

Collection #  
M 0254

## CLARENCE H. SMITH PAPERS, 1775–1955

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

Betty Alberty, Robert W. Smith, Sister Rachel West  
Paul Brockman, Supervisor  
2 May 2003

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	14 manuscript boxes, 1 folder of photographs
COLLECTION DATES:	1775–1955
PROVENANCE:	Herbert L. Heller, Greencastle, Indiana, May 1956
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:** Henry County Miscellaneous Papers (M 0060); Robert B. Smith Papers (M 0257)

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 1956.0508

**NOTES:** Originally processed by Nancy Hendershot, June 1987; revised by Alexandra S. Gressitt, August 1993

**BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Clarence Herbert Smith was born in New Castle, Henry County, Indiana, on 4 July 1875, the youngest child of Robert Barclay and Catherine (Kate) Taylor Smith. His father was a native of Loudoun County, Virginia, descended from a prominent Bucks County, Pennsylvania, Quaker family. His great grandparents, Samuel and Rachel Cooper Smith, moved to Loudoun County, Virginia in 1786. Two of their sons, Jacob and Samuel, emigrated to Wayne County, Indiana, in the 1820s. A third son, Seth, Clarence's grandfather, moved in 1855 to Richmond, Wayne County, Indiana, where he practiced law. His son, Robert B., followed and settled in New Castle as a dry goods merchant. Clarence Smith's mother was a daughter of John Taylor, an early New Castle resident. Clarence graduated from New Castle High School in 1894 and attended Wabash College for one year. He later was associated with a brother in the mercantile business in New Castle and with South Park Floral Co. (Heller Bros.). In 1922 he was appointed Curator of the Henry County Historical Society Museum, a post he held until 1952.

Smith was an enthusiastic local historian, genealogist, and amateur naturalist. Prior to his retirement he was active in the Indiana Historical Society, the Society of Indiana Pioneers, the Sons of the American Revolution (S.A.R.), and other hereditary-patriotic organizations. Smith formed the Patrick Henry Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution in Henry County, serving terms as secretary, vice president, and historian for the Indiana Society of the S.A.R. He also held offices in most of the other organizations to which he belonged. For several years he wrote an historic column for the New Castle *Courier* entitled "Happenings of Other Days." He was specifically interested in the lives of the settlers and early resident families of the New Castle-Knightstown vicinity. Smith was also an active member of the Indiana Audubon Society and the Henry County Nature Research Club and was a member of the Presbyterian Church. Smith never married. He died in New Castle in 1959.

Source:  
Information in collection.

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The Smith collection primarily consists of correspondence, but it also contains some journals, diaries, documents, clippings, photographs, and various other papers and books. The collection has been divided into eight series

reflecting Smith's activities and research interests: 1. Smith Family Papers 1775–1911; 2. Personal Correspondence 1894–1952; 3. S.A.R. (Sons of the American Revolution) Correspondence 1921–1951; 4. Henry County Historical Society 1916–1952; 5. Indiana Historical Agencies 1915–1951; 6. Henry County History; 7 General Genealogical Inquiries, Correspondence 1922–1952; and 8. Other Organizations and Interests.

**Series 1: Smith Family Papers, 1775–1911** contain early letters, documents, journals and diaries, including an undated typed transcript of a 1680 letter from Mahlon Stacy, a Smith forbearer. He writes from New Jersey to a brother-in-law in England describing the bountifulness of the new country and refuting the "strange reports" of it.

This category includes a great deal of early Smith family history and genealogical notes and charts researched and compiled by Clarence Smith. There are also notes on families of his mother's line—Taylor, Shroyer and Shafer.

Early letters and journals speak of business; farming and legal matters; the Quaker faith and concern for those falling away from it; views on slavery, temperance and war; and news of family and friends emigrating westward and journeying back East to attend meetings of the Friends. Most of the Smiths depended on farming to some extent for their livelihoods, although some followed other trades as well. One Amos Smith was apparently in the mercantile firm of Smith and Smith in Baltimore, Maryland.

The 1806 account books of the firm list goods, ships, and destinations. Seth Smith was apprenticed to a Baltimore wire weaver while in his youth, began practicing law in Virginia and apparently was also associated with his brother, Jacob (then in Ohio), in a dry goods business.

Also included are Seth Smith's journals (1805–10, 1832, 1842–51, 1855, 1805–63) and other writings. Several of the original diaries are intact; some are typed transcripts; and some were hand copied by Clarence Smith. Other of Seth Smith's writings includes essays, addresses, treatises and poetry. Among the other items are Clarence Smith's notebook, containing transcripts of Seth's 1808 journal, in which he describes a trip from Virginia to Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Bucks County, Pennsylvania; family letters of 1775–1837; and the marriage certificate of Seth and Mary Taylor Janney. It also contains extensive notes and charts on family history and genealogy.

A rough genealogical sketch is presented in the first folder to assist in identifying the writers and recipients of the correspondence. A letter of Clarence Smith's is also included, as it highlights some particularly interesting letters.

The collection also contains the genealogy and history of the families of John Smith and Smith Holloway, and the Pickering family, all of whom were relatives of Clarence Smith's family. Of note are journals of Smith Holloway, which recount travels on horseback through Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana in the 1830s and 1850s. Holloway describes the land, river towns, and Indians on their way to the "Indian Treaty" on the Tippecanoe River in 1832. The Pickering family genealogy is recorded at the end of a journal describing a trip to Wayne and Henry Counties, Indiana. Other items include letters of introduction for Dr. Smith Holloway (1837, 1839) and Isaac Holloway's book containing names of teachers and pupils of the Mt. Pleasant, Ohio, school in 1852–53.

The family correspondence of Seth and Robert Smith includes correspondence from the 1850s between Seth and son Robert in connection with the move to Richmond and financial problems in getting settled, and letters to Seth and Robert from John W. Griffith discussing business matters, farming problems, and prospects of his move to Richmond and starting a paper mill. Papers from the 1860s include numerous letters relating to the Civil War. Of particular note are those of William L. James to Seth and Robert Smith. William James, the husband of Seth's granddaughter, Sibilla, served as Assistant Quartermaster, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and Fort Monroe, Virginia. He comments on personalities and events of the war as viewed in Washington. There is also the letter of Asa Smith (probably a son of Jacob) to one of his uncles from his Union cavalry camp near Winchester, Tennessee. There also are letters of Robert B. and Catherine, their children and relatives concerning general family matters.

**Series 2: Personal Correspondence** contains letters to Clarence Smith, 1894–1952. The letters of 1894–1919 are mostly from brothers Arthur, Harry and Lynn (an Alaskan businessman), and from cousins and distant relatives. Personal correspondence beginning with 1920 is increasingly related to Smith's genealogical research, interest in local history and work as museum curator. Beginning about 1924 there is a good deal of correspondence with Kate Milner Rabb who wrote an historical column, "Hoosier Listening Post," for the Indianapolis *Star*.

**Series 3: S.A.R. (Sons of the American Revolution)** comprises Smith's correspondence relating to his S.A.R. work, 1921–51. These materials and letters include genealogical research Smith conducted for S.A.R. and DAR applicants; the society's activities in locating and marking graves of Revolutionary War veterans in Indiana; and correspondence with local, state, and national officers.

**Series 4: Henry County Historical Society** contains correspondence regarding Smith's activities as curator of the historical society museum, 1922–52—general business, programs, exhibits, acquisitions. There are many letters from Dr. William M. Reser of the Tippecanoe County Historical Society in Lafayette concerning information and activities of mutual interest.

**Series 5: Indiana Historical Agencies** consists of Smith's correspondence with representatives of the Indiana Historical Commission, Indiana Historical Bureau, Indiana State Library, and Indiana Historical Society, including letters from John Oliver, Lucy Elliott, Harlow Lindley and Christopher B. Coleman, and Esther McNitt, 1915–51.

**Series 6: Henry County History** contain old letters and documents, clippings and various papers and books gathered by Smith as local historian for papers he wrote and for his New Castle *Courier* column, "Happenings of Other Days." The collection of 1840-94 *Courier* news items that Smith used for his column belonged to Benjamin S. Parker (1833–1911), former owner and editor of the Newcastle *Mercury*. Among items of interest are the 1853 letters of R. H. Robb to his friend B. S. Parker describing his emigration to Oregon, which were published by the *Courier* at the time. Smith also gathered material through correspondence found in this category with relatives of early settler families who provided memoirs and papers of their ancestors. Political, legal and civic papers gathered by Smith concerning Henry County history and its participation in the Civil War may be found in another collection, Henry County Papers (M 0060).

**Series 7: General Genealogical Inquiries, Correspondence** is made up of requests for information Smith received from people all over the country searching for ancestors in Indiana, Kentucky, and Ohio. The correspondence in these boxes is mostly of a general nature. The most extensive information is found on the following families: Koons, Fleming, Chapman-Garner, Mills, Shirk-Palmer, Ice, Tackett, Roush, Wine. Much of the material also relates to the Henry County History category.

**Series 8: Other Organizations And Interests** contains three small groupings of correspondence. Smith's Audubon Society materials include letters from state officers, inquiries about natural history exhibits at the Henry County Historical Museum, and pamphlets urging the extermination of cats for the protection of song birds. Some correspondence is in regard to the 50th reunion of the Wabash College Class of 1898. There are a few letters from Albert J. Beveridge concerning his biography of Lincoln, from Senator James E. Watson on prohibition, and from Josiah K. Lilly and Congressman Richard N. Elliott.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Smith Family Papers, 1775–1911**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Smith Family History/Genealogy	Box 1, Folder 1
Smith Family Genealogy	Box 1, Folder 2
Documents, 1780–1882	Box 1, Folder 3

Day Book, May–June 1806	Box 1, Folder 4
Mahlon Stacy Letter, 1680 (copy, n.d.)	Box 1, Folder 5
Family Letters, 1775–1914	Box 1, Folder 6
Family Letters, 1821–49	Box 1, Folder 7
Letters to Seth Smith, 1807–39	Box 1, Folder 8
Letters to Seth Smith, 1841–49	Box 1, Folder 9
Letters to Jacob Smith, 1806–19	Box 1, Folder 10
Letters to Jacob Smith, 1821–27	Box 1, Folder 11
Letters to Jacob Smith, 1830–48	Box 2, Folder 1
Family Letters, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 2
Account Book (Virginia), 1815–23	Box 2, Folder 3
Cash Book, Cotton Book, 1806, 1813–15	Box 2, Folder 4
Society of Friends Records, 1800s–1850s; Research and Correspondence, 1920s	Box 2, Folder 5
Seth Smith Diary, 1805	Box 2, Folder 6
Seth Smith Diary, 1806	Box 2, Folder 7
Seth Smith Diary, 1807	Box 2, Folder 8
Seth Smith Diary, 1805–06, Transcripts	Box 2, Folder 9
Seth Smith Journal, 1808	Box 2, Folder 10
Seth Smith Journal, 1809–10, Excerpt	Box 2, Folder 11
Seth Smith Diary, 1805–06, Transcription	Box 2, Folder 12
Seth Smith Journal, 1805–63	Box 2, Folder 13
Seth Smith Journal, 1832, Transcription	Box 2, Folder 14
Seth Smith Journal Excerpts, 1825–29; Amos Smith Journal Excerpts, 1855; Memo Book, Loudoun County, Virginia, 1842–51	Box 3, Folder 1
Essays, 1834, n.d.	Box 3, Folder 2
Clarence Smith Notebook, n.d.	Box 3, Folder 3
Smith-Holloway—John Smith Genealogy, Meek Letters	Box 3, Folder 4
Smith-Holloway—Journal, 1832; Two Letters of	Box 3, Folder 5

Introduction, 1837, 1839	
Smith-Holloway—Diary, 1840	Box 3, Folder 6
Smith-Holloway—Journal, 1856–57	Box 3, Folder 7
Clarence Smith Genealogy Correspondence, 1907–50	Box 3, Folder 8
Clarence Smith Genealogy Correspondence, 1907–46	Box 3, Folder 9
Clarence Smith Genealogy Correspondence, 1907–47	Box 3, Folder 10
Clarence Smith Genealogy Correspondence, 1898–1951	Box 3, Folder 11
Clarence Smith Genealogy Correspondence, 1926–50	Box 3, Folder 12
Clarence Smith Genealogy Correspondence, 1922–36	Box 4, Folder 1
Clarence Smith Genealogy Correspondence, 1922–47	Box 4, Folder 2
Family Letters, 1850s	Box 4, Folder 3
Family Letters, 1860s	Box 4, Folder 4
Family Letters, 1870–89	Box 4, Folder 5
Family Letters, 1890–97	Box 4, Folder 6
Family Letters, Jan.–June 1898	Box 4, Folder 7
Family Letters, July 1898	Box 4, Folder 8
Family Letters, Aug. 1898	Box 4, Folder 9
Family Letters, Sept. 1898	Box 5, Folder 1
Family Letters, Oct.–Dec. 1898	Box 5, Folder 2
Family Letters, Jan. 1899	Box 5, Folder 3
Family Letters, Feb. 1899	Box 5, Folder 4
Family Letters, March 1899	Box 5, Folder 5
Family Letters, April–Dec. 1899	Box 5, Folder 6
Family Letters, Jan.–Dec. 1900	Box 5, Folder 7
Family Letters, 1901–03	Box 5, Folder 8
Family Letters, Jan.–May 1904	Box 5, Folder 9
Family Letters, June–Dec. 1904	Box 5, Folder 10
Family Letters, 1905–06	Box 5, Folder 11

Family Letters, 1907–08	Box 5, Folder 12
Family Letters, 1909–11	Box 6, Folder 1
Family Letters, n.d. (1 of 3)	Box 6, Folder 2
Family Letters, n.d. (2 of 3)	Box 6, Folder 3
Family Letters, n.d. (3 of 3)	Box 6, Folder 4

**Series 2: Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1894–1952**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1894–98	Box 6, Folder 5
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1899–1909	Box 6, Folder 6
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1910–12	Box 6, Folder 7
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1913–15	Box 6, Folder 8
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1916–19	Box 6, Folder 9
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1920	Box 6, Folder 10
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1921	Box 6, Folder 11
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, Jan.–June 1922	Box 6, Folder 12
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, July–Dec. 1922	Box 7, Folder 1
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, Jan.–April 1923	Box 7, Folder 2
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, May–Dec. 1923	Box 7, Folder 3
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1924–25	Box 7, Folder 4
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1926	Box 7, Folder 5
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1927	Box 7, Folder 6
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1928	Box 7, Folder 7
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1929	Box 7, Folder 8
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1930–31	Box 8, Folder 1
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1932–33	Box 8, Folder 2

Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1934–35	Box 8, Folder 3
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1936–37	Box 8, Folder 4
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1938–39	Box 8, Folder 5
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1940–45	Box 8, Folder 6
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, 1946–52	Box 8, Folder 7
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, n.d. (1 of 4)	Box 9, Folder 1
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, n.d. (2 of 4)	Box 9, Folder 2
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, n.d. (3 of 4)	Box 9, Folder 3
Clarence Smith, Personal Correspondence, n.d. (4 of 4)	Box 9, Folder 4

**Series 3: Sons of the American Revolution Materials, 1921–51**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1921–24	Box 9, Folder 5
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1924–27	Box 9, Folder 6
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1925–26	Box 9, Folder 7
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1927	Box 9, Folder 8
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1927–29	Box 9, Folder 9
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, March 1927	Box 9, Folder 10
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, April 1927	Box 10, Folder 1
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1928	Box 10, Folder 2
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1928–29	Box 10, Folder 3
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1930–32	Box 10, Folder 4



Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1930	Box 10, Folder 5
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1930	Box 10, Folder 6
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1931	Box 10, Folder 7
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1932–33	Box 10, Folder 8
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1933	Box 10, Folder 9
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1934–35	Box 10, Folder 10
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1935–39	Box 10, Folder 11
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, 1940–51	Box 10, Folder 12
Correspondence, Rev. War Graves, Indiana Pioneers, Colonial Wars, n.d.	Box 10, Folder 13
S.A.R. History and General Materials	Box 11, Folder 1
S.A.R. General Printed Materials, 1925?–39	Box 11, Folder 2

#### **Series 4: Henry County Historical Society, 1887–1952**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Henry County Historical Society Papers, 1916–29 (1 of 6)	Box 11, Folder 3
Henry County Historical Society Papers, 1916–29 (2 of 6)	Box 11, Folder 4
Henry County Historical Society Papers, 1916–29 (3 of 6)	Box 11, Folder 5
Henry County Historical Society Papers, 1916–29 (4 of 6)	Box 11, Folder 6
Henry County Historical Society Papers, 1916–29 (5 of 6)	Box 11, Folder 7
Henry County Historical Society Papers, 1916–29 (6 of 6)	Box 11, Folder 8
Henry County Historical Society, General Correspondence, 1930–34 (1 of 2)	Box 11, Folder 9

Henry County Historical Society, General Correspondence, 1930–34 (2 of 2)	Box 11, Folder 10
Henry County Historical Society, General Correspondence, 1935–39	Box 11, Folder 11
Henry County Historical Society, General Correspondence, 1940–52	Box 11, Folder 12
Henry County Historical Society, General Correspondence, n.d.	Box 11, Folder 13
Henry County Historical Society Museum Collections	Box 12, Folder 1
Henry County Historical Society Museum Labels	Box 12, Folder 2
Henry County Historical Society, Printed Materials, 1887–1931	Box 12, Folder 3
Henry County Historical Society, Interurban Token and Note, 1933	Box 12, Folder 4

### **Series 5: Indiana Historical Agencies, 1915–51**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Indiana Historical Agencies, 1915–22	Box 12, Folder 5
Indiana Historical Agencies, 1923	Box 12, Folder 6
Indiana Historical Agencies, 1924	Box 12, Folder 7
Indiana Historical Agencies, 1925	Box 12, Folder 8
Indiana Historical Agencies, 1926–27	Box 12, Folder 9
Indiana Historical Agencies, 1928	Box 12, Folder 10
Indiana Historical Agencies, 1930–31	Box 12, Folder 11
Indiana Historical Agencies, 1932–33	Box 12, Folder 12
Indiana Historical Agencies, 1934–36	Box 12, Folder 13
Indiana Historical Agencies, 1937–38	Box 12, Folder 14
Indiana Historical Agencies, 1939–43	Box 12, Folder 15
Indiana Historical Agencies, 1944–51	Box 12, Folder 16

### **Series 6: Henry County History, 1792–1950**

## CONTENTS

New Castle *Courier*, 1840–94

Clippings of Historical Interest

Indianapolis *Star*, “Hoosier Listening Post” Articles  
by Kate Milner Rabb

Settler Family Papers, 1808–1946

Medical Remedies

Essays, Copybooks (School), 1792–1921

Chief Pokagon, Slavery, Henry County History

Letters to Smith, 1921–24

Letters to Smith, 1925–27

Letters to Smith, 1928–30

Letters to Smith, 1933–50

Photographs Relating to Henry County History, ca.  
1910s–20s

General Historical Materials, n.d.

## CONTAINER

Box 12, Folder 17

Box 13, Folder 1

Box 13, Folder 2

Box 13, Folder 3

Box 13, Folder 4

Box 13, Folder 5

Box 13, Folder 6

Box 13, Folder 7

Box 13, Folder 8

Box 13, Folder 9

Box 13, Folder 10

Visual Collections:  
Photographs, Folder 1

Box 13, Folder 11

### **Series 7: Genealogical Inquiries, 1922–50**

## CONTENTS

General Genealogical Research, 1922–24

General Genealogical Research, 1925–27

General Genealogical Research,, 1928–29

General Genealogical Research, 1930–31

General Genealogical Research, 1932–34

General Genealogical Research, 1935–39

General Genealogical Research, 1940–52 and n.d.

Koons Family Records

## CONTAINER

Box 13, Folder 12

Box 14, Folder 1

Box 14, Folder 2

Box 14, Folder 3

Box 14, Folder 4

Box 14, Folder 5

Box 14, Folder 6

Box 14, Folder 7

### **Series 8: Other Organizations and Interests, 1904–48**

## CONTENTS

Audubon Society and Nature Club, 1906–30

## CONTAINER

Box 14, Folder 8

Nature Research Club, Account, 1909–23	Box 14, Folder 9
Audubon Society, 1931–47	Box 14, Folder 10
Wabash College Class of 1898 50 <sup>th</sup> Reunion, 1948	Box 14, Folder 11
General Correspondence, 1904–34	Box 14, Folder 12

## **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://157.91.92.2/>
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 0254).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.