

Collection #
SC 1370

**NATHAN SMITH LETTER
1824, APRIL 27
RICHMOND, IND.
[TO] JOSHUA ATWOOD, WARWICK, MASS.**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder

COLLECTION DATE: 1824

PROVENANCE: Mrs. Carol C. Lind, Seattle WA, 1964, November 1972; Robert E. Boggs, 5999 Contreras Road, Oxford OH, July 1972

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 1964.0026, 1972.0704, 1972.1107

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Nathan Smith (fl. 1822-1835) was a New Englander, probably from western Massachusetts, the son of Nathan and Elizabeth (Atwood) Smith. After teaching in Butler County and Erie in Pennsylvania, he worked his way west. He taught for a short while at Lebanon, Ohio, where he married Martha Benham.

By 1822 Smith was in Richmond, Indiana. He taught first at a one-room school there and then in Centerville at an academy which was set up in 1828. By several accounts (including his own) he was a very good teacher, and attracted many students.

Smith apparently taught in Centerville until 1833. He served as probate judge in Centerville from 1832 to 1835, and also set up a woolen mill. One source indicates that he ended up in Orange County, Texas.

Note: There were at least two Nathan Smiths in Richmond at this time. The other was one of the five sons of John Smith, a North Carolinian who settled in Richmond in 1806. This other Nathan Smith was state representative (1836-1838) and state senator (1838-1840). It is not clear which of these Nathan Smiths was Wayne County surveyor from 1833 to 1836 or publisher of the Centerville *Independent Press* in 1852.

Sources: Biographical Directory of Indiana General Assembly

Fox, Memoirs of Wayne County (1912), 426, 483

History of Wayne County (1884), 487, 504, 520, 671-672

M 0098 William H. English Collection, Box 72 Folder 3

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling one folder, contains one letter dated 27 April 1824, from Nathan Smith in Richmond, Indiana, to his uncle Joshua Atwood in Warwick, Massachusetts. Two typescripts of the letter are included. In it Smith gives his uncle a fairly complete account of his history over the past few years.

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: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
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, SC 1370).

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