

## Documents

### Manuscripts in the Indiana University Library

*Doris M. Reed\**

The word "manuscript" may bring to mind a beautifully illuminated medieval text or perhaps a much publicized "star" item such as the Declaration of Independence recently moved from the Library of Congress to the National Archives or the Bliss copy of the Gettysburg Address sold at auction in New York for a fabulous price a few years ago. Such "star" items are a treasured heritage of the nation, but they are only a part of that heritage. The history of a people is not written in terms of its great moments alone. The Declaration of Independence and the Gettysburg Address belong to our national story, but so also do the records of our executive, legislative, and judicial bodies; the official and unofficial letters, papers, and utterances of statesmen and office holders; business records of all kinds; papers of professional men; records of churches and educational institutions; manuscripts of scientific and literary men; the diary of a forty-niner or of an overland traveler on the Oregon Trail; the letters of a member of the armed forces, be he general or private, in any one of the nation's wars; the letters of a settler in a middle western state to friends and relatives. The history of our nation in all its phases can be fully and accurately written only if as many as possible of these records on all levels, national, state, and local, be preserved and made available to those who write that history.

To gather and preserve these manuscript materials has been recognized by many research libraries as one of their responsibilities. Just what goes into their collections? Literally the word "manuscript" means "written with or by hand," but the invention of the typewriter has led to the broadening of the definition to "a written or typewritten document of any kind as distinguished from a printed copy." Correspondence, minute books, account books, diaries, are all included.

The Indiana University Library is attempting to do its part in preserving the records of the past. Its manuscript

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materials amount at present to some 650,000 pieces. Its collections are concentrated in certain geographical and subject areas, the Middle West, the Far West, Indiana, Abraham Lincoln, General Lafayette, the War of 1812, eighteenth century England. Nationally and internationally known persons are represented in these collections. There are letters or documents signed by all of the presidents of the United States, except Buchanan and Garfield. Among these presidential papers a letter of Andrew Jackson dealing with the preparations for the Battle of New Orleans or one of Abraham Lincoln written during his term in Congress have real content. Some of the others are chiefly of autograph value. There are letters of Benjamin Franklin, an agreement of Robert Fulton on the use of submarine boat torpedoes in the War of 1812, letters of John Brown, John Wilkes Booth, William Tecumseh Sherman, James Whitcomb Riley. With these are papers of many others whose names may not be so generally known but without whom the history of their nation, state, or locality cannot be complete. It is only by the preservation of their papers that each can be given his rightful place in that history.

The Library's manuscript collections relating to Indiana are particularly impressive both in size and in scope. Indeed it is no exaggeration to say that much of the history of Indiana could be rewritten and vastly expanded by their intensive use. Certainly our knowledge of the history of the northern part of the state would be greatly increased by the study of three of the collections that pertain especially to that section.

Geographically the whole of the state is represented. Almost every aspect of life from abolition to zoometry is dealt with. Political affairs at local, state, and national levels as well as the making of the constitutions of 1816 and 1850 are treated in the papers of governors, delegates, legislators, and administrative officials. The legal aspects of Indiana's evolution, the growth and development of its bench and bar, are revealed in the papers of law firms, individual lawyers, and judges. Representing business and economic history are collections of records of concerns engaged in textile manufacturing, canning, shipbuilding, banking, tailoring, railroading, lumbering, mining, merchandising, and many other kinds of commercial endeavor.

Religious denominations both past and present have

found in Indiana an environment conducive to the spreading of their manifold gospels. The Indiana collections contain excellent examples of the records of different religious sects, minute books and registers of individual congregations, and diaries and notes of circuit riders and other ministers who have labored diligently and unselfishly to spread the doctrines of the good life.

Much material on educational and military history is to be found throughout the collections. Phases of the development of secondary and higher education in the state appear in the letters and papers of teachers, students, and members of boards of trustees of educational institutions. The part played by sons of Indiana in the War of 1812, Mexican War, Civil War, Spanish-American War, and both World Wars is illuminated and made vivid by their letters, diaries, and reports.

Some of the Indiana manuscripts defy classification. They do not fit into any man-made category. They do not relate to legal, economic, religious, military, or educational history. They are the letters and records left by the "little people," those who were forced by circumstance to expend their energies in making a meager living. They had little to do with constitutions, railroad and land promotions, or literature and music. Yet their footprints in the shape of semi-literate letters written to relatives or friends, revealing as they do the daily life of the average man and woman, form a valuable part of the Indiana collections.

The manuscripts in the Indiana University Library serve a two-fold purpose. From them the scholar draws raw materials for his book, his monograph, or his article. They also serve as laboratory materials for the graduate student working for an advanced degree. The skill with which the student can assemble, master, and refine the raw materials of a bulky collection of manuscripts into a finished product in the form of a thesis or dissertation is evidence of his fitness to enter into the profession of teaching and scholarship.

Manuscripts reach a library in every conceivable condition. Most of them are folded. Many are still in their original envelopes. They come in every type of container. Sometimes they are in old home-made wooden boxes of native popular, oak, or walnut that have lain in attics, barns, or basements for years, even for half a century or more, covered with the

dirt and grime of years of neglect. Such manuscripts are immediately unfolded, cleaned, and mended. They are then arranged in a logical order, boxed flat, catalogued, stored in fireproof vaults, and made available to qualified scholars.

Frequently people infer that there is nothing of possible historical value in their family papers, that "they are just family papers dealing with family affairs." For this reason they are reluctant to place them in a library. More than frequently such people are wrong. The content of their papers may prove of inestimable value to the historian. Family matters of yesterday, even the commonplace events, are prime sources for the social historian of today and tomorrow.

Copies of a mimeographed descriptive list of its manuscript collections relating to Indiana business history may be obtained from the Library. A more complete list of its holdings in all fields is as follows:

- Alexander, William Albert. 1763 items, 1918-1945.
- Archer, Calvin Beza Kell. 49 items, 1838-1845.
- Augustan. 58 items, 1688-1719.
- Baker, Hord, and Hendricks. An estimated 40,000 items, c. 1862-c. 1916.
- Bartholomew, Jacob. 581 items, 1838-1886.
- Bement, Lottie and Emily. 112 items, 1842-1891.
- Benefiel, William H. H. 193 items, 1889-1916. On deposit.
- Bethell, Thomas Floyd. 30 items, 1857-1859.
- Bicknell, George Augustus. 37 items, 1828-1881.
- Blatchley, Willis Stanley. 126 items, 1883-1940.
- Bozeman Trail. 64 items, 1867-1877.
- Brooks, Thomas Jefferson. 26 items, 1838-1845.
- Brown County, Indiana, Johnson Township. 645 items, 1858-1889.
- Butler, Amos William. 2395 items, 1835-1937.
- Byrd, Charles Willing. 235 items, 1794-1828.
- Clay, Henry. 247 items, 1812-1849.
- Colfax, Schuyler. 32 items, 1855-1884.
- Columbia Conserve Company. An estimated 50,000 items, 1917-1951.  
On deposit.
- Crawford, Medorem. 88 items, 1849-1864.
- Crone, Frank Linden. 170 items, 1897-1942.
- Cumback, William. 72 items, 1835-1904.
- Davis, Emily. 85 items, 1814-1902.
- Dickey, John Marcus. 1500 items, 1872-1941.
- Dreiser, Theodore. 6 items.
- Dunihue, Alexander H. 106 items, 1821-1891.
- Dunn, George Grundy. 1398 items, 1834-1850.
- Elliott, Richard Nash. 67 items, 1926-1948.
- Ellison, Robert Spurrier. 261 items, 1924-1944.
- Ellsworth, Stukely. 63 items, 1843-1874.

- Evans, Henry B. 120 items, 1833-1847.  
Farmer, Eli P. 11 items, 1818-1874.  
Ferguson, Charles E. 120 items, 1864-1929.  
Gaff, Thomas. 968 items, 1857-1872.  
Gillen, Courtland C. 200 items, 1930-1933. On deposit.  
Gosport, Indiana, Banks. 2749 items, 1867-1929.  
Great Britain. Admiralty. 58 items, 1811-1813.  
Hanna, John. 59 items, 1853-1879. On deposit.  
Hapgood, Powers. 4242 items, 1915-1949. On deposit.  
Harding, Stephen Selwyn. 86 items, 1855-1891.  
Harrison, Russell Benjamin. 21,516 items, 1875-1899.  
Helton, Andrew. 45 items, 1850-1872. On deposit.  
Holland, Philip C., George Frank, and Philip Todd. 512 items, 1863-1949.  
Hovey, Alvin Peterson. 707 items, 1841-1891. On deposit.  
Howard Ship Yards & Dock Company. An estimated 250,000 items, 1834-1942. On deposit.  
Hughes, Denver, & Peck. 7680 items, 1860-1888.  
Humphreys, A. Y. 421 items, 1814-1825.  
Huntington, Elisha Mills. 166 items, 1841-1862.  
Indiana Cotton Mills. 18,360 items, 1850-1947.  
Irwin-Miller-Sweeney Family. 530 items, 1870-1943. On deposit.  
Janney, John Jay. 56 items, 1847-1900.  
Judah, Samuel. 951 items, 1827-1869.  
Kimball, Nathan. 510 items, 1828-1898.  
King, Rufus. 94 items, 1815-1826.  
Kingsbury, Jacob. 731 items, 1811-1815.  
Kirkman, Joseph J. 50 items, 1836-1875.  
Krout, Mary Hannah. 17 items.  
Lafayette, General. 3145 items, 1732-1834.  
Lane, Henry Smith. 51 items, 1847-1868.  
Lane, Joseph. 3248 items, 1835-1881.  
Lieber, Richard. 297 items, 1909-1944.  
Lincoln, Abraham. 170 items, 1826-1865.  
Louden, John Henry and Theodore James. 270 items, 1858-1935.  
McCulloch, Hugh. 15,750 items, 1833-1895.  
Maxwell, David Hervey. 340 items, 1825-1852.  
Menzies, Gustavus Vasa. 76 items, 1864-1917. On deposit.  
Newburgh, Indiana, Banks. 162 items, 1902-1929.  
Niles, John Barron. 27,583 items, 1833-1879. On deposit.  
Oakleaf, Joseph Benjamin. 2437 items, 1862-1930.  
Oldroyd, Osborn Hamline. 54 items, 1864-1909.  
Oregon Gulch Mining Company. 923 items, 1866-1887.  
Owen, Richard. 163 items, 1821-1911.  
Palmer, Joel. 1181 items, 1849-1881.  
Polke, William. 929 items, 1813-1843. On deposit.  
Rappites. 58 items, 1804-1889.  
Rauch, George Washington. 703 items, 1911-1940.  
Scott, Emmet Hoyt. 61,876 items, 1851-1924. On deposit.  
Shaw, William. 450 items, 1833-1908.  
Smith, Hamilton. 775 items, 1825-1875.

- Soupart, Sylvia. 87 items, 1915-1919.  
Stevens, William Arnold. 1401 items, 1850-1910.  
Sulzer, William. 111 items, 1917-1932.  
Test, Charles H. 198 items, 1824-1845.  
Thompson, Richard Wigginton. 382 items, 1837-1899.  
Todd, Robert. 33 items, 1780-1814.  
Trollope, Mrs. Frances Milton. 5 items, 1830.  
United Presbyterian Church, Bloomington, Indiana. 202 items, 1833-1933. On deposit.  
Walpole, Horatio, first Baron Walpole. 91 items, 1715-1754.  
War of 1812. 3084 items, 1812-1815.  
Weeks, William C. 126 items, 1862-1879.  
Williams, Jonathan. 7182 items, 1766-1815.  
Williams, Samuel and Samuel Wesley. 3362 items, 1796-1916.  
Willis, Hugh Evander. 67 items, 1942-1945.  
Willkie Clubs of America (Associated). An estimated 65,000 items, 1940.  
Woodward Family. 62 items, 1844-1905.  
Wooley, Cary A. 42 items, 1862-1865.  
Wylie, Theophilus Adam. 1181 items, 1826-1895.