INDIANA LAWYERS AND POLITICIANS COLLECTION, 1831–1889

Collection Information

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Cataloging Information

Processed by

Paul Brockman April 2011

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department William Henry Smith Memorial Library Indiana Historical Society 450 West Ohio Street Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 half sized box
COLLECTION DATES:	1831–1889
PROVENANCE:	C. Wesley Cowan Historic Americana, Cincinnati, Ohio, December, 2003
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	John Love Papers (M 0653)
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2004.0076; 2004.0077
NOTES:	

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The collection centers on correspondence from politicians, attorneys and other important individuals to two primary individuals: Oliver H. Smith and John Law.

O. H. (Oliver Hampton) Smith (1794–1859) was born in New Jersey but moved to Lawrenceburg, Indiana. He studied law and began practicing in Connersville, Indiana, in 1820. He soon entered politics as a member of the Whig Party and served in the State house of representatives from 1822–1824; prosecuting attorney for third judicial district, 1824–1825; U. S. House of Representatives, 1827–1829; and U. S. Senate from 1837–1843. After failing in his bid for reelection to the Senate, Smith moved to Indianapolis where he resumed his law practice and was involved in the city's railroad development.

John Love (1820-1881) was born in Culpeper County, Virginia, the son of Richard H. Love and of a granddaughter of Richard Henry Lee. Love attended West Point from 1837 to 1841, and then embarked on a military career. He fought in the war with Mexico in 1846-1848, and was brevetted captain for his part in the assault on Santa Cruz de Los Rosales in March 1848. He resigned from the Army in 1852, and moved to Indianapolis, probably because in 1849 he had married Mary F. Smith, a daughter of Oliver Hampton Smith, a prominent lawyer and Whig politician. In Indianapolis Love was in the real estate business, and also had a large farm. After 1856 he became involved, with his father-in-law, O. H. Smith, in railroad finance, particularly in connection with the Cleveland Straight Line Railroad and the Evansville, Indianapolis Cleveland Railroad.

At the same time, Love kept up his interest in military matters. During the first year of the Civil War, he served first in West Virginia under Brigadier General Morris, and then was involved in training the volunteer troops raised by Governor O. P. Morton. In the last months of 1862 Love commanded a division in defense of Cincinnati. He resigned from the Army on 1 January 1863, having been requested by Governor Morton to help in his administration, as a War Democrat. However, Morgan's raid in July 1863 called him back to service.

During the period of the war, Love began his connection with the Gatling Gun. Richard J. Gatling settled in Indianapolis in 1854 who set up his factory in Indianapolis. General Love bought stock in the company, and also represented the company as it presented the gun. The Gatling company moved to Hartford, Conn., in 1870, and soon was sold to the Colt Firearms Company. Love, though he began selling his stock in 1873, was still representing the company a year later. Toward the end of his life, Love engaged in "the land-claim business." In 1877 Governor James D. "Blue Jeans" Williams appointed him to a four-man commission to erect a new State House in Indianapolis, and he served on this until his death. In 1880 he was appointed by Congress to be a manager of the National Soldiers Home, which had four branches: in Dayton, Ohio; Augusta, Maine; Hampton, Virginia;

and Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He also worked to get Democratic veterans to support General W. S. Hancock

Sources:

Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774–1976. Alexandria, Virginia: CQ Staff Directories, Inc., c1997.

John Love Collection Guide, M 0653.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection primarily, but not exclusively, contains professional letters from prominent political and legal individuals to either John Love or O. H. Smith. It is arranged in three series: letters to Law, letters to Smith and letters to other individuals. All series are arranged alphabetically by sender. The collection was acquired under the description of "autographs of Indiana lawyers, politicians, and more" and seeming have no other connection.

Correspondents include: Calvin Fletcher, Robert Dale Owen, Lewis Tappan, William H. English, Daniel Voorhees, Hamilton Fish, Walter Gresham, George Washington Julian, and Oliver P. Morton.

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Isaac Blackford to Smith, February 1832	Box 1, Folder 3
Thomas H. Blake to Smith, 26 January 1841	Box 1, Folder 4
N. Claypool to Smith, 19 January 1840	Box 1, Folder 5
William Dayton to Smith, 2 May 1843	Box 1, Folder 6
Abram Dirkind to Smith, 14 October ?	Box 1, Folder 7
A. C. Dodge to Smith, 6 January ?; 26 May 1841	Box 1, Folder 8
George H. Dunn to Smith, 19 July 1841	Box 1, Folder 9
J. P. Durbin, 9 June 1836	Box 1, Folder 10
James Farington to Smith, 5 April 1839	Box 1, Folder 11
Calvin Fletcher to Smith, 22 August 1831	Box 1, Folder 12
Tilghman A. Howard to Smith, 7 January 1840	Box 1, Folder 13
Reverdy Johnson to Smith, 22 May 1858	Box 1, Folder 14
Samuel Judah to Smith, 10 June 1841	Box 1, Folder 15
Amos Lane to Smith, 18 December 1836	Box 1, Folder 16
Berrien J. Macpherson to Smith, 27 May 1848	Box 1, Folder 17
Nicholas McCarty to Smith 3 February 1841	Box 1, Folder 18
Thomas Morris to Smith, 28 March 1839	Box 1, Folder 19
Robert Dale Owen to Smith, 26 January 1843	Box 1, Folder 20

Samuel W. Parker to Smith, 15 October 1857	Box 1, Folder 21
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James Rariden to Smith, 2 August 1841	Box 1, Folder 23
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Samuel L. Southard to Smith, 11 May 1842	Box 1, Folder 25
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Lewis Tappan to Smith, 3 June 1841	Box 1, Folder 27
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Nathaniel West to Smith, 15 April 1840	Box 1, Folder 29
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Series 2: John Love Correspondence, 1861–1880

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Thomas Dowling to Love, 23 June 1864	Box 1, Folder 31
William H. English to Love, 20 November 1861	Box 1, Folder 32
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J. E. McDonald to Love, 11 August 1862	Box 1, Folder 34
George Pendleton to Love, 1 October 1876	Box 1, Folder 35
F. Rand to Love, 14 December 1863	Box 1, Folder 36
A. S. Roach to Love, 19 June 1861	Box 1, Folder 37
Daniel Voorhees to Love, 26 April 1880	Box 1, Folder 38
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Series 3: General Correspondence, 1838–1889

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Hervey Bates to Sister, 29 November 1849	Box 1, Folder 40
Newton Booth to Oliver Morton, 11 February 1874	Box 1, Folder 41
John Caven to M. Smith, 1880	Box 1, Folder 42
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Hamilton Fish to M. C. Kerr, 31 January 1873	Box 1, Folder 44
Walter Gresham to M. C. Smith, 8 April 1883	Box 1, Folder 45
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N. Rothschild to Noah Noble, 3 August 1841	Box 1, Folder 51
Richard W. Thompson to W. R. Holloway, 15 July 1872	Box 1, Folder 52
William Windom to Mr. Halford, 17 May 1889	Box 1, Folder 53
John C. Wright, 24 March 1874	Box 1, Folder 54
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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, M 1004).
- 5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.