

Collection #
OM 0169

WATERLOO (IND.) GREENBACK CLUB LETTER, 1877

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 oversized folder
COLLECTION DATES:	1877
PROVENANCE:	Clarke Historical Library, Central Michigan University, Park Library, 4 th Floor, Mt. Pleasant, MI 48859, 3 August 1998
RESTRICTIONS:	None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1998.0971

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The Greenback Party, also known as the National Independent Party, was formed due to the monetary concerns of the post Civil War period and to the agrarian discontent following the panic of 1873. "Greenbacks" was the popular name of the first paper money issued by the United State government in 1862. Support for the greenback policy led to the formation of this new third political party. At Indianapolis in May 1876, the party nominated Peter Cooper for president. It continued to participate in presidential campaigns until 1884.

No information regarding the Waterloo Greenback Club could be located in available sources.

Benjamin Blair (b. 1833), the son of John Blair, was a druggist and grocer in Newville, Indiana (DeKalb Co.). Born in Lorain County, Ohio, Blair moved with his family to DeKalb County in 1835. He moved to Newville in 1862 and engaged in the livestock trade until 1876.

In 1863, Blair married Caroline A. Dodge (b. 1840), a native of Newville. They had two children, Belle and Don Juan. Blair served as county commissioner from 1876 to 1880. He was a shareholder and co-founder of the Newville Hotel Company, which was formed in 1872 to build a hotel in that town. He began his pharmacy and grocery business in 1884.

Sources: *Encyclopedia Americana*. Vol. 13 (1992) p. 449

History of DeKalb County, Indiana (1885) p. 706

Smith, John Martin. *History of DeKalb County, Indiana*. Vol. 1 (1992) p. 453

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of a letter, dated 27 July 1877, signed by six members of the Waterloo (Indiana) Greenback Club, to Benjamin Blair of Newville, Indiana. In it, the members urge Blair to support their recommendation to change all forms of national debt, including bonds and securities, into greenbacks. Members who signed the letter include William Wallace, Eli Yarnell Williamson, Harmon Lydecker, Dr. D. Dunlop (?), J. S. Holly, and Dr. J.U. Winslow (?).

CATALOGING INFORMATION

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1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://opac.indianahistory.org/>

2. Click on the "Traditional Search" icon.
3. Click on the "Call Number" radio button.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, OM0169).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

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