**Collection #**
**M 0294**

# JEROME WILEY
# PAPERS, 1833–1924


Collection Information

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Cataloging Information



Processed by

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21 April 2003

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

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| VOLUME OF COLLECTION: | 6 document cases |
| COLLECTION DATES: | 1833–1924 |
| PROVENANCE: | Mrs. Virgil Davis, Connersville, Indiana, February 1973 |
| RESTRICTIONS: | None |

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| ALTERNATE FORMATS: | |
| RELATED HOLDINGS: | |
| ACCESSION NUMBER: | 1973.0210 |
| NOTES: | Originally processed by Charles Latham, February 1989 |

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jerome Wiley (1822–94) was born near Clarksburg, Decatur County, Indiana, the son of James Wiley. In 1841–42 he traveled through the West on foot, and from 1843 to 1847 he was a clerk on an Ohio River steamboat. He settled down in Metamora, Franklin County, Indiana, but took a trip to Colorado in 1859 to look for gold. Also in 1874–75 he built a saw mill in Morton, Louisiana, but gave it up partly because of poor health. He was an enterprising businessman. At one time he owned over 2000 acres of land, both in Indiana and in Iowa and Mississippi. He ran a saw mill, and seems to have had other steam-powered equipment, including a threshing machine and a tractor.

In 1848 Wiley married Maria, daughter of Reuben Hawkins. A son of this marriage, George Wiley, died in 1857. Three daughters died of diphtheria in 1863. A surviving daughter, Caroline Wiley, married Edgar O'Hair, a lawyer in Brookville. Jerome's brother John Wiley had a son Adonijah and moved to Iowa, as did another brother, Spencer, and a sister, Olive (Allen). Spencer served in the Civil War (Pioneer Brigade).

Another prominent figure in the collection is Caroline Hawkins. She was evidently a relation of Maria Hawkins Wiley, possibly a much younger sister; Edgar O'Hair calls her "Aunt." She lived in Laurel, just north of Metamora, probably on a farm.

Source:
*Biographical and Genealogical History of Wayne, Fayette, Union and Franklin Counties, Indiana*, 2 vols. Chicago: Lewis Publishing Co., 1899. (F 532 .W5 L4 1899 vol. 2, p. 979.)

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists mainly of correspondence, with some bills, receipts, accounts, and printed material in addition.

The bulk of the collection contains the correspondence of Jerome Wiley and his family. Relationships in this family

are somewhat confusing, because the same first name (e.g. James, John, and Adonijah) is used in different branches and generations of the family. The most frequent correspondents, writing mainly to Jerome Wiley, are John and James Wiley and a nephew, Moses Hopkins.

Most of the correspondence has to do with business matters. When there are personal letters, they are likely to have to do with farm prices, with business opportunities being urged on Jerome or with excuses for non-payment of loans, or with sickness or family quarrels. Some letters written during the Civil War are unusual in referring to the Copperheads of southern Indiana as "Tories." The collection gives a picture of more than usual interest because of Wiley's far-flung family and diverse business enterprises, and because very little seems to have been thrown away over a period of many years.

Also included in the collection are printed materials, mainly envelopes and advertising flyers, regarding both Indiana and non-Indiana firms, 1860s–1905.

The correspondence of Caroline Hawkins, spanning the years 1891–1924, consists largely of family news from her various nieces and nephews.

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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://157.91.92.2/
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 0294).

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