

SAMUEL GWATHMEY

LAW BOOK, ca. 1800-1818

Collection #:
BV 3178

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Processed by
Chris Harter
29 August 1997

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 item

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1800-1818

PROVENANCE: C. Wesley Cowan, 747 Park Ave., Terrace Park, OH 45174, 28 May 1997

RESTRICTIONS: None

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

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: SC 0045, David J. Baker Letters (letter from Gwathmey); SC 0739, John Henry Papers (contains a document signed by Gwathmey as Register of Land Office); M 0098, W. H. English Collection (letters from Gwathmey)

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 1997.0547

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Samuel Gwathmey (1778?-1850) was the son of Owen and Ann (Clark) Gwathmey. Born in Virginia, Gwathmey moved to Louisville, Kentucky around 1800. He relocated to Indiana, and was commissioned as the clerk of the newly appointed Clark County in the Indiana Territory. He also served as Clerk of the Court of General Quarter Sessions of the Peace and as Clerk of the Orphan's Court. In 1802, he became the county treasurer.

Gwathmey was instrumental in helping to layout the town of Jeffersonville in Clark County. Beginning in 1805, he served one term in the Indiana Territory Legislative Council. From 1807 to 1829, he headed the Register of Land Office. After being removed for political reasons, Gwathmey moved back to Louisville and opened a flour store. He later served as the president of the Mechanics and Savings Bank. In 1832, he joined a group of men who journeyed to Indianapolis to receive the incorporation papers for a company that had been created to build a bridge across the Ohio River at Jeffersonville.

Gwathmey married Mary Booth of Kentucky at an undetermined date. He died at the home of his daughter, Rebecca Ann Taylor, in 1850.

No information found in available resources for: George Gwathmey, Isaac Shelby or Erasmus K. Thompson.

Sources:
Baird, Lewis C. *History of Clark County, Indiana*. (1909) p. 49, 57, 81, 92, 212, 284.
History of Ohio Falls Cities and their Counties. Vol 2. (1882) p. 354, 428, 433, 436, 439.
Thornbrough, Gayle and Dorothy Riker (eds.). *Journals of the General Assembly of the Indiana Territory, 1805-1815*. p. 978.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains a manuscript law book (ca. 1800-1818) belonging to Samuel Gwathmey. The contents regard legal proceedings, such as summons, court proceedings, naturalization, writs, etc. in the Clark County court at Jeffersonville, Indiana. The title page is inscribed "Samuel Gwathmey's Book, Louisville, August 1800." The endpaper is inscribed "George Gwathmey, Deputy Clerk for Samuel Gwathmey, this 27th of August, 1808, My Friend Erasmus K. Thompson, Jeffersonville, Indiana Territory." The book also lists Isaac Shelby as a clerk of the court.

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](#)
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and **four** digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

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