

Collection #
P 0673

**MERRILL B. BARKLEY
VISUAL COLLECTION, 1834–1883**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketches	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 OVA Graphics box
1 OVB photograph box

COLLECTION DATES: 1834–1883

PROVENANCE: Merrill B. Barkley, Indianapolis, 1930

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1930.0004, 1930.0301

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Merrill B. Barkley, (6 December 1875–31 July 1964) a lifelong resident of Indianapolis, Barkley was one of the directors and controlling stock owners in the publishing company, Hollenbeck Press. His mother, Ida Douglass, was the youngest daughter of John Douglass and his wife Maria.

John Douglass, (1787–1851) the first Indiana state printer and a newspaper editor, he moved to southern Indiana from Philadelphia in 1820. He was elected state printer and he and the state treasurer, Samuel Merrill, moved to the new Indiana state offices in Indianapolis in 1824. He became a partner in the *Indiana Journal* newspaper in 1825. By 1843 he sold his interest in the *Journal* and retired from the publishing business. He was married to Maria Douglass and the couple had six children; Lydia B., Ellen B., Samuel M., James B., George, and Ida Douglass.

Samuel Merrill Douglass (1831–1876) the eldest son of John Douglass, the first Indiana state printer, Samuel stayed in the printing business after his father's death and worked at several establishments over the years. Among them; Douglass & Elder, Book & Job Printers, on Washington Street, and by 1870 he was in business with his brother James and Alexander H. Conner at Douglass & Conner as proprietors of the *Daily Journal* on the Circle.

James G. Douglass (1833–1887) was the younger brother of Samuel Merrill Douglass. He was also in the printing business.

Alfred Harrison (b. 1803), local banker and philanthropist was a leader for the Indianapolis Benevolent Society, along with Samuel Merrill, Calvin Fletcher, and others. His wife was Lydia B. Douglass, one of the daughters of John Douglass and his wife Maria.

John D. Howland was a charter member and the principal founder of the Indianapolis Literary Club in 1877. He served as Clerk of the U.S. Federal Court in Indianapolis and also organized the Indianapolis Library Association, a forerunner of the city's library system. He was married to a Desdemona Harrison in 1856. His portrait in the collection by an unknown artist is on paper in gouache, watercolor, and graphite. It shows him as an elderly man with white hair and beard and looks to be a copy of his portrait by T.C. Steele in the Indianapolis Literary Club collection at the Indianapolis Museum of Art.

The identities of **John S. Green** and **Ephraim Morton**, whose names appear on a political cartoon in the collection, are unknown. It is possible that the cartoon was obtained and saved by John Douglass when he was publishing the *Indiana Journal* in the year 1834.

Sources:

David J. Bodenhamer...; *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Bloomington: I. U., 1994.
I.H.S. General Collection; F534.I55 E4 1994

Raymond E. Gnat; *The Indianapolis Literary Club: summarized record, 1976-2003*:
I.H.S. General Collection; PN22 .I553 2004

www.ancestrylibrary.com

<https://Indianapublicmedia.org/momentofindianahistory/moving-state-capital-indianapolis/>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains visual materials donated by Merrill B. Barkley. His family was connected with several Indiana publishing businesses during the 19th and early 20th centuries. There are portraits of John D. Howland and Samuel Merrill Douglass, as well as homes of John Douglass, James G. Douglass, and Alfred Harrison. The individuals all appear to be related to the donor's family. There is also a group portrait of unidentified Civil War soldiers, and one political cartoon drawing from July 1834.

The political cartoon drawing text is transcribed below. It pertains to colonial America and current events of the Andrew Jackson presidency. It also references Pennsylvania as the "key state" in defense of enemies; possibly important to John Douglass as it was his home state and could have been owned by him while he was the publisher of the *Indiana Journal* newspaper. No information was found on the artist Ephraim Morton or John S. Green to whom it was presented.

"American Independence, Much admired by the working men of England and Ireland, Adopted Citizens support the present Administration."

"LIBERTY banished from England & Ireland thinly scattered over then the wilds of North America, nourished by the breath of GOD it took deep root and bore precious fruit which was protected by Washington when Cornwallis and his army surrender'd at Yorktown. And defended by Jackson when Packinham [Pakenham] and thousands of his men were slain at New Orleans and thousands ran away without "Beauty or Booty." Liberty was again assailed by a domestic enemy but mask't under the name of a "Bank" but soon became a many headed monster and began to crawl over the arch of the Constitution and thought to destroy the Hickory tree Jackson sent our war bird who is bruising the heads of this serpent with Hickory nuts."

[text in arch] *"The arch of the Constitution founded on a rock Pennsylvania the Key St. one it will stand in defiance of foreign and domestic enemies."*

"Presented to John S. Green by Ephraim Morton the 4th July 1834. E. Morton, Del."

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

[Political Cartoon]

"*American Independence ... / Presented to John S. Green by Ephriam Morton the 4th of July 1834. E. Morton, Del.*"

[pen and iron gall ink drawing of hickory tree guarded by eagle dropping hickory nuts on a three headed serpent, with an arch over water with ships, a light house and church on land, it pertains to political events of colonial America and Andrew Jackson's presidency]

John D. Howland portrait

ca. 1877

Samuel Merrill Douglass portrait

by "Carl. P. Fetsch / artist" [ca. 1870]

[Civil War group portrait of officers and enlisted men outside under trees with tents in background, ca. 1865]

"Home of John Douglass (at left) New York St. between West and Canal"

[view of two wood framed houses, probably a copy of an early tintype, ca. 1850]

"Residence of J.G. Douglass, cor. of Mer. & Mich. Sts. 1883" [James G. Douglass]

[stamp on verso] "C.A. Wallingford, / Architect, / 49 & 50 Fletcher & Sharpe's Bank Building, / Indianapolis"

[brick and limestone home with tower]

"Alfred Harrison house, N.W. corner, Meridian and Michigan [brick 2 ½ story home with picket fence and porch]"

CONTAINER

OVA Graphics:

Box 1, Folder 1

OVA Graphics:

Box 1, Folder 2

OVB Photographs:

Box 1, Folder 1

OVB Photographs:

Box 1, Folder 2

OVB Photographs:

Box 1, Folder 3

OVB Photographs:

Box 1, Folder 4

OVB Photographs:

Box 1, Folder 5