

Collection #
M0477

SMITH-HOLLIDAY FAMILY PAPERS, 1830–CA. 1890S

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Processed by

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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:	Manuscripts: 1 half size document case Artifacts: 4 artifacts
COLLECTION DATES:	1830–ca. 1890s
PROVENANCE:	Gift of Harry Trentman, Wilmington, Del. 1986; Gift of Holliday Trentman Day, Indianapolis, Ind. 1998
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1987.0109, 1998.0172
NOTES:	

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The principal members of the Smith-Holliday family were Joseph W. Holliday, Jeremiah Smith and Henry B. Smith, businessmen and public officials in Blackford and Randolph Counties in the mid-nineteenth century Indiana.

Joseph W. Holliday (1818–1852) moved to Blackford County from Wayne County in 1844. He was elected to the office of Indiana state representative from the district composed of Blackford and Jay Counties in 1846, but did not serve. He resigned his office to fight in the Mexican War in the Fifth Regiment of the Indiana Volunteers, Company H, holding the rank of first lieutenant. He returned from service in 1848 and again stood for election in the Whig party as representative. He was elected in 1850, served in 1851 and died in office March 12, 1852.

Jeremiah Smith (1805–1874) was born in South Carolina. In 1817 his family moved to Winchester, Indiana, in Randolph County. He read law in a local law office and passed the bar in 1837. A staunch Democrat, he served in many public positions: among them sheriff, surveyor, prosecuting attorney, and Circuit Court judge. He possessed considerable real estate, and built Franklin House in Winchester, where he lived until his death in 1874 of congestive heart failure. Smith's wife, a Randolph County native whose maiden name was Cynthia Dye, died of injuries she received in a rail accident at Winchester in 1872. They had ten children, of whom one, Henry B. Smith, is prominent in this collection.

Henry B. Smith (1847–1909) followed in his father's footsteps and enjoyed his own political career. A member of the Democratic Party, he served as clerk of the Blackford County Circuit Court from 1877 to 1881, in the Indiana House of Representatives from 1883 to 1885 and in the Indiana State Senate from 1891 to 1895. In 1879 he worked to organize the Citizen's State Bank in Hartford City, and served as its president for twenty years. He also managed his own financial interests and those he inherited from his father, and served as a member of the Hartford City Town Board. In 1873 he married Nancy Holliday (d. 1927), the daughter of Joseph W. Holliday. He and Nancy, who was called Ella by her family, had four daughters: Cynthia Smith Wellman, Elizabeth Smith, Greta Smith May, and Addie Smith Trentman McGowan.

Sources:

Shepherd, Calhoun, Shoemaker, and January, eds. *A Biographical Dictionary of the Indiana General Assembly*. Select Committee on the Centennial History of the Indiana General Assembly: Indianapolis, 1980. p. 187, 362.

Shinn, Benjamin G., *Biographical Memoirs of Blackford County, Indiana*. Bowen Publishing Company, Chicago, 1900. p. 263–268, 451–454.

Biographical and Historical Record of Jay and Blackford Counties, Indiana. Lewis Publishing Company, 1887. p. 731, 868–869, 872–873.

William H. English Collection, Indiana Historical Society Library: Box 57, Folder 5.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists primarily of Smith and Holliday family correspondence from the period 1830 to 1850. The papers are ordered chronologically except for the correspondence of Joseph W. Holliday and the family's greeting cards, which are in separate folders. The papers fall into three main groups.

The first is the correspondence and artifacts of Joseph Holliday which consists of papers and parts of his uniform from the period of the Mexican War. Most of these papers are letters to Holliday from friends and relatives in Blackford County discussing political and social events since his departure. There is a letter from Holliday in Veracruz, Mexico to J. Cook in Blackford County detailing Holliday's regiment's trip to Veracruz. There is also the text of a memorial oration for Holliday read in the Indiana House of Representatives on April 20, 1852.

The second major group consists of the letters of Ella Holliday Smith to and from friends and relatives. The majority of this correspondence dates from the 1860's to the 1880's and is largely concerned with family matters and social events. A large group of this correspondence is with the Campbell family of Cincinnati, Ohio, and Wabash County, Indiana, dating from the 1850's. This group also contains a 1928 document dealing with the deposition of Nancy Holliday's property after her death and a certificate of membership in the Sons of Temperance Lodge in Blackford County for one G.W. Campbell.

The third major section of the collection is the correspondence between Henry B. Smith and his father, Jeremiah Smith. With the exception of five earlier pieces all the letters were written in the years 1873 and 1874, shortly before Jeremiah's death. The letters center on financial topics, mostly real estate, especially in those dated 1874 when Jeremiah learned he had dropsy and began to put his affairs in order. The letters also concern Henry's brothers and sisters, one of whom, John Dye Smith, was tried for an unspecified crime in 1873.

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Joseph W. Holliday's Mexican War correspondence,
1847–1848

[Coat, Uniform] Military uniform coat or shell jacket,
Mexican War, ca. 1845–1849

[Epaulet] 2 epaulets for Mexican War military uniform

[Band, Cap] Military cap band for hat, cap or kepi

Correspondence, 1830–1850

Correspondence, 1851–1869

Correspondence, 1870–1872

Correspondence, 1873

Correspondence, 1874–1889

Undated correspondence, documents:
Deposition of property of Nancy Holliday, 1928;
Certificate of membership in Sons of Temperance
Lodge for G.W. Campbell, 1850. Envelopes

Greeting cards, Christmas cards, valentines, and post
cards, ca. 1890s

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Artifacts, Box 191:
R2767

Artifacts, Box 191:
R2768
R2769

Artifacts, Box 191:
R2770

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

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, M0477).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.