

Collection #
SC 1726

**NEGROES AND MULATTOES—ORANGE COUNTY, INDIANA
REGISTER, 1853—56**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 2 folders

COLLECTION
DATES: 1853–56

PROVENANCE: Copy, 1980

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 1980.0728

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The revised 1851 Indiana State Constitution included Article XIII that stated: “No negro or mulatto should come into, or settle in the state, after the adoption of the constitution.” The article was put to voters as a separate referendum, and only in four counties did a majority of the constituents vote against it—Elkhart, LaGrange, Randolph, and Steuben. An 1852 enactment tasked county clerks to maintain a Register of Negroes and Mulattoes. This was done unevenly throughout the state. In his research to locate these documents, Coy Robbins was able to find 15 extant registers. He identifies and duplicates these registers in his 1994 publication, *Indiana Negro Registers, 1852-1865*. How stringently residents were registered was often contingent upon social conditions including demography and racial tolerance within the counties.

Orange County was formed in 1815 as part of the Indiana Territory. After Indiana statehood, the county splintered to become Orange, Lawrence, and Monroe counties. During the antebellum period, most African Americans in Orange County lived in Paoli or South East townships. Lick Creek, a black rural community was located in South East township. This area is now part of the Hoosier National Forest.

Sources:

Coy Robbins. *Forgotten Hoosiers: African Heritage in Orange County, Indiana*. Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 1994.

Coy Robbins. *Indiana Negro Registers, 1852-1865*. Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, Inc., 1994.

Emma Lou Thornbrough. *The Negro in Indiana before 1900*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Bureau, 1957.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The two-folder collection contains a copy of the Register of Negroes and Mulattoes for Orange County, Indiana dated from 1853–56. The register lists name, birth date, physical description, and state of nativity of black residents of the county. It also has a printed version of Article 13 of the revised 1851 Indiana constitution and the 1852 Act that enabled it.

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CONTENTS

Register of Negroes and Mulattoes of Orange County,
1853-56

Printed version of Article 13 from 1851 Indiana
constitution and 1852 enactment for Article 13.

CONTAINER

Folder 1

Folder 2