NIXON-WIECHMAN
COLLECTION, 1773-1962

Collection Information 1
Biographical Sketch 2
Scope and Content Note 3
Contents 5

Processed by
Amie Klempnauer
June 1987

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 oversize manuscript box, 37 bound volumes

COLLECTION DATES: 1773-1962

PROVENANCE: James Wiechman, Richmond, Indiana, 30 September 1986

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1986.0675

NOTES: Several boxes of published materials have been transferred to the printed collection. These include publications on Indiana history, several art books and exhibit catalogs, a large number of rare book catalogs, some college catalogs, and political publications.

One box of genealogical material almost exclusively about the Stubbs family has been transferred to the Genealogy Division of the Indiana State Library.
BIOGRAPHICAL BACKGROUND

John M. Nixon (1884-1983) was a collector of art and rare books. He took an avid interest in Indiana history, collecting primarily the work of Indiana artists. He also collected many manuscripts and books related to the history of Indiana.

John Nixon was born and raised in Newport (now Fountain City), Indiana. He lived for brief periods of time in Cambridge City and Knightstown, Indiana. Nixon married Addie Hill in 1903 and settled with her in Centerville, Indiana, where he spent the rest of his life. They had two children, Lucille and Byron. In 1905, Nixon opened a meat market and worked as a butcher and a baker. He also owned and operated the Centerville Airport for a time. It is likely that he also engaged in some other business ventures.

Nixon's art collection was well known for its fine representation of Indiana art, particularly of the work of John Elwood Bundy, George Baker, Wayman Adams, and Charles Conner.

This collection was acquired from James Wiechman, Nixon's son-in-law, in September 1986.
The Nixon-Wiechman collection contains manuscripts related to the history of Richmond and Wayne County, Indiana; the correspondence of John Nixon and the history of some notable families.

Several documents in the first section deal with horse racing in Richmond in 1897-1900. Among these are financial statements, betting entries, contracts and race entries. Other manuscripts related to the history of Richmond and Wayne County are documents from the Morrison-Reeves (1910-1916), from a local baseball club (1899), and some account papers of a Wayne County leather worker (1825-1836).

The correspondence of John Nixon is largely concerned with his renowned art collection. Nixon corresponded extensively and intimately with artists and dealers. However, if he corresponded with some of the best known artists, these letters are not included. All of the letters in this section were written between 1920-1925. Also included are some newsletters and announcements from the Art Association of Richmond (1958-1962), an announcement of a memorial exhibit of the work of the Overbecks, and some miscellaneous papers.

The Stubbs family history is also addressed in this collection. The Stubbs were a family of Quakers who emigrated to Georgia from England. Opposed to the institution of slavery, the moved to Ohio and settled in West Elkton, Preble County. Through the years family members expanded over a wider area, some settling in Centerville and Richmond. The manuscripts in this section are mostly correspondence between members of the Stubbs family. Some members of the family were particularly interested in tracing the genealogy of the Stubbs. Much of the correspondence grew out of this effort (1885-1901). Other items include letters concerned with plans for a family reunion (1884-1885) and some miscellaneous letters. Also included in this section is a journal kept by a beginning farmer, possibly from Wayne County (1861). Although the author is not identified, the journal refers to the Stubbs family.

Other families documented in the collection are the Menzies and the Johnson. Most of the members of these families lived in Richmond, Virginia or in Kentucky. A brief genealogy traces the marital links between the two families (1920). This section includes a few financial documents of the Menzies family (1813-1837). The bulk of the documents, however, is comprised of the correspondence of the Johnson family. Letters to George Nicholson Johnson (b. 1811-d. 1855) form his friends and family are included (1828-1848). Letters to his wife, Marguerite Alice Christian Menzies Johnson, are also part of this section (1841-1855).

George Johnson was apparently quite active in the church in Richmond, Virginia (probably the Episcopal Church). Upon his sudden death, the congregation adopted several memorial and mourning resolutions, a copy of which is also included.

The fifth sections of manuscripts is composed of miscellaneous correspondence, most of which was written in the mid-nineteenth century. The earliest documents are not originals, but were transcribed by the Morrison-Reeves Library. Of particular interest are the letters of Lloyd K. Hill
to Miss Lou Pierce. The two were involved in a romantic relationship of which her parents apparently disapproved.

Finally, various miscellaneous documents are included. These range from Harriet Tubman Davis’ obituary (saved by the White Water Society of Friends), to an essay on the resurrection of Christ (1834), to excerpts from the political record of former Governor Paul McNutt.

The collection also includes a significant number of bound volumes. Several account books from farms, stores and work of the White Water Canal are included. The owners of the account books are often unidentified, but the books are almost all identified as coming from Wayne County.

The collection includes a number of personal books, notebooks and scrapbooks. The scrapbooks contain many newspaper clippings, including several on political issues and abolitionism. Most of these were kept during the latter half of the nineteenth century by residents of Wayne County.

The minute books of some Wayne County organizations are part of the collection. The minutes of the township trustees, two local clubs, and the White Water Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends are all included. One of the clubs, The Cycle, was a women’s organization apparently interested in discussing the history of colonial America (1887-1899).

The oldest volumes in the part of the collection are among the mathematics workbooks (ciphering books). Two of these were used in the late eighteenth century (1773, 1785). One of these was used by Sarah Spencer of Loudon County, Virginia. The other, which belonged to Samuel Smith, does not have an identified location. While these were used primarily as schoolbooks, they sometimes contain small poems or notes that were written on the pages.
**CONTENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>CONTAINER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Horse Racing Papers, Financial Documents, 1898-1899</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Racing Papers, Betting Entries, Sept. 1900</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Racing Papers, Contracts, June 1899</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Racing Papers, Race Entries, 1899-1900</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horse Racing Papers, Rules, Receipts, Sept. 1899</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morrison-Reeves Library, Lease, Sept. 1910</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morrison-Reeves Library, Report to supporters of &quot;Writings on American History,&quot; 1916</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baseball Club, Financial Documents, May-August 1899</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certifications of Public Officials, 1848-1867</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts, Leather Worker, 1825-1836</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Nixon, Correspondence, Art and Science Club, Jan. 1924</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Nixon, Correspondence, T. Victor Keene, M.D., 1920-1923</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Nixon, Correspondence, E. Dietz, 1921-1924</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 13-15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Nixon, Correspondence, George Calvert, 1922-1923</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 16-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Nixon, Correspondence, Johann Berthelsen, 1922-1925</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 18-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Nixon, Christmas Correspondence, 1962</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art Association of Richmond, 1958-1962</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overbeck Memorial Exhibit Announcement, May, 1937</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Obituary, Mrs. Wayman Adams  Box 1, Folder 23

Poem from Elmer Meek  Box 1, Folder 24

Stubbs Family, Correspondence, Family History, 1885-1901  Box 1, Folder 25-26

Stubbs Family History, Letter, Mendenhall Family, March 1900  Box 1, Folder 27

Stubbs Family History, Poem about Zimari Stubbs, sent Sept. 1899  Box 1, Folder 28

Stubbs Family History, Correspondence, Family Reunion, 1884-1885  Box 1, Folder 29

Stubbs Family History, Correspondence, Miscellaneous, 1803-1901  Box 1, Folder 30

Stubbs Family History, Open Letter, Mahlon Stubbs, Realtor  Box 1, Folder 31

Stubbs Family History, Farm Journal, refers to Stubbs, 1861  Box 1, Folder 32

Stubbs Family History, Court Report, 1888  Box 1, Folder 33

Stubbs Family History, History of Northwest Territory, L.D. Stubbs, 1887  Box 1, Folder 34

Menzies/Johnson Family, Genealogical Information, 1920  Box 1, Folder 35

Menzies/Johnson Family, Financial Documents, T. Menzies, Estate Accounts  Box 1, Folder 36

Menzies/Johnson Family, Financial Documents, Wm. Menzies, Account Papers, 1813-1837  Box 1, Folder 37

Correspondence, to George N. Johnson, From Friends, Acquaintances, 1828-1848  Box 1, Folder 38

Correspondence, to George N. Johnson, From Family, 1828-1839  Box 1, Folder 39
Correspondence, to Marguerite Johnson, From Friends, Acquaintances, 1841-1848  
Box 1, Folder 40

Correspondence, to Marguerite Johnson, From Family and Husband, 1849-1855  
Box 1, Folder 41

Church Resolutions (upon G. Johnson's death), 1855  
Box 1, Folder 42

Correspondence, to Marie Garber, 1866-1867  
Box 1, Folder 43

Miscellaneous Correspondence, To John Vestal, 1803  
Box 1, Folder 44

Miscellaneous Correspondence, From Samuel and Mary Carter, 1801-1804  
Box 1, Folder 45

Miscellaneous Correspondence, From Lloyd Hill, c. 1870  
Box 1, Folder 46

Miscellaneous Correspondence, John Erwin, 1828-1840  
Box 1, Folder 47

Miscellaneous Correspondence, From Samuel Smith, 1828  
Box 1, Folder 48

Miscellaneous Correspondence, Unidentified, 1858-1932  
Box 1, Folder 49

Obituary, Harriet Tubman Davis, 1913  
Box 1, Folder 50

Check, Molten Woodruff Sibley, 1867  
Box 1, Folder 51

Essay, Jemima Carr, 1834  
Box 1, Folder 52

Indenture, Teacher Contract, 1812,  
Box 1, Folder 53

Circuit Court Statement (Estate), 1825  
Box 1, Folder 54

Paul McNutt, Excerpts from Record, Typescript Manuscript  
Box 1, Folder 55

Radio Script, "Builders of Destiny," 1951  
Box 1, Folder 56

Mrs. Nellie Ross, Genealogy; Family Home, ca. 1960  
Box 1, Folder 27

Grade School History Notes, 1917  
Box 1, Folder 58
Mathematics Workbooks Box 1, Folder 59

Account Records (Farm, Store), Richmond, Wayne County, IN, 1806-1810 Box 1, Folder 60

School Notebook, Dora Harris, Location and date unidentified Box 1, Folder 61

Scrapbook (newsclippings: political issues) n.d. Box 1, Folder 62

**Bound Volumes and OMB**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>CONTAINER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Farm Account Book, Centerville, Wayne County, IN, March 1906-December 1941</td>
<td>BV 2341</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store Account Book, Longwood, April 1837-July 1840</td>
<td>BV 2342</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store Account Book, Centerville, Wayne County, IN, August 1832-March 1833</td>
<td>OMB 0008, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store Account Book, Location unidentified, 1830-1831</td>
<td>OMB 0008, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store Account Book, Centerville, Wayne County, IN, 1829-1830</td>
<td>OMB 0008, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Store Account Book, Location unidentified, 1829</td>
<td>OMB 0008, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doctor's Account Book, Richmond, Wayne County, IN, 1846-1849</td>
<td>BV 2343</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account Book/Scrapbook (newsclippings), Centerville, Wayne County, IN, 1838-1890</td>
<td>BV 2344</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account Book/Scrapbook, Richmond, Wayne County, IN, 1854-1900</td>
<td>BV 2345</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account Book (farm and organization), Location unidentified, 1942-1956</td>
<td>BV 2346</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Account and Time Book, Benjamin Peirce, Washington Township, Wayne County, IN, February 1834-September, 1862</td>
<td>BV 2347</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Account and Time Book, Section 93, Benjamin Peirce, Centerville, Wayne County, IN, July 1837-October 1838

Account and Time Book, Section 88, White Canal, Wayne County, IN, August 1838-May 1840

Account and Time Book, Section 93, Benjamin Peirce, White Water Canal, Wayne County, IN, July 1837-September 1838

Account and Time Book, Section 88, White Water Canal, Wayne County, IN, January 1839- June 1840

Account and Time Book, Section 14, Richmond and Brookville Canal, Abington, Wayne County, IN, 1840

Common School Register, Beavertown School, Dayton, OH, September 1870-February 1873

Record Book, School District 9, Dayton Township, Montgomery County, OH, 1830-1870

Autograph Book, Nina Henley, Carthage and Richmond, IN, 1880s

Notebook (exercises, notes on teaching), Location and date unidentified

"Common-Place" notebook (selections and notes from various books), Location unidentified, 1901

Todd's Index Rerum, Lewis Stubbs (owner), Centerville, Wayne County, IN, 1857

Scrapbook (notes on design, newsclippings, poems, addresses), Location and date unidentified

Scrapbook (newsclippings), Richmond, Wayne County, IN, 1920-1950

Scrapbook (newsclippings: political issues, abolitionism), Richmond, Wayne County, IN, 1860s

Scrapbook (newsclippings, indentures, abolitionist tracts), W. (?) Benton, Richmond, Wayne County, IN, 1828-1885
Minutes Book, Board of Township Trustees, Centre Township, Wayne County, April 1853-December 1864  

Minutes Book, The Tuesday Club, Richmond, Wayne County, IN, October 1893-December 1894  

Minutes Book, The Cycle, Richmond, Wayne County, IN, January 1887-March 1899  

Minutes Book, White Water Monthly Meeting of Friends, Richmond, Wayne County, IN, March 1830-July 1891  

Mathematics Workbook, John Erwin, Richmond, Wayne County, IN, 1820  

Mathematics Workbook, Sarah Spencer, Goose Creek, Loudoun County, VA, September 1785  

Mathematics Workbook, Samuel Smith, Location unidentified, 1773  

Mathematics Workbook, John Henley, Richmond, Wayne County, IN, February 1835  

Judges' Book, Richmond Driving Park Association (Horse Races), Richmond, Wayne County, IN, September 25-28, 1900  

Visual Materials  

Visual Collection: OVA Photographs, Folder 1