to Lafayette and the other to Collierville, Tennessee. In June of 1863 the battery marched to Memphis and took a steamer for Vicksburg, where it was actively engaged until the surrender of the city.
In an expedition to Brownsville, Kentucky in October, it shelled the enemy out of a strong position. It was then at Black River Bridge until March 1864, when it moved on to Vicksburg, Memphis, and into northern Mississippi. The 6th Indiana saw battle at Tupelo in July, and afterwards marched to Oxford. The battery was then assigned to duty at Fort Pickering, where it remained until ordered to Indianapolis and was mustered out 22 July 1865.

Included in this series are issues and receipts from the Quartermaster, military orders for the 6th Indiana, invoices for equipment, and a letter about missing military property.

Series 3: World War I This series includes a letter to the winner of the Win-the-War Recipes Contest sponsored by the Star League of Indiana, certificates, and an original manuscript by Booth Tarkington. There is also a booklet about fighting on the Belgian front and a newspaper about fighting overseas.

Series 4: William P. Smith Writings Smith was born 19 October 1840 to Butler and Sarah Smith. When he was seventeen he entered Northwestern Christian University, now Butler. In December 1864 he studied law with his uncle, Jeremiah Smith, and was admitted to the bar the following year. His mathematical interests prevailed though and he devoted his energies to civil engineering and surveying. He laid out and surveyed the town of Irvington, and played music in social situations. Smith married Elvira Mayhew, daughter of former Treasurer of State Royal Mayhew, 19 November 1867. They had four children.

Smith’s writings espoused the cause of the wage earner and he prepared articles and speeches arguing their trials. He was so extreme in his beliefs he had trouble getting his writings published. The writings that were published were in daily and weekly newspapers. Another topic Smith wrote about was the theory of creation and how the use of math proved his theory. He also founded three secret organizations of an educational nature—The Archery, being one.

His writings collected here cover the organization of fraternal brotherhoods, trials of wage workers, and his theory of creation. It includes letters written to Smith, his speeches, a few plays he wrote, and his writings on creation.

Sources:
Materials in collection.


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Box 1, Folder 6

Quartermaster Property Receipts, Dec. 1864–Mar. 1865

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Volunteer Enlistment form for Henry Lapp to join 6th Battery Indiana, 24 Feb. 1865

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Letter, re: missing military property, 21 June 1865

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Certificate of Commission in Marion County Legion, to Harry Bell, 28 Sept. 1918

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The Belgian Front and Its Notable Features, Captain Willy Breton, Booklet, 1918

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Red Triangle Overseas, Newspaper, 4 Jan. 1919

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Fox Terrier or Something, Booth Tarkington, Box 1, Folder 20
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**Series 4: William P. Smith Writings**

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- Letter from T.W. Taylor, re: wanting information on Archery, 3 May 1889
- Letter, re: particulars and instructions for organizing a fraternal organization, 23 May 1889
- Letter from M. Nolan, re: information about Archery, 25 May 1889
- Letter from James D.P. Nouboard (?), re: organization of Archery, 31 May 1889
- Letter from T.A. Rardin, re: information about Archery, 10 June 1889
- Letter to Brother Scott from W.P. Smith, re: life, 3 Sept. 1891
- Letter from W.P. Smith, re: his book about creation, 23 Nov. 1898
- St. Paul’s Home Mission, certificates to purchase goods at reduced price, ca. 1883
- Invitation to dedication ceremony of the Cincinnati Press Club’s new building, 28 May 1888
- Letter to Frank G. Jeier from his son, 16 June 1909
- Notice of Survey, for land owned by Smith in Marion County, 26 Dec. 1899
- Envelopes and copyright applications, ca 1900s
- Bylaws for the Building & Loan Assoc. of Indianapolis, n.d.
- Newspaper clippings, n.d.
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Smith’s ideas on creation, Draft, n.d. Box 2, Folder 5

*Smith’s Creation. From an Atom to a Sun: the Truth of Scripture Confirmed by Scientific Discoveries*, Handwritten draft, n.d. Box 2, Folder 6

*Smith’s Creation. The Truth of Scripture Confirmed by Scientific Discoveries*, Draft, n.d. Box 2, Folder 7

*The Ancient Azoic Age*, Draft, n.d. Box 2, Folder 8
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Smith's Creation. The Six Days of Creation, Manuscript draft, n.d. Box 2, Folder 11

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Fifth and Sixth Days of Creation, No. 2 for publisher, n.d. Box 2, Folder 13

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

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 (in this case, M 0831).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.