

**Joseph Holman**  
S2044

n.d.

1 folder

Manuscripts Section, Indiana Division  
Indiana State Library

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**Biographical Note:**

Joseph Holman was born in Woodford County, Kentucky, on October 1, 1788. He married Lydia Overman in 1810, a union which produced twelve children. Holman served in the War of 1812. He was member of the Society of Friends. Holman moved to Wayne County about 1805, to Fort Wayne (Allen County) in 1823, to Miami County in 1833, and back to Wayne County in 1843. He worked in the tanning, mercantile, and pork businesses in the 1820s, as a farmer from 1833 to 1842, and as the director of the Fort Wayne and Southern Railroad from 1853.

Holman, a Democrat, was a member of the Territorial House of Representatives in 1815 and a member of the Constitutional Convention in 1816. Holman served in the Indiana House of Representatives from 1816 to 1818, from 1819 to 1822, and from 1830 to 1831. At different times, he represented Wayne County, Randolph County, part of Fayette County, Allen County, Cass County, Elkhart County, St. Joseph County, and territory adjoining the last four. Holman was Allen County clerk in 1829. He died on April 17, 1873, in Wayne County, Indiana.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The collection includes an undated book of personal recollections written by Joseph Holman. The entries in are dated as to when the events occurred, not when his entries were made. The events which are dated range from 1788 to 1831.

Holman names a number of firsts: the first military organization (in Indiana?), the first political convention, the first members of the state legislature within the bounds of Wayne County, the first commission appointed by the legislature to locate the county seat of Wayne County, the first commission appointed to locate a county seat for Franklin County, the first appointments to the Constitutional Convention, and the first four members to the state legislature from Wayne County. In all cases, Mr. Holman names the prominent figures involved. A view is offered of the Indiana frontier, including the building of cabins, early occurrences of disease (the "Pock"), and even the burying of \$650 for safe keeping. Regions of Southern Indiana are mentioned, from Vevay to Lawrenceburg. The last nine pages of Holman's written account is an autobiography. A newspaper clipping in the collection names six soldiers from the American Revolution buried in Elkhorn Cemetery in Wayne County, including George Holman.

**Item Listing:**

- n.d. Book of recollections of Joseph Holman.
- n.d. Newspaper clipping with headline "Six Soldiers of Revolution Lie in Wayne Cemetery" [from Kokomo newspaper?].