

Collection #  
M 0149,  
OMB 0089

**POWELL HOWLAND  
PAPERS, 1815–2000 (BULK 1815–1917)**

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Series Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

Processed by

Paul Brockman  
31 March 2003

Manuscript Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

-

**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	7 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize box, 2 folders of photographs
COLLECTION DATES:	1815–2000 (bulk 1815–1917)
PROVENANCE:	Mrs. Ben Roberts, 3650 E. 46 <sup>th</sup> Street, Indianapolis, IN, November 1970; Mrs. Matthew E. Farson, 1130 N. Bolton Ave., Indianapolis, IN, 1970; Raymond M. Featherstone, Jr., 5221 N.

Delaware Street, Indianapolis, IN 46220, 29 December 2000

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1970.0014; 1970.1107; 2001.0162

NOTES: The following folders were part of accession number 1970.1107: OMB 0089, Folders 8–10; Box 1, Folder 22; Box 2, Folders 12–15; Box 3, Folders 10–11 and 13–14; Box 4, Folders 4–6; Box 5, Folders 5–8; Box 6, Folders 17 and 28. The following were part of accession number 1970.0014: Box 1, Folders 8 and 23; Box 3, Folder 12.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Powell Howland (1799–1878) was born in Saratoga, New York, but moved to northeast Marion County, Indiana, in October 1838, where he purchased a 160-acre farm from Benjamin Johnson. He eventually increased his land holdings to 315 acres and operated several gravel toll road companies. Howland was also politically active, serving as a county commissioner and a representative to the state legislature as a member of the Democratic Party. He was also instrumental in the development of public education in Indiana and donated one-half acre of his land for the erection of a school. Howland also served as a trustee of the Marion County Library for thirty years, nineteen as president of the board. Howland married Mahala Thurber in 1823 and they produced nine children. One of their daughters, Pamela, married Oliver Johnson in 1843.

Sources:

Information in collection.

Nowland, John. *Sketches of Prominent Citizens of 1876*. Indianapolis: Tilford and Carlton, 1877. microfilm 3:52 no. 202.

Johnson, Howard. *A Home in the Woods*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society, 1951. General Collection: F521 .I41

Dunn, Jacob P. *Memorial and Genealogical Record of Representative Citizens of Indiana*. Indianapolis: B.F. Bowen, 1912. General Collection: F525 .D85 1912

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of Powell Howland's personal and business papers. Personal materials (Series 1) include letters between Howland and his father, Elisha, in Waterford and Mechanicsville, New York, 1841–57. These letters primarily discuss health, finances, weather, farming, and general family news. There also are letters from friends in New York and Indiana concerning personal and financial matters, 1851–70, as well as letters from Howland's

granddaughter, Mary E. Lowe, in Marshfield, Missouri, concerning the financing of a land purchase, 1872. Other items of a personal nature include a day/memorandum book, 1822–24; a Civil War-era claim for damages done to his farm by Union soldiers, 1863; a catalog of his nursery, ca. 1840s; Howland’s will and insurance policies, 1860s–70s; school papers of Maggie Howland, n.d.; a letter announcing a meeting of the Marion County Library, 1861; and family correspondence and papers, 1891–1917.

Powell’s general business papers (Series 2) chiefly contain land records such as deeds, mortgages, indentures/agreements, and tax records, 1841–76. Also included are correspondence regarding estates and land deeds and payments of debts, in particular the estate of Elisha Howland in Saratoga, New York, and the accounts of Knowlton Howland in Marshall County, Indiana. Additional items include Howland’s personal account and memorandum books, 1840–78, detailing his various business dealings with individuals. The papers also contain the articles of incorporation for the Simmons Edge Tool Company of Indianapolis, which manufactured axes, tools, iron, and steel, 1873. Additional business-related items include a large number of receipts and cancelled checks from a variety of areas and services, 1841–77.

The collection’s two largest areas of concentration are the records of Howland’s gravel road companies (Series 5) and the papers related to his involvement in the public school system in Marion County and Indiana (Series 6). The largest group of gravel toll road records is those of the Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company, 1842–77. Items include correspondence, tax receipts, vouchers, land acquisition, and general financial information including tolls, diagrams and corporation minutes. Similar, but less voluminous records exist for the Millersville Gravel Road Company, 1858–75; the Fall Creek and Warren Township Gravel Road Company, 1865–69; and the Fall Creek and Mud Creek Gravel Road Company, 1869. There also are records concerning the location of roads, 1869 and 1875, and plank roads, 1860–66. The papers also contain a significant number of records pertaining to the early development of the public school system in Marion County and Indiana and reflect on Howland’s position as a county commissioner involved with public education. Education records include trustee’s reports, 1831–51; petitions for public schools, 1832–39; forms listing names of children eligible for public schools, 1832–53; bonds, 1832–53; election results for school commissioners, 1845–51; and school commissioner’s orders, 1838–53.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Personal Correspondence and Papers, 1821–1917**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Correspondence, 1841–58	Box 1, Folder 1
Correspondence, 1841–56	Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence, 1857–59	Box 1, Folder 3
Correspondence, 1860–62	Box 1, Folder 4
Correspondence, 1863–65	Box 1, Folder 5
Correspondence, 1866–75	Box 1, Folder 6
Correspondence, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 7
Family Correspondence, 1840–67 (photocopies)	Box 1, Folder 8
Day/Memorandum Book, 1822–24	Box 1, Folder 9
Civil War Claim for Farm Damages, 1863	Box 1, Folder 10

Elisha Howland Estate, 1856–70	Box 1, Folder 11
Elisha Howland Estate, 1859	OMB 0089 Box 1, Folder 4
Maggie Howland School Papers, n.d. (1 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 12
Maggie Howland School Papers, n.d. (2 of 2)	Box 1, Folder 13
Powell Howland’s Will, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 14
“Catalogue of Nursery,” ca. 1840s	Box 1, Folder 15
Mary Lowe Letters, 1872	Box 1, Folder 16
7 <sup>th</sup> Methodist Episcopal Church, 1853–56	Box 1, Folder 17
Life and Insurance Policies, 1865 and 1877	Box 1, Folder 18
Marion County Library, 1861	Box 1, Folder 19
Family Correspondence and Papers, 1891–1917	Box 1, Folder 20
Writing Tablet, ca. 1878	OMB 0089 Box 1, Folder 9
News clippings and biographical information, 1878– 1957 and n.d.	Box 1, Folder 21
Genealogical Material, Wright, Holland, and Berry	Box 1, Folder 22
Justice of the Peace Records, 1831–32 (Photocopies)	Box 1, Folder 23
Family Photographs, n.d.	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 1
Cemetery Photographs, 2000	Visual Collections: Color Photographs, Folder 1

## **Series 2: Business Papers, 1815–77**

### **CONTENTS**

Mortgage Deeds, 1848–76	CONTAINER Box 2, Folder 1
Land Sales Agreements, 1848–62	Box 2, Folder 2
Indentures, 1850–70	Box 2, Folder 3
Indentures and Agreements, 1833–76	Box 2, Folder 4
Indenture, 1835	OMB 0089, Box 1, Folder 3
Indentures, 1837–75	OMB 0089, Box 1, Folder 2

Indentures, 1830–50	OMB 0089, Box 1, Folder 9
Agreements, 1842–55	Box 2, Folder 5
Bundled Property Tax Records, 1846–52 (1 of 2)	Box 2, Folder 6
Bundled Property Tax Records, 1846–52 (2 of 2)	Box 2, Folder 7
Bundled Property Tax Records, 1841–70	Box 2, Folder 8
Land Records, 1850s	Box 2, Folder 9
Mortgage Receipts, 1873	Box 2, Folder 10
Survey Problem Book, 1815	Box 2, Folder 11
Real Estate Drawings, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 12
Legal Papers and Deeds, 1832–61	Box 2, Folder 13
Tax and Property Records, 1844–68	Box 2, Folder 14
Land Records, Memorandum of Agreement, Bonds, Promissory Notes, 1822–68	Box 2, Folder 15
Financial Records, 1859–65	Box 3, Folder 1
Financial Records, 1866–76	Box 3, Folder 2
Business Records, 1831–69	Box 3, Folder 3
Business Records, 1871–76	Box 3, Folder 4
Business Records, 1843–75	Box 3, Folder 5
Business Correspondence, 1839–76	Box 3, Folder 6
Business and Legal Records, 1843–74	Box 3, Folder 7
Business and Legal Records, 1844–69	Box 3, Folder 8
Simmons Edge Tool Co., 1873	Box 3, Folder 9
Business Correspondence, 1848–74	Box 3, Folder 10
Business Correspondence, 1851–76	Box 3, Folder 11
Marion County Horse Company Records, 1838–48 (photocopies)	Box 3, Folder 12
Advertisements, 1854–59, n.d.	Box 3, Folder 13
Business Notes and Papers, 1841–69	Box 3, Folder 14
Receipts, 1841–74	Box 4, Folder 1

Receipts, 1844–59	Box 4, Folder 2
Receipts, 1860–64	Box 4, Folder 3
Receipts, 1864–65	Box 4, Folder 4
Tax and Insurance Receipts, 1853–78	Box 4, Folder 5
Personal and Business Receipts, 1856–76	Box 4, Folder 6
Receipts, 1866–69	Box 4, Folder 7
Receipts, 1870–75	Box 4, Folder 8
Receipts/Accounts, 1859–77	Box 4, Folder 9
Receipts, 1864–70	Box 4, Folder 10
Receipts, n.d.	Box 4, Folder 11
Cancelled Checks, 1855	Box 4, Folder 12
Cancelled Checks, 1858	Box 4, Folder 13
Cancelled Checks, 1863–66	Box 4, Folder 14
Cancelled Checks, 1867	Box 4, Folder 15
Cancelled Checks, 1868–70	Box 4, Folder 16
Cancelled Checks, 1872	Box 4, Folder 17
Cancelled Checks, 1873	Box 4, Folder 18
Cancelled Checks, 1874	Box 5, Folder 1
Cancelled Checks, 1875	Box 5, Folder 2
Cancelled Checks, 1876	Box 5, Folder 3
Cancelled Checks, 1877	Box 5, Folder 4
Memorandum Books (2), 1840–42; 1853–56	Box 5, Folder 5
Account Book, 1846–52	OMB 0089, Box 1, Folder 10
Account Books (2), 1856	Box 5, Folder 6
Account Book, 1859	Box 5, Folder 7
Account Book, 1874–78	Box 5, Folder 8

**Series 3: Road Companies, 1842–77**

## CONTENTS

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Records, 1842–67

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Records, 1859

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Cable Case, 1859–63

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Records, 1860

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Stock Certificates, 1859–62

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Tax Records, 1861–75

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Records, 1861

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Records, 1862

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Records, 1863

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Records, 1864–66

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Records, 1867–69

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Records, 1870–77

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Records, n.d.

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Vouchers, 1860–61

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Vouchers, 1862

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
Vouchers, 1863

Indianapolis and Fall Creek Gravel Road Company,  
1863–73

Bundled Gravel Road Papers, 1858–75

Indiana and Fall Creek Gravel Road Co. and Fall

## CONTAINER

Box 6, Folder 1

Box 6, Folder 2

Box 6, Folder 3

Box 6, Folder 4

Box 6, Folder 5

Box 6, Folder 6

Box 6, Folder 7

Box 6, Folder 8

Box 6, Folder 9

Box 6, Folder 10

Box 6, Folder 11

Box 6, Folder 12

Box 6, Folder 13

Box 6, Folder 14

Box 6, Folder 15

Box 6, Folder 16

Box 6, Folder 17

Box 6, Folder 18

Box 6, Folder 19

Creek and White River Gravel Road Co. Records, 1858–75	
Fall Creek and Warren Township Gravel Road Co., 1865–69	Box 6, Folder 20
Fall Creek and Mud Creek Gravel Road Co., 1869	Box 6, Folder 21
Millersville Gravel Road Co., 1859–75 (1 of 2)	Box 6, Folder 22
Millersville Gravel Road Co., 1859–75 (2 of 2)	Box 6, Folder 23
Millersville Gravel Road Co., Disbursement Receipts for Tolls, 1861–62	Box 6, Folder 24
Millersville Gravel Road Co., Receipts and Records, 1858–75	Box 6, Folder 25
Millersville Gravel Road Co., Stock Certificates, 1861–68	Box 6, Folder 26
Millersville Gravel Road Co., Tax Receipts, 1861–75	Box 6, Folder 27
Millersville Gravel Road Co., 1860–73	Box 6, Folder 28
Gravel Road Drawings, n.d.	OMB 0089, Box 1, Folder 5
Public Bridge Subscribers, n.d.	OMB 0089, Box 1, Folder 6
Gravel Road (photocopies), 1859–69	OMB 0089, Box 1, Folder 7
Vacation of Roads, 1869, 1875	Box 6, Folder 29
Plank Roads, 1860–66	Box 6, Folder 30

#### **Series 4: School Districts, 1831–60**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Trustees Reports, 1831–33	Box 7, Folder 1
Trustees Reports, 1831–33	Box 7, Folder 2
Trustees Reports, 1849–51	Box 7, Folder 3
Petitions for Public Schools, 1832–39	Box 7, Folder 4
Money Pledged for School Buildings, 1833–44	Box 7, Folder 5
Number of Children, 1832–38	Box 7, Folder 6
Documents and Receipts, 1833–45	Box 7, Folder 7



Elections, 1845–51	Box 7, Folder 8
Orders, 1838, 1844–45	Box 7, Folder 9
Orders, 1846	Box 7, Folder 10
Orders, 1847–53	Box 7, Folder 11
Bonds, 1832–44	Box 7, Folder 12
Bonds, 1845–48	Box 7, Folder 13
Bonds, 1849–53	Box 7, Folder 14
Number of Children, 1846–48 (1 of 2)	Box 7, Folder 15
Number of Children, 1846–48 (2 of 2)	Box 7, Folder 16
Number of Children, 1847–49	Box 7, Folder 17
Number of Children, 1848–50	Box 7, Folder 18
Orders and Reports, 1848–54	Box 7, Folder 19
Documents, 1845–60	Box 7, Folder 20
Documents, 1846–48	Box 7, Folder 21
Reports and Receipts, 1846–48	Box 7, Folder 22
School Districts, 1833–50	OMB 0089, Box 1, Folder 1

## 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 0149).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.