

Collection #  
SC 1627

**MANCHESTER UNION TEMPERANCE SOCIETY  
RECORDS ca. 1847–ca. 1857**

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**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box (long roll)

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1847-1857

PROVENANCE: Gift of R. W. Place, Butte, Montana, February 1948

RESTRICTIONS: Request assistance from Conservation for use and rerolling after use.

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:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1948.0213

NOTES: The item in this collection came originally from the donor's mother, who with his father, lived in North Manchester, Indiana during the 1870's.

## **HISTORICAL SKETCH**

The temperance movement in Indiana dates from about 1843 with the climax of activity in the 1850's. The Indiana Legislature passed and the Governor, Joseph A. Wright, signed an act, 16 February 1855 to prohibit the manufacture and sale of "spirituous and intoxicating liquors." In Wabash County one of the first temperance organizations was a Sons of Temperance Chapter, Wabash Division #59, chartered in 1847. In 1856 a Ladies and Gentlemen's Maine Law Society was organized, flourishing for several years.

The Manchester Union Temperance Society was organized in the town of Manchester (now North Manchester) on the Eel River, in Wabash County, Indiana, to conquer "King Alcohol." The constitution stipulates that "we... as the friends of education, and humanity and the cause of freedom, do with one united voice declare that we will use all lawful means to drive the Burning Scourge of Drunkenness from our country and in order to accomplish this desirable object we will organize ourselves into a Temperance Society. The organization, as outlined in the twelve articles of the constitution, would be run by a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and an Executive Committee of twelve (composed of six men and six women.) Membership was open to any willing to sign and uphold the pledge and abide by the organization's Constitution.

The document is undated, but from internal evidence--such as residential dates for signatories--and regional temperance activity it would seem to have been created sometime between 1847 and 1857.

Sources: Material in collection

*Wabash County History*. Bicentennial Edition 1976. p. 185.

*History of Wabash County Indiana*. 1971 reprint. p. 139-142.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection contains one document, a preamble, constitution and list of temperance subscribers for the Manchester Union Temperance Society, is composed of fifteen sections of paper glued together to form a long roll. The preamble and constitution have been written in one hand, the list of names in another. The first five sections of the scroll contain the preamble and twelve article constitution. The ten sections which complete the document are a bi-column listing of subscribers to the temperance pledge--with the left hand column male adherents and the right, female. There are approximately 400 names on the list--40 per page (20 each male and female) with the last section damaged in such fashion as to obliterate some names.

## **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 1627).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.