

Collection #
M0896

**JAMES K. STINSON
FAMILY MATERIALS, 1866–1917**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box

COLLECTION
DATES: 1866–1917

PROVENANCE: Mrs. Hudson's Fine Books and Paper, Chelsea, NY, April 2007

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2007.0093

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James Kerr Stinson was born in Ross County, Ohio, on 12 November 1825 to Archibald Stinson and Silence McCoy. He was one of at least nine children born to Archibald and Silence. The Stinson family homestead was located near Massieville, Ohio.

On 9 August 1849, James K. Stinson married Martha Jane Myers ("Jane"), born in Ross County on 17 January 1825. The couple lived near Massieville until approximately March 1868 when they moved to Rochester, Fulton County, Henry Township, Indiana. James worked as a farmer, county surveyor, and appears to have been involved in a saw mill and lumber business with Felix Renick until 1872.

Jane and James had at least six children: William M. (b. ca. 1851), James (b. ca. 1859), Webster (b. ca. 1861), Martha (b. ca. 1864), Mary (b. ca. 1866), Keaton/Keed (b. ca. 1869). Two other children may have been born to the couple, but died in childhood.

Jane died at the age of 71 on 2 March 1896 after an attack of paralysis. James died at the age of 73 on 6 May 1899, likely from heart disease. Obituaries in *The Rochester Sentinel* indicate both Jane and James were buried in Mt. Hope Cemetery in Henry Township, also known as Hoover's Cemetery or Athens Cemetery.

Sources:

Information in the collection

Heritage Quest census information. Available online: <http://www.heritagequestonline.com/>

Tombaugh, Wendell C. "Fulton County Indiana Obits/Biogs, *The Rochester Sentinel*, 1896
http://www.fulco.lib.in.us/genealogy/obit_bios.htm

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of two journals kept by James K. Stinson, a Stinson family photograph, and a few other

materials such as clippings, account statements, receipts, land surveys, and legal agreements.

James K. Stinson's two journals comprise the bulk of the collection. The journal pages have been disbound and foldered for preservation purposes, as they were already detached from the journal covers. The first journal covers the period of 25 May 1866 to 30 September 1881. The second journal covers the period from October 1881 to 18 February 1899.

The journals are unique in that Stinson wrote brief descriptions of his activities on a daily basis for 33 years. These daily entries provide insight into a farmer's life in Rochester, Indiana, in the mid-to-late nineteenth century. The entries also reveal the names of Stinson's neighbors, clergymen, and business associates, as Stinson recorded interactions, marriages, and deaths. Some of the activities described include the planting and sowing of crops, threshing, making repairs, surveying, helping neighbors, settling accounts, and cutting and hauling wood. Social activities included attending funerals, church services, and county fairs. Stinson makes note of important events such as the death of President James Garfield and attending the World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Stinson also mentions going to Akron for elections, and visiting Chicago, Cincinnati, and the prison at Michigan City.

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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, M0896).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.