

Collection #
SC2939

ISABELLA GRAHAM TEACHER'S LICENSE, 1863

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 Folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1863

PROVENANCE:

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 1967.1103

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

In the nineteenth century, teacher certification in the United States was decentralized and primarily took place at the county level. An examiner would grant a teacher's license to an applicant after he or she passed an exam covering a number of subject areas. In Indiana, an 1837 law required that each county have three examiners; these positions were often filled by tradesmen, teachers, or ex-teachers. At this time there were no uniform standards for evaluating potential teachers. Often times applicants who were failed by one examiner might move on to another and easily receive a license.

In the 1860s, the number of examiners per county was decreased to one and their duties expanded to include the inspection of schools. These changes resulted in the appointment of more qualified examiners and more uniform examination standards. In the early 1870s, the position of Examiner was abolished and replaced by the office of County Superintendent. The men who held this position were not only responsible for giving licensing exams; they also oversaw the county's schools and made reports to state officials.

Between the 1830s and 1860s most Indiana teachers were trained in private institutions. Several attempts to establish larger public training schools failed, and state-supported normal schools did not flourish until later in the century. By 1910, teacher licensing procedures were standardized statewide and were overseen by the State Superintendent and the State Board of Education.

Sources:

Angus, David L. "Professionalism and the Public Good: A Brief History of Teacher Certification." http://www.education-consumers.org/briefpdfs/1.7-history_teacher_certification.pdf. Accessed November 1, 2012.

Boone, Richard G. *A History of Education in Indiana*. New York: Appleton and Company, 1892.

History of Huntington County, Indiana: From the earliest time to the present with biographical sketches, notes, etc., together with a short history of the Northwest, the Indiana territory, and the state of Indiana. Chicago: Brant and Fuller, 1887.

Indiana Department of Public Instruction. *Indiana Teachers' Licenses – Examinations – Notes*. Indianapolis: William B. Burford, 1910.

Sklar, Kathryn Kish. "Female Teachers: 'Firm Pillars' of the West," *Schools and the Means of Education Should Forever be Encouraged: A History of Education in the Old Northwest 1787-1880*. Athens, Ohio: Ohio University Libraries, 1987.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains Isabella Graham's Huntington County, Indiana teacher's license. It was issued on November 10, 1863 by Richard A. Curran, Huntington County School Examiner. Curran served as examiner until about 1871. He later became Mayor of the city of Huntington.

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CONTENTS

Isabella Graham's Huntington County teacher's
license, 1863.

CONTAINER

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:
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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, SC2939).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.