

Collection #
SC 2441

**FREDERICK RAPP
PAPERS, 1816–1827**

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Processed by:
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21 September 1994
Additions by Alexandra S. Gressitt
12 July 1995
Updated 14 May 2004

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 folders (16 letters)

COLLECTION DATES: 1816-1827

PROVENANCE: Richard C. Frajola, Inc., Empire, Colorado, 1 September 1994 and Robert H. Rubin Books, Brookline, MA 02146, 5 July 1995

RESTRICTIONS: None

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: Among the more significant of the numerous related holdings in the IHSL are: New Harmony Collection (M 0219); New Harmony Manuscripts, etc. (F 0415); New Harmony Register (F 0411); New Harmony Times (F 0413-0414); New Harmony Gazette (F 0269); Schneck, Joseph, *The Rappites* (pam HX, 656, .H2, S3, 1965); Arndt, Karl, *George Rapp's Harmony Society* (HX 656, .H2, A72, 1965); Arndt, Karl, *A Documentary History of the Indiana Decade of the Harmony Society*, 2 vols., (HX, 656, .H2, D6, 1975).

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1994.0998; 1995.0614

NOTES: This is an artificially created collection. Materials are periodically added as they become available.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Frederick Rapp (born Friedrich Reichert, 1775-1834) was the adopted son of George Rapp and the Harmony Society's business leader and spokesman. He also served as a delegate to the Indiana Constitutional Convention in 1816 and was a member of the commission to locate a new state capital in 1820.

The Harmonist Society was started by German immigrant Father George Rapp. Rapp and his followers left Germany in 1803 and settled in Pennsylvania before moving to 20,000 acres in southwest Indiana in 1814, which they named New Harmony. The Harmonists believed they were God's chosen people and that the end of the world was near. To prepare for Christ's second coming, the Harmonists lived in a communal society and practiced celibacy. Although the Harmonists made their Indiana community into a highly successful business operation, there were several factors, such as their location in relation to their market, the climate, and local hostilities to their life style, that resulted in their decision to leave the state in 1824 and move to another settlement near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The Harmonists sold their property to Robert Owen for \$150,000.

Sources: Arndt, Karl J. R., *A Documentary History of the Indiana Decade of the Harmony Society*, vol. 1, p. x. Madison, James, *The Indiana Way*, pp. 116-117.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of 16 items, most of which are letters written to Frederick Rapp from Shawneetown and Edwardsville, Illinois, and Vincennes, Indiana, 1816-1827. In preparing *A Documentary History of the Indiana Decade of the Harmony Society* (see Vol. II, pp 423-4) letter copies were sometimes utilized. The original letter, 6 July 1822 Frederick Rapp to James Ross, in this collection illustrates variations between original and copy letters. Many of the letters are letters of introduction to individuals visiting or passing through New Harmony. There is also an invoice of goods received, a cash account, and other letters regarding financial matters. Two of the letters are written in German script.

Correspondents in this collection include Paul Anderson, David Apperson, Romelius L. Baker, John Caldwell, Samuel R. Campbell, Nathaniel Ewing, Field Morgan of New Orleans, Samuel D. Lockwood, Gilbert J. Pell, Frederick Rapp, George Rearick, James Ross, Hilbert Sholle; and Jeremiah Wood.

FOLDER LISTING

FOLDER CONTENTS

1: Letters Papers, 1816 1820

2: Letters Papers, 1822-1827

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, SC 2441).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.