

Collection #
SC2768

SWITZERLAND COUNTY, INDIANA POLL BOOKS, 1884

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Processed by

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14 September 2005

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 4 folders

COLLECTION
DATES: 1884

PROVENANCE: History Broker, Roanoke, VA, July 2002; Early American
Auctions, Inc., Rancho Santa Fe, CA, March 2003; Historical
Collectible Auctions, Graham, NC, Feb. 2004

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2002.0667, 2003.0317, 2004.0145

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The 1884 Presidential election was a tight race. Both candidates, Grover Cleveland and James G. Blaine, had scandals in their pasts, which led to a dirty campaign for both the Republicans and the Democrats. One particularly insulting chant was created because of Cleveland's affair with a woman that resulted in a child out of wedlock. The chant: "Ma! Ma! Where's my pa?" was quickly answered back "Gone to the White House. Ha! Ha! Ha!" after Cleveland's victory.

The poll books themselves do not actually list Grover Cleveland, James G. Blaine, the National party, or Prohibition party candidates. Instead, they list the electors that will apply their votes to each of the candidates for the high office of president. This is all part of the Electoral College system. Instead of voting directly for the presidential nominee, a vote is cast for the elector that will apply their vote to the candidate. This system has been in place since the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Although the Electoral College was not the first choice for many of the founding fathers, it was the second and most acceptable choice for the majority. It is, however, an imperfect system and in the past some electors have cast their votes for the opposite candidate. It remains the system that the United States utilizes in its presidential elections anyway.

Sources:

Binning, William C., Larry E. Esterly and Paul A. Sracic. *Encyclopedia of American Parties, Campaigns, and Elections*. Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1999.

Maisel, L. Sandy, ed. *Political Parties and Elections in the United States: An Encyclopedia*. New York: Garland Publishing, Inc., 1991.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains three folders with poll books that include tally sheets for the November 1884 election. The fourth folder contains the Oaths of the Clerk(s) of Election for clerks in Switzerland County, Indiana.

CONTENTS

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Poll Book and Tally Sheet, Patriot Precinct, Posey Township	Folder 1
Poll Book and Tally Sheet, Precinct No. 2, Posey Township	Folder 2
Poll Book and Tally Sheet, East Enterprise Precinct, Cotton Township	Folder 3
Oath of Clerk(s) of Election	Folder 4

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, SC2768).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.