

Collection #
M0029

HENRY BAKER DIARIES, 1875-1911

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

David Pulliam
22 July 2008

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:	3 manuscript boxes
COLLECTION DATES:	1875-1911
PROVENANCE:	Gift, Mrs. Ray Tison, Dugger, Ind., July 1960

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: 1960.0709

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Henry Baker was born in Niagara County, New York in 1832. The son of Nathan and Prudence (Walker) Baker, he moved with his parents at the age of seven to Greene County, Indiana. He went to school when able and worked on his parent's farm until the age of 20 at which time he took up work in the field of carpentry, as his father had previously done. He continued in that trade for eight years. With his earnings, he purchased land to build his own farm, clearing and improving the land himself. He proved to be an adept farmer. In the following years he purchased and cleared more land becoming one of Greene County's leading farmers. Besides farming, Baker was quite involved in the county and politics. He was a prohibitionist. He also served as justice of the peace for several years.

During this time he also met and, in 1858, married Sarah Inman. Together they had five children. The first two Lizzie and John both died early in life. Their other children, daughters, Nettie and Frankie, and son, George L., all survived to adulthood.

In 1892, at the age of 60, Baker retired from working his farm and moved to Worthington, Indiana. There he, presumably, resided until his death in 1911.

Sources:

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

Biographical memoirs of Greene County, Ind. : with reminiscences of pioneer days. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen, 1908.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection is made up of Baker's diaries from 1875-1911. They include descriptions of events in Greene County, his reminiscences of growing up in Indiana, and references to his work with local temperance groups.

1875: Information about the weather, anniversaries, marriages, deaths, fires, prices

April 23: "25 years ago my father and mother started back to N.Y. and Vt. on a visit..."

April 25: "Father and Mother took passage on a canal boat 17 miles about Terre Haute for N.Y. ..."

April 27: "Brother Hiram started with Dr. Freeland with a drove of cattle to Wisconsin, April 27th, 1847 ..."

May 4: "Father raised his new house on the old homestead 1844."

May 17: "Moved on to my farm 1866 then in the wild woods about ½ an acre lot fenced round where the house now stands

June 2: "Father took Brother James to Vincennes 1842, took stage to St. Louis, from there to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. At this time not a RR in Indiana or Illinois..."

Aug. 1-6: Highest water ever known since the flood. Destruction of wheat, oats, hay, and corn. "This day long to be remembered." Rode all over the prairie in a boat. Water 6 or 8 feet deep. Fence all swept off prairie. Lost 10,000 rails.

1885: July 4: Recollection of July 4, 1838 (?) at Worthington. [Family didn't move to Greene Co., until Oct. 1839, 1838 is likely a mistake]

Dec. 23: Recalls his marriage in 1858. Names person who attended. Names his children. (More about this other years, same date, especially Dec. 22-23, 1910)

1887: Jan. 9: My father started from Lewiston, Niagara Co., NY to come to Bloomfield to see the country with a view of moving and a wild move it was at the time in 1839

1892: Mar. 16: Description of school he went to in 1840, log house, loose floor, holes cut out for windows, no glass or oiled paper over them

1893: June 13: In 1850, Hiram Bland hung at Bloomfield. Only man legally hung in county.

1895: Feb. 3: Osborn Harrah, age 88, mentioned

June 22: Barnum & Bailey Show description

July 8: My father started to walk from Bloomfield to Lewiston, NY, 1839, 750 miles... (More about this entered July 9, 1910)

Sept. 5: Went to Bloomfield to fight the saloon of Herman Switz with a remonstrance. Details about the remonstrance.

1896: Feb. 13: Brother John died this date, 1869

Feb. 20: My father moved into new home on farm near Mineral City, 1845

Feb. 29: My father and mother were married Feb. 29, 1824 at Whiting, VT.

1898: Apr. 26: We are in war. Americans coming to the rescue.

Oct. 20: Laid in: Indiana farmer, to Agents, dated Oct. 1, 1898. 4 p. Printed back, Pasted in: Clippings about elections

1899: Feb. 7: Temperance letters by Rev. Doughty from Vincennes

June 20: Town of Newberry was prosperous in 1856-1860; town is dead now

1900: Feb. 18-Mar. 7: Temperance remonstrances circulated.

1905: Mar. 30: Temperance Evangelist Rev. T.J. Shrode lectured in M.E. Church

1907: May 29-June 3: If all church members that stand in with the saloon element would sign the remonstrance like men the victory would be won. May 31, last day to file with auditor. Remonstrators worked like heroes.

1908: Nov. 3: Great excitement about election. Recalls 1856 election.

1909: Oct. 22: My father and family moved to Greene Co. in 1839...near old Fellows mill... Laid in: Plat of Harrah and Morrison subdivision town of Bloomfield. Petition, no signed.

1910: Feb. 13: Laid in: paper telling about rail fences, picket fences, puncheon floors

Sept. 17: Old Settler's meeting

Oct. 11: Highway robbery

1911: Laid in (in envelop in front): Indiana Prohibition State Committee, F.W. Lough, State Chairman. Letter, June 29, 1911, Enclosing leaflet about plans for July 4th. T.L.S., 1p. Enclosure: One Thousand New in Just One Day, Prohibition State Headquarters, Indianapolis, June 23, 1911, F.W. Lough, State Chairman. Tues. July 4th to be Phalanx and Prohibition Extension Day Broadside.

June 19: Laid in: The irrepressible conflict, by Bennett L. Shugart. Smith Printing Co., Frankton, Ind. Printed 2p.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Inventory, diaries, 1875-1884

Diaries, 1884-1885

Diaries, 1887-1889

Diaries, 1889-1893

Diaries, 1893-1896

Diaries, 1896-1900

Diaries, 1900-1902

Diaries, 1902-1905

Diaries, 1905-1908

Diaries, 1908-1910

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 2, Folder 1

Box 2, Folder 2

Box 2, Folder 3

Box 2, Folder 4

Box 3, Folder 1

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 0029).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.