

JOSEPH RAWLINS LEDGERS, 1851-1856

Collection #
BV 3050-3051

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Processed by
Charles Latham
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 bound volumes
COLLECTION DATES:	1851-1856
PROVENANCE:	Jay Small, 1169 Bolton Avenue, Indianapolis, IN 46219, 15 June 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:	F 009, Microfilm of Lawrence County account books 1853-1881
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1992.0621

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Joseph Rawlins (1796-ca 1885) was born in Danville, Kentucky, the son of Charles and Aristicia (Gregory) Rawlins. His father having died in 1800, he moved with his uncle and his brother to Lawrence County, Indiana, in 1812. Serving as a Ranger during the War of 1812, he saved enough to buy eighty acres of land in Bono Township. In 1817 he married Sallie Manis, and they had ten children.

Like many farmers of the period, Rawlins specialized in producing pork. He developed a pork-packing plant on Salt Creek, and also a grist mill with three sets of buhrs which was one of the best in the area. He took his produce as far as New Orleans and Detroit.

When the Lawrence County seat moved from Palestine to Bedford in 1825, Rawlins bought a store from Irwin & Stewart, and "conducted the mercantile pursuit" for thirty years, amassing a fortune along the way. He gave up the store in 1856.

Rawlins was county lister in 1820, county commissioner in 1834, and county treasurer in 1836. He was a major stockholder in the State Bank branch set up in 1834, helped build the Bedford Christian Church in 1854, and was wealthy enough to buy \$48,000 in bonds for the construction of the county courthouse in 1869.

Source: *History of Lawrence County* (1884), passim, esp. 267-268

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection contains two bound volumes, the records of Joseph Rawlins's store in Bedford, Indiana, at the end of his mercantile career, 1851-1856.

BV 3050 is Rawlins's cash book for 1851-1854, and BV 3051 is his ledger for 1852-1856. The ledger shows a wide-ranging business, with many customers working out their obligations by service such as bringing in eggs and butter, drayage, providing a tombstone, or work.

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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