

# ALFRED JOHNSON COTTON BIOGRAPHY, CA 1975

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Collection #  
SC 2338

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Processed by  
Charles Latham  
27 January 1992

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## USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 5 folders

COLLECTION DATES: circa 1975

PROVENANCE: William J. Castleman, Indianapolis IN, August 1978

RESTRICTIONS: None

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RELATED HOLDINGS: *Cotton's Keepsake* (1858) PS 1449 .C415 1858; *Cotton's Sketch-book* (1874) PS 1449 .C415 Z5 1874

ACCESSION NUMBER 92.0166x

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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Alfred Johnson Cotton (1800-1875) was born in Pownal, Maine, and received his education in local common schools. At the age of eighteen he came to Dearborn County, Indiana, built a cabin, and taught school. In 1825 he was ordained a preacher. Three years later he entered politics, and ran unsuccessfully for several offices. After a brief stint (1835-1837) in New Castle as editor of the *Banner*, he returned to Dearborn County, and served for several years as an associate judge and then as a probate judge. Cotton was a prolific writer, both of prose and of occasional verse. He published two books, mainly verses and autobiographical sketches: *Cotton's Keepsake* (Cincinnati, 1858) and *Cotton's Sketch-book* (Portland, Maine, 1874). In his later years he returned to Maine, married at the age of seventy-one, and is buried in Deering, Maine.

William J. Castleman (b.1908) was born in Indianapolis. He graduated from Butler University, and also earned M. A. and B. D. degrees there. He was an accountant on the staff of Conkle Funeral Home from 1931 on. In 1956 he was ordained as a minister of the Disciples of Christ. From 1946 to 1962 he edited the *Garden City News*, and from 1962 to 1972 the *Christian Communications Reporter*. He wrote a life of Samuel Gray Inman, which was published in St. Louis in 1966-1969, and also an unpublished life of Ernie Pyle.

Sources: *Indiana Authors and Their Books*, original volume and 1967-1980 volume  
Materials in collection

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### SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling five folders, is the carbon typescript of a 243-page unpublished biography of Alfred J. Cotton by Wm. J. Castleman. Divided into twenty-nine chapters, it is filled with complete copies of Cotton's occasional verses. For example, the ten pages of Chapter 12, on Cotton's experience as a newspaper editor, consists of eight pages of verse by Cotton and others, and two pages quoted from Cotton's reminiscences.

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### CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Cotton, A. J. (Alfred Johnson), 1800-1875

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Newspaper editors--Indiana--New Castle

Judges--Indiana--Dearborn County

Clergy--Indiana--Dearborn County

Authors, American--Indiana--Dearborn County

Dearborn County (Ind.)

New Castle (Ind.)

ADDED ENTRIES: Castleman, William J., 1908-

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