WILLIAM E. JULIAN DONATION
CA. 1871–1973

Collection Information
Biographical Sketch
Scope and Content Note
Series Contents
Cataloging Information

Processed by
Kate Scott
June 2014

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

www.indianahistory.org
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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The Julians are among the more historically prominent families in Henry County, and several were involved in the county’s initial organization in 1821. Rene Julian was elected as the first County Clerk and Recorder in 1822, and his name appears repeatedly in local histories. Also active in Henry County’s founding was Shubal Julian, on whose land Prairie Township’s first schoolhouse was built in 1824 or 1825. Other notable individuals include J.B. Julian, listed as Circuit Prosecutor for the year 1844, and Emsley Julian, who served as Treasurer for the county in the 1860s.

By far the most well-known figure in the family is United States Representative George Washington Julian. After serving in the Indiana House of Representatives, he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives for Indiana’s Fourth District as a Free-Soil candidate (1849–51). He later served four more terms (1861–71) as a Radical Republican. Julian’s politics were indeed radical for the time, as he supported abolitionism, women’s suffrage, and labor and temperance movements. During his later terms in Congress, he became the leading House member of the Committee on the Conduct of the War, and is known to have corresponded with President Abraham Lincoln. Julian married twice, first to Anne Elizabeth Finch, with whom he had three children. After Anne’s death in 1860, he married Laura Giddings, the daughter of abolitionist Congressman Joshua R. Giddings. The couple had two children, and in 1873 moved to Irvington, where Julian opened a law practice. George Washington Julian died in Irvington in 1899.

Sources:
Collection Materials.


Pleas, Elwood. *Henry County, Past and Present, a Brief History of the County from 1821 to 1871*. New Castle, Indiana: Pleas Brothers, 1871.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection relates almost entirely to Abraham Lincoln, sixteenth president of the United States. The first and largest series consists of materials relating to Lincoln’s biography and legacy. This includes facsimiles of Lincoln’s writings, academic articles, news clippings, and general-audience educational materials such as scripts for the 1959 radio series *The Abraham Lincoln Story, 1809–1959*. About half of the materials in the series focus on Lincoln’s life in Illinois before his election, and may be of use to researchers studying that particular period.

Comprising the second series is a variety of Lincoln ephemera, primarily from the mid-twentieth century. This includes facsimiles of historic documents, a book of presidential trading cards, a motivational poster, and an undated political cartoon criticizing President Grover Cleveland. These ephemeral objects exemplify the continued importance of Lincoln and his image in popular culture, particularly around the centennials of the Civil War and Lincoln’s death.

Items in the third series are more generally related to Indiana history. The series consists of only two folders, one containing a short, handwritten reference guide for *Henry County, Past and Present, a Brief History of the County from 1821 to 1871*, and the other a letter with notes regarding the 1855 Indianapolis Directory. The reference guide focuses on the Julian and Hoover families, but the letter does not. It discusses approximately two dozen individuals found in the Directory and suggests possible connections among them. These documents could be of use to researchers looking for information on the Julians, the Hoovers, or individuals of note living in Indianapolis in the 1850s.
SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Lincoln History

CONTENTS


Lincoln-Related News Clippings, 1871–1969

Lincoln Centennial Association Bulletin, 1926

Issues of *Search and Research*, 1938–39

Collaged Lincoln-Related Editorials, 1945–52 and n.d.

*Abraham Lincoln from His Own Words and Contemporary Accounts*, 1950


*Illinois History* 21.5 (February 1968), 1968

Illinois Sesquicentennial Program Booklet, 1968
## Series 2: Lincoln Ephemera

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Series 3: Indiana History

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Reference Guide for Henry County, Past and Present, a Brief History of the County from 1821 to 1871, n.d.  
Box 1, Folder 16

Letter with Notes Regarding the 1855 Indianapolis Directory, 1945  
Box 1, Folder 17
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, M 1104).

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