

Collection #
SC 3148

**WILLIAM A. LINDSAY
PAPERS, CA. 1845–1876**

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Processed by

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

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 3 folders

COLLECTION
DATES: Ca. 1845–1876

PROVENANCE: Helen Silvey

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2001.1020

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William A. Lindsay (1795–1876) was a rural physician who practiced in Ohio and Indiana. Born in Lincoln County, North Carolina, he moved to Ohio in 1814 to attend Dayton Academy. While in Dayton, he began an apprenticeship under a local physician. After a brief stint in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, during the early 1820s, Lindsay returned to Ohio to attend Ohio Medical College in Cincinnati. He never completed his degree, but was later awarded an honorary medical degree from Starling Medical College in Columbus, Ohio in the 1840s. By 1829 Lindsay had permanently settled in Richmond, Indiana and operated a medical practice and drug firm. In 1837 he moved to Indianapolis to join local physician George Stipp in a "get rich quick" scheme that left him financially embarrassed. He returned to Richmond a year later and spent the next eight to nine years practicing medicine throughout Ohio and Indiana.

In 1849, Lindsay took over a physician's practice in West Alexandria, Ohio, and served as a Justice of the Peace for Clark County, Ohio. In 1864 Lindsay enlisted as a surgeon in the Union army and served in Indianapolis at Camp Burnside, Camp Fremont, Camp Morton, and the Pest Hospital. He also worked at the Brown General Hospital in Louisville, Kentucky. Following the war, Lindsay returned to West Alexandria, Ohio where he remained for the duration of his life. From 1836 to 1855 Lindsay kept detailed journals of surgeries performed. The three journals offer a detailed record of 19th century rural surgical practices. The journals are housed at the Indiana State Library and reproduced in an Indiana Historical Society publication entitled *The Journals of William A. Lindsay: An Ordinary Nineteenth Century Physician's Surgical Cases* (1989).

Lindsay married Rhoda Allison Smith in 1819, producing nine children. Following her death in 1840, Lindsay married Harriet Overton with whom he had a son. His second wife died in 1842 and he married Emeline Wilkinson in 1848. He and his third wife had an additional five children.

Sources:

McDonell, Katherine Mandusic, ed. *The Journals of William A. Lindsay: An Ordinary Nineteenth Century Physician's Surgical Cases*. Indianapolis, Ind: Indiana Historical Society, 1989.

Materials in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains papers of William A. Lindsay from circa 1845–1876. Folder one houses correspondence dated 1864–1875, including one from Camp Fremont to the United States surgeon general requesting payment for services rendered. Folder 2 contains undated essays on topics of medicine and religion. Also included in folder 2 is a Lindsay family genealogy that was transcribed from an original written by William Lindsay in 1861. Additionally, the genealogy contains an obituary of Lindsay. Folder 3 includes receipts for services rendered, taxes paid, and goods purchased, dated 1845–1876. Also included are summons signed by William Lindsay when he served as Justice of the Peace for Clark County, Ohio during 1849.

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CONTENTS

Correspondence, 1864–1875, n.d.

Essays and genealogy, ca. 1876, n.d.

Receipts and summons, 1845–1876

CONTAINER

Folder 1

Folder 2

Folder 3