

Collection #  
M0670  
OM0348

## **JAMES WHITCOMB PAPERS, 1822–1851**

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24 January 1996

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Manuscripts: 2 document cases, 1 oversize folder  
Visuals: 1 daguerreotype, 1 OVC graphic

COLLECTION DATES: 1822–1851

PROVENANCE: Argosy Book Stores, New York, 1947;  
Monica Jenkins, 1423 Oakcrest Dr., Hampton, VA, 1995;  
Cowan's Auctions, Inc. Cincinnati, 2012

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1947.0521, 1995.0604, 2012.0192, 2012.0197

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James Whitcomb (1795–1852) was born in Vermont but moved to Kentucky where he graduated from Transylvania University. In 1822 he was admitted to the bar in Kentucky and practiced two years in Fayette County of that state before moving to Bloomington, Indiana in 1824. From 1830–1836 Whitcomb served as a Democratic Party member of the Indiana State Senate. In 1836, President Andrew Jackson appointed him commissioner of the General Land Office. Whitcomb was elected governor of Indiana in 1843. During his administration the Indiana Hospital for the Insane, the Indiana Asylum for the Education of the Deaf and Dumb, and the Indiana Institute for the Education of the Blind were founded. Whitcomb resigned from office when he was elected to the United States Senate in 1848. He served in the upper house until his death in 1852.

Sources:

Peat, Wilbur D., *Portraits and Painters of the Governors of Indiana, 1800-1978*.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains Whitcomb's political and business papers, printed materials, a speech, a scrapbook, and two portraits.

**Series 1:** Includes documents relating to Whitcomb's legal career, 1822–1826, handbills, newspapers, circulars, printed items, and a pamphlet regarding his political ventures and the operations of the Indiana and United States legislative bodies, 1836–1851. There are also letters to Whitcomb while serving in the United States Senate requesting his assistance in diplomatic and legal matters, 1849–1850. Topics include veteran's pensions, land interests, and two letters from J. W. Davis, U. S. Commissioner to China, requesting Whitcomb's and J. D. Bright's assistance in obtaining a recall from his post, 23 September 1849 and 27 November 1849. There is correspondence to Whitcomb from the Madison and Indianapolis Rail Road Co. regarding his stock holdings in the operation. In addition there is a handwritten speech dated 1848 by Whitcomb to the Indiana Senate explaining his veto of a bill relating to the construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal.

**Series 2:** Contains Whitcomb's personal scrapbook from 1844–1846 with approximately 320 pages of newspaper clippings on the Indiana Governor and United States Senate races.

**Series 3:** Portraits include a lithograph print of Whitcomb ca. 1836 while he was Commissioner of the Land Office and a daguerreotype dated 1851.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Correspondence and Printed Materials, 1822–1851**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Correspondence and Papers, 1822–1836	Box 1, Folder 1
Correspondence and Papers, 1841–1848	Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence and Papers, 1849	Box 1, Folder 3
Correspondence and Papers, January 1850–April 1850	Box 1, Folder 4
Correspondence and Papers, May 1850–July 1850, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 5
Broadsides and Newspapers, 1831–1851	Box 1, Folder 6
Broadsides and Newspapers, 1831–1851	OM0348 Folder 1
Pamphlet: <i>Facts for the people in relation to a protective tariff; embracing a brief review of the operation of our tariff laws since the organization of the government, including that of 1842. By an Indianian</i> Indianapolis: G.A. & J.P. Chapman, Printers, 1843. Inscribed in pencil on title page: "James Whitcomb. Esq."	Box 1, Folder 7
Speech by Governor James Whitcomb to the Indiana Senate explaining his veto of a bill relating to the construction of the Wabash and Erie Canal, Feb. 10, 1848, handwritten and signed, 6 pp.	Box 1, Folder 7

### **Series 2: Scrapbook, 1844–1846**

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Scrapbook, 1844–1846	Box 2, Folder 1
Scrapbook, 1844–1846	Box 2, Folder 2

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Scrapbook, 1844–1846	Box 2, Folder 5
Scrapbook, 1844–1846	Box 2, Folder 6
Scrapbook, 1844–1846	Box 2, Folder 7
Scrapbook, 1844–1846	Box 2, Folder 8
Loose items removed from scrapbook	Box 2, Folder 9

### **Series 3: Portraits, ca. 1836, ca. 1851**

#### CONTENTS

**Title:** *J.W. Whitcomb Commissioner of the Land-Office.* (signature)

**Illustrator/Printer:** From *Life on Stone* by Chs. Fenderich. Published in Washington City by Chas. Fenderich. P.S. Duval, Lith. Phila.

**Description:** Crayon lithograph portrait, ¾ view.

**Size:** 12 ⅛ x 10 ⅝ inches

**Date:** ca. 1836

Daguerreotype portrait:  
1/6<sup>th</sup> plate housed in full case with inked note pasted to the pad reading: “Hon. James Whitcomb-Ex-Governor of Indiana. Presented to A.L. Ruter Defour by himself-May 1851.”

#### CONTAINER

OVC Graphics:  
Folder 1

Cased Images

## 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, M0670).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.