

Collection #  
M 0586  
OM 0263

**A. A. (ALPHONSO ALBERT) COLE  
PAPERS, 1836-1862**

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**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 9 boxes, 6 oversize folders (2 linear feet)

COLLECTION DATES: 1836-1862

PROVENANCE: Wally DeMien (Peru Antique Mall), 21 East Main Street, Peru, Indiana 46970, 9 May 1991

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Daniel R. Bearss Papers (M 0002)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1991.0399

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

A. A. (Alphonso Albert) Cole (1818-1862) was born near Oberlin, Ohio. In 1834 he came with his father to Peru, Indiana, where he studied civil engineering and began his business career as an assistant engineer on the Wabash and Erie Canal. From 1840-1841 he was Miami County surveyor. Cole later studied law and was admitted to practice in Miami County in 1843.

In 1845 Cole formed a partnership with Merritt W. Seely, and he was later associated with Edward T. Dickey and Daniel D. Pratt at various times during his legal career. Cole lost his bid for election to the Indiana House of Representatives in 1844 as a member of the Whig Party, but he was successful in the 1846 and 1848 elections and served as the State Representative from Miami and Wabash counties from 1847-1850. He lost the election for state senator in 1850.

In 1850 A.A. Cole married Sarah Henton and they had three children, one of which, Charles Albert Cole, also served as a state legislator. Failing health forced Cole to retire to his farm, "Fountainglen," in the fall of 1854, and he remained there until his death eight years later.

### Sources:

*Centennial History of the Indiana General Assembly*, vol. 1, p. 70.

Bodurtha, *History of Miami County*, 1914, p. 325.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains Cole's personal, legal, political, and financial papers from 1836-1862. Among his correspondence are letters received from friends, politicians, and business associates. Included are letters from and other papers of his father, Albert, and other relatives regarding personal and family information. There are also letters from politicians such as U.S. Congressmen Graham N. Fitch, S. C. Sample, and Indiana State Representative and

Cole's brother-in-law, Daniel R. Bearss, regarding their views on legislation and political issues including Indian removal and slavery. In addition, there are letters from business associates involving Cole's legal and financial interests. The collection also includes Cole's letter book containing copies of letters written from 1841-1859.

Cole's papers contain a significant amount of correspondence and other materials regarding the Miami Nation of Indians, their removal, their financial status, and their property claims. Included are many letters from George W. Ewing, a Fort Wayne merchant who did extensive trading with the Miami and other Indian nations. Most of these letters are from 1849-1851 and were written from Washington, D.C., where Ewing was apparently lobbying to receive debts owed him by Miami Indians who remained in Indiana after most of the nation was removed to to Kansas in 1846. There are also claims made by the Miamis for recovery or maintenance of land promised and related legal matters in which Cole was involved. There is also a copy of the estate and related materials of Frances Slocum, 1846, for which Cole had power of attorney.

The collection includes a great deal of material regarding A.A. Cole's legal career. Included are cases involving estates and other civil cases, particularly those dealing with land, right of way for canals and roads, and other personal property. Among the materials are financial information of clients, witness statements, summons, briefs, statements, memoranda, as well as Cole's dockets for the Miami County Circuit Court, 1841-1843, and his docket book from the early 1850s.

Among Cole's government-related materials are copies of bills and resolutions, petitions, and an address to the state legislature regarding the needs of Miami County citizens (n.d.). Among the bills is one from around 1850 supporting the annexation of Canada to the United States. There are also items relating to Cole's terms in the Indiana House of Representatives. Included are financial records and receipts, some documenting his business interests in the canal boat "Emeline" in the 1840s and the Horse Thief Detective Agency, 1861-1862. There are also items regarding the establishment of and Cole's membership in St. James Episcopal Church in Peru, 1843-1846.

## **BOX AND FOLDER LISTING**

### **BOX 1: Correspondence, 1836-1839**

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, April–December 1836
2	Correspondence, January–April 1837
3	Correspondence, May–July 13, 1837
4	Correspondence, July 18–August 1837
5	Correspondence, September–October 1837
6	Correspondence, November–December 1837
7	Correspondence, January–February 1838
8	Correspondence, March–April 1838
9	Correspondence, May 1838
10	Correspondence, June 1838
11	Correspondence, July 1838
12	Correspondence, August–December 1838

**BOX 2: Correspondence, 1840-1846**

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, 1840–1841
2	Correspondence, January–April 1842
3	Correspondence, May–December 1842
4	Correspondence, January–September 1843
5	Correspondence, November–December 1843
6	Correspondence, January–March 1844
7	Correspondence, May–December 1844
8	Correspondence, January–June 1845
9	Correspondence, July–December 1845
10	Correspondence, January–March 1846
11	Correspondence, May–August 1846
12	Correspondence, September–December 1846

**BOX 3: Correspondence, 1847-1850**

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, January–April 1847
2	Correspondence, May–August 1847
3	Correspondence, September–December 1847
4	Correspondence, January 1848
5	Correspondence, February–March 1848
6	Correspondence, May–December 1848
7	Correspondence, January–October 1849
8	Correspondence, November–December 15, 1849
9	Correspondence, December 16–31, 1849
10	Correspondence, January 1850

- 11 Correspondence, February 1850
- 12 Correspondence, April–October 1850

**BOX 4: Correspondence, 1851-1862; Indian Removal & Claims, 1841-1854**

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Correspondence, 1851-1855
2	Correspondence, 1862
3	Correspondence, n.d.
4	Correspondence, n.d.
5	Indian Removal & Claims, 1841-1845
6	Indian Removal & Claims, 1846-1847
7	Indian Removal & Claims, 1848-1849
8	Indian Removal & Claims, January–August 1850
9	Indian Removal & Claims, September–December 1850
10	Indian Removal & Claims, 1851
11	Indian Removal & Claims, 1852–1854
12	Indian Removal & Claims, n.d.
13	Appraisalment of Miami Indian Land Improvements, n.d. <i>Oversize, stored in OM 0263</i>

**BOX 5: Government Related Papers, 1838-1850; Legal Papers [Specific Cases], 1841-1849**

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Government, General Items, 1843–1846
2	Government, General Items, 1847–1851 & n.d.
3	Government, Legislative Listings, 1847 & n.d. <i>Oversize, stored in OM 0263.</i>
4	Government, Bills & Resolutions, 1838; 1848–1850
5	Government, Bills & Resolutions, n.d.
6	Government, Bills & Resolutions, n.d.
7	Government, Petitions, 1846, 1848, n.d.
8	Government, Petitions, n.d.

9	Government, Petitions, 1849–1850 & n.d. <i>Oversize, stored in OM 0263.</i>
10	Address to State Legislature, n.d.
11	Petition for Removal of John Book as Peru Postmaster, 1842
12	Legal, Dockets, Miami Co. Circuit Court, 1841–1843
13	Legal, John McGregor Estate, 1842
14	Legal, George Tombaugh Case, 1842–1847
15	Legal, Buckman v. Bush, 1844
16	Legal, Bearss v. Scott, 1844 & 1849
17	Legal, Stonerstreet Case, 1845–1847
18	Legal, Frances Slocum Estate, 1846
19	Legal, Joshua Conklin Estate, 1840–1842
20	Legal, Asa Leonard Estate, 1842 & 1847

#### **BOX 6: Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, 1835-1859**

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, 1835–1837
2	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, 1838–1839
3	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, 1840–1841
4	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, 1842
5	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, 1843
6	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, 1844
7	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, January–September 1845
8	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, October–December 1845
9	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, January–June 1846
10	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, July–December 1846
11	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, January–June 1847
12	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, July–December 1847
13	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, 1848–1849
14	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, 1850–1859

15 Political Notebook, n.d.

**BOX 7: Legal Papers, n.d.; Financial Records, 1836-1862; St. James Church, Peru, 1843-1846**

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, n.d.
2	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, n.d.
3	Legal, Estates, Civil Cases & Related Materials, n.d.
4	Legal, Briefs, Statements, and Memoranda, n.d.
5	Legal Case Notes, n.d.
6	Financial Records, 1836–1844
7	Financial Records, 1845–1848
8	Financial Records, 1850–1855 & 1861–1862
9	Financial Records, n.d.
10	Financial Records, n.d.
11	Financial Records, Canal Boat Passage Lists For Collectors Office, 1848
12	Financial Records, Canal Boat Shipping Records, 1840s
13	Financial Records, Horse Thief Detective Agency, 1861–1862
<del>14</del>	Land Documents. <i>Oversize, stored in OM 0263.</i>
15	St. James Episcopal Church, Peru, 1843–1844
16	St. James Episcopal Church, Peru, 1845–1846
<del>17</del>	Indiana Newspapers, 1847–1850. <i>Oversize, stored in OM 0263 (FF 11-g).</i>
18	Account Book, 1844

**BOX 8: Letterbook, 1849-1855**

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1	Letterbook, 1849–1855

**BOX 9: Letterbook, 1854-1857**

FOLDER	CONTENTS
1	Letterbook, 1854–1857

## 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 "Traditional Search" icon.
3. Click on the "Call Number" radio button.
4. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and four digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.