

Collection #
SC 1666

**JOHN CASPAR HIRSHBRUNNER
AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

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Processed by
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

**VOLUME OF
COLLECTION:** 1 folder

**COLLECTION
DATES:** 1900; 1907

PROVENANCE: Melita J. Campbell, West Lafayette, IN, December 1979, 26
June 1997

RESTRICTIONS: None

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**ALTERNATE
FORMATS:**

**RELATED
HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION
NUMBERS:** 1979.1216; 1997.0580, 2008.0255

NOTES: The typescript of John C. Hirshbrunner's autobiography was
loaned to the Indiana Historical Society by Melita J. Campbell
for copying in December, 1979. The word-processed version
of the typescript was donated to IHS by her in 1997.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Caspar Hirshbrunner (1825-1916) was a native of Berne, Switzerland. He was educated in public schools, and worked as a journeyman tanner until 1851, when he came to the United States. In 1853, Hirshbrunner married Elizabeth Weidman (1825-1892), who had also immigrated from Switzerland. They moved to Indianapolis, where Hirshbrunner engaged in the tanning business, that same year. They had seven children: Lena (1854-56), Lena (b. 1857), Bertha (b. 1859), Matilda (b. 1861) John G. (b. 1863), Mary L. (b. 1866) and Jacob Andrew (b. 1868).

In 1856, Hirshbrunner and his family moved to Terre Haute, where he continued in the tanning business. They moved to Parke County in 1859 and settled in Lusk Springs in 1866. In 1880, he sold his tannery. Hirshbrunner lived in Rockville in his later life.

Sources:

Material in the collection.

History of Vigo and Parke Counties, Indiana (1880) p. 454-55.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of a photocopied, 16-page typescript of the autobiography of John Caspar Hirshbrunner. The autobiography was dictated to his son, John, in 1900. It contains descriptions of his childhood and youth in Switzerland, accounts of his years as a journeyman tanner, his immigration to the United States, and his life in Indiana. Also included are two pages of notes by his great-granddaughter, Melita Campbell.

The collection also contains *The Autobiography of John Caspar Hirshbrunner*, a 1997 word-processed and bound version of the earlier typescript. It was edited by Sally Goeke, a great-great-granddaughter of Hirshbrunner, and includes copies of photographs from the family photo collection.

The final piece of the collection is a 2008 version of *The Autobiography of John Caspar Hirshbrunner*, also edited by Sally Goeke. Some of the photographs in this are in color.

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Hirshbrunner Autobiography

CONTAINER

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