

INDIANA TERRITORY COLLECTION, 1800-1816

Collection #:
M 0398
OM 0038

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Processed by

Chris Harter
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 small manuscript box, 1 oversized folder
COLLECTION DATES:	1800-1816
PROVENANCE:	Carnegie Book Shop, April 1945 (1945.0411); Robert K. Black, Upper Montclair, N.J., May & June 1960 (1960.0507, 1960.0508, 1960.0509, 1960.0608, 1960.0609); Arthur Pforzheimer, 3 February 1943 (1943.0207); June Sweet, 1948 (1948.0624); unknown (00.0298, 00.0299)
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
RELATED HOLDINGS:	None
ACCESSION NUMBERS:	00.0298, 00.0299, 1943.0207, 1945.0411, 1948.0624, 1960.0507, 1960.0508, 1960.0509, 1960.0608, 1960.0609

NOTES: This is an artificial collection. The material in it has been obtained from various sources.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Henry Brown (fl. 1808-1816) was a merchant in Dayton, Ohio.

Daniel Curtis (fl. 1812-1820) was soldier at Fort Wayne during the siege there in 1812. Curtis was the temporary commander at the fort from February to May 1817. He attained the rank of captain in 1820. His wife was Eliza Whistler, daughter of John Whistler.

Abraham Edwards (1781-1860) was appointed surgeon's mate at Fort Wayne in 1804. He later became post surgeon and operated a trading business there. He married Ruth Fessenden Hunt, and with his family moved to Dayton, Ohio, in 1810. He served as a member of the Ohio legislature and as a captain under William Henry Harrison in 1812. In 1815 he moved to Detroit. Edwards served as aide to General Lewis Cass in 1823. He was the president of the first legislative council of the Michigan Territory. (See also: F 0005, Abraham Edwards Account Books)

Nathan Heald (1775-1832) was born in New Hampshire. He entered the army in 1799, and served throughout Ohio and the Indiana Territory from 1801 to 1806. Heald was the commandant at Fort Wayne from 1807 to 1810. He was the commandant at Fort Dearborn in 1812, but escaped the massacre that occurred there that year. He left the army in 1814.

John Johnston (1775-1861) was born in Ballyshannon, County Donegal, Ireland. He came to America in 1786 where he worked as a government clerk in Philadelphia. Johnston was later attached to Anthony Wayne's army on their journey down the Ohio to Fort Washington (Cincinnati). He spent the winter of 1795 in Kentucky and then returned east where he married Rachel Robinson in 1802. That same year, he was appointed Indian factor at Fort Wayne. He apparently also assumed the duties of Indian agent at Fort Wayne after the dismissal of William Wells in 1809. At his own request, Johnston was transferred to Piqua, Ohio, in 1811 where he served as the Indian agent for the next twenty years, although he had the additional duties of part time supervisor of the Fort Wayne Indian agency as well. During the War of 1812 Johnston served as a paymaster and a quartermaster. Politically, he was a supporter of William Henry Harrison and the Whig Party. (See also: SC 0886, John Johnston Papers, SC 1692, Benjamin Parke Papers, and BV 2611, John Johnston Account Book)

Jacob Kingsbury (1756-1837) served as a captain under Anthony Wayne. He was the commandant at Detroit from at least 1804 to 1810. (See also: F 0818-0819, Jacob Kingsbury Papers)

Daniel Landon (fl. 1802-1813) was a contractor's agent at Fort Wayne. (See also: *An Early Mill at Three Rivers*, pam HJ 8936.L3 E3 1953)

Philip Ostrander (d. 1813) served under Anthony Wayne, and was later stationed at Fort Dearborn and Fort Wayne. He was given temporary command of Fort Wayne after James Rhea resigned in 1812.

James Rhea (fl. 1791-1812) was a native of New Jersey. He was a lieutenant and adjutant of "Rhea's Levies" in 1791. Rhea served under Anthony Wayne, and was assigned command of Fort Industry. He replaced Nathan Heald as commandant at Fort Wayne in 1810, and was reported to have been drunk during the siege there in 1812. He resigned his command rather than face charges for his actions. He left Fort Wayne in mid-September of that year.

John Whistler (1756?-1829) was born in Ulster, Ireland. He fought with the British Army during the Revolutionary War. Afterwards, Whistler and his wife came to the United States and settled in Hagerstown, Maryland. He joined the U.S. Army and was a lieutenant under Anthony Wayne. He served at Fort Wayne and Detroit, and built Fort Dearborn (present day Chicago). Whistler returned to Fort Wayne, and was commandant from 1814 to 1816. He was then transferred to St. Louis, where he served until his death. Whistler was the father of engineer George Washington Whistler and the grandfather of artist James Abbot McNeill Whistler. (See also: *The Whistlers*, Ip 929.1 W576f)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of letters and documents (1800-1816) relating to the Indiana Territory. Included are letters to Colonel Jacob Kingsbury at Detroit, Newport, R.I., and New York from Captain James Rhea, Lieutenant John Whistler, and other soldiers at Fort Wayne regarding the military situation at the fort. Correspondents include: William Henry Brown, Daniel Curtis, Abraham Edwards, Nathan Heald, John Johnston, Jacob Kingsbury, Daniel Landon, Philip Ostrander, James Rhea, and John Whistler.

Items of note include:

- A letter dated 26 September 1809 from Abraham Edwards to William H. Brown states that William Henry Harrison is at Fort Wayne negotiating at treaty with Indian tribes. This treaty, known as Harrison's Purchase, involved the Potawatomi, Miami, and Eel River tribes.
- John Johnston's 3 November 1811 letter to Kingsbury states "Governor Harrison...is building the garrison on the Wabash [River] and is determined to break up the Great Prophet and party. I think the governor's expedition will be the means of preventing an Indiana War for the present."
- Daniel Curtis' letter of 21 September 1812 to Kingsbury provides an account of the death of William Wells and others as they were leaving Fort Dearborn on August 15 and the subsequent siege of Fort Wayne by a group of Potawatomis. The fort was eventually rescued by the arrival of an army lead by Harrison. Curtis also discusses the actions of Capt. Rhea that led up to the siege and Rhea's drunken behavior during it.
- A fragment of a letter dated 11 February 1813 from William Henry Harrison to John Armstrong, written in an unknown hand. It was identified in the early 1980's by the William Henry Harrison Project at the Indiana Historical Society.

Also included is a voucher made out to John Baptist Laplant (1800), garrison returns from Fort Wayne (1810-1814) and manuscript copies of acts of the territorial legislature (1811), signed by Gov. William Henry Harrison. A list of the acts follows:

Folder 4 - An act regulating the general elections of the Indiana Territory

Folder 5 - A joint resolution for the distribution of the laws

An act supplemental to the law levying a land tax

An act to amend an act entitled an act authorizing and regulating arbitrations

A joint resolution respecting a certain audited warrant

An act authorizing the Court of Common Pleas to issue writs of Habeas Corpus and Certiorari in certain cases

Folder 6 - An act to amend the act entitled an act for levying and collecting a tax on land and for other purposes, and repealing part of the said act

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| 2 | Correspondence and Documents, 1811-1812 |
| 3 | Correspondence and Documents, 1813-1816 |
| 4 | Legislative Acts, 1811 (folder 1) |

- 5 Legislative Acts, 1811 (folder 2)
 - 6 Legislative Acts, 1811 (folder 3)
 - 7 (OM 0038) Garrison Returns, 1810-1814
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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](#)
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and **four** digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

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