WATER-POWERED MILLS COMMITTEE COLLECTION, 1840–1983

Collection Information

Historical Sketch

Scope and Content Note

Series Contents

Cataloging Information

Processed by

Janet Schmidt and Dorothy A. Nicholson
April 2010

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:  
**Manuscript Materials:** 7 document cases, 1 oversize folder  
**Visual Materials:** 4 boxes of photographs, 1 box of negatives,  
1 OVA photograph box, 1 OVC graphics box, 1 framed print

COLLECTION DATES: 1840–1983

PROVENANCE: Various sources, see accession numbers

RESTRICTIONS: Negatives may be viewed only with the assistance of library staff.

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RELATED HOLDINGS:

1968.0712, 1969.0310, 1983.0738,
HISTORICAL SKETCH

The water-powered mill was the business center for pioneer communities and played an important role in the economic development of the state of Indiana. According to the 1840 census the state was dotted with 204 flouring mills, 846 gristmills, 1248 sash sawmills, and 54 oil mills, all powered by water wheels.

The committee on old mills was established by the Indiana Historical Society in 1924. At the history conference that year, the Committee reported on the oldest mill in the state. The report stimulated interest in documenting old mills and dams but the Committee remained rather inactive until 1933. It was that year that the Committee reorganized with Dr. William M. Reser of Lafayette as chairman.

The committee conducted most of its work by personal contacts and began collecting photographs and information on pioneer mills with the help of the Smith Library at the Indiana Historical Society. The IHS library staff combed through county histories and sent letters to local historical societies asking for their help. The goal of the Committee was to publish articles and a comprehensive book about the old mills in the state.

In 1934 Denzel Doggett joined the Committee. Doggett was an Assistant State Engineer at the State of Indiana Conservation Department. A mill enthusiast, he was also involved in the restoration the mill at Spring Mill State Park. At his direction the Committee prepared a printed form that was sent out to all who were interested. The form was to be filled in and sent back with information on types of mills, past and present owners, available dates, etc. Old photos and sketches were especially desired. Doggett became the chairman of the Committee and kept that position until the late 1960s.

Artist and illustrator Frederick Polley joined the Committee in 1938 and for many years published a series of articles and sketches in the Indianapolis Sunday Star on mills and covered bridges. A published collection of his drawings was never issued.

The Committee exhibited photographs and materials on old mills in the State Library Building in 1938 and published the following articles:


Grist Mills of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, by Dr. William M. Reser (c.1945) Tippecanoe County Historical Association.


The Committee ceased to exist in the late sixties and the IHS library continued to maintain the correspondence and collection of mills materials. The Committee never published a book on mills.

Sources:
Materials in the collection
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

All series are organized alphabetically by the county names.

Series 1: 1840 Mills Census, 1936 Survey forms, correspondence, and notes.

Series 2: Printed Materials

Series 3: Indiana Water Power Mills Committee Materials

Series 4: Clippings

Series 5: Visual Materials: Photographs and graphic works

Series 6: Negatives
SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: 1840 Census, 1930s Survey forms, Correspondence

CONTENTS CONTAINER

**Adams County:**
1840 Mill Census
1936 IHS Survey Forms
Story from Snow’s History of Adams County
Box 1, Folder 1

**Allen County:**
1840 Mill Census
1860 list of mills
List of Water-power mills of Allen County erected prior to 1875
1936 IHS Survey Forms
Correspondence dated 1935 and 1941–42
Note from Old Fort News, 1976
Box 1, Folder 2

**Allen County:**
Allen County map showing location of mills
OVC Graphics:
Box 1, Folder 1

**Bartholomew County:**
1840 Mill Census
Correspondence 3/15/36 to 6/1935
1936 IHS Survey Forms
Photostat copy, first mail route to Frankfort, KY.
Box 1, Folder 3

**Blackford County:**
1840 Mill Census
Box 1, Folder 4

**Boone County:**
1840 Mill Census
Copies of newspaper clippings, article and poem of a mill
1936 IHS Survey Forms
Box 1, Folder 5

**Brown County:**
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Box 1, Folder 6
**Carroll County:**  
1840 Census  
1936 IHS Survey with supporting materials; 52 mills listed  
Copies of newspaper clippings, typed lists of water mills and Carroll County mills.

**Box 1, Folder 7**

**Cass County:**  
1840 Census  
1936 IHS Survey

**Box 1, Folder 8**

**Clark County:**  
1840 Census  
1936 IHS Survey  
Correspondence relating to 1936 survey.  
Extensive notes about Work’s Mill on Fourteen Mile Creek and list of other mills on Fourteen Mile Creek.  
Correspondence between Filson Club in Louisville and IHS concerning Geo. Rogers Clark and his mill.  
Blueprint copies of maps of Clarksville.

**Box 1, Folder 9**

**Clay County:**  
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Correspondence dated 9/15/39

**Box 1, Folder 10**

**Clinton County:**  
1840 Census  
1936 IHS Survey  
Mr. Coleman’s survey, 2/7/39

**Box 1, Folder 11**

**Crawford County:**  
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**Box 1, Folder 12**

**Daviess County:**  
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**Box 1, Folder 13**

**Dearborn County:**  
1840 Census  
1936 IHS Survey  
Col. Pinkey James biographical information

**Box 1, Folder 14**
**Decatur County:**
1840 Census
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**De Kalb County:**
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Notes about mills

**Delaware County:**
1840 Census
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Separate files included from Eugene Studebaker Wierbach, Sept. 1944

**DuBois County:**
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Copy of artist sketch of mill on Patoka River

**Elkhart County:**
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Articles about paper mills and saw mill
Correspondence dated 12/4/26 to 7/13/43

**Fayette County:**
1936 IHS Survey
Report on Water Supply, Connersville, Indiana by Charles C. Brown and William C. Mabee, 7/19/09

**Floyd County:**
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey

**Fountain County:**
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Other lists
**Fountain County:**
- Materials from R. J. Harrison, Attica concerning Shawnee Creek Mill
- Multiple copies of Fountain County history concerning Snoddy Mill
- Several articles about early mills.
- Correspondence dated 1936 and 1937 to IHS committee

**Franklin County:**
- 1840 Census
- 1936 IHS Survey
- Other lists and correspondence

**Fulton County:**
- 1840 Census

**Gibson County:**
- 1840 Census
- Article about Mt. Zion mill site

**Grant County:**
- 1840 Census
- 1936 IHS Survey
- Blueprint copies and articles concerning Conner’s Mill restoration

**Greene County:**
- 1840 Census
- 1936 IHS Survey

**Hamilton County:**
- 1840 Census
- 1936 IHS Survey
- Notes on interview with Mrs. Elizabeth Frye
- Correspondence dated 10/29/35 to 10/14/63

**Hancock County:**
- 1840 Census
- 1936 IHS Survey
- Correspondence dated 4/16/35

**Harrison County:**
- 1840 Census
- 1936 IHS Survey
- Correspondence dated 4/18/36
**Hendricks County:**
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**Henry County:**
1840 Census
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Box 2, Folder 12

**Howard County:**
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**Huntington County:**
1936 IHS Survey
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**Jasper County:**
1840 Census
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**Jay County:**
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**Jefferson County:**
1840 Census
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Correspondence dated 1936 and 1941.
Box 2, Folder 17

**Jennings County:**
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Correspondence 5/4/33 to 10/11/66
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**Johnson County:**
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Correspondence dated 1935–1937
Box 2, Folder 19

**Knox County:**
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Correspondence dated 10/16/35 to 10/17/47
Box 2, Folder 20

**Kosciusko County:**
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Correspondence dated 11/22/35 to 8/25/39
Box 3, Folder 1
LaGrange County:
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Transcript of letter dated 8/26/1859

Lake County:
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 11/21/35 and 1/2/36

La Porte County:
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey

La Porte County:
Lists of mills, map sketches, articles
Correspondence dated 11/29/35 to 12/17/40

Lawrence County:
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Lists, articles, *Outdoor Indiana* article at Spring Mill State Park

Madison County:
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 8/3/36 to Mrs. Bishop.

Marion County:
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 12/13/38 to Mrs. Cossel

Marion County:
Lists of Mill Location sketches

Marion County:
History and Correspondence

Marion County:
History and Correspondence
Marshall County:
1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 11/14/35 to 1/10/40

Martin County:
1840 Census
Correspondence dated 4/26/37 to 5/24/37

Miami County:
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 5/13/36

Monroe County:
1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated May, 1936

Montgomery County:
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 3/28/34 to 10/19/35

Morgan County:
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 4/24/35 to 4/18/49

Newton County:
1936 IHS Survey

Noble County:
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 2/9/38 to 3/9/38

Ohio County:
1936 IHS Survey
Reference to Account Book of Steam Mill (microfilm)

Orange County:
1936 IHS Survey

Owen County:
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 6/13/41 to 9/15/48
Parke County:
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1936 IHS Survey
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1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 9/23/56 and other

Pike County:
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Correspondence dated 10/18/35 and 8/9/78

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1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated April and June, 1937

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1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 6/7/51

Putnam County:
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Correspondence dated 1/8/37 to 2/28/40
Rush County:
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 10/24/35 to 3/9/36

Rush County:
Drawing of wheel hub for Owen Mill on Flat Rock River
OM0482
Folder 1
Flat File: 14-j

St. Joseph County:
1840 Census
1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 10/18/35 and 10/21/35

Scott County:
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1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 4/16/35 to 10/30/35

Shelby County:
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1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 5/2/36 to 3/3/63

Spencer County:
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Correspondence dated 6/19/37, 2/10/38

Starke County:
1936 IHS Survey

Steuben County:
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1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 4/18/35

Sullivan County:
1840 Census
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Switzerland County:
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1936 IHS Survey
Correspondence dated 5/29/35 and 10/13/38
Tippecanoe County: 1840 Census Correspondence dated 4/3/36

Tipton County: Notes

Union County: 1840 Census 1936 IHS Survey Correspondence dated 4/17/37 to 7/1/37 with one undated letter. One mill of note, Cockefair Woolen Mill, sent to Greenfield Village in Michigan.

Vanderburgh County: 1840 Census 1936 IHS Survey

Vermillion County: 1840 Census 1936 IHS Survey Correspondence dated 6/9/60 and 7/7/60

Vigo County: 1840 Census 1936 IHS Survey Correspondence dated 3/24/64 and 4/2/64

Wabash County: 1840 Census 1936 IHS Survey Correspondence dated 5/14/36.

Warren County: 1840 Census 1936 IHS Survey Correspondence dated 10/23/35 to 10/4/37

Warrick County: 1840 Census
Washington County:
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Wayne County:
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Correspondence dated 11/2/35 to 10/10/43
William O. Wissler thesis on the mills of Wayne County

Wells County:
1840 Census
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Series 2: Mills: Printed Materials

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An Early Mill at Three Rivers
Old Fort News, The Water-Powered Mills of Allen County, Indiana

Brown County:
Map and travel description brochure

Jennings County:
Indiana History Bulletin, February, 1950

Lawrence County:
Trails in Spring Mill State Park
Resurrection of a Village by Andrew H. Hepburn
**Parke County:**
*Outdoor Indiana, August, 1936*  
Box 5, Folder 13

**General File:**  
“Springs Powered Early Mills” article from *Outdoor Indiana, Nov., 1970*  
“The Technical Ancestry of Grain-Milling Devices*  
*Mechanical Engineering, Oct., 1935*  
Box 5, Folder 14

**Series 3: Water-Powered Mills Committee Materials**

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Tanneyhill Mill, brush dam, copy of painting of mill on Flat Rock River

**Brown County:**
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**Carroll County:**
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City Mills in Delphi,
Paper mill on canal,
Cutler Mill,
Robinson’s first mill (Lepert’s),
Robinson’s second mill (the old Red on Deer Creek)Star Roller at Burlington,
Paper mill on canal,
Canal and Lock at Pittsburg,
Pyrmont Grist Mill,
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**Cass County:**
Pipecreek Mill,
Mill ½ mile above Pipe Creek Mill,
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**Clark County:**
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**Crawford County:**
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Dearborn County:
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Miller Mill near Dillsboro

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Decatur County:
Albert Sanders, employee of Cave Mill,
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site of Shelhorn Mill

Photographs
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Delaware County:
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Photographs
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Dubois County:
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Box 1, Folder 11

Elkhart County:
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Bonneyville Mill,
Burrell and Morgan Mill,
Harvest Queen Flour Mill,
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Dam at Elkhart

Photographs
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Elkhart County:
Beardsley Paper Mill and St. Joseph River Dam

OVA Photographs
Box 1, Folder 1

Floyd County:
Blackstone’s Mill at New Albany

Photographs
Box 1, Folder 13
Fountain County:
Cade Mill, Greenwood Mill on Big Shawnee Creek,
Hillboro Mill on Coal Creek,
McMillan Mill on Shawnee Creek,
Sugar Grove Woolen Mill and Saw Mill or Hetfield’s
Flour Mill (picture of baptism, picture of cyclists—
south of Veedersburg),
mill dam and pond of Red Mill near Boggstown,
Snoddy Grist Mill on Coal Creek,
water power grist mill at Stone Bluff

Franklin County:
Forrer Mill,
Metamora Mill,
Speer Mill

Fulton County:
Millark Mill near Rochester

Grant County:
Conner’s Mill,
Dam at Charles’ Mill,
Dunn’s Mills or Cumberland Mills at Matthews,
Marion Mills,
Thomas Milling Co.

Grant County:
Mill at Jalapa, Indiana, oil painting.
12 x 16 inches on canvas board, painted by the donor,
Olin Inez Downing on Aug. 1, 1936.

Greene County:
Mill on Richland Creek

Hamilton County:
Conner Mill on White River near Noblesville,
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**Henry County:**
Blue River Mill, Photographs
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**Henry County:**
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**Howard County:**
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**Huntington County:**
Belleville Mill on Salamonie River, Photographs Box 2, Folder 2
Mill and dam at Markle (Thomas Milling Co.),
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**Jefferson County:**
Chain Mill Falls, stereopticon views at Clifty Falls Photographs Box 2, Folder 3
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Vinegar Mills in Muscatatuck State Park,
Wilson Mill

**Jennings County:**
Tunnell Mill OVA Photographs Box 1, Folder 3
**Johnson County:**
Beard’s or Clark’s Mill,
Furnas Mill,
Smiley’s Mill or Duckwerth’s Mill,
Thompsons Mills,
Williamsburg Mill

**Kosciusko County:**
North Webster Roller Mills,
Palenstine Mill,
Fish Ladder at Outlet to Webster Lake,
old mill on Tippecanoe River near Oswego

**LaGrange County:**
Greenfield Mills (New Rinkel Flour),
Mongo Mills (Hawks Bros.),
1834 Ontario Flour Mill,
1842 Woolen Mill,
Scott (Van Muren Mill,
Star Milling Co.

**La Porte County:**
Bigelow’s Mill,
Finley Mill,
Hanson Mill,
Heald Mill,
Kingsbury or Lans Mill,
Otis or Barnes Mill,
Ross Mill,
Rotzean or Holmesville Mill,
Vail or Butterworth Mill,
Mill at Union Mills, residence and mill of Joseph
Francis (Galena township)

**La Porte County:**
Bigelow Mill #49

**Lawrence County:**
Hixon Mill at Spring Mill State Park,
Hamer’s Mill (restored at Spring Mill State Park), mill
dam at Lawrenceport,
Thermet Weld Machine,
mill south and west of Spring Mill
Madison County:
Killbuck Mill

Marion County:
Hoosier Mill and National Road bridge,
Millersville or Schofield Mill,
Patterson’s Mill (old Steam Mill building),
William Sheets Paper Mill

Marshall County:
Zehner Mill

Martin County:
Water Mill at Trinity Springs,
mill site in Baker Twp,
mill site at Windom

Miami County:
old mill at Peoria,
power house and mill building,
dam of Mohican Spinning Co.,
mill and dam at Mexico (Chili Roller Mills)

Monroe County:
Carter Mill,
Judah Mill

Montgomery County:
Clouser Mill,
Deere’s Mill,
Franklin Mill at Darlington,
Sperry Mill,
Yountsville Woolen Mill

Morgan County:
Brooklyn (McDaniel’s Mill) Four Mill,
J. W. Hubbard Mill at Monrovia,
Moon’s Mill,
Stine’s Mill,
Stratton’s Mill,
Van Sickle Mill

Noble County:
Port Mitchell Mill,
Wilmot Mill
Ohio County:
Milton Mill on Laughery Creek

Orange County:
Spring Mill near Paoli

Owen County:
Cataract Falls Mill,
Croy’s Mill,
DeVore Mill,
mill race at McCormick’s Creek

Parke County:
Bridgeton Mill,
Lusk Mill site at Turkey Run State Park,
Mansfield Mill and Dam,
Portland Mills and Dam,
Wilkin’s Mill

Pike County:
Winslow Milling Co.

Porter County:
Huffman’s Mill,
Sager’s Mill,
Tratebas Mill (John Long Mill)

Posey County:
Rappite Dam in Gresham Creek

Pulaski County:
Mill and dam at Pulaski

Putnam County:
Cagle Mill,
Mill on Raccoon Creek,
Stone Quarry Mill

Randolph County:
Maxville Grist Mill (Macksville)

Ripley County:
Friendship Mill (Hart’s),
Osgood Flour Mills
Rush County:
Carmichael Mill,
Nipp Mill at Rushville,
Owen Mills,
Milroy Bridge and Mill,
Moscow Mill,
Rushville Mill,
Dam for Harcourt Mill,
Hungerford Grist Mill site,
Timothy P. White Mill building.

St. Joseph County:
Sider’s Mill (Sheffield’s)

St. Joseph County:
Sider’s Mill

Scott County:
Doughty Mill

Shelby County:
Bailey Mill (Brickhart),
Freeport Mills,
Girtton Mill (Monroe),
Herring Mill,
Holland Mill at Geneva,
Nelson Mill (Cave),
Red Mill

Spencer County:
Huffman Mill,
Medcalf Mill on Little Pigeon Creek

Steuben County:
Nevada Mills,
Nodine Milling Co.,
Sanderson Mill

Switzerland County:
John Bakes Mill

Tippecanoe County:
Monitor Mill
Union County: Photographs
Cockefair Woolen Mill, Box 4, Folder 2
Liberty Mill,
Seer’s Mill (Sayer’s)

Vigo County: Photographs
Markle’s Mill, Box 4, Folder 3
Otter Creek Mill wooden impulse wheel

Wabash County: Photographs
Liberty Mills, Box 4, Folder 4
Dam and Mill at Laketon,
Mill and Dam at North Manchester,
Dam at Pearson’s Mill,
Stockdale Mill (Deck’s or Roann Roller Mills)

Wabash County: OVA Photographs
Stockdale (Deck) Mill near Roann Box 1, Folder 7

Warren County: Photographs
Shideler Mill (Pine Creek) Box 4, Folder 5

Washington County: Photographs
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Clifty Cave Mill flume,
Samuel Jack Mill,
Dam at Rothrock Mill,
Aaron Wilcoxen Mill,
Wright’s Mill sketch
Wayne County:
Cox’s Mill (Cook),
Creitz Mill at Cambridge City,
Elkhorn Mill south of Richmond on Boston Pike,
Elliot’s Mill south of Richmond,
Fleecy Dale Woolen Mills on Whitewater River,
Hagerstown Mill,
Jackson Mill,
Tresler Mill,
Quickel Mill at Hagerstown,
Hawkin’s Corn Mill on Whitewater River,
Hoover Mill southwest of Green’s Fork,
Marlatt Sawmill,
Nixon Paper Mill at Richmond,
Richmond Roller Mills,
Oil Mill in Spring Grove on Whitewater River,
Test Woolen Mill on Whitewater River

Whitley County:
Collamer (Collimer) Mill site,
Mill dam downstream from S. Whitley

Unidentified Mills in Indiana

Out-of-State Mills

Unidentified Mill
Framed print on canvas board with painted highlights

Out of State and Unidentified Mills:
Water color painting by Harry C. Chandler of a mill on Crooked Creek near Brooklyn Heights [New York]
1 color lithograph “The Old Water Mill. Moonlight”
Halftone print: “The Millstream”

Series 6: Negatives

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Bartholomew County

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3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M0837).

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