

Collection #  
BV 5573

**JOHN AND SAMUEL MCCORMICK  
LEDGER, 1819-1869**

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 ledger

COLLECTION DATES: 1819-1869

PROVENANCE: Sam L. McCormick III, 2023

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: The McCormick Ledger has been digitized in its entirety and is available in our digital collections.

RELATED HOLDINGS: McCormick Family clipping file; George Pogue Papers (SC1210); Calvin Fletcher Papers (M0108); *Pioneer Indianapolis* (pam F 534 .I55 S86 1901)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2022.0153

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

John McCormick (Sept. 25, 1791-Sept. 1825) is credited as one of the first white settlers in what would become Indianapolis. A resident of the Connersville settlement as early as 1813, McCormick left in February 1820 and led his family, two brothers, and nine employees along the Whetzel Trace to Rushville and then into central Indiana, arriving at the confluence of Fall Creek and the White River on February 26. Family tradition holds that 12 men in the party raised a cabin that first day and greeted the George Pogue family, which arrived days later. Another tradition suggests that Pogue had arrived in the area the previous March. Since as early as 1822, the question of who arrived first, McCormick or Pogue, has been disputed.

What is accepted is that McCormick, who kept a tavern until his death, hosted the state commissioners in June 1820, when they selected the site for the new state capital at Indianapolis.

In his *Greater Indianapolis* (1910), Jacob Piatt Dunn examined the dispute regarding who was the first white settler in Indianapolis, McCormick or George Pogue. After sorting through each family's oral histories, Dunn concluded that McCormick was most likely the first permanent settler of European descent in the White River-Fall Creek area (February 1820), whereas Pogue was probably the first to settle permanently within the boundaries of the congressional donation lands (March 1820).

### Sources:

Esaray, Logan, ed., *History of Indiana: From its Exploration to 1922* (Vol. 4), p. 840

Sulgrove, Berry R., *History of Indianapolis and Marion County*, (Philadelphia: L.H. Everts & Co., 1884) pp. 21-22

Vanderstel, Cheryl D., "John McCormick: Early Settler," *Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This ledger shows the business of firstly John McCormick initially in Connersville before he moved to Indianapolis as one of the first white settlers. The second half of the ledger book was used by John's brother Samuel McCormick as he provided a ferrying service across the White River. While John McCormick primarily dealt with lumber and concerns of settling, Samuel McCormick's business focused more on ferrying services and providing oats, general produce, lodging, and labor to other pioneer families.

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CONTAINER

BV 5573 (Flat)