

Collection #  
SC 3092

## FIFTY-THIRD INDIANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AUTOGRAPH ALBUM, 1883

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1manuscript folder

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1883

PROVENANCE: Peter L. Masi – Books, Montague, Massachusetts

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2004.0107

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Indiana House of Representatives commenced its fifty-third session January 4, 1883 and adjourned March 5 of the same year. As Speaker of the House, representatives elected William D. Bynum of Marion County. During the 1883 session, the House voted on numerous bills with local and statewide implications. Foremost among these were a bill appropriating funds for the construction of several new psychiatric hospitals to alleviate overcrowding at Central State Hospital, and another increasing available funds for the ongoing construction of the Indiana Statehouse.

Representative Theodore Shockney was born in 1852 in Randolph County. Orphaned at age ten, he did farm work and taught school before entering the legal profession. In 1880 he was elected mayor of Union City, and before his term ended was elected to the Indiana House of Representatives. In 1888 he was elected to the Indiana Senate. Shockney married Emma Alice Keever in 1876 and had four children. He died April 29, 1928 in Florida.

### Sources:

“News of Bench and Bar.” *Indiana Law Journal* 3.9 (1 June 1928).

*Journal of the House of Representatives of the State of Indiana During the Fifty-Third Session of the General Assembly.* Indianapolis: William B. Burford, 1883.

Smith, John and Lee L. Driver. *Past and Present of Randolph County Indiana.* Indianapolis: A.W. Bowen and Company, 1914.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of a single bound volume, an 1883 autograph book featuring the members of the Fifty-Third Indiana House of Representatives in alphabetical order. The tone of many of the entries is rather casual, suggesting that the volume was created as a personal memento for one of the assembly's members. It is possible that it belonged to Rep. Theodore Shockney of Randolph County, as he is the only member of the assembly to whom one of the entries (that of Rep. Ulric Z. Wiley) is specifically addressed, and his own entry is somewhat self-effacing in comparison to the others.

There is a page for each representative except, for reasons unknown, Speaker William D. Bynum. A few representatives did not sign the book. The majority of those who did sign merely list their names, ages, areas represented, professions, and party affiliations. Their youth is conspicuous, as most are in their thirties or forties, and several are in their twenties. They represent a variety of professions: attorneys, merchants, millers, physicians, teachers, and most commonly, farmers. Though most entries are brief, a significant number of legislators write more extended personal or humorous entries. Of interest are those by Reps. Adams, Campbell, Chittenden, Gordon, Mock (who describes himself as "Six feet and six inches of pure unadulterated and unterrified Democracy"), Montgomery, Robertson, Shockney, and Wiley. It should be noted that Rep. Josiah Campbell's description of himself as a "Black Republican" is a reference to his political affiliation and not his color.

## **CONTENTS**

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Fifty-Third Indiana General Assembly Autograph  
Album, 1883

CONTAINER

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## 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, SC 3092).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.