

Collection #
SC 2721

WILLIAM MUKES
NEGRO BOND, 1837

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Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 folder
COLLECTION DATES:	13 June 2003
PROVENANCE:	Historical Collectible Auctions, 24 NW Court Square, Suite 201, Graham, NC 27253
RESTRICTIONS:	None

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**ALTERNATE
FORMATS:**

**RELATED
HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION
NUMBER:** 2003.0437

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH

Indiana was the nineteenth state admitted to the United States in 1816. As had been the case under the 1787 Northwest Ordinance, the state's constitution outlawed slavery and indentured servitude. In 1831 another statute was passed requiring African Americans moving into Indiana to pay a five-hundred dollar fee in the form of a "good behavior bond" to ensure that they would not commit any crimes. This statute held until 1851 when Indiana prohibited free African Americans from moving into Indiana and discouraged those already settled within the state from staying.

William Mukes applied for his "bond of good behavior" in December 1837, and it was granted with signatures from John Rice and Josiah Little in Harrison County, Indiana. It was not uncommon at this time for a Caucasian man, possibly a former master before moving to Indiana, to vouch for an African American in the bond. Michael Mitcham was the Caucasian who vouched for Mukes in this case. Mukes had to pay five hundred dollars and vow that he would be a good and honest man that would not at any time become a burden on the county. Mukes had to be able to support himself financially or be able to rely on someone other than the county to support him. There is little known as to how old William Mukes was at this time or where he was born, but he probably migrated to Indiana at some point in 1837. There is no record of him in any census taken in Indiana. There is also no record of how long he lived in Indiana or when he died.

Sources:

Ancestry Plus, Michael Mitcham 1850 Census Records, (<http://www.ancestry.com/main.aspx>) accessed 19 Feb 2004

Indiana Constitution of 1851 (as it was written)

Materials in Collection

The Northwest Ordinance (<http://usinfo.state.gov/usa/infousa/facts/democrac/5.htm>) accessed 9 March 2004

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains a signed bond, Harrison Co. Ind., for William Mukes, "a man of colour," payable to Indiana for five hundred dollars under the clause of good behavior (11 December 1837). This bond was signed by Mukes, Michael Mitcham, John Rice, and Josiah Little.

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Indiana Free Slave Bond: William Mukes, 1837

CONTAINER

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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://157.91.92.2/>
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, SC 2721).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.