

Collection #  
M 0320  
OM 0069  
F 0058

## CALDWELL FAMILY PAPERS, 1785–1919

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Re-processed by

Kate Scott  
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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](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 OM folder, 1 reel microfilm

COLLECTION DATES: 1785–1919

PROVENANCE: Eduard R. Gilgour, Indianapolis

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: Microfilm, F 0058

RELATED HOLDINGS: John Caldwell Papers. Manuscript Collection: SC 0168; *The Correspondence of John Badollet and Albert Gallatin, 1804–1836*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1963. General Collection: F521.I41 v. 22; Hunter, William A. *John Badollet's "Journal of the time I spent in Stony Creeck Glades, 1793–1794."* 1980. Pamphlet Collection: pam. F153.H86 1980.

ACCESSION NUMBER: 34.1102, 79.0225

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Caldwell (d. 1835) operated a general store in Vincennes, Knox County, Indiana in the early 1810s, and a similar establishment in Shawneetown, Gallatin County, Illinois circa 1814–35. He was also Receiver of Public Monies at Shawneetown's U.S. land office, and operated his own legal practice. Beginning in 1824, Frederick Rapp employed Caldwell to operate his general store in Shawneetown for him. Caldwell operated Rapp's store at least through 1828.

In 1814 Caldwell married Sarah Badollet (dates unknown), with whom he had several children. They included John Badollet Caldwell (1819–68); William Lynn Caldwell, who attended the U.S. Military Academy at West Point; and Albert G. Caldwell. Sarah Badollet Caldwell managed her husband's estate after his early death in 1835.

John Badollet Caldwell was a businessman who traveled extensively, making business trips to Louisville, Cincinnati, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. In the 1840s he married Margaret Badollet, with whom he had at least six children. Among them were Albert Gallatin Caldwell (1845–1923), not to be confused with his uncle of the same initials; Margaret Caldwell Jones; and Arthur Caldwell.

Albert Gallatin Caldwell (1845–1923) attended the U.S. Naval Academy in 1862–63. After graduation, he served on the USS *Colorado*, U.S.S. *Shamrock*, U.S.S. *Hipsic*, U.S.S. *Lancaster*, U.S.S. *Pinta*, and U.S.S. *Vandalia*. In the 1870s he was an instructor at the Naval Academy, probably 1872–76. He resigned his commission in 1884. He remained single and by 1920 was living in Indianapolis with his brother Arthur Caldwell, his sister Margaret Jones, and her husband Benjamin Jones. He died of a stroke in 1923.

Sources:

Annual Register of the United States Naval Academy, 1874

Collection materials

Findagrave.com

Callahan, Edward W., Ed. *List of Officers of the Navy of the United States and of the Marine Corps from 1775 to 1900*. New York: L.R. Hamersly & Co., 1901.

Indiana Death Certificates

United States Federal Census Records

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Series 1 is composed solely of the microfilmed papers of the collection.

Series 2 comprises John Caldwell's business papers, including receipts, accounts, deeds, and correspondence related to his businesses in Vincennes and Shawneetown. The receipts and accounts provide a thorough picture of what items were in demand by frontier residents in the early nineteenth century. Also in this series is the contract in which he agrees to manage Frederick Rapp's general store in Shawneetown.

One of the most important papers in this series is an 1817 transfer of an indenture (a bill of sale in all but name) for a black woman named Emma. The paper records the sale of Emma's indenture by John Caldwell to John Cox. It notes that Caldwell bought her from a Kentucky resident in 1814 and brought her to Gallatin County in Illinois Territory. At the time, neither Indiana Territory nor Illinois Territory allowed enslaved people to be brought in (though those who were already there remained enslaved), and any free blacks entering had to post a prohibitively expensive bond. Thus, enslaved people could easily be forced to sign long indentures that essentially kept them enslaved for decades, if not the remainder of their lives. A significant number of enslaved and indentured African Americans lived in the Shawneetown area and worked in the local salt mines.

Series 3 is made up of miscellaneous family documents, including papers relating to the estate of John Caldwell.

Series 4 holds the family's personal correspondence. Notable are the ardently romantic letters written by John B. Caldwell to his wife Margaret B. Caldwell in the 1840s, and the letters of Albert Gallatin Caldwell (not to be confused with his uncle Albert G. Caldwell).

Also notable are several emotional notes that have been penciled onto correspondence by an "Aly C." He reserved the greatest ire for Albert G. Caldwell, about whom one note reads, "The writer was full of fine words but he was a skum [sic], a sham, deserted his mother & minor children & got married."

The letters of Albert Gallatin Caldwell comprise a large portion of Series 4, and are among the most significant materials in the collection. Sent to his mother and other family members, these cover his time at the U.S. Naval Academy and while serving aboard ships in the Mediterranean and the Americas. As a high-ranking officer, he occasionally entertained foreign and American dignitaries, including former President Ulysses S. Grant. He is confident, opinionated, and conservative. Following is an index of notable letters:

### Notable letters

26 Aug. 1868	The people of Lisbon celebrate the release of King Luis and Queen Maria Pia from Paris
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25 Dec. 1868 Criticizes the democratic Haitian government and writes that the country was better off under the French than "the ni\*s"

13 Sep. 1870 Describes battle outside Montevideo between Blanco and Colorado parties; criticizes Colorado leader Bustamante

21 Nov. 1871 Attends a ball in Rio de Janeiro; finds the women there unattractive

14 Aug. 1877 Extensive description of Damascus and nearby areas

30 Nov. 1877 President Ulysses S. Grant to tour the Mediterranean on the U.S.S. *Vandalia*

20 Dec. 1877 Description of Grant and those in his party; Grant's reception at Naples

31 Dec. 1877 Grant in Malta; lacks ear for music

10 Jan. 1878 Grant in Egypt

4 Mar. 1878 Grant in Constantinople; interest in horses

9 Mar. 1878 Grant talented at whist

10 Mar. 1878 Comments on the Epirus Revolt in Ottoman-ruled Greece

19 Mar. 1878 Praises Grant's fiscal policy; Grant in Athens; King George I of Greece on board the *Vandalia*; Grant disembarks at Naples

6 May 1878 Believes the U.S. government should hang forgers and defaulters to protect society; would prefer his Navy friends not know about his down-on-his-luck brother

16 May 1878 Tells his mother to stop lending his brother money

3 Aug. 1878 Criticizes the Turkish government as harsh

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Microfilm**

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Caldwell Family Papers

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### **Series 2: Business Papers**

#### CONTENTS

Document granting John Badollet power to transact  
business for Albert Gallatin, 1789

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General W. Johnston's Report on Slavery in the  
Northwest Territory (handwritten copy), c. 1808

Box 1, Folder 1

Miscellaneous Legal Documents, 1813–33

Box 1, Folder 2  
and OM 0069

Land Indenture (Deed), 1808

OM 0069

Land Indentures (Deeds), 1815–35

Box 1, Folder 3

Copy of the Bill of Sale of Emma to John Cox, 1817

OM 0069

Business Correspondence, 1817–39 and not dated

Box 1, Folder 4  
and OM 0069

Articles of Employment of John Caldwell by  
Frederick Rapp, 1824–28

Box 1, Folder 5

Receipts and Accounts, 1814–19

Box 1, Folder 6

Receipts and Accounts, 1820–29

Box 1, Folder 7  
and OM 0069

Receipts and Accounts, 1830–40

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and OM 0069

Receipts and Accounts, 1867–93

Box 1, Folder 9

### **Series 3: Family Papers**

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Estate of John Caldwell Documents, 1836–37

#### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 10

U.S. Military Academy Conduct Report for Cadet Caldwell, 1847

Box 1, Folder 11

Vincennes City Burying Ground Deed for William Caldwell, 1864

Box 1, Folder 12

Obituary for Eliza J. Kirkpatrick, circa 1885

Box 1, Folder 13

Recipes for a Cure for a Weak Breast and a Cure for Consumption, not dated

Box 1, Folder 14

### **Series 4: Personal Correspondence**

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Monsieur De Lessert to Monsieur Badollet, ca. 18th century

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Jean Amat to Monsieur Badollet and Madame De \_\_\_\_, 1785

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S. Salomon to John Badollet, 1815

Box 1, Folder 15

Letter Regarding George Rapp's Health, 1843

Box 1, Folder 16

William L. Caldwell to Sarah Caldwell, 1840s

Box 1, Folder 17

Albert G. Caldwell to Sarah Caldwell, 1845–47

Box 1, Folder 18

John B. Caldwell to Margaret B. Caldwell, 1841-65 and not dated

Box 1, Folder 19 and OM 0069

John B. Caldwell to Sarah Caldwell, 1866

Box 1, Folder 20

Albert Gallatin Caldwell, 1861–69

Box 1, Folder 21

Albert Gallatin Caldwell, 1870–79

Box 1, Folder 22

Albert Gallatin Caldwell, 1883–88 and not dated

Box 1, Folder 23

Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1847–1919 and not dated

Box 1, Folder 24 and OM 0069

