

**Collection #**  
**SC 2433**

## **INDIANA UNIVERSITY STUDENT DIARY, 1856**

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### **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 bound volume

COLLECTION DATE: 1856

PROVENANCE: Robert Russo, date unknown

RESTRICTIONS: None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1994.0618x

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

Almost as soon as Indiana became a state in 1816, thought was given to establishing a state institution of higher learning. A state seminary at Bloomington was chartered in 1820 and opened its doors about 1825. From 1827 to 1838 it was called Indiana College, and in 1838 the name was changed to Indiana University. Under the presidency of Andrew Wylie, from 1828 to 1851, the school had a classical curriculum, with a strong Presbyterian flavor. It was an all-male school until 1867-1869. A law school with two teachers was started in 1847.

The university had little state support, and even its land holdings were disputed with Vincennes University. When a new state constitution was being drafted in 1850-1851, the university was attacked as not meeting the needs of a largely agricultural population. In response to these attacks, the school during the 1850s took the first steps toward setting up a normal school, chemical and engineering courses, and an agricultural department.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection contains one item, a coverless bound volume with the diary of an unnamed Indiana University student from 31 October to 18 December 1856. The entries are comparatively long and thoughtful, by a student with independent ideas about his studies and his teachers. The course he is taking is apparently a classical one, with some Bible study in addition.

Among the topics discussed:

- the national election (he votes for Buchanan and Breckenridge);
- dull lectures by "the old doctor" (Daily);
- a horse show won by a farm girl in a sun bonnet;
- the trial of Misse for the murder of Rainwater;
- a debate on capital punishment;
- the formal opening of the university's law school;
- meetings of the Athenian Society, which has just purchased a Webster's unabridged dictionary;
- a student prank involving students who cackle like hens;
- a class comparing the scientific and Biblical theories of creation.

## **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 2433).

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