

Collection #
SC 2758

BROUILLETTE FAMILY SCRAPBOOK, 1860–1867

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Processed by

Susan A. Fletcher
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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: 1 folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1860–1867

PROVENANCE: Caroline Nielsen, Santa Rosa, CA, 15 June 2004

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2004.0374

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Scrapbooks were popular in mid-nineteenth century America as means to preserve favorite poems, articles, postcards, and other memorabilia. Sentimental literature with themes on childhood, life, death, and morality appeared in popular periodicals of the day including ladies magazines and local newspapers. This particular scrapbook consists primarily of poems and engravings clipped from newspapers and other periodicals.

In addition to the articles pasted in to the front of the book, the scrapbook also contains ledger accounts, penmanship exercises, essays, poems, and other original writings. Nineteenth-century adults prized literacy and parents encouraged their children to both read and write. Penmanship was an important skill and young scholars would sit for hours practicing the formation of their letters and numbers. Row after row of these penmanship exercises appear in the margins and empty spaces of this scrapbook. Nineteenth-century children and adults also indulged in the joys of writing poetry. Parents encouraged their children, especially their daughters, to write poems as a means of working out one's moral convictions. The verses that are handwritten in this book appear to be original compositions.

The scrapbook/ledger in this collection appears to have been used by the Brouillette family during the 1860s. This family was one of the first to settle in the Vincennes region. Patriarch Michael Brouillette was born in France during the mid-eighteenth century and he left for Canada when he was a young man. In the late 1780s the family left their settlement at the Isle of St. John to live near Vincennes. There were several branches to the family and evidence for who exactly kept this scrapbook is inconclusive.

Sources:

Materials in collection

George Greene, *History of Old Vincennes and Knox County*. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1911 ([F532.K6 G74 1911](#))

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of one scrapbook used by the Brouillett family. The book appears to have originally been a ledger used on a steamer ship named the *Sultana* near the Vincennes area before someone started using it as a scrapbook. This ship is not the same as the *Sultana* that sank in April 1865, for the passage dates for this ship are listed as 1866. The ledger entries are near the back of the book and include information on goods and accounts of "affects," as well as information on the *Sultana's* voyages to New Orleans and Cincinnati in 1866. The dates for these accounts range from July 1860–67. On many of these ledger pages someone practiced their letters, numbers, and penmanship, occasionally writing over the fiscal accounts. Poems and essays about historical events fill the empty spaces on these pages. Many pages have been cut out of the book. Near the beginning of the scrapbook are poems and clippings from the newspapers and magazines of the day that have been pasted on top of the ledger accounts. These clippings include sentimental verses on childhood, morality, and life.

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Scrapbook

CONTAINER

Folder 1

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, SC2758).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.