

# JOHN BARKER FAMILY PAPERS, 1856-1864

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**Collection #**  
SC 2385

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Processed by  
Charles Latham  
15 December 1993

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## USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 21 items

COLLECTION DATES: 1856-1864

PROVENANCE: Peter J. Jeffers, United Kingdom, 30 October 1993

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: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 94.0027

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## HISTORICAL SKETCH

John Barker (1798-1858) was born in Lincolnshire, England, and moved to the United States with his family in 1853. They settled near Connorsville, Indiana, but later moved about the state. Sons who appear in the correspondence are Thomas, William, and Barton; daughters are Frances (who married William Ridge) and Mary (who married Edward Widdup). The men of the family were blacksmiths, sometimes combining their work with farming.

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of photocopies of twenty-one letters written by John Barker and his family in Indiana to relatives in England. The letters have been numbered, and a key to the letters, along with a family tree, is part of the collection.

Much of the subject matter of the letters is news about family health, moves, marriages, and deaths. There is also quite a bit of material about the current prices of goods. One letter goes into detail about the rates charged for different jobs of blacksmithing; another contrasts "master"-worker relations in England and America; another shows an unsympathetic attitude toward the idea of freeing blacks during the Civil War.

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## CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Barker, John, 1798-1858

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Barker, John, 1798-1858

Blacksmiths--Indiana--Connersville

Blacksmithing--Prices--Indiana--Connersville

Prices--Indiana--Connersville

Immigrants--Indiana--Connersville--Family relationships

British--Indiana--Connersville

Slavery--United States--Public opinion

Connersville (Ind.)

Fayette County (Ind.)

END