

JAMES WHITCOMB PAPERS, 1822-1851

Collection #s:

M670

OM 348

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Processed By:
Paul Brockman
24 January 1996

USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript boxes (1 standard size, 1 small size); 1 oversize folder

COLLECTION DATES: 1822-1851

PROVENANCE: Monica Jenkins, Hampton, VA

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

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 95.0604

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

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.

Source: 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, and a scrapbook. Included are documents relating to Whitcomb's legal career, 1822-1826, handbills, newspapers, circulars and other related printed items 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 veterans 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 also correspondence to Whitcomb from the Madison and Indianapolis Rail Road Co. regarding his stock holdings in the operation. The collection also contains Whitcomb's personal scrapbook from 1844-1846 containing approximately 320 pages of newspaper clippings on the Indiana Governor and United States Senate races.

BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

BOX 1: Correspondence and Printed Materials, 1822-1851

FOLDER CONTENTS

- 1 Correspondence and Papers, 1822-1836
- 2 Correspondence and Papers, 1841-1848
- 3 Correspondence and Papers, 1849
- 4 Correspondence and Papers, January, 1850-April, 1850
- 5 Correspondence and Papers, May, 1850- July, 1850 and n.d.
- 6 Broad sides and Newspapers, 1831-1851 (also OM 348)

BOX 2: Scrapbook, 1844-1846

FOLDER CONTENTS

- 1 Scrapbook, 1844-1846, Folder 1
- 2 Scrapbook, 1844-1846, Folder 2
- 3 Scrapbook, 1844-1846, Folder 3
- 4 Scrapbook, 1844-1846, Folder 4

5 Scrapbook, 1844-1846, Folder 5

6 Scrapbook, 1844-1846, Folder 6

7 Scrapbook, 1844-1846, Folder 7

8 Scrapbook, 1844-1846, Folder 8

9 Loose Items Removed From Scrapbook, 1844-1846

CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Whitcomb, James, 1795-1852

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Whitcomb, James, 1795-1852

Indiana. Governor (1843-1848 : Whitcomb)

Indiana. General Assembly

United States. Congress

United States. Congress. Senate--Elections

Madison and Indianapolis Rail Road Company

Governors--Indiana--Election

Politicians--Indiana

Military pensions--United States

Nativism

Indiana--Politics and government

END