

INDIANA, The Early Years

Daily Life



BROADSIDES

Traveling entertainment quickly followed settlers to the West. In spite of poor roads and traveling conditions, showmen with trained dogs or horses entertained settlers and their families wherever there were enough people to meet expenses. Menageries grew in size and kind as roads and population improved. The first elephant set foot in the United States at New York City in 1796. Like most exotic animals in the country at that time, the elephant was a business speculation of an entrepreneurial sea captain. [Wright, *Hawkers and Walkers*, 192-193]

The illustration is from the book *Hawkers and Walkers in Early America* by Richardson Wright. Author Wright credited "Old Sources" for his illustrations, meaning perhaps old magazines, newspapers, or books.

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When one usually thinks about daily life in Indiana during the pioneer period, images of log cabins, spinning wheels, and large families with happy barefoot children come to mind. Naturally, this cozy picture does not tell the complete story, for it was also possible to find in Indiana brick houses, silver candlesticks, and well-dressed children. To understand the daily activities of Hoosier families from 1820 to 1850, two important points must be considered.

First, the family itself was changing. Patriarchal traditions were slowly giving way to enlarged and more important family roles for women and children not only in the East but also in the new lands of the Northwest. Second, Indiana was also a changing environment. Each wave of new settlers pushed civilization farther northward gradually transforming the Indian wilderness into farmland and market towns.

Changes in the Family

The modern American family began emerging after the Revolutionary War bringing with it several new characteristics. Marriage was increasingly based on mutual love and affection rather than economic considerations. The primary role of the wife was to care for the children and to maintain the home rather than to add economic support. The family became more involved with the actual rearing of the child. And the new modern family was significantly smaller than its predecessors. [Degler, *At Odds*, 8]

Many historians agree that the dramatic decrease in the size of American families in the nineteenth century was the single most important factor affecting the history of women and children. What is not so clearly understood is why it came about. One explanation is that growing industrialization and urbanization brought about higher food and housing costs and fewer opportunities to use child labor. Another theory suggests that the decreasing availability of cheap farmland caused farmers to plan family size around future prospects for land. [Hareven and Vinovskis, *Family*, 5, 6] It has also been suggested that changing values rather than changing economics brought about the smaller size of American families. As child-rearing became an increasingly important part of the American reform movement of the 1830s, the value of smaller families became apparent. [Wells, *Revolutions*, 94]

A survey of childbearing statistics shows that American women who married in the seventeenth century averaged 7.4 children. Those who married in the late eighteenth century averaged 6.4 children. Women married between 1800 and 1850 averaged 4.9 children. In Indiana, in 1820, the average two-parent family averaged 3.5 to 4.5 children. [Modell, "Family and Fertility," 619]

The idea that childhood was an important developmental stage was authored in the eighteenth century by Enlightenment philosophers Locke and Rousseau. The popularity of this “modern” idea is substantiated by the amazing number of advice books and magazines that became available after 1825. These books echoed the concerns of the general reform movement sweeping the country in their emphasis on teaching republican virtues and evangelical Protestantism; and they provided much sought advice on raising *obedient* children. While obedience had long been the mark of a good child, the methods of achieving this virtue began to change. Harsh discipline gradually gave way to more gentle indoctrination. Environment, persuasion, example, precept, and carefully formed habits were all methods used to subdue the child’s will.

In this process, the mother assumed a new and more important role within the family, providing both the nurture and the example to produce a child who would do justice to the American ideal of individualism while avoiding the prevalent corruption of the times—intemperance, immorality, and impiety. In short, parents in the early nineteenth century were increasingly and insistently encouraged to raise children who were model Americans, Christian citizens capable of defending the new country from both political corruption and moral perversion. [Wishy, *The Child*, 17]

This gradual transformation of the family was occurring at the same time as large numbers of families began to migrate to the West. Such families were not only in the process of self-transformation but were vital to the transformation of Indiana from a wilderness to farmland and communities.

Settling the Frontier

Families that moved to Indiana and first settled in the wilderness were concerned with two things: providing food, clothing, and shelter; and securing financial security. The process of acquiring the essentials in the “good old days” was much more complex than legend would have us believe.

The location of the family farm was the first important decision. Availability of water and timber and the quality of the land were important considerations. Once land was chosen, shelter was needed. Half-faced camps were quickly supplanted by primitive log cabins. As soon as possible enough land was cleared to plant a crop of corn and some garden vegetables. While the new crops were maturing, the family lived on whatever provisions remained from the journey. Wild turkey, deer, and fish supplemented the diet of dried vegetables, cornmeal, and milk—if a cow had been brought along. Salt was also an important provision for flavoring and preservation. Families that did not live near salt licks had to obtain salt from the nearest village.

As soon as the pioneer family had secured their immediate necessities, they set about becoming farmers. Clearing land for corn planting was the most laborious task—seldom could a man working alone clear more than five to ten acres in a year. Livestock was allowed to roam—hogs to the woods to forage on nuts, roots, and snakes, cattle to the clearings to feast on wild grasses and weeds.

As the first harvests came due, family tasks changed from cultivating to preserving. Cold weather signalled the time for butchering hogs to be either smoked or salted for the winter. Corn was

harvested and taken to the closest mill or ground at home. Beans and fruits were dried; turnips, potatoes, pumpkins, and squash were buried in the ground in straw or ashes to keep them from rotting. Survival throughout the long, cold winter depended upon ample harvests and careful preservation.

Providing the family's clothing was extremely labor intensive, requiring planning at least a year in advance. Linen and wool provided the yarns for clothing, but, even after the flax was cut and rotted and the sheep sheared, the biggest part of the work was still to be done. Both fibers had to be prepared for spinning. Once spun, the yarn was woven into cloth, then cut and sewn into garments.

In this early pioneer environment, every member of the family who was old enough and healthy, worked. Father was farmer, butcher, carpenter, hunter, and woodsman. Mother was gardener, cook, seamstress, laundress, and nurse. Boys took cows to pasture, ground corn, fished nearby streams, hauled water, chopped wood, and helped in the garden. Girls cleaned and carded wool, knit stockings and mittens, helped with the cooking, and took care of smaller children.

Health

Hard work did not always insure success on the frontier. Weather and health were two important variables which challenged a family's chance for material success. Bad weather could destroy in a few minutes, a year's worth of work and food. Disease was even more devastating to the pioneer family, and the realization of death was ever-present. Sickness was a year-round danger, but the hot months of late summer and early fall were especially dreaded. Settlers commonly battled the fever and chills of the ague (malaria) as well as smallpox, cholera, typhoid, and consumption (tuberculosis).

The earliest settlers had no doctors to turn to when illness struck. Home remedies and prayers were their only choices. Even after doctors became more common, their lack of knowledge and training did little to ameliorate the settlers' health problems. Disease was attributed, even by the most erudite physicians, to night air, overexertion, comets, or animalcules—insects too small to be seen. Treatments were equally illogical. Doctors administered mercury (a poison), mustard, rhubarb, and opium to patients both large and small. Leeches and lancets were freely used to remove up to 24 ounces of a patient's blood.

Young children were especially susceptible to pneumonia, influenza, whooping cough, and accidents. Sarah Fletcher of Indianapolis on December 8, 1824, wrote eastern relatives of her fears for the health and safety of her two sons:

We have another son about [] months old. It was very unhealthy at first and I had but little hopes of raising it but it has grown of late and appears to be very healthy. We gave it no name till a short time ago. . . . James is the very picture of health. . . . He has been the cause of great uneasiness to me this fall as two of our nearest neighbors lately whilst playing round the fire have had children about his age burnt so they died. They both had on cotton dresses. [Fletcher Diary, I: 132]

As Indiana's population grew, so did the number and size of its towns and villages. Until the middle of the nineteenth century, life in these agricultural centers differed little from life in the country. Most town dwellers had gardens and fields close by, kept pigs and chickens, and grazed cows in open lots. [Buley, *The Old Northwest*, I:235] While general stores offered merchandise from all over the world, it was generally expensive and for the few. Most town residents worked just as hard as their rural counterparts to satisfy family needs.

Sarah Fletcher's diary offers a sampling of work in the newly established capital city of Indianapolis in 1821 and 1822:

I have been washing all day I began to make soap. . . . I commenced making garden at Mr. B[lake's] house. . . . Mr. F. and I gathered our Beets carrots and Potatoes. In the Eve butchered a pig. . . . We butchered our hogs and I was in gaged in preserveing my lard and sausage's and worst every day till Fri. That day I diped candle'ss. [Fletcher Diary, I:43, 55, 59, 69, 70]

Unlike many, however, Sarah was able in this same time to read a life of George Washington [page 40], studied arithmetic [page 42], read Goldsmith's *Vicar of Wakefield* [page 43], and went to singing school [page 52], in addition to her own writing.

There were, in fact, certain features of home life that did not vary, city to country or rich to poor. At least until the late 1830s almost everyone cooked over an open fire. Heat, even in the grandest houses, came from a fireplace. Sanitation facilities were similar—and primitive—in all environments. Hordes of huge, black flies plagued everyone, for there were no screens to keep them out; indeed, no one was aware of the disease they carried, so the flies settled on both food and family.

Culture and Leisure

As pioneer families became more settled in Indiana, they became less fearful for their survival. Churches and schools were established; newspapers and subscription libraries were started; holidays such as the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving (after 1837) were celebrated. The growing population brought closer neighbors and more socializing if only to work together in building cabins, clearing trees, husking corn, or sewing quilts.

Children also enjoyed new neighbors and leisure time. They played ball games called town ball (a forerunner of baseball), cat, and roll-a-hole which used leather-bound balls. [Jameson Memoirs, 10] A cleaned and dried pig's bladder was inflated and used as a foot ball. [Buley, *The Old Northwest*, I:214] All enjoyed foot races, tug of war, crack-the-whip, and leap frog. Hoops were rolled; marbles traded; and corn husk dolls dressed. [Kovener, *Sports*] Singing and dancing, with or without musical instruments, were important social activities for all ages. Traveling song masters taught primarily religious songs to students eager to challenge rival schools.

Reform movements that began in the East reached the West via printed materials and people; overindulgence was attacked, and corruption was assaulted. Along with this process, some western mothers became increasingly concerned with the proper rearing of their children. Mary Hovey of Fountain County wrote east on May 11, 1833, requesting a one dollar subscription to *Mother's Magazine*, a monthly publication filled with advice for teaching morals

to children. On December 13, 1837, Mrs. Hovey reported that she and several other ladies had formed themselves into a Maternal Association to better instruct themselves in nurturing their young. [Hovey Collection, Indiana State Library]

Observation of children's birthdates was an occasion for celebration. In Indianapolis, Calvin Fletcher often noted his children's birthdays in his diary. On August 21, 1838, "Elijah had 2 large water mellons for his birthday." On June 23, 1844, he wrote, "This day Miles & Ingram had a birthday dinner when they could both be present from the farm—Lamb & peas the pride of their repast. Uncle Timothy & 18 other Fletchers present." [Fletcher Diary, II:27, III:49] Mary Hovey was visiting relatives in the East on her son Horace's birthday. She wrote, "About sunset, I returned and prepared a fine entertainment in my room as a celebration of the second anniversary of Master Horace's birth. All the children & women in the house attended. After the supper & other refreshments were finished, the young gentleman was seated on an elevation and received his 'birth-day presents' and the evening was closed by playing and jumping." [Hovey Collection, Indiana State Library]

Black Settlers

In 1820, the census recorded 1,420 black settlers in Indiana; by 1850, this figure had grown to 11,242. The 1850 census showed that the largest numbers of blacks had migrated from North Carolina; Virginia was second and Kentucky third. The blacks moving into Indiana fell into three categories—free blacks, emancipated slaves, and fugitive slaves. Migrating black families generally followed the same settlement patterns as their white counterparts though significant numbers of families purposefully located near Quaker settlements, forming their own distinct communities.

The black settlements, however, could not isolate their inhabitants from the harsh realities of the larger world. Indiana law prohibited slavery but did little to protect either free or fugitive blacks from being kidnapped and enslaved in the South. Rarely were such victims given the opportunity to prove their right to freedom. Blacks who left the security of their own environment were suspect. In order to transact business or travel unimpeded, blacks often carried papers written by white references. The following is an example: "I have known the bearer hereof Elijah Roberts for several years, and have frequently employed him to work; I have always thought and still think that he is an honest industrious Mulatto—I believe that he was born and raised in Washington County, North Carolina, and I know him to be a freeman—Given under my hand this 8th March 1820— H C Lockyard." [Roberts Collection, Indiana State Library]

Neither Indiana law nor national law provided blacks with basic civil rights, such as voting, giving testimony in court cases involving whites, or sending their children to public schools. Despite these obstacles, many black families acquired land to farm, found employment, and established themselves in the same way as the white pioneers in Indiana. Blacks developed many of the same cultural institutions as their neighbors. Churches and schools played increasingly important roles in black settlers' attempts to improve their civil condition. By the 1840s blacks had organized conventions to oppose the African colonization movement, and black women, too, had recognized the opportunities that maternal associations could provide. [Thornbrough, *The Negro in Indiana*, 149]

Conclusion

It is impossible here to provide a comprehensive picture of the many facets of family life in Indiana during the first half of the nineteenth century. Several published books, magazines, and pamphlets that will add dimension to this sketch are available at local libraries. Local libraries and historical societies are often repositories for original letters and diaries which might be of special interest to teachers, students, and their families.

The families and individuals whose lives are preserved in such resources were the building blocks of the new state of Indiana. Their hard work and ambition, their laughter and tears, helped to transform a vast wilderness into productive agricultural communities. Such people and others like them played a special role in the growth of the United States.

Historians have recently begun to recognize the significance of such roles, and local history has become worthy of serious investigation across a broad area and expanse of time. Such investigation, working with primary sources like those in *BROADSIDES*, will help to bring about a more realistic view of the daily life of ordinary people who accomplished the extraordinary task of settling the United States from border to border.

INDIANA, The Early Years

Daily Life

The daily life of a pioneer boy or girl was very different from your life today. There were no televisions, no refrigerators, and few store-bought clothes. There were no vaccinations because doctors did not know about hypodermic needles. School usually lasted only three months out of the year. Fences were used to keep the farm animals out, not in. Almost all toys were made at home from scraps of wood, leather, or cloth.

There are some things that are similar to life today. Most children lived with a family, but some

Document 1 is a circus broadside. It was posted in Vincennes, Indiana, in October, 1823. Early circuses featured horses and riders doing tricks and demonstrations.

carousal (carousel) — an exciting act performed on horseback

ribands — ribbons

Pysamids — pyramid

Alamande (allemande) — lively dance

Domestic — a household servant

Document 2 is part of a long letter by a woman who settled with her family in Madison County, Indiana, in the early 1830s. The letter tells many things about the difficulties of pioneer life.

compose — to calm one's thoughts

influenisy (influenza) — cold or flu

grafs — grass. Early scribes used this "long s" when copying manuscripts. It was used most commonly in words with a double "s." Early colonists brought this writing tradition with them from England.

relations — relatives

obliged — forced

prospect — outlook

lacerated — torn

Document 3 is a list of John Norwood's possessions at the time of his death in Indianapolis in 1835. The list with values, called an inventory, was required by law at the time of a person's death. The list provides good evidence about the lifestyle of this man and his wife.

towit — that is to say

goods — possessions

chattels — property, not including land

effects — movable property

executor — the person named to carry out the wishes of someone's will

estate — the assets and debts left by a person at death is one meaning

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children lived with relatives or friends because their parents died or could not keep them. Children liked to play, and they also had chores to do around the house and outbuildings. They all loved to go to the circus.

Each of the documents in your packet was chosen to give information about life in pioneer Indiana. Read each document carefully to find the evidence you will need to compare life today with life in pioneer Indiana.

appraisers — persons authorized to estimate the value of property

sheaf — a number of stalks of a plant tied together

great coat — heavy overcoat

flax wheel — a spinning wheel used to spin flax fibers into linen thread

peper — pepper

smoothing iron — a heavy iron heated using hot coals in order to press clothes

led — lid

bale (bail) — the arched handle of a kettle or pail

spider — a three-legged cooking pan heated with hot coals

delf — delft, delftware, glazed pottery

Document 4 is called an indenture. An indenture is a contract by which a person is given over to a master for service, often to learn a trade. This indenture was signed in 1836 in Cass County, Indiana.

witnessteth — to sign a document as a witness

relying — depending on

integrety (integrity) — sincerity

procure — acquire

premises — terms of the agreement

bind — indenture a person to a master

domestick (domestic) — a household servant

respective — particular

aforsaid — as stated earlier

Document 5 shows parts of two letters concerned with the expenses of a young boy, Charles Burchenal. The boy's parents had died, and he lived near Richmond, Indiana, with a family which was being paid to care for him.

guardian — a person who is by law responsible for the care of someone else

cafsinet (cassinet) — a light cloth woven of cotton and wool

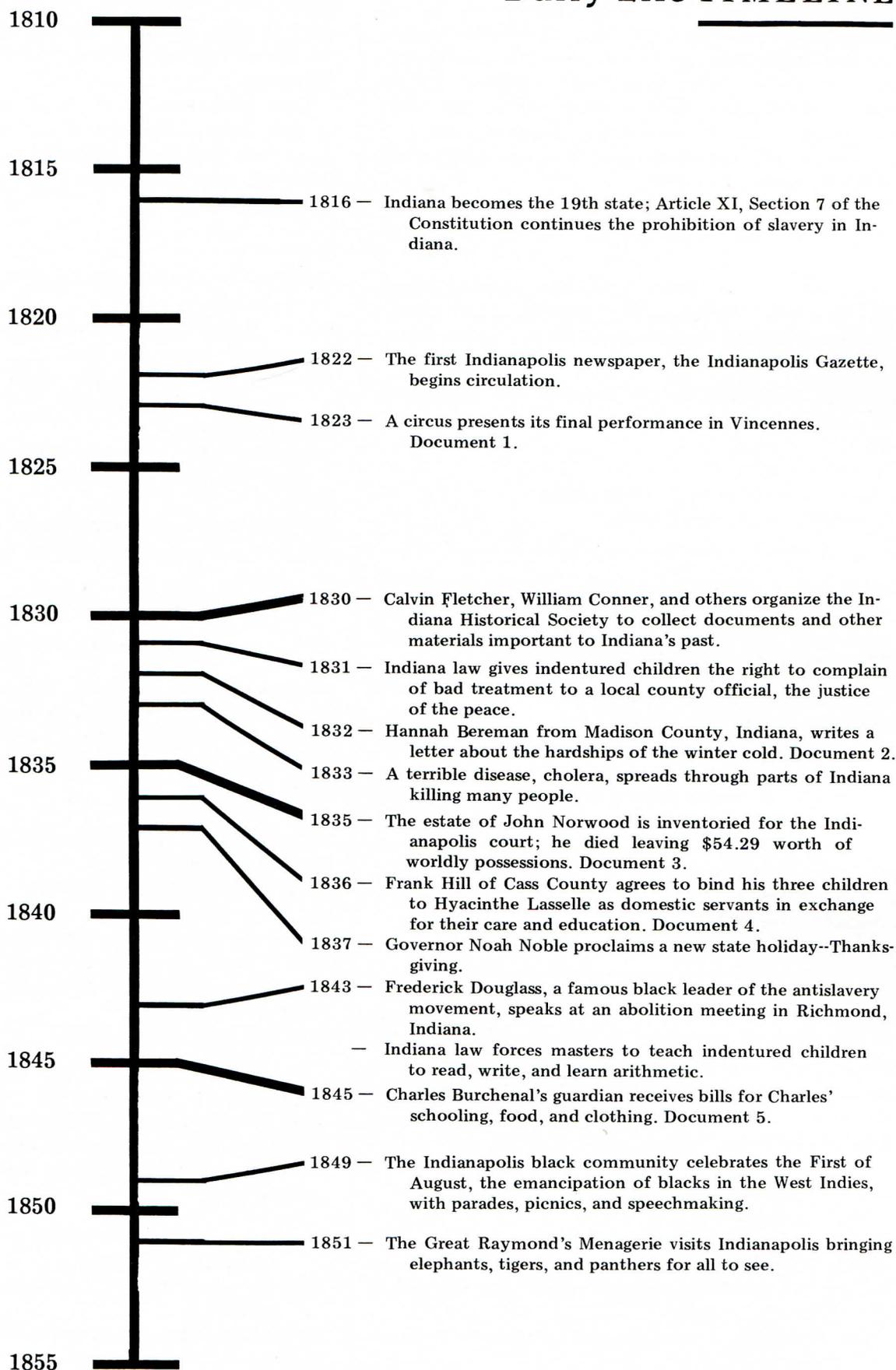
pantaloons — a kind of tight trousers for men

goods — articles of merchandise is one meaning for this word

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INDIANA, The Early Years

Daily Life TIMELINE





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Activities

Cover Illustration

- Discuss the drawing and student ideas concerning what is taking place.
- Discuss leisure activities in your town or area. How do people entertain themselves today? How have our entertainment opportunities changed, and what caused the changes?
- Talk with parents, grandparents, and older friends to discover what leisure activities they enjoyed as children.

Introductory Discussion

- Discuss family structure and size and how it has changed. Talk about students' perceptions of families in the 19th century and how they came to these conclusions via, for example, books and television. Modern families include single parent, step-parents, siblings, etc. Compare this to 19th century family structure, which often included parents, children, grandparents, or orphaned relatives.
- Survey class for family group types, for example, single parent, grandparents, etc. Make a graph charting each group represented.
- Survey the class for size of family. Again compare to 19th century family. Graph the results.
- Discuss the transient character of our modern society. Survey the class to discover different areas where students have lived as well as number of dwellings students have occupied. Make graphs. How do students feel this compares to life in the 1800s? See, for example, Packet Document 2. Have students support their conclusions with examples.

Additional Things To Do

- Using magazine photos make a collage illustrating family types found in the class.
- Read aloud stories from *The Bears of Blue River* or *A Home in the Woods*; discuss and compare to modern daily life the habits and ways of life in those stories.

Early Years Document 16P

Packet Document 1 - Broadside - Circus, Vincennes, October 25, 1823

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Compare the circus of 1823 to the modern circus.
- List leisure time activities of students. Discuss which would and would not be available to Indiana children 1816-1850. What has caused the changes?
- Discuss spelling variations appearing in the broadside.
- 19th century circuses and menageries kept caged animals much like modern zoos. Discuss the development of zoos and the role they play in preserving wildlife.

Additional Things To Do

- Obtain a list of endangered species from the library. Have students gather information, locate their natural habitats, and write reports concerning these animals. See also Early Years Document 18, Things To Do.
- Make wildlife conservation posters.
- Write a circus story and make a poster advertising the circus.

Early Years Document 17

Diary - Ebenezer Sharpe, Indianapolis, September 4, 1851 and October 23, 1852

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss animals listed in diary entries and compare to animals in modern circuses.

Additional Things To Do

- Make diaries, using copybook instructions in Supplemental Information, and keep them for at least a month.
- Have the class locate information concerning Tom Thumb. (See Finding Aids)

Early Years Document 18

Book - Cobb's Toys, Indianapolis, 1836

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Compare this book with animal information available to modern students.

Additional Things To Do

- Assemble reports on endangered species (see Packet Document 1, Things To Do) into a booklet or bulletin board. Illustrate with photos from magazines or original drawings.
- Read about animals listed on title page. Make a bulletin board display of the animals and information concerning them.
- Determine some animals common to 19th century Indiana which are now extinct.

Early Years Document 19P

Packet Document 2 - Letter - Hannah Bereman to Sally Bereman, Pipe Creek, Madison Co., May 13 - June 7, 1832

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss the impressions and feelings the students have after reading this excerpt. Discuss the myth of "the good old days," emphasizing the difficulties and hardships faced by early settlers.
- Discuss clothing—socks, shoes, clothing winter and summer—as mentioned by Hannah Bereman. Emphasize the lack of ready made clothing and the mother's need to provide adequate clothing for the entire family. (See Commerce, Trade, and Agriculture, Early Years Documents 7P and 8 for store accounts for types of goods available in rural stores.)
- Discuss agriculture during the settlement period, especially the effect of weather on crop production.

- Discuss migration into Indiana emphasizing the need for good transportation routes (see Transportation and Communication Introduction).

Additional Things To Do

- This Bereman letter was written over a period of many days, like an extended diary. Write a descriptive letter about your life over a week to a friend or relative.
- Study the maple sugaring process. Write the Department of Natural Resources for places in Indiana where sugaring is done. Write for information, visit a sugaring site, or have someone speak to the class about sugaring.
- Read Johnson's account of "Clearing the Lane," in *A Home in the Woods*, chapter 3.
- Because agriculture is very dependent on the weather, a wealth of weather folklore has developed. Collect sayings, stories, and folk beliefs concerning agriculture. Use the library as well as oral interviews with older friends and relatives.
- Do the Planting by the Signs exercise (E 8.2) in the *Folklore in the Classroom Workbook*.
- Do the Weather Lore exercise (E 8.1) in the *Folklore in the Classroom Workbook*.
- Have students try to discover when their families came to Indiana and where they came from. Make a graph both of years of arrival and of state/country of origin.
- Have students talk to parents, grandparents, or older friends about the places they have lived and why they moved. Then have students plot the movements of the families on a map.
- Read Chapter 5, "The Spinning Wheel," in Johnson, *A Home in the Woods*.
- Continue the discussion concerning how clothing was made by having a local spinner or weaver visit the class with materials and equipment used for making fabric.
- Arrange with the art teacher for a simple weaving project for the class.
- Arrange for a spinning, weaving, or dyeing kit/exhibit from the Children's Museum Resource Center (see Finding Aids).

Early Years Document 20

Letter - Sarah Hawley to Josiah B. Hall, Washington, Indiana, July 26, 1833

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss development of modern medicine and techniques and compare with methods used by the doctors in Sarah's letter.
- Sarah Hawley tried to care for her son before finally sending for a doctor, and in Packet Document 2 Bereman makes no mention of a doctor's visit when discussing her "influensey." Discuss the limitations of 19th century medicine and the use of home remedies.
- Discuss modern folklore concerning illness or cures.

Additional Things To Do

- Read aloud from Johnson, *A Home in the Woods*, chapter 6, "Ills and Aches."
- Have students talk to older family members or friends to discover any home remedies remembered from their childhood. Share the results by discussion or writing.

- Do the Medical Beliefs exercise (E 8.3) in the *Folklore in the Classroom Workbook*.
- Have a public health nurse visit with the class to discuss public health concerns such as disease control, epidemic control, and emergency procedures.
- Have a doctor or nurse talk to the class about their medical training and the advancing medical technology of the present and future.
- Have students research and write about 20th century medical advances, such as the discovery of penicillin or Salk vaccine.

Early Years Document 21

Letter - Marcia Lenard to Sarah Hawley, received Bloomington, June 18, 1836

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- What clubs, magazines, or books do we have today that help adults with parenting?
- Discuss the changes through the years in women's roles within the family and society.

Additional Things To Do

- Chapters 4, 5, and 6 of Johnson, *A Home in the Woods*, along with these three letters, give the student a good idea of a woman's responsibility during the early years. Have students pretend to be time travelers and write about an early Indiana woman's life, comparing it to that of their mothers or a woman friend.
- Write about women's roles in the future.
- Study leaders in the women's rights movement. Make a time line of people and events.

Early Years Document 22 P

Packet Document 3 - Probate Inventory - John Norwood Estate, Marion Co., October 16, 1835

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Using the items listed in the document, help students puzzle out Mr. Norwood's probable life as explained in the background.
- As a class discuss how to conduct an inventory using the classroom itself as an example.

Additional Things To Do

- Have students inventory their desks or their rooms at home.
- Have students place values on items in their inventories and determine total worth. Limit home items, perhaps to ten, to avoid economic discriminations.
- Write a story about John Norwood and his life using the information in the inventory.
- Draw John Norwood's home as you picture it.

Probate Inventory - Thomas West Estate, Hamilton Co., September 23, 1827

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Compare this inventory with that of Norwood in Packet Document 3. What conclusions can be drawn from the West inventory concerning his education, occupation, family size, and economic standing?

Additional Things To Do

- Divide the inventory into three lists—tools/farming equipment, livestock, and household goods. Using these lists develop a math lesson to figure the value of Mr. West's property.
- Using the household articles list developed previously, do a written vocabulary lesson to develop dictionary skills.
- Write a story about Mr. West's life as reflected in his personal property.

Letter - Mary Hovey to Mrs. Carter and Sisters, Shawnee Creek, Fountain Co., May 12, 1832

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Read the letter aloud with the class and make a list of the articles she mentions in the description of her home. Compare the list to items in the two previous inventories; how does her home compare to the Norwood and West homes?

Additional Things To Do

- Draw a picture of Mary Carter Hovey's cabin from her written description.
- Write a description of your school room or a room at home, then illustrate.
- List articles with values mentioned by Mrs. Hovey. Determine how much she spent furnishing her home.
- Have illustrated books of wild flowers and birds available for students to look up flowers and birds mentioned by Mary.
- Reading carefully, list all kitchen and cooking items found in these 3 documents. Compare these lists carefully and discuss how each item was used.
- Using the kitchen list above, make a list of comparable modern items used for cooking today.
- Bring in any old or unusual kitchen equipment. Contact your local historical organization for additional items. Set up an exhibit with labels and information for students in other classes and parents to view.
- Using old recipes located in the library or local historical society, cook a meal or part of a meal.

Packet Document 4 - Indenture - Alexander, Charlotte, and Elizabeth to Hyacinthe Lasselle, Cass Co., November 27, 1836

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss apprenticeship and indenture.
- Discuss contracts. Make a list of different types of contracts.
- Discuss the Lasselle family as reflected in all the Early Years documents that mention them: 9, 16P, 53, and 54.

Additional Things To Do

- Have students determine activities in which there is a written or implied contract, e.g., library card, clubs, newspaper route, etc.
- Write a contract with teachers or parents for school assignments or chores at home.
- Have an attorney visit the class to discuss modern contracts and the laws governing them.

Apprenticeship Indenture - William Ballenger to Isaac Beeson, Wayne Co., November 20, 1839

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss "overseer of the poor." What people, agencies, or institutions in our modern political system take the place of the "overseer of the poor"?
- Discuss the terms of the apprenticeship; do they seem fair? What other 19th century occupations might be learned through apprenticeships? Do apprenticeships exist today?

Additional Things To Do

- Interview parents and grandparents concerning their work and how they were trained for it.
- Compile a list of jobs and training necessary as represented in previous interviews by the class.
- Collect and read the Want Ads from local papers concentrating on job descriptions, skills needed, and training offered.
- Contact a local trade union involved in apprenticeship programs and have a member speak to the class about it.

Bill of Sale - of Molly to Isaac Dunn by A. S. Piatt, October 24, 1836

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss early laws in Indiana regarding slavery and the changes concerning blacks in the 1851 Constitution. (See Supplemental Information and Finding Aids also)

Additional Things To Do

- Gather information on the abolitionist movement in the United States. As a class gather materials concerning abolitionist leaders and issues. (See Finding Aids)
- Contact local historical societies to try to discover any local abolitionist activities or any account or record of slavery existing in the area.

Early Years Document 28P

Packet Document 5 - Excerpts from Letters - James Cockayne to Horatio J. Cox concerning Guardianship of Charles H. Burchenal, January 4, 1845 and November 18, 1846

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss the expenditures listed stressing the absence of ready made items on the list.

Additional Things To Do

- Learn about account keeping. Set up a simple account sheet and make up some story problems using accounting methods.
- Have students make a personal account sheet and keep an accounting of expenditures for a month—include lunch or milk money, entertainment allowance, etc.

Early Years Document 29

Diary - Ebenezer Sharpe, Indianapolis, December 20, 1851 and January 24, 1852

Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Compare and contrast the activities of Ebenezer in Early Years Documents 17, 29, and 30 here with those of Timothy Ball in Early Years Document 10P.
- How do the 1852 prices quoted in Documents 29 and 30 compare with the prices in accounts located in Commerce, Trade and Agriculture, Early Years Documents 7P, 8, and 9? Discuss why prices might vary, such as time of year, quality of product, etc.

Additional Things To Do

- As a class or individually collect information, photos, etc., from books, magazines, and newspapers concerning the daily life of children world wide.
- Illustrate Ebenezer's or Timothy Ball's diary entries.

Early Years Document 30

Diary - Ebenezer Sharpe, Indianapolis, May 11 and November 11, 1852

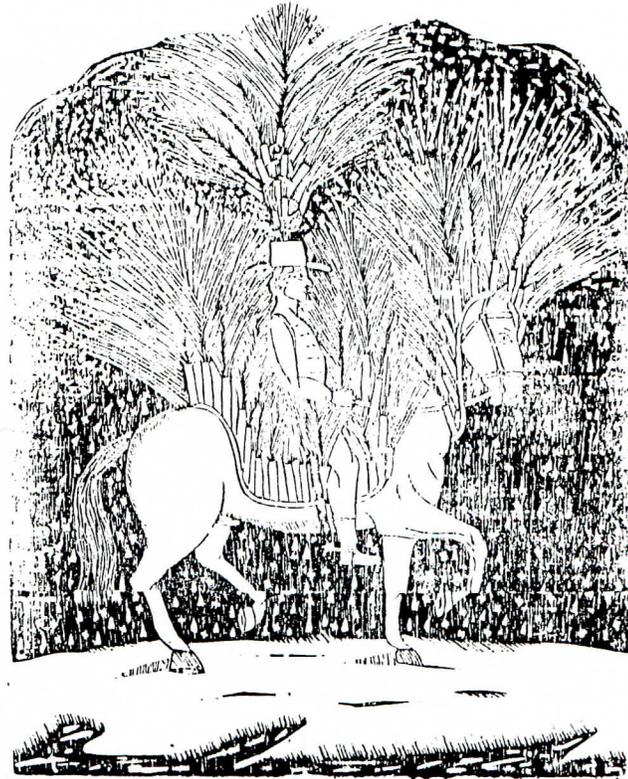
Document Introduction

Discuss with class background information and special vocabulary.

- Discuss what life in 1852 Indianapolis might have been like based on the activities described by young Ebenezer.
- Locate on a map the major towns of Indiana in 1850; are these still the large urban areas of the state? Why have some areas changed? (See Maps)

Additional Things To Do

- Keep a class diary of daily school activities.
- Write a diary pretending that you are a young person in the 21st century.



CIRCUS.

POSITIVELY THE LAST PERFORMANCE.

This evening, Saturday October 25th, 1823.

The performance will commence with

The Grand carousal.

By four Turks fighting with Broad Swords and Lances, and conclude by catching ribands on the point of their Lances—their horses full-speed.

Mr. Wire will perform many elegant feats; he will pick from the ground 4 handkerchiefs and a watch—his horse in full speed.

THE PYRAMIDE of five persons on two horses.

Mr. Coty will perform the comic scene of the *CANADIAN PEASANT*.

The Grand Alamande, On two horses.

Will be performed by *Mr. Coty & Miss. Payne*; after which *Miss. Payne* will ride by herself, & perform many feats of horsemanship.

Mr. Walter will perform on one horse, many surprising feats and conclude by *JUMPING the GARTERS*.

THE RAISING OF THE WIND OR *THE GREAT VAULTING* (BY *M. GARCIA*)

Who will leap from the right to the left of his horse, and when the horse leaps over the boards, he will at the same time leap over the boards and horse together.

The elegant horse *Conqueror*, will perform the part of a *DOMESTIC*, he will bring at command, a Hat and a Handkerchief, and conclude by taking a *FLYING LEAP* over three horses.

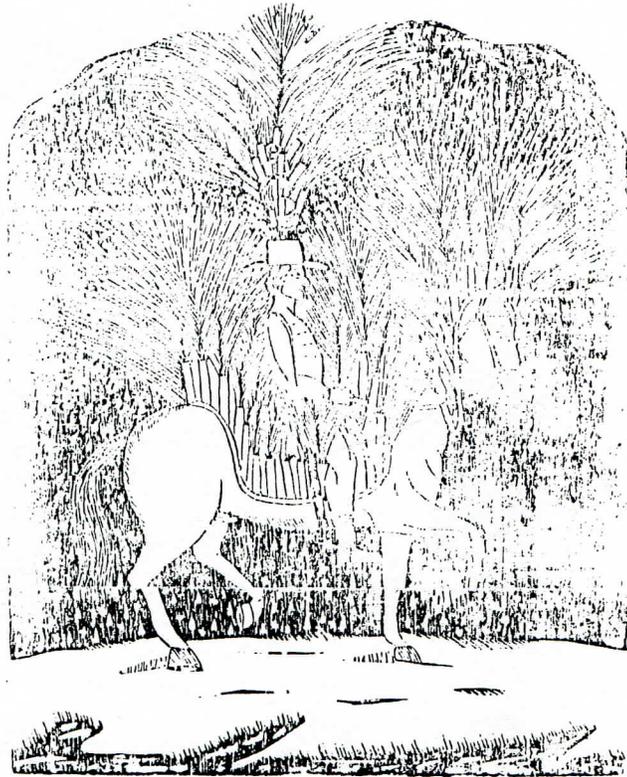
Master Galrain, the much admired youth, will perform astonishing feats for one of his age, and conclude by riding on his head.

The Clown's art of Horsemanship, - - - By *Mr. Ignace*.

This brilliant representation will conclude with the docile horse *MENTOR*, surrounded with

FIRE WORK.

Door to be opened at half past 3, & performance to commence at half past 4.—Tickets to be had at *Mr. Lascelle's*—price 50 Cents.



CIRCUS.

POSITIVELY THE LAST PERFORMANCE.

This evening, Saturday October 25th, 1823.

The performance will commence with

The Grand carousal.

By four Turks fighting with Broad Swords and Lances, and conclude by catching ribands on the point of their Lances—their horses in full speed.

Mr. Wire will perform many elegant feats; he will pick from the ground 4 handkerchiefs and a watch—his horse in full speed.

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Mr. Coty will perform the comic scene of the *CANADIAN PEASANT*.

The Grand Alarmade, On two horses.

Will be performed by *Mr. Coty* & *Miss. Payne*; after which *Miss. Payne* will ride by herself & perform many feats of horsemanship.

Mr. Walter will perform on one horse, many surprising feats and conclude by *JUMPING the GARTERS*.

THE RAISING OF THE WIND OR THE GREAT VAULTING ON 30 HORSES.

Who will leap from the right to the left of his horse, and when the horse leaps over the boards, he will at the same time leap over the boards and horse together.

The elegant horse *Conqueror*, will perform the part of a *DOMESTIC*, he will bring at command, a Hat and a Handkerchief, and conclude by taking a *FLYING LEAP* over three horses.

Master Gairain, the much admired youth, will perform astonishing feats for one of his age, and conclude by riding on his head.

The Clown's art of Horsemanship, - - - By *Mr. Ignace*.

This brilliant representation will conclude with the docile horse *MENTOR*, surrounded with

FIRE WORK.

Door to be opened at half past 3, performance to commence at half past 4.—Tickets to be had at *Mr. Laselle's*—price 50 Cents.

Description

This circus broadside measures 29 1/4" x 17 3/8". It lists the date, time, and price of admission for the circus in 1823 in Vincennes. It also describes each act in the circus. The picture at the top of the broadside shows a horse and rider amid lighted fireworks. The broadside is in fair condition. It has been mended on the lower right hand side. This document is in the Broadside Collection of the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.

A man on horseback traveling with the circus usually posted these advertisements on available barns and trees a few days in advance of the show. "Jumping the garters" described the activity of a horse jumping over tapes with or without a rider.

Background

The first circuses traveled in the eastern part of the United States at the beginning of the nineteenth century. These shows highlighted acrobatic and equestrian acts. At the same time and in the same area, small collections of wild animals also toured with their keepers. The circus as we know it today—a combination of acrobatic, equestrian, and animal acts under one roof—did not come into existence until the middle of the nineteenth century.

The first primitive circuses consisted of a few horses, a couple of wagons, a small troupe of acrobats, a clown, and, perhaps, a trick mule. A fiddle often supplied the music. The "big top" consisted of large canvas panels fastened to six-foot poles set in a circle. There was no roof, and all performances were held during the daylight hours. Early menageries operated in a similar fashion. Elephants, lions, and monkeys were most common, but by 1836 giraffes and other more exotic animals made their appearance. [Wright, "Circus and Theatre on Tour," 6]

Traveling with the circus or the menagerie was, at best, a trying affair. The season began in April with each performer acting in many capacities—feeder, trainer, keeper, or driver. For the wagon shows, twenty miles was about the longest distance between stops. The earliest menageries carried their wild animals in wooden boxes that had bars on one side. The boxes were only slightly bigger than the animals themselves and were lifted out of the transport wagons onto sawhorses for viewing by the public. Wheeled cages became common in the mid-1830s making transportation a bit easier. It also allowed, for the first time, trainers to enter the cages with the animals. [Thayer, "The Keeper Will Enter," 38]

Early performers included both men, women, and children. Whole families often worked and traveled with the shows. Many of the young children were apprentices learning to be clowns or animal trainers. The owner of the show paid room and board for his performers at each stop. The performers were paid on a monthly basis in which stars might receive as much as \$100.00 or more, while clowns and musicians could earn roughly \$50.00 and \$28.00 respectively. [Thayer, "Papers at Somers," 29]

Circuses and menageries found their way to Indiana just as soon as there were enough people to pay the bills and sufficient roads to travel on. The traveling shows appeared first in the southern part of

the state, gradually working their way north as people and progress paved the way.

Vincennes, in 1823, was the largest city in the seven year old state. In 1827, Dr. Samuel B. Judah visited his son in Vincennes and described it this way.

Vincennes is a melancholy-looking place. Good brick Court House—brick seminary—a few good brick houses, Genl Harrison's the most attractive. Samuel lives in a 2 story frame. 26 ft front 20 deep, 3 rooms below, also Kitchen & Smoke house, poorly built—Indeed all the houses in the west are so. There are 1600 inhabitants—7 stores well stocked—trade for 40 miles around—profits large. \$10,000 worth of goods is a full stock for the largest merchant for a year. The principal inhabitants get their groceries from New Orleans. There is a cotton factory on a small scale operated by an Ox-mill, and a good public Library of 1800 vols. Very few of the houses are painted. Town lots are \$35 to \$50 the acre. Soil is sandy loam. Horticulture not much attended to. Samuel has the best garden here, tho only 1 year old. He has asparagus & celery, which are not common. His lot is 2 1/2 acres, fine well—sheep; 2 horses, 2 cows, bee hives. [Quoted from McCord, *Travel Accounts*, 133]

Supplemental Documents

Early Years Document 17

Early Years Document 17 is an excerpt from a young boy's diary which tells about his trip to Great Raymond's Menagerie. This event took place in Indianapolis in 1851, the boy Ebenezer Sharpe was eleven years old. This diary belongs to the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.

Early Years Document 18

Early Years Document 18 is an excerpt from a children's book published in Indianapolis in 1836. The stories and pictures are about some of the animals that traveled with the menageries. This book is in the collection of the William Henry Smith Library, Indiana Historical Society.

Thursday Sept 17

got up this morning five o'clock the cow and horse
to pasture before breakfast after breakfast the
great Raymond's Mammoth came in. hundreds
of country people were in, after dinner it commenced
and it was so crowded with I went that it was
almost useless to try in about an half hour I got
in there were so many the the keeper had to
get the elephant and buck them all close together
Mons Crofard went into a den of tigers and
panthers he began to whip them to make them jump
over his shoulder the panther caught him with his
paw and scratch the blood out of his forehead he then
went out.

Saturday Oct 23, 1852

I got up this morning at five fed my
horse & took my cows to pasture, then as soon as I had copied a few
letters, I went to market, & got some meat & a roast & some sweet
potatoes, amounting to ninety cents, in the evening I went to the
Museum, but as there was such a crowd I did not get to see anything,
but a few monkeys & a lion, but at night I went with mother,
I saw, some wax statuary, two lions & a lioness, a sound bull,
an alapacha, a cage of monkeys, a white bear, a panther, & a hunting
leopard, I also saw Tom Thumb performed his many tricks, he also
rode upon a small elephant, this Tom Thumb, is 20 years of age
& only 28 inches high, I also saw an Egyptian Mummy, & an
ancient Mexican arrow, a large turtle, a sea dog, & a bottle found
in the fire at New York some years ago, this is all I have to say
for to day.

Transcription

Thursday Sept 4

got up this morning five took the cow and horse to pasture before breakfast. after breakfast the great raymonds Monagerie came in. hundreds of county people were in after dinner it comensd and it was so crowded [when ?] I went that it was almost useless to try in about an half hour I got in there were so many the the keeper had to get the Elephant and back them all close together Mons Crofard went - into a den of Tigres and panthe he began to whip them to make them jump over his shoulder the panther caught him with his paw and scratch the blood out of his forehead he then went out

Saturday Oct 23, 1852

I got up this morning at five fed my horse & took my cows to pasture, then as soon as I had copied a few letters, I went to market, & got some meat & a roast & some sweet potatoes, amounting to ninety cents, in the evening I went to the Museum, but as their was such a crowd I did not get to see anything but a few monkeys & a lion, but at night I went with mother I saw, som wax statuary, two lions & a lioness, a sacred bull, an alapacha, a cage of monkeys, a white bear, a panther, & a hunting leopard, I also seen Tom Thumb perform his many tricks, he also rode upon a small elephant, This Tom Thumb is 20 years of age & only 28 inches high, I also saw an Egyptian Mummy & an ancient mexican armor, a large turtle, a sea dog, & a bottle found in the fire at New York some years ago. This is all I have to say for to day.

COBB'S TOYS,

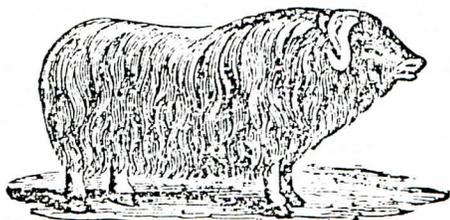
FOURTH SERIES,

No. 2.

STORIES

ABOUT THE

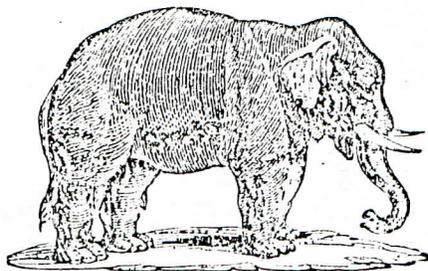
RHINOCEROS, HIPPOPOTAMUS, MUSK OX, BISON, B.U.F.,
FALO, URUS, RAINDEER, CAMELOPARD, HYENA,
ELK CATAMOUNT, WILD CAT, JACKAL, ANTE-
LOPE, CHAMOIS, AND ARMADILLO



INDIANAPOLIS:

HENKLE & CHAMBERLAIN.

1836.



THE ELEPHANT.

THE ELEPHANT is a native of the warmer parts of Asia and Africa, but is most numerous in the latter.

The usual height of the Elephant is from eight to twelve or fourteen feet. Its general colour is a dark ash-colour, nearly black. It

is the largest, the most sagacious, the strongest, and most docile animal in the world.

Its figure is very unsightly, inelegant, and clumsy; its forehead is very high; its eyes are very small, lively, bright, and expressive; the ears broad and long, in proportion to the body; but it can raise them with great facility, and make use of them as a fan to cool itself, and drive away the flies, or insects; its body is covered with a hard, callous skin without any hair, and its texture is uneven and wrinkled, full of deep fissures, resembling the bark of an old tree; its stupendous legs are ill-shaped, like columns of from twelve to eighteen inches in diameter, and from four to six feet high, and are seemingly not qualified for motion; its neck is short and stiff; its feet are short, rounded at the bottom, divided into five toes each, and armed with nails of a horny substance, but which are so covered with skin, that they are scarcely visible.

Two long tusks proceed from its upper jaw, sometimes weighing one hundred pounds or more each. Between these tusks is its trunk, which is as useful to that animal as our hands are to us. This it can contract or lengthen at pleasure, as need requires. With this trunk it can take up the smallest object, and by it, it conveys all its drink and food to its mouth, where it is chewed by its great grinding teeth; and, with it, it can pick up a

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pin, untie a knot, uncork a bottle, and open and shut a gate or door; and, when it is tame, it will take an apple out of a person's hand or out of his pocket. The Elephant smells and breathes through this trunk; and, at the end of it, the nostrils are placed, through which it draws in water, for the purpose of quenching its thirst, or of washing and cooling itself, which it performs by taking in a large quantity, and then spouting it over its whole body, as if it issued from a fountain. The Elephant can kill a man instantly with a blow of its trunk.

Elephants subsist on vegetables; they, however, will eat grain and fruit; but appear to have an antipathy against animal food. They associate in numerous herds; and, when one of them happens to discover a fertile spot, it instantly gives a loud signal to the rest, by way of inviting them to come and eat with it. The common pace or walk of the Elephant is not quicker than that of a horse; but when pushed, it assumes a kind of ambling pace, which is nearly equal to a gallop; but it turns with difficulty, and not without taking a pretty large circuit.

Although the Elephant is the strongest as well as the largest of all animals, yet in its wild state, it is neither fierce nor ferocious. It is peaceable, mild, and brave, and exerts its powers only in its own defence, or in defence of those of its own kind, with which it

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is social and friendly. It seldom walks alone, but in companies, the oldest leading the herd; the next in age drives them, and forms the rear; the young and the weak are in the middle. The females carry their young, and hold them close with their trunks. They only observe this order, however, in perilous marches. When they march the forests seem to tremble under them.

When tamed, the Elephant becomes the most gentle, patient, and obedient of all animals as well as the most tractable and serviceable. It is so attentive to the commands of its master, that a word or a look is sufficient to stimulate it to the most violent exertions. Its attachment to its keeper is so great, that it caresses him with its trunk; it knows his voice, comprehends several of the signs made to it, and perfectly distinguishes the tone of command from that of anger or approbation. It executes the orders given it with prudence, eagerly, yet without precipitation. All its motions are mechanical and regulated, and partake of the gravity of its bulk. It is quickly taught to kneel down, to receive its rider, suffers itself to be harnessed, and draws chariots, cannon, shipping, ploughs, wagons, and carries burdens on its back, neck, or tusks; and, uniting sagacity to strength, it never breaks or injures any thing committed to its trust. Elephants were formerly used in war, to carry soldiers, in towers of wood on

10

their backs. It can do the labour of several horses. It can travel fifty or sixty miles in a day with ease, and, when hard pressed, almost double that distance.

The Elephant is very fond of musick, to the measure of which it readily learns to move. Its sense of smelling is likewise very exquisite; it is fond of the odour of flowers, and will gather them, and gratify itself by inhaling their fragrance. It will drink ale, wine, and spirituous liquors. Elephants appear to know more than any other brute animal; they are kind to those who treat them well; but they hurt or kill those who abuse or injure them.

An Elephant, passing along the street, put its trunk into a tailor's shop; the tailor picked it with his needle: the Elephant passed on without any apparent signs of resentment; but coming to a puddle of dirty water, filled its trunk, returned to the tailor's shop, and spirted it over him and all his goods.

Elephants have been known to live, in a state of confinement, a hundred and thirty years

Early Years Document 19P

Document Number 2. Hannah Bereman Letter Excerpt, 1832.

A few ^{weeks} ^{some time in April} ago we got the letter that
Father sent by Almond & W quietly, and we got yours I
think in February just before sugar making come on
I thought to have written to you long ago, but we
have so much trouble and difficulties to undergo
that I feel like I cannot compose my thoughts long
enough to write anything that would be worth reading
and I still kept promising myself that I would write in a day or so
John & myself have both had a very severe time with a bad
cold or rather an influenza, & never had as much pain in my
breast and as had a cough as I had for about four weeks in
April. John has not got over his spell yet, I feel well
as usual now, and the children are all well. But
we have not been able yet to get a horse, our ground,
for corn is grown up with weeds & grass knee high and
we cannot get it ploughed because we have not money
to pay for it, Our good relations withhold the money
that they owe us, and we suffer daily for the want
of it. Last winter cold as it was we had to carry all
our fire wood. Our children had to go barefoot all winter
and John & myself was not much better for we had not a good
pair of socks or stockings to wear. John got his heels
so froze that he could hardly walk for several weeks
but he was obliged to get well. I had to go dressed in cotton
for the first winter that I ever did. indeed we suffered
~~with the cold~~ ^{with the cold} ~~as much as~~ ^{as much as} ~~any~~ ^{any} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~us~~ ^{of} ~~now~~ ^{of} ~~for~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{of} ~~winter~~ ^{of} ~~to~~ ^{of} ~~come,~~ ^{of} ~~should~~ ^{of} ~~we~~ ^{of} ~~live~~ ^{of} ~~to~~ ^{of} ~~see~~ ^{of} ~~it,~~ ^{of} ~~for~~ ^{of} ~~I~~ ^{of} ~~doubt~~ ^{of} ~~much~~ ^{of} ~~whether~~ ^{of} ~~we~~ ^{of} ~~get~~ ^{of} ~~any~~ ^{of} ~~corn~~ ^{of} ~~planted,~~ ^{of} ~~and~~ ^{of} ~~we~~ ^{of} ~~are~~ ^{of} ~~nearly~~ ^{of} ~~out~~ ^{of} ~~of~~ ^{of} ~~clothing~~ ^{of} ~~I~~ ^{of} ~~could~~ ^{of} ~~fill~~ ^{of} ~~my~~ ^{of} ~~paper~~ ^{of} ~~with~~ ^{of} ~~telling~~ ^{of} ~~you~~ ^{of} ~~our~~ ^{of} ~~wants~~ ^{of} ~~&~~ ^{of} ~~superior~~ ^{of} ~~but~~ ^{of} ~~I~~ ^{of} ~~will~~ ^{of} ~~not~~ ^{of} ~~add~~ ^{of} ~~so~~ ^{of} ~~now~~ ^{of} ~~to~~ ^{of} ~~your~~ ^{of} ~~all~~ ^{of} ~~ready~~ ^{of} ~~lacerated~~ ^{of} ~~feelings.~~ ^{of}

Courtesy Indiana State Library.

BROADSIDES
Indiana, The Early Years
Daily Life

Documents 19P, 20, 21

Early Years Document 19P

Description

Packet Document 2 is actually an excerpt from a long letter written by Hannah Bereman of Madison County in 1832. The letter is written to a relative of Mrs. Bereman living in Ohio. The postage for sending the letter was 18 1/4 cents. The letter, which measures 12 1/2" by 7 1/2" folded has been written upon on all four sides and then folded to form its own self-closing envelope. No wax mark from a seal appears on the paper.

This letter is a good example of the letter writing style of the time. Almost every inch of the paper has been written upon. Only a small space for the address has been left untouched. The expense of paper and ink and the inconvenient locations of post offices prohibited frequent letters, so much was said in the few letters that did get sent.

A transcription of the document is provided on one sheet, the remainder of the letter is also provided in transcription for further use. This letter is from the Bereman Collection, Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.

Background

This excerpt, written by Hannah Bereman in 1832, gives a poignant account of a difficult winter in Indiana. The excerpt itself relates a great deal of information about life in Indiana in the winter of 1832 for a rural family. However, it is possible to add much more information about the Bereman family by doing a bit more investigation.

In 1830, the John N. Bereman family consisted of father John, aged 40 to 50, mother Hannah, aged 33, one son William, aged 5 to 10, another son aged 1 to 5, two daughters, Caroline and Lucy Marie between the ages of 5 and 10, and a small daughter, Almira, aged 1 to 5. [1830 Indiana Manuscript Census Records, Madison County, 338]

John and his family moved to Madison County from Highland County, Ohio. [1820 Ohio Census Index] In 1828, he purchased 320 acres of land in what is now Jackson Township in Madison County from his father Jesse and another relative named Samuel. The purchase cost \$400.00. [Seulean, *Abstract of Deeds*] The Bereman farm was located along Pipe Creek, a branch of the White River named for an Indian chief called Captain Pipe. In 1834, Bereman sold 160 acres and then turned around and purchased 80 more. [Brown, *Madison County Indiana* and Eldon and Freeman, *Madison County*]

John Bereman's movements and land purchases were typical of many of the settlers in the West. His father was located in Mercer County, Kentucky. When Kentucky became more populated, John moved to the less crowded lands of Ohio. Finally, as Ohio grew and prospered, the less settled lands of Indiana appealed to him. Many settlers followed this same procedure, buying land cheaply before the area was settled, selling land as more people moved in, and then moving on to the next unsettled area.

The information that follows comes from John's letters in the Bereman Collection, Indiana Division, Indiana State Library. Most of these men moved with their families and John Bereman was no

exception. The hardships of the winter of 1832 were only the first indication of troubles for the Bereman family. In 1833, Hannah died from an unnamed illness or accident, leaving John to care for 5 children, the oldest, Caroline, about 13 years old. In 1835, after a brief illness, Caroline died leaving the next daughter, Lucy Marie, to care for the others. John's father Jesse in Kentucky also died in 1835.

In the same year, John proposed marriage to a widow aged 54 who turned him down saying that she was too old to take on a large family. Later the same year John married "an old maid of 32" to help him care for his family. In 1837 the new wife presented John with a new daughter named Clara.

The depression that gripped the whole United States in 1837 also left its mark on the Bereman family. Poor prospects for the year's harvest forced John to consider teaching school that winter in a cabin not far from home despite the rheumatism which caused him great pain in cold weather. The last letter from John Bereman in the collection ended on this pessimistic note.

By 1840 John Bereman apparently no longer lived in Indiana since his name is not in the 1840 census. There are several possibilities for the ending of this story. Perhaps John continued to follow his previous pattern and moved to a less populous state. It is also possible that John died leaving his young wife and family to fend for themselves. Further research could provide an answer or leave us with more questions.

Supplemental Documents

The supplemental documents were chosen to add further dimensions to family life in the first half of the nineteenth century. Both of the documents are from the Ransom E. Hawley Collection, Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.

Early Years Document 20 is the transcription of a letter written in 1833 from Bloomington by a young mother, Sarah Hawley, describing the illness and death of her first born son, Josiah. Josiah was born August 26, 1831, and died July 25, 1833.

Early Years Document 20

"Phthisick," more properly spelled phthisic, is pulmonary consumption, a severe cough, or asthma, since the word was loosely applied to various lung or throat afflictions.

Early Years Document 21 is the transcription of a portion of a letter written by an eastern woman to Sarah Hawley in 1836. It describes the meeting of a Mother's Association. These groups were encouraged all across the country to aid mothers in the care and upbringing of their children.

Early Years Document 21

Neither of these documents reproduced well enough to print. Early Years Document 20 measures 7 1/2" x 12 3/4", Early Years Document 21 measures 7 7/8" x 12 1/2".

Transcription

A few ((weeks)) ago ((some time in April)) we got the letter that Father sent by Hiram Mcquitty, and we got yours I think in February just before sugar makeing come on I thought to have written to you long ago, but we have so much trouble and difficulties to undergo that I feel like I cannot compose my thoughts long enough to write anything that would be worth reading and I still kept promising myself that I would write in a day or so John & myself have both had a very severe time with a bad cold or rather an influensy I never had as much pain in my breast and as bad a cough as I had for about four weeks in April. John has not got over his spell yet, I feel well as usual now, and the children are all well.— But we have not been able yet to get a horse, our ground for corn is grown up with weeds & grass knee high and we cannot get it ploughed because we have not money to pay for it, Our good relations withhold the money that they owe us, and we suffer daily for the want of it, last winter cold as it was we had to carry all our fire wood - our children had to go barefoot all winter and John & myself was not much better for we had not a good pair of socks or stockings to ware John got his heels so frose that he could hardly walk for severel weeks but he was obliged to get wood I had to go dressed in cotton for the first winter that I ever did indeed we suffered, with the cold more than I can tell, and a worse prospect before us now for the winter to come, should we live to see it, for I doubt much whether we get any corn planted, and we are nearly out of cloathing I could fill my paper with telling you our wants & sufferings but I will not add sorrow to your all ready lacerated feelings.

Pipe Creek, Madison County, Indiana,

May 13th 1832

My Dear Sister last evening your letter of April 25 came to hand, which gave an account of James being very sick, you say I must not let it make me feel melancholy, Dear sister how can I help but be sorry to hear of the sickness of a brother that I so sincerely esteem & so dearly love, to think that perhaps before this day he may be numbered with the dead It is a heart rending thought and I cannot suppress the rising tear. for "Should I attempt the Stoick's part, and check the rising sigh, This throbbing, aching, wheched heart, Would burst, and I should die" -- James has been a kind and affectionate brother to me, and like you, I love him better than any other brother I have, I feel a great desire that his life may be spared a while longer and that his health may be restored to him and that he may live to be a comfort to his friends and a guardien, guide and protector to his wife and his dear little babes, But if it is the will of his Maker to take him from us, to take him from this world of trouble distress, and anxiety, we ought not to repine but to say O Lord thy will be done, It is a hard thing to part with a well beloved friend and know that we will never see them more on this earth, Never see them till the sun hath ceased to shine, and the moon to give her light, Never untill months & years and time itself is no more, But one thing we know that if they go not from us, we must go from them, we cannot always be together, Husband & wife Parents and children brothers and sisters, all have to part all our love cannot keep them when the summons comes to take them-- My Dear Sister it distresses me much to think that I am so far from you that I can not join to assist you in nurseing the sick and afflicted your have your trouble your trials and cares and I have mine

[The following copy was written in the left margin of page 1.]

If ever I get a loom I wish that you would come and learn me to weave, for I know very little about it, for if you never marry you will have to help them that needs help
[end of page 1]

I feel sorry for Mother that in her old age she should have so much trouble in her family but I hope she will try to bear it with christian fortitude and remember that she has had blessings and mercies bestowed upon her

[Document 2 was excerpted from this location. See transcription with Document 2. Beginning of page 3.]

My little girl we call Almyra, she has just come to me and says "take up. nim ((give)) I titty" and begs so hard that I will

have to quit writeing, she is a pretty blackeyed little girl and can talk smartly. I have not weaned her yet when she wants to suck she will tell the children, nim booke, then she will bring it to me to read, to get me to take her while she sucks

May 27 Dear Sister I again take my pen in hand, we are well at this time This day I suppose I am 35 years old Great uneasiness and anxiety in this country at the present prospect of makeing bread suff[icient] for another season, corn that was raised last season, will not grow for seed corn, people from this neighborhood has to go 70 & 80 miles for seed corn, our corn looks sound and good as ever I saw, but it will not grow good, but we have no money to buy so we will have to use it, we have at last got our ground ploughed and would have had it planted but the rain prevented - grain is very scarce now bread corn sells at 50 cts a bushel, the wheat last season was very poor and about harvest there come so much rain that much of it was lost but little meat in the country, Some of the people are about trying to start a Sabbath school on Pipe creek this day it begins John is gone and the three oldest children I hope it may succeed for the children about here are allmost as uncultivated as the Indians we have no sort of religious society here except the Methodist and they of the lowest rate - Last winter was so cold that it killed all our peach trees and a good many of the apple killed to the root we have current bushes two years old full of fruit the cut worms are cutting of all our flax, we have not yet been able to get any sheep, and they do not do well here it is supposed that they eat wild parsnip that kills them Cattle die here very bad with the murrain we lost one good old cow last summer and a beautifull & promising hieifer in the winter both with calf. both fat and hearty 24 hours before they died for what we knew, we have but two cows and one hieifer left two bulls and two steers, Samuel Bereman Jessy Bereman and their wives and wives parents all moved to this State last fall, also Ben Armstrong and some of his relations and a number of people from the county where come from -- -- ((but we have seen none of them since we left Kentucky nearly 4 years ago)) I wish that it was so fated that I might see all of you again. If you can ever get a chance do come and see us, for if James goes from us, you will be the only one left that cares anything about us except Father & Mother

[end of page 3]

I feel very sorry for sister Betsy I wish it was in my power to aleviate her troubles, Give my respects and love to father & Mother, I am really ashamed that I have put off writing so long Tell Polly that I am sorry she is so much afraid of being laughed about. and Lewis too

July 26th 1833

Dear Father and Mother

With a trembling

hand, and aching heart I take my pen to give you an account of the mournful distressing scene, through which we have past this week, Yes dear parents we buried our sweet our lovely child on yesterday, last Saturday the same day I wrote you, he began to cough in the morning but was not hoarse. I thought it nothing more than a common cold. When I awoke sometime Saturday night, he wheezed and I thought he had a little of the Phthisick, but did not rise with him, On Sabbath he still coughed, but ate as usual Sabbath night I bathed his feet (he) did not wheeze, but grew hot and on monday morning he [?] up and dressed before sunrise very playfull and in a fine humour, his breathing was bad, short and quick, coughed-hard but still loose. Before I closed my letter he became uneasy but I easily diverted him untill I closed it, he then went to sleep. I left him alone and took my letter to the Office— found him asleep when I returned, he was still about though more unwell than the day before, after eating his breakfast which ((he did)) as well as he has done many times he ate no more I think untill noon he asked for honey I gave him the second piece ((of bread and butter and honey)) which he ate nearly up

He slept in the afternoon again, after he awoke I was alarmed at his appearance, and watched the Doctor who passes near the house often. I had expected Mr H home soon after noon but as he did not ((come)) I called a neighbour - an experienced nurse She advised me to call in the Doctor who was then just within call He came he said he must be attended to imediately, his face he said was swoolen which I had not observed, As he left the house to get the [end of page 1]

medicine, - Mr H rode up. An emetic was adminerested immediately which operated well, and he breathed easier from this time untill he died two physicians attended on him very often ((the third came a few hours before he died)) and gave him Callomel, - bled and blistered him.

and gave him other medicine. Neighbours and friend were kind and attentive, but all was too late too late O! I was not aware of danger untill too late. On Wednesday after noon he became unable to speak was sinking fast, I sent for the Doctor in haste, He came and ordered a warm bath after this he revived so as to say "pease Pa., asking for his drink, or rather when asked if he wanted drink, and when he had drunk he said "nice., as was common for him, - but as the phlegm loosened he swallowed with more and more difficulty untill he could swallow no more

He choachd with it and died about eleven It causes me the deepest anguish that I sent not for a physician sooner, O! had he been taken hoarse, I should have been alarmed at once. I thought it a common cold untill too late ((He was subject to a hard cough when he took a cold)) I have no fault to find with any but myself, - God has done perfectly right He gave us an interesting son to nurse for him, I loved him, - I received and possessed him under interesting circumstances— and many times thought no sacrifice could I make too great for his preservation and comfort. But now it appears that through my neglect the one I loved so tenderly has suffered and died. It was not a willful neglect but carelessness. I can now think of many ways in which perhaps he was exposed to take cold, The weather was hot and dry he broke out with the heat of course his dress must be thin. On wednesday before-as I was rinsing cloaths he came to the tub and wet his cloathes but I changed ((them)) before hanging out my cloaths. I was home with him all the week after monday He went to meeting with me monday forenoon. If I could see you I should delight to relate to you the improvements he was making. Before he was 12 months old one sabbath as I was reading he grew uneasy-to divert him I said [end of page 2]

where is O, find O, I pointed to O, and the third time I opened the book and asked him He put his finger down and drew it along to O saying "dah tis., He never forgot it. He sat in his chair at the table and since sometime last winter would seldom touch any thing untill the blessing was asked, he would lean his head on his hands and remain silent.- 3 weeks ago as his father was sewing his Buffalo skin before he set out for Dubois Co. he wanted a needle to help him I gave him one he was very busy when all at once he turned about and come up to me saying "where is Pa., meaning where is he going I told him he was going away to preach at which he cried. He would go to cellar door and say "Peas Pa uney., (honey) He could say Ma but called me ba. He was very industrious never so happy as when he could help me or his father In a word he was active affectionate generous would give to any one his cake or apples, He was remarkably fond of hearing verses repeated would listen with serious attention and when I stopped would say "More more., untill I repeated them again and again. He was an obedient child an instance of selfdenial ((in one but 23 months old.)) I will relate one circumstance respecting him, He was remarkably fond of apples—I did not allow him to eat them,—He would ask me for them and I would tell him ((he)) must not eat them. I would then ask him what he would do with them He says "rolly., and would roll them and get a knife and cut them to pieces. Cherries and blackberr-((ies)) he would not eat, he called them marbles, as he had 1 or 2

marbles, and roll them on the floor. But I must close soon
There are several children sick in town 2 very low but Josiah
is the only one who has yet died this season There has been no
case of Cholera here that has proved fatal perhaps none
at all 3 or 4 have been sick— had symptoms. Vincenns remains
healthy Mr H. is writing to his Mother Do write and
pray much for us This from your afflicted Daughter
SM Hawley

[end of page 3]

PS.

The physician whom I called is a young man
from Boston last fall, He finds but little society here
that he can enjoy, though not pious— untill now he
has had but little practice, and he has been very
unhappy— has calld at our house frequently. He
was very fond of playing with little Josiah His
name is Brooks, - his Partner is from Kentucky - this last
spring. Dr Barton from N York state has been here 14 years
Hard drink has nearly ruined him

Washington Ia
July 26th

25
Mr Josiah B Hall
Norwalk
Fairfield Co.
Conn

Recd Augt 5
afternoon

Marcia Lenard Letter, recd., June 18, 1836.
Transcription Only.
(Indiana State Library)

My dear Christian Sisters. The deep solicitude I feel for the advancement of your personal happiness; and the salvation of your dear children, makes me more urgent in my desires to have you form yourselves into a maternal association, than some of you may think proper in a stranger.

Every objection and difficulty arising in your minds in such an undertaking has been matter of experience with me before I became a member of an association. But after much conversation with ladies who attended these meetings and know their value, I was prevailed upon to become one of their members - and I trust my heavenly father will make it a blessing to me and mine. Certain I am that the salvation of our dear children never occupied more of my mind and caused me to be more frequent at the Throne of Grace than since I became a member of the Mothers meeting.

O could we realize the responsibility which rests upon us as Mothers who have the training of immortal beings entrusted to our care, on whom hangs the prosperity of our country and the preservation of our Church - could we know the value of the soul, which caused the dear Redeemer to leave the bosom of his father that he by his death, might open up a way of escape from the wrath and curse of God due to us and ours for sin - how differently should we feel and act.

As the ladies which compose the female prayer meeting of Mr Hawley's church, have not had an opportunity of informing themselves as to the manner in which [end of page 1]

maternal associations are conducted, I will give a little out line of one, from which you may gather enough to frame your rules and plans and put them in the form of a constitution, by which you will be governed in your meetings.

We meet once a month, have a lady appointed to direct in the meeting - it is opened with reading a chapt. and prayer - She then reads or causes to be read some interesting article, which has been selected suitable for the occasion. If you will together procure one or two copies of the Mothers Magazine (the subscription is one dollar, the publication monthly) these will afford the best reading of the most profitable kind.

Experienced Mothers tell the manner in which they govern the different dispositions of their children - make confessions where they feel they have erred in precept or example, and especially endeavour to make their remarks instruc-

tive, to the younger Mothers present.

Should a member of our association be removed by death, we feel bound to see that her children are brought with our own (those under twelve years of age) once a quarter into the meeting, at which time we have an address from our Pastor suited to the capacity of children. we close with prayer and singing.

We think it advisable to keep the birth-day of each child, either as a day of fasting and prayer or of thanks-giving as the case may call for. we obligate our selves to pray with our children at home, particularly the small ones

What then must a child have of a parents piety, if they never pray with them, or hear then pray?
[end of page 2]

These are the principle rules which we have adopted to regulate us in our meetings, they are few and simple, but sufficient to guide us. And now dear sisters if you will form yourselves into an association, and seek the blessing of God daily upon your efforts to enlighten the understandings of your dear children; if you will bring them in the arms of faith and love and lay them at the feet of our blessed Saviour believing the promises of God, if you will search the scriptures with a prayerful frame of mind to learn what duty is - I think you will find the path to be made plain and you will feel an in [?] increased desire to be more frequent at the Throne of Grace. Your wills will submit more readily to the divine will, you will feel less selfishness in your own hearts - You will be more watchful and guarded in your walk and conversation before your families - and a growing interest in the advancement of our dear Redeemers Kingdom; and thus secure to your selves a peace of mind, which careless Mothers do not enjoy

Husband has just come in and bids me say, he will be happy to put you in the way of procuring the Magazine - the expense will be trifling if borne by all the ladies interested.

I shall be much gratified to hear from your association.

Yours in Christian love

Marcia Lenard

Bloomington 18 of June 1836

True, an inventory of the goods, chattels and real estate of John Norwood late of Marion County and State of Indiana deceased. Taken by John Cook executor of the estate of said deceased with the assistance of Isaac Reagan and David Reagan attorneys called and duly affirmed in that shire.

one Saddle & bridle & Saddle-bags	2.50	Four milk Pts	10.25
" meal Tub	.75	3 Spoons & Pickin Box	.12 1/2
" Washin "	.87 1/2	1 Brush, Pan & Comb	.25
" Well bucket	.64	1 Bread Tray	.25
" Wash Bowl & Board	.12 1/2	1 smothering Iron	3.75
Two Baskets	.25	1 Coffee Pot & Bake Pan	3.75
2 lumber for one team	2.50	1 Bottle	12 1/2
one lot of Hay in the shed	3.00	1 Razor & Brush	3.75
" " Irish Potatoes	.25	1/2 Peck Measure	18.75
" " Chopping Knife	1.25	1 Hair Kettle lid and Bale	.75
" " Lot of Shablage	.50	1 Shuder & Lid	5.75
" " Iron	8.00	1 Small Pot	6.75
" " Leaf	1.50	1 Sugar Kettle and Scale	2.50
" " Book	.12 1/2	1 Canton pan of Pickles	.62 1/2
" " Table	.12 1/2	1 meal Sif	3.75
" " Great Chest	4.00	1 Hair Dry die of Plates	.25
" " Bed & Bedding	12.00	1 set of Knives & Forks	.62 1/2
2 lower kettles & 2 Skillets	5.00	" " Tea cups saucers	.12 1/2
1 Hay Wheel	3.00		
Given under our hands and seals this 16 day of October 1835. Isaac Reagan Seal			\$ 54.29
David Reagan Seal			

Courtesy Indiana Commission on Public Records.

2 August Term 1836.

Settlements before the Honorable John A. Brown, vice judge of the Probate Court of the County of Marion and State of Indiana of the term September in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred & thirty six in the matters of the Estate of John Norwood, Deceased.

Be it remembered that on the seventh day of October in the year eight hundred and thirty five the last will and testament of George Norwood late of the County of Marion and State of Indiana deceased was duly proved by the oath of Southburn and Nathl Burns two of the subscribing witnesses to the same before the Clerk of the Probate Court of said County and John Cook the executor therein named having on said seventh day of October given bond and security and being duly qualified. Whereupon the same was issued to give on the estate of said testator. And afterwards laid at the Court of the said Probate Court begun and held at the Court House in Indianapolis on Monday the seventh day of November in the year last above named and continued from day to day until the twelfth day of said month and fourth day of said term the Court having examined the Bond and security given by John Cook executor of the last will and testament of George Norwood deceased the same with the copy of said last will and testament as so approved and the grant of letters confirmed and the inventory of said estate amounting to one hundred and three fourths cents (25.75) being also examined the same an inventory was recorded in book as done in these words and to wit: an inventory of the contents of the estate of George Norwood late of Marion County and State of Indiana deceased when made by the executor of the estate of said deceased with the assistance of James Keagan and Ward Keagan attorneys called and duly approved for that purpose.

One Saddle Bridle & Saddle Girth	2.50	Two milk pails	1.00
" meal Tub	.75	3 Spoon & Lids Box	1.25
" Wash "	.87 1/2	1 Wash Pan & scup	.25
" Mell bucket	.64	1 Bread Tray	.25
" Wash Bowl & Board	.12 1/2	1 Amalgamating Iron	3.75
Two Baskets	.25	1 Coffee Pot & Kettle Pan	3.75
Timber for one loom	2.50	1 Bottle	1.25
One lot of Hay in the Sheaf	3.00	1 Razor & Brush	3.75
" " Irish Potatoes	.25	1/2 Bush Measure	18.75
" Chopping Axe	1.25	1 Horn Kettle and Bails	.75
" Lot of Cleavage	.50	1 Shovel & Sed	8.75
" Cow	8.00	1 Small Pot	.64
" Calf	1.50	1 Sugar Kettle and Bails	2.50
" Book	.12 1/2	1 Leather set of bottles	.62 1/2
" Table	.12 1/2	1 meal Bag	3.75
" Great Coat	4.00	1 Hair Log Lin. Shovel	.25
" Bed & Bedding	12.00	1 Set of Knives & Forks	.62 1/2
2 Lever Lids & 2 Dishes	5.00	" " Tea cup & saucer	1.25
1 Flax Wheel	3.00		<u>\$ 54.29</u>

Given under our hands and seals this 14th day of October 1835. James Keagan (Seal)

Ward Keagan (Seal) atty
A Bill of the sale of the personal property of the estate of John Norwood deceased.
16th month 24th 1835.

One Box	John Norwood	1.25
" Bed & Bedding	" "	12.00
" Flax Wheel	William "	3.25
1 st Lot of Bed covers	Anna Cook	2.87 1/2
2 nd " " "	" "	3.00
3 rd " " "	Robert Thompson	.50

Description

The inventory of John Norwood's estate is an excerpt from a longer document recorded in a Marion County Probate Court Record Book from the 1830s. Each page measures 17 1/2" x 11 3/8", the book is one of three such record books deposited in the Indiana State Archives by Marion County. The county retained the information from these records on microfilm which is available at the City County Building.

Probate records are important tools for social historians. Wills provide public records of the distribution of a deceased person's property and can indicate economic status, personal tastes, and lifestyle. [Kyvig and Marty, *Nearby History*, 106] Probate inventories of personal property can help reconstruct the interior of a home, uncover the number and kinds of tools a craftsman might own, and indicate personal wealth. [Metcalf and Downey, *Using Local History in the Classroom*]

Background

An inventory, such as the one in this document, was often required by law at the time of a person's death in the early nineteenth century. Appraisers fixed the value of the personal property of the deceased and then an auction or sale was held. The proceeds of the sale were used to satisfy any outstanding debts with the balance going to the heirs. Fortunately these kinds of records are public documents, and county offices have saved them and permitted public use of them.

Close examination of this inventory will permit much conjecture about Mr. John Norwood and his lifestyle. For instance, the appraised value of his personal property, \$54.29, immediately suggests that he was very poor. Certainly compared to today's values that is true, but the inventory gives other clues about his relatively low economic status even for the nineteenth century.

Norwood owned a saddle, bridle, and saddle cloth but did not or perhaps could no longer afford to own a horse. Norwood apparently planted flax, potatoes, and cabbage but not corn; this major market crop brought the best returns but required some expense for seed, land, and hired help. Finally, Norwood owned only one cow and a calf. He owned no hogs, which were the other major market product of rural Indiana. These facts suggest that Norwood, at the time of his death, was a subsistence farmer—he grew only that which he needed to live. His lack of participation in the major money making markets could have been the result of old age, illness, poverty, disinterest or all of the above. [Buley, *The Old Northwest*, 1:529]

With some imagination it is possible to picture the interior of what must have surely been a small one-room cabin belonging to Mr. Norwood. The only furniture was a table and a bed. Two coverlets and two quilts may have lain across the bed because there was no bureau or dresser in which to store personal articles. Perhaps the

book, which in all likelihood was a Bible, lay on the table. [Harris, "Books on the Frontier," 419] The flax wheel surely sat by the fireplace so the user—called a spinster—could see and keep warm. No mention of an iron cookstove suggests that the fireplace also served as stove and oven. Cookware such as the spider, bake pan, and stew kettle reinforce this supposition.

Mr. Norwood probably did not have a beard. He and/or his family drank coffee (which was expensive), baked bread, made pickles, and milked the cow. In late winter they made maple sugar to take the place of more expensive refined white sugar and possibly to sell for small change. The size of Mr. Norwood's family at the time of his death can be guessed by noting the number of beds, spoons and plates. Someone in Mr. Norwood's family washed and ironed clothes—perhaps for extra money. The table was probably used as an ironing board since none is listed.

The existence of a widow is noted in the probate records; the transcription of the complete record is included for reference. John Norwood is not listed in any Indiana census indices.

It is important to remember that much in the previous paragraphs is conjecture based simply upon some knowledge of the time period and the listing of Mr. Norwood's personal property. This kind of educated guessing is helpful in establishing a more detailed picture of the past on a more personal level.

Historians, using probate records, make similar observations but only after statistically sampling hundreds of documents in a given population. Their conjectures are based on averages, percentages, and statistical significance.

Supplemental Documents

The supplemental documents were chosen to encourage comparisons with the Norwood inventory.

Early Years Document 23

Early Years Document 23 is the transcription of another personal property inventory taken in 1827. The original record is in the Hamilton County Court House in Noblesville. The transcription here comes from Conner Prairie's Research Department.

Early Years Document 24

Early Years Document 24 is the transcription of a letter written by Mary Hovey in 1832. Mrs. Hovey and her husband had recently moved to Fountain County from Vermont. This letter provides the reader with a rare description of the inside of a one-room cabin. The original letter is in the Hovey Collection, Wabash College Library, Crawfordsville. The transcription is available in the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.

towit an inventory of the goods, chattels and effects of John

Norwood late of Marion County and State of Indiana deceased, taken by John Cook executor of the estate of said deceased with the assistance of Jesse Reagan and Revel Reagan appraisers called and duly affirmed for that purpose

			\$.Cts
One Saddle, Bridle & Saddle Cloth	2.50	Four milk Pots	00.25
“ Meal Tub	.75	3 Spoons & Peper Box	.12 1/2
“ Washing “	.87 1/2	1 Dish, Pan & Cup	.25
“ Well Bucket	.6 1/4	1 Bread Tray	.25
“ Wash Bowl & Board	.12 1/2	1 Smoothing Iron	.37 1/2
Two Baskets	.25	1 Coffee Pot & Bake Pan	.31 1/4
Timber for one loom	2.50	1 Bottle	.12 1/2
One lot of Flax in the Sheaf	3.00	1 Razor & Brush	.31 1/4
“ “ “ Irish Potatoes	.25	1/2 Peck Measure	.18 3/4
“ Chopping Axe	1.25	1 Steam Kettle led [lid ?] and Bale	.75
“ Lot of Cabbage	.50	1 Spider & Led [lid ?]	.87 1/2
“ Cow	8.00	1 Small Pot	.0]6 1/4
“ Calf	1.50	1 Sugar Kettle and Bale	2.50
“ Book	.12 1/2	1 Earthen Jar of Pickles	.62 1/2
“ Table	.12 1/2	1 Meal Bag	.37 1/2
“ Great Coat	4.00	1 Half Doz delf Plates	.25
“ Bed & Bedding	12.00	1 Set of Knives & Forks	.62 1/2
2 Coverletts & 2 Quilts	5.00	1/2 “ “ Tea cup & saucers	.12 1/2
1 Flax Wheel	3.00		\$54.29

Given under our hands and seals this 16th day of October 1835. Jesse Reagan seal
R[?] Reagan seal appr

August Term 1836.

Settlements before the Honorable John C. Hume. sole judge of the Probate Court of the County of Marion and State of Indiana of the Term of August in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred & thirty-six. towit In the matters of the Estate of John Norwood, Deceased.

Be it remembered that on the seventh day of October in the year eighteen hundred and thirty-five, the last will and testament of George Norwood late of the County of Marion, and State of Indiana, deceased, was duly proved by the oaths of Joseph Allen and Joseph Furnas two of the subscribing witnesses to the same before the Clerk of the Probate Court of said County, and John Cook the executor therein named having on said seventh day of October giving bond and security, and being duly qualified, letters testamentay were issued to him on the estate of said testator— And afterwards, towit at the term of the said Marion Probate Court begun and held at the Court House in Indianapolis on monday the ninth day of November in the year last above named and continued from day to day until Thursday the twelfth day of said month and fourth day of said term. The Court having examined the Bond and security given by John Cook as executor of the last will and testament of John Norwood deceased the same with the proof of said last will and testament are approved and the grant of letters confirmed, and the inventory of said estate amounting to _____ filed in vacation on October 17"1835, and the sale bill thereof amounting to fifty-nine dollars and twelve and three-fourths cents (59.12 3/4) being also examined the same are ordered to be recorded which is done in these words and figures.

[Document 3 excerpted from this location. See transcript with Document 3.]

A Bill of the sale of the personal property of the estate of John Norwood deceased. 10th month 24" 1835.

One Box	Spicy Norwood	.12 1/2
" Bed & Bedding	" "	12.00
" Flax Wheel	William "	3.25
1st Lot of Bed Covers	Anna Cook	2.87 1/2
2 " " " " "	" "	3.00
7 Delf Plates	Robert Tomlinson	.50
[end of page 1]		
1 Lot of Knives & Forks	Anna Cook	1.00
1 half set of Cups & Saucers	Robert Tomlinson	.18 3/4
1 Crock	Noah Reagan	.12 12

1 "	Anna Cook	.0]6 1/2
2 "	Frederick Mann	.13
3 Tablespoons & 1 Peper Box	Anna Cook	.12 1/2
1 Dish, 1 Tin Pan & 1 Tin Cup	Hugh Boyd	.25
1 Bread Tray	Jacob Hitchcock	.25
1 Smoothing Iron	Barclay Burris	.51
1 Coffee Pot & 1 Pan	" "	.25
1 Bottle	Alexander Bradly	.12 1/2
1 Razor & Box	Jesse Reagan	.18 3/4
1 Kelor [?]	Anna Cook	.19
1 Table, 1 Stew Kettle & Lid	Catharine Mann	1.00
1 Spider & Lid	" "	.90
1 Small Pot	Anna Cook	.12 1/2
1 Sugar Kettle	Nathaniel Norwood	3.00
1 Jar and Pickles	Frederick Mann	.59
1 Great Coat	Nathaiel Norwood	4.00
1 Book	William "	.19
1 Man's Saddle, Bridle & Cloth	Charles Allen	2.12 1/2
1 Large Tub	Samuel Millhouse	1.27
1 Washing Tub	Rebecca Cook	.20
1 Well Bucket	George "	.0]6 1/4
1 Wash Bowl & Board	Elizabeth "	.3
2 Baskets	Joel Jessup	.47
Loom & Timber	Samuel Millhouse	1.06 1/4
1st Lot of Flax	Frederick Mann	1.41
2nd " " "	Joshua Edwards	1.38
3rd " " "	Jesse Reagan	1.0]6 1/4
1 " " Potatoes	John Stinson	.24
1 Axe	Samuel Millhouse	1.51
1 Lot of Cabbage	Real Reagan	.25
1 Cow	John Stinson	10.62 1/2
1 Calf	" "	2.0]6 1/4
1 Meal Bag	Nicholas Fox	00.40

And thereupon the further settlement of this estate is continued, and afterwards, towit, at the

term of said Court begun and held at the Court House in Indianapolis on Monday the eight day of August in the year eighteen hundred and thirty-six before the Hon the judge

above named and continued from day to day until saturdy the thirteenth day of said month and sixth day of said Term Comes John Cook executor of said estate and he is thereupon charged with the amount of the sale bill of said estate fifty-nine dollars and twelve and three fourths cents (59.12 3/4) and he now files voucher and accounts for money paid by him in discharge of debts of the estate and for Court expenses and his services in the settlement of the estate amounting to \$90.10 3/4 and he here now pays into Court for Madison Thompson \$3.06 1/4 making in all \$93.17 cents from which deduct the above charge shews a deficit in said estate to pay the debts against the same of \$34.04 1/2 cents which the administrator advanced and for which the Widow sole legative of the decedents estate is to account to him and thereupon this estate is finally adjusted and settled.

Early Years Document 23

Thomas West Estate, November 23, 1827.

Transcription Only.

(Hamilton County Recorder's Office)

Thomas Wests Estate

Inventory of the Personal Property of the late Thomas West
taken and appraised the 23rd of November 1827 by George
Medsker and Daniel Heaton & William Conner (Towit)

1 Bay Horse 11 years old appraised to	\$40.
1 Grey Mare 4 Do	55.
1 Black Horse 2 Do	50.
1 Sorrel Horse 3 Do	45.
1 Iron Grey mare 4 Do	35.
1 Colt	7.
28 Head of Hogs assorted	20.43 3/4
1 small Waggon	37.
1 Jack screw	3.
16 Head of sheep	20.
1 Black Bull	10.
2 Cows	16.
2 Calves	5.
1 Heifer	5.
5 fattening Hogs	14.
1 pair of stretchers & Clevis	2.
1 2 In auger & 2..3/4 and 1 half Inch Auger	1.62 1/2
1 Broken soss [cross ?] cut saw and Divers of Irons	2.
1 Cotter Iron wedge and drawing knife	1.25
1 frow Hand saw and square	1.25
4 sickles	1.
2 pair of Hind & two Bridles	16.
2 Do of fore geers and two Bridles	9.
2 pair of Hind geers and 3 Bridles	6.
2 forks	1.
1 pair of four geers	1.50
8 small pigs	1.
4 Halter chains & Collars	4.75
1 Harrow	6.
1 shovel Plough	2.
2 weeding hoes and 1 grubbing Hoe	2.
[end of page 1]	
Thomas West's Estate Contd	
1 Kerey Plow	3 25
1 Scythe & hangings	2.
1 Do	1.
1 Cross Cut saw	6.
1 pair of stretchers & Chains	4 50
1 Mans Sadd[ll]e	4.

1 Do	3.50
1 Side Saddle	7.00
2 Hackles	2.75
2 smoothing Irons	1.50
1 Clock & Case	32.
1 Falling leaf Table	4.50
1 six drawer Beuro	15.00
1 Cupboard	8. 0
1 Large Fall leaf table	2.50
1 Spinning Wheel	1.
8 frame chairs	3 20
1 Bed & Bedding	20.
1 Do Do	20.
1 Do Do	20.
1 Do Do	18.
Walkers Dixnary	1.25
1 Large Bible	3.
Debates on Baptism & Wesley on original sin	1 50
Murrays.. Dixenary	50
1 Bible & hymn book and others	75
1 pair Saddle Bags	2.
2 Do Steelyards	50
1 " Sheep Sheers	50
2 good axes at \$1.50 & 1 at .50	3 50
1 ten Gallon Kettle	2 50
1 Spider	25
1 Tea Kettle	87 1/2
1 Brass Kettle	87 1/2

[end of page 2]

Thomas West Estate Contd.

1 Skillet	\$1.
1 oven & lid and Hooks & flesh fork	.62 1/2
1 fifth chain	2.50
1 pair of Dog Irons	1.50
1 Rifle & moles [molds ?]	8.
1 Big wheel patent Head	3.
1 Churn	50
1 bag	50
1 Washingtub	37 1/2
1 spade	75
1 fat tub	62 1/2
2 buckets	50
1 Large pot	2.
five Large shoats	2 50

Early Years Document 23, continued

11 Horse shoes	1 37 1/2
1 Log chain	1 37 1/2
1 Bed & Bedding & Bed stead	23
A Variety of Cupboard Ware	5 50
1 spreder	1.
Coming to the Estate in 3 notes	600

Cash in hand 130 40

We the undersigned freeholders and residents of the County of Hamilton do hereby certify that after being duly Sworn before Francis Kincaid a justice of the peace in and for Said County, proceeded to make a foregoing Inventory and appraisment of the following

Excerpt from Hovey Letter with Man

Shawnee Creek, Indiana
May 12th, 1832

Dear Mother & sisters,

Before you receive this you will probably all be within fifty miles of each other while our birth place will be furnishing a home for strangers. I received a letter from my dear mother a few days since; she complains of my negligence of writing her - I am a little surprised at this for I have written her so often that I have sometimes feared that my letters would become invaluable by their frequency. I think that not more than four weeks have passed at anytime since I came here but I have had a letter mailed to her. Mr. Hovey filled a sheet to her sometime ago, but she does not speak of the reception of it. I am inclined to think that there has not been a single failure in letters from the East directed to us, though perhaps they are sometimes delayed for a time. Sister Martha, I suppose you have that good mother with you, of whose society I am deprived; but she gives me some encouragement in her last letter that I may yet see her, even in these outskirts of our country, and I think it more probable that we may from the house being sold.

And now, dear mother, I have news for you; your daughter Mary is living in her own hired house (rent free) or rather cabin. It is a snug little place hardly as large as Martha's sitting room was at Caz. this answers for my only lodge room, kitchen, study, parlour, wash-room etc. I have not a closet or buttry, or chamber. But let me tell you what I have, and you can better imagine yourself here. We found that the house the society were putting up for us on Coal Creek was in an unhealthy situation. Much more sickness prevails on that creek than on Shawnee, (these creeks run nearly parallel about three miles apart) and we deemed it expedient to spend the summer in the healthiest situation, though it is about four miles from the meeting house. To assist you in imagining our situation [end of page 1]

I will draw a map of them. I do not know as you will understand my drawing, but I think it will give you some idea of the situation of our society.

[see photograph of original map]

There is a large settlement on the north side of Coal. Five miles east of that on the same creek you see I have written McClures settlement, here a number of wealthy farmers live who subscribe liberally for our support. 2 1/2 miles from this on Shawnee is a flourishing town called Newtown, but a very wicked place, here Mr. Hovey preaches one third of his time. Look a little to the west of this, two miles, on the south side of Shawnee and you will find a large yard enclosing a respectable looking brick house and a hewed log cabin. Into the latter you will please to call and see your son and daughter. The first thing to be noticed is the fire-place, whose wide mouth takes in the principal part of one end of the house, this with the chimney is made of split logs daubed with clay - but there are some rough stones piled up at the back and ends of the fireplace to keep them from taking fire. You perceive that with such a fireplace there can be no place to hang a crane - and that my only alternative to boil the tea-kettle, etc, is to set them upon the fire. At one end of

this said fire-place are a pair of heavy black hand irons on which a fire is generally burning. When needed at the other end stands a dinner-pot, bake pan, spider, small covered iron kettle and small brass kettle, with a substantial pair of tongs, a shovel and tea-kettle. The hearth is composed of a variety of kinds of stones some brick and then pieced out with clay which does very well when dry, but if water is
[end of page 2]

spilled upon it, it becomes very muddy. The floor is a very good one for a cabin, that is, it is made of rough oak boards tolerably tight and nailed down. Above us are rough beams with old dirty broken boards laid on them, and this is our ceiling overhead. Our wall are just such as you would imagine those of a hewed log house to be that was "chinked & daubed", that is, the cracks that are left when one log is laid on another is filled by billets of wood and then daubed with mud. But we have the good fortune to have various rough boards nailed over this mud in the inside of our cabin. The logs are very much smoked and the only way of cleaning them is to white wash them, this we have thought of doing, but we hope not to stay here longer than till next fall- and as lime is very difficult to procure it is hardly best to be at the trouble for so short a time. We will next contemplate our door, which turns upon wooden hinges, fastens by a wooden latch which is raised or lowered by a string, this is situated in the middle of one side of the house and on the other side opposite the door is our only window, this contains twelve lights and is placed horizontally.

Here is our house - and now let me show you our furniture. I will begin again in the chimney corner. I have partly described the ironware before, but neglected to say that all kettles even to the spider have close iron covers. My tea-kettle is copper lined with pewter, \$2.87. These stand on the left hand of the fireplace. The remaining furniture of this end of the room is a ladder of Mr. Hovey's make (and a finished one it is) clim(b)ing up to the "loft", back of this or rather under it, a couple of chairs. We will now keep on to the side of the room, the first thing here is a new cherry bureau which I got for twelve dollars. On this stands the little black trunk that I got at Peacham filled with vials and medicines, likewise Scotts' Family Bible. Next is the door before described. Next to this is my bed which stands with the foot towards the fire,
[end of page 3]

it stands some way out from the side of the house so that behind it I have quite a comfortable little clothes-press. The bed-stead is a very plain one but strong \$8.00. I could have got very handsome ones, but thought it was not expedient. Next to this usually is a candle-stand but that I now have writing upon. On this side another bed-stead stands just like the other but running the other way of the house, the side being towards the fire. This is covered with the bed-spread (now a quilt) that mother gave me, my bed has the quilt on it that she pieced out [of] my green calico and red and olive colored one and her striped gingham. I intend having curtains round my bed and have made them out of some eleven cent calico that I got at Utica but my frame is not ready yet. But to return: Next the "spare bed" is Mr. Hovey's writing table and library. Next comes the window with the same blue calico curtain before it that Mrs. White gave me last fall.

Under this a good sized table stands, cherry \$3.50. Next, a plain red-framed looking glass with a picture of a house on the upper part. Now comes my kitchen department. The most prominent thing in this is a cup-board for dishes etc, made by the Rev. E. O. H. which would be an ornament to any kitchen in the U. S. In this I keep my brass candlesticks and two tin ones and a tea-tray leans back against the logs. In the vicinity of this hang towels, ironing grate, broom, fire-hook, tin wash basin, tin ladle, wing, holders, coffee mill, kneading-board, etc. etc. and we have now come round to our starting place. You see that I have but a little spot in the centre to sit, eat, stand & work. But I have so little to do that I can easily keep the house in order.

But I must complete the picture of this room by speaking of myself who am now sitting in a big rocking chair cushioned etc. \$3.50 (this shall be mother's chair when she comes to see me). Imagine me writing on said stand, dressed in circassian, white cape & blue calico [end of page 4]

apron, feeling just like the same Mary Carter that was in Peacham eight months ago, with a little gray kitten playing with my feet and every now & then jumping about the room. Six chairs are scattered about my room, kitchen chairs, split bottoms \$.75 a piece.

But I have not told you of the loft yet. This is equivalent to a chamber in a frame house. This is low and very open, no windows, no other floor than I described as being over this room. Up there I keep flour, potatoes, trunks, cod-fish, dried apples, salt, big brass kettle, etc. We have the use of Mr. Paxton's milk house, which we find a great convenience. We have no cow yet but Mrs. Paxton gives us as much milk and cream as we want. And we have engaged our butter to be sent (us) the year around at eight cents per pound. We find ourselves very fortunate in (having) such good neighbors, they are excellent people. Mrs. P. does by me and gives to me just (as if) I was a daughter. He is one of our wealthiest men.

I have been at Covington since (I wrote) last, I had a fine visit. Mrs. Merrill is a very interesting woman. Superior to any that I have seen since I left Ft. Wayne in appearance, dress and education. I believe she is a christian. They live in a neat little frame house, keep a girl, and live quite genteelly. Merrill seems very natural. He has been a kind friend to us already. He bought all our articles at Louisville, without profits, and has given me some things that show his good will. I have the bill of the articles he got at L. before me and intended to copy some from it but find I shall not have room for all I have yet to say. But I will mention one or two - 2 brass kettles \$7.37, 88 lbs. feathers \$28.25, one Brittaniaware \$3.75. That is one tea-pot, sugar bowl & creamer etc. You see now dear mother & sisters just what it is to be a ministers wife in the country in Indiana.

Our parishioners feel badly to have us situated as we are, but [end of page 5]

there is not a house to rent in all this town or country round, most everybody is building and this society are building the meeting house & trying to support a minister so that they feel too poor to build a parsonage now tho' they intend to at sometime. But I am very

happy situated as I am. I had a letter from you a week or two since, was happy to learn that you was so pleasantly situated at Owego, sister Martha. I hope you may never have to incounter so much ignorance, wickedness and opposition to the truth as we are surrounded with.

This is a large and rich settlement where we are; but Mr. Hovey was possitively denied the use of the school house for a Sunday School, by the trustees. We however persisted and have now an interesting one in Mr. Paxton's house. There is no attention paid by them to the Sabbath. One of our neighbors little girls was in the (other) day and I talked with her about God and Heaven, but she never had heard of them before. I told her when people prayed they were talking to God and asked her if she ever heard anybody pray. The answer was "no, I've heard of it but didn't know what 'twas". Her mother cannot read. But we are encouraged by one fact, one of our neighbors who has till this sumer been an opposer to Sunday Schools, now amidst so much opposition attends and is a teacher. But there is more instances than one where women cannot read. I know of three who live within half a mile of us that do not know a word, who are mothers of large families and disposed to let their children grow up in the same way, but we hope that there is yet some salt among us. The meeting of Presbytery is to be held here next month. How think you that I shall get along in my little cabin then?

I sent Charles a few wild flowers a while ago, in a newspaper. Perhaps you have not received them. They were such as were in blossom here when mother wrote that the snow was yet deep in Peacham. The prairies are now covered with flowers. I rode four miles to meeting Sunday mostly through unbroken prairie and found the whole surface of [end of page 6]

the earth looking like a flower-bed. The fleur-de-luce, all kinds of Marigolds, Lichnidia, bunch-pinks, grass pinks, garden-lilly, snow-drops, blood-root, gold thread, hoer-hound, all kinds of roses, with a variety of other elegant flowers cover the prairies so that you can scarce set a foot with(out) stepping on some. After speaking of the flowers, to tell you that this is a beautiful country would be superfluous. The most of the flowers that I have named are now in blossom. I seldom walk but I think what would not mother or little Charles give to view such an indescribably beautiful scenery and to hear the music of the birds which are so pleanty here. Almost any time during the day we can hear the melancholy song of the turtle dove, the shrill notes of the whip-poo-will, the meadow lark who lends her voice in company with many others. We have the turkey buszard, wild turkeys, wild geese, prairie hens, also the prairie or barking wolf, and occasionally a rattle-snake or for variety a black racer.

I have nearly filled up the sheet talking about me and my country, but I forgot I was to leave this end for my good husband to write on. He is to leave me tomorrow to be gone a week. He goes sixty miles to Logansport to preach for brother Post, who is now at the meeting of the General Assembly in Philadelphia. Mr. Hovey's labours are very severe - -

(Mr. Hovey's note)

Very severe Mary says. I plant my own potatoes, beans, peas, etc. all on a spot about ten feet square. Land never before cultivated, in it are now growing some of those flowers, the seeds of which M. says

Mother Carter saved for us last fall. As to my ministerial labours, they are very severe on Sab. I generally preach twice (?) and attend bible class. My sermons are all extempore and generally much longer than the written sermons of young ministers of N.E. Within the bounds of my field of labour are 5 Sabbath schools comprising something like 150 or 200 scholars. 2 of the schools are practically supported by Methodists but I put my hand to the wheel wherever I can.
[end of page 7]

Mary has given you quite a pathetic description of our house, furniture, etc. She accuses me of breach of promise (in) only one thing, viz, she says I promised her a log cabin with one glass window and 2 paper ones; but will leave it to mother if I have not done about as well since the window we have in [is] a glass window of twice the common size. Dear mother, would that you could come and take tea with us some evening. My wife manages very well and makes good bread - but enough. I hope you will be happy with your dear children at Owego. Adieu. E. O. H.

(Mrs. Hovey continues)

Mr. Hovey has filled his space but rather unintelligibly. I can hardly make it out myself and it will puzzle you to. I received your hints Sister Martha about Miss Loomis, and was very glad of them. You do not know and would hardly believe me were I to tell you of scarcity of intelligent girls and women all about this country. Why does not Charles write or print a letter to me. Give a great deal of love to him & Martha, also to brother White. I thought he was to write to us.

I do not direct this to all three because I wish you to send it to Caz to Emily. But I want she should read it when she comes to Owego for it is a great deal of work to write so much about one's self. My health does not suffer yet at all from the climate.

Your daughter & sister

Mary

Letter addressed to
Mrs. Martha E. White
Owego, New York
Mailed at Logansport Ind., May 21.

A Copy

An article of agreement made and concluded on this the
(27) twenty day of November A.D. 1836 by and between Frank
Hill a Negro of the county of Cass and State of
Indiana of the one part and Hyacinth Lasselle Sr.
of the second part witnesseth that the said Frank
Hill relying on the honesty and integrity of the said
Hyacinth Lasselle and wishing to procure a house for
his children in consideration of the premises hereafter
mentioned doth bind unto the said Hyacinth Lasselle Sr.
His children Alexander aged about (12) twelve years
until he shall attain the full age of twenty one
years, & also Charlotte aged about ten & six months &
also Elija aged about nine years to serve the said
Hyacinth Lasselle Sr. until they each shall attain the
full age of eighteen years, as domestick servants in
such employment as the said Lasselle may direct

In consideration of which the said Hyacinth
Lasselle Sr. agrees that if the said children shall
will & truly serve the said Lasselle during their
respective terms as aforesaid then and in that
case the said Lasselle agrees to give to each of said
children at the termination of their terms aforesaid
each one cow, and a one bed, and to instruct
them to read the English language,

Done on this 27th of November 1836

Witness
Signed D. L. Wright
Signed H. Lasselle Sr.

Signed Frank Hill (Seal)
Signed H. Lasselle (Seal)

Photograph of the Hyacinthe Lasselle Indenture.



A Copy

An article of agreement made and concluded on this the
(27) twenty day of November A.D. 1836 by and between Frank
Hill a Negro of the county of Cass and State of
Indiana of the one part and Hyacinth Lasselle Sr
of the second part Witnesseth that the said Frank
Hill relying on the honesty and integrity of the said
Hyacinth Lasselle and wishing to procure a nurse for
his children in consideration of the premises hereinafter
mentioned doth bind unto the said Hyacinth Lasselle
his children Alexander aged about (12) twelve year
untill he shall attain the full age of twenty one
years, & also Charlotte aged about ten & six months &
also Elija aged about nine years to serve the said
Hyacinth Lasselle & untill they each shall attain the
full age of eighteen years, as domestick servants or in
such employment as the said Lasselle may direct

In consideration of which the said Hyacinth
Lasselle Sr. agrees that if the said children shall
will & truly serve the said Lasselle during their
respective terms as afore said then and in that
case the said Lasselle agrees to give to each of said
children at the termination of their terms afore-
said, each one cow, and one bed, and to instruct
them to read the English language,

Done on this 27th of November 1836

Attest
Signed John Wright
Hy H Lasselle Sr

Signed Frank Hill (Seal)
Signed H Lasselle (Seal)

Description

Packet Document 4 is a copy of a legal document which measures 9 3/4" x 7 7/8". It is written on light blue paper, has not been folded, and is in good condition. The date in the upper right hand corner was added later by library staff. This copy was originally bound with other documents from the vast Lasselle Collection, Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.

The Lasselle family papers span almost one hundred years and include an untapped wealth of information about not only the early French settlements (many of the early documents are in French) but also about the social and economic development of Indiana. The collection is so large that the Indiana Division staff has begun to catalog each item individually so that researchers can utilize the information more efficiently.

Background

An indenture originally referred to the two halves of a severed document. The genuineness of the document could be proved by the fitting together of the indented margins on each.

The *Oxford English Dictionary* defines an indenture as the contract by which an apprentice is bound to a master who is in turn obliged to teach him a trade. From its English origins the apprenticeship system was quickly transported to the American colonies where poor and orphaned children also benefited from the system.

In Indiana in the nineteenth century, the indenture was an important and common tool for providing children with skills, education, and life's material necessities. At the same time it gave a master another pair of hands with which to produce goods and farm products or to keep house.

Indiana law in the 1830s and 1840s [see *Revised Laws of Indiana: 1831*, 70, 381; *1842*, 615] set general guidelines for apprenticeships. Wages were not generally paid though sometimes a lump sum of money was given the apprentice at the end of the term. The length of a term of apprenticeship was indefinite, but the upper age limit was 21 for males and 18 for females. There was no specific age at which to bind children to a master. Contracts exist which bind children as young as one or two years old. Apprentices could complain of mistreatment before a justice of the peace, and masters were allowed to issue rewards for runaway apprentices.

Poor children and orphans were put out as apprentices by local officials called overseers of the poor. According to the *Indiana Statutes, 1838 Revision*, the overseer of the poor was an elected township official. It was his duty to farm out to the lowest bidder all poor persons who were public charges. Children whose parents were dead or unable to care for them, were bound out or apprenticed through this system.

Unless a child was 14 or older, a parent or guardian was required to bind a child. If no one could be found to apprentice these children, they were hired out as farm labor or housekeepers at low wages.

On January 15, 1838, Ransom Hawley, a Presbyterian minister in Washington, Indiana, wrote to his mother in the East and described the situation in his home:

The little girl that was living with us when I last wrote, did not please us as to disposition, habits, & etc. Accordingly we requested her father to provide for her another home. He did so. Before this we had the offer of one between 11 & 12 years of age and from previous knowledge we judged, would be more agreeable. We accepted the proposal. She has been living with us now more than a month and we are much better pleased with her than the other. She is bound to us till she shall be 18. The father of the other girl would not bind her. The parents of our present girl are living and are very poor. [Hawley Collection, Indiana Division, Indiana State Library]

Calvin Fletcher, Indianapolis, watched seven bound girls grow up within his household and eventually leave to marry. At the same time he bound out at least one of his sons, James, to an uncle to learn storekeeping. [Fletcher Diary, IV.289] Some parents were not willing to bind their children because a wage was not involved. These parents hired their children to farmers and merchants and their wives as laborers, cooks, and housekeepers. Most of the wages earned went back to the parents.

The James Shawcross account book for 1837 contains an entry showing that his children earned \$238.00 for that year. [page 44, Indiana Historical Society] Dyar Cobb of Franklin County was hired to a farmer to clean out corn at \$4.00 a month. Cobb quit early because the farmer tried to hire him out again at a higher wage and pocket the difference. [page 5, Cobb Reminiscences, Indiana Division, Indiana State Library]

Children could and did play an important part in the economic life of their families. Apprenticeship was a means by which a family might ease some of the financial burden of feeding and educating children. Hiring them out could bring additional income into the family, generally in cash which was always a commodity in short supply.

Supplemental Documents

Early Years Document 26

Early Years Document 26 is another indenture that provides a comparison with the Lasselle document. In this instance, the overseers of the poor in Wayne County appear to be acting as guardians for one Nathan Ballenger, aged six. This document is in the Indiana Division, Indiana State Library.

The information in this section suggests that children were regularly hired or bound out, in effect bought and sold much the same as property. This seems especially harsh today when referring to children, but the purchase and sale of black slaves as property was very much a way of life in the states south of Indiana at this time.

Slavery was forbidden in Indiana, first by the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and then by the 1816 Constitution. Article 11, section 7, states that "There shall be neither slavery nor involuntary servitude in this state, otherwise, than for the punishment of crimes, whereof the party shall have been duly committed. Nor shall any indenture of any negro or mulatto hereafter made, and executed out of the bounds of this state be of any validity within the state." This provision was retained in the 1851 Constitution.

Early Years Document 27 is, however, a bill of sale for a black woman named Molly. She was sold by her Kentucky master to a southern Indiana resident in 1836 for the sum of \$200.00 as "a Slave for life." While the intentions of the Hoosier buyer are not known, this document on its face is a direct violation of the law. Apparently the practice of purchasing black slaves and holding them by life indentures was not uncommon in Indiana during these early years. The use of indentures provides an interesting comparison between the status of blacks and children in the eyes of the law and in practice. This document belongs to the Indiana Historical Society.

Transcription

Daily Life Document 4

A Copy

An article of agreement made and concluded on this the (27) twenty day of November A.D. 1836 by and between Frank Hill a negro of the county of Cass and State of Indiana of the one part and Hyacinth Lasselle Sr of the second part Witnesseth that the Said Frank Hill relying on the honesty and integrity of the Said Hyacinth Lasselle and wishing to procure a house for his children in consideration of the premises hereinafter mentioned doth bind unto, the Said Hyacinth Lasselle Sr his children Alexander aged about (12) twelve years until he shall attain the full age of twenty one years, Also charlotte aged about ten & Six months & also Eliza aged about nine years to serve the said Hyacinth Lasselle sr. until they each shall attain the full age of eighteen years, as domestick servants or in such employment as the said Lasselle may direct

In consideration of which the said Hyacinth Lasselle Sr. agrees that if the said children shall will & truly serve the said Lasselle during their respective terms as afore said then and in that case the said Lasselle agrees to give to each of said children at the termination of their termes afore-said, each one cow, and one bed, and to instruck them to read the English language,

Don on this 27th of November 1836

Atest	his	
Signed John Wright	Signed Frank X Hill	seal
signed H Lasselle Jr	Signed H Lasselle	seal

12A
H-20-1839

This indenture made this 20th day of the Eleventh month in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and Thirty nine, witnesseth that, William Ballenger aged six years Son of Nathan Ballenger of the County of Wayne and State of Indiana, is by William Lock and William Jordan overseers of the poor of Perry Township, placed and bound apprentice unto Isaac W. Beeson of the County and State aforesaid, to learn the art and mystery of a farmer which be the said Isaac W. Beeson now useth, and with him the said Isaac W. Beeson as an apprentice to dwell and serve for and during the full term of Fifteen years from the day and date hereof, during all which term the apprentice his master well and faithfully shall serve in all such lawful business as he shall be put unto by his said master according to the best of the power, wit and ability of him the said William Ballenger, and honestly and obediently shall behave himself towards the said Isaac W. Beeson, and honestly and orderly towards the family of the said Isaac W. Beeson.

And the said Isaac W. Beeson on his part for the consideration of the promises both to be made and agree to and with the said William Lock and William Jordan overseers of the poor aforesaid to teach and instruct the said William Ballenger or otherwise cause him to be well instructed and taught in the art and mystery and occupation of a farmer after the best way and manner that he can and that the said Isaac W. Beeson will provide for and allow to the said William Ballenger meat, drink, washing, lodging, and apparel for summer and winter, and all other necessaries proper and convenient for such an apprentice during the term of his apprenticeship, and also teach and instruct him in the said apprentice or cause him to be taught and instructed in a common English school for a term of thirteen months, six months of which schooling he is to have after he becomes fifteen years of age; and at the expiration of the term of his apprenticeship shall and will give him the said apprentice a suit of good clothes extra of his common wearing apparel, and also the sum of one hundred Dollars in witness whereof the parties hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

William Locke
William Jordan
Isaac W. Beeson

signed sealed and delivered
in the presence of
John M. ...

Transcription

This indenture made this 20th day of the Eleventh month in the year of our Lord one thousand Eight hundred and Thirtynine, witnesseth that Willlium Ballenger aged Six years Son of Nathan Ballenger of the County of Wayne and State of Indiana, is by William Lock and William Jordan overseers of the poor of Perry Township, placed and bound apprentice unto Isaac W Beeson of the county and state aforesaid, to learn the art and mystery of a farmer which the Said Isaac W Beeson now useth, and with him the said Isaac W Beeson as an apprentice to dwell and serve for and during the full term of Fifteen years

from the day and date hereof, during all which term the apprentice his master well and faithfully shall serve in all such lawful business as he shall be put unto by his said master according to the best of the power, wit and ability of him the said William Ballenger, and honestly and obediently shall behave himself towards the said Isaac W Beeson. and honestly and orderly towards the family of the Said Isaac W Beeson

And the said Isaac W Beeson on his part for the consideration of the promises doth Covenant and agree to and with the Said William Lock and William Jordan overseers of the poor aforesaid to teach and instruct the said William Ballenger or otherwise cause him to be well instructed and taught in the art and mystery and occupation of a farmer after the best way and manner that he can and that the Said Isaac W Beeson will provide for and allow to the Said William Ballenger meat, drink, washing, lodging, and apperal for Summer and winter, and all other necessaries proper and convenient for such an apprentice during the term of his apprenticeship. and also teach and instruct him the Said apprentice or cause him to be taught and instructed in a common English School for a term of thirteen months. Six months of which schooling he is to have after he becomes fifteen years of age; and at the expiration of the term of his apprenticeship shall and will give him the said apprentice a suit of good clothes extra of his common wearing apperal, and also the Sum of one hundred Dollars. in witness whereof the parties have hereunto Set their hands and seals the day and year first above written.

Signed sealed and delivered
in the presence of

Larkin Thornburgh

William Locke
William Jordan
Isaac W Beeson

10-24-1836
Know all men by these presents that Abraham & Pease
of Boone County, State of Kentucky, have this day sold
to Isaac Drennon, a black Man and named Molly bagged
about forty years, a slave for life - for the sum of
Two hundred dollars which amt. is now to me in hand
paid by the S^r. Drennon, & the receipt there hereby acknowledged
= which Negro Man and, I warrant bound &
& heathen to the best of my knowledge - & will for
ever defend her against the lawfull claim of any
person what ever in which whereof I have here
unto set my hand, & seal this 24th day of Oct. 1836

W. H. Piatt

Daily Life Document 4b

(Bill of Sale)

Know all men by these presents that I abraham S Piatt of Boon County, State of Kentucky, have this day sold to Issac Dunn, a black Woman named Molly - aged about forty years, a Slave for life - for the Sum of Two hundred dollars, which amt. is now to me in hand paid by the Sd. Dunn, & the receipt there hereby acknowledged - which Negro Woman, I warrent Sound & & healthy to the best of my Knowledge - & will for ever defend her against the lawfull claim of any person what ever in witness where of I have here unto Set my hand, & Seal this 24th day of Oct. 1836

A S. Piatt

1845		Horacio I Cox Guardian for Charles H. Burchenal	
		In account with James Cockayne	
1 st M ^o	4	To Caspund for boat, Dist & 2 pair of Pantaloons & trimming fr. Bill \$7.04	
		Tailors Account for Making 4 Garments	4.50
		To repair of fine Kip Skin Boots	4.00
2 ^d M ^o	11	To a Quarters board & washing	20.00
		To a quarters Tuckon \$5. & a Book \$2.	7.00
		Doctors Bill \$1.37 -- For Shoe Mending 50 ^{cts}	1.87
			\$ 44.41

1846		Horacio I Cox Guardian for Charles H. Burchenal	
		In account with James Cockayne	
11 th M ^o	18	To Cash paid for Postage on letter	0.05
		Goods of William Stacey for Charles per Bill	10.65
		Tailors Ac ^t for making & garments and Repairing	6.00
		Shoe Maker Ac ^t for Shoes and mending Boots	2.00
		Tuckon Ac ^t for Seven weeks Tuckon	3.00
		A Williams Ac ^t for 4 Months board & washing	26.66
			\$ 48.36

Photograph of one letter excerpted for Document Number 5.

Respected Friend Cox, Near Richmond 3rd M^o 6th 1845

As the time will soon approach when Charles Board will become due, I thought it right to acquaint thee of it, The family which he has been boarding with has moved to our Court Seat he being desirous to be with them has also gone, and has been at School to one of his former teachers, & little previous this he was sick but is now about

With due respect I remain
James Cochayne

1844 - 12th M^o 18th Rec^d of Horatio I box the sum of twenty Dollars on acc^t of Charles H. Burchenal - James Cochayne

1845 Horatio I box Guardian for Charles H. Burchenal
In account with James Cochayne

1 st M ^o 4	To Capinet for coat, cost 42 pair of Pantaloons & trimming fr ^t bill	\$7.04
	Tailors account for making 4 garments	4.50
	To repair of fine Hip Skin Boots	4.00
2 nd M ^o 11	To a Quarters board & washing	20.00
	To 3 quarters Tuckers \$5.4 a book \$2	7.00
	Doctors Bill \$1.27 - For Shoe Mending 50 ^{cts}	1.77
		<hr/> \$ 44.41

State of Indiana

Wayne County

Personally appeared James Cochayne
John Sailor, Mayor of the City of Richmond in said
County of Wayne and State of Indiana
Before me, one of the Justices of the Peace for the County
aforesaid, and did solemnly declare and affirm, that the above
account was just and true as stated

Affirmed before me this 7th day of March 1845

Witness my hand & Seal

John Sailor Mayor S. J. P.

Packet Document 5 consists of excerpts from two letters in the Cockayne Collection held by the William H. Smith Library, Indiana Historical Society. There are ten letters in the collection, all pertaining to the schooling and boarding of a young orphan, Charles H. Burchenal. The letters span the years 1840 to 1848 and are mostly in fine condition.

Description

The dates on the letters are written in a way unfamiliar to most of us. For example, the date on the first line of the 1845 account list is an abbreviation for "First Month, Fourth Day." The Society of Friends used this form for indicating the months and days.

The subject of these letters, Charles H. Burchenal, was born in Greensboro, Maryland, in 1830. When he was very small, his parents, Jeremiah and Mary (Cockayne) Burchenal moved to Zanesville, Ohio. By 1838, both of Charles' parents were dead, and he was sent to live with a grandmother in Wayne County, Indiana. His guardian, Horacio J. Cox, remained in Zanesville.

Background

Before the grandmother's death in 1842, she requested that Charles be sent to live with Achilles Williams and his family, prominent Quakers in Richmond, Indiana. The letters, of which the excerpts are a sample, were sent by Charles' relatives, the Cockaynes, to Horacio Cox, the guardian, on behalf of the Williams family, with whom Charles was living.

Charles was educated during his stay with the Williams family, but there was some concern about what was to become of him at age 16 when he was left on his own. A letter of November 24, 1846, states: "What we are to make of him I don't know. He is not likely ever to be stout enough to be able to follow any labourer's business." In fact, Charles worked as a clerk in the county treasurer's office in Centerville for three or four years. In 1850, he began to study law, and two years later was admitted to the bar. Charles practiced law in Wayne County for the remainder of his life. He was twice married and had a total of three sons and two daughters.

Charles' parentless situation was not an unusual one. Ill health and accidents forced many children to live with relatives, guardians, or anyone who would have them. Calvin Fletcher served as a guardian for several children including those of Governor James Brown Ray and John Tipton. [Fletcher Diary, II:84n, IV:312]

John Hull, an early Indiana circuit rider, told about his childhood after the death of his father: "When I was about 7 years old I went to live with a Mr. Johnson, a good Presbyterian — where I was well treated — a pleasant 'dram' of good whiskey before each meal and we had morning and evening prayers." Later Mr. Hull stayed with a doctor until the doctor moved back East. Hull then lived with a tailor to learn his trade; he was allowed to attend school for three months. [John H. Hull Collection, Indiana Division, Indiana State Library]

Supplemental Documents

Early Years Document 29

Early Years Document 30

The supplemental documents are transcripts of selected entries from Ebenezer Sharpe's diary. Ebenezer lived in Indianapolis where his father Thomas was a business partner of Calvin Fletcher. Ebenezer began writing a diary, at his father's request, when he was eleven years old. The Sharpe family was fairly well-to-do, but the diary entries give a valuable insight into the day-to-day activities of a young boy and the society in which he lived.

1845 Horacio J Cox Guardian for Charles H Burchenal

In account with James Cockayne

1 st M ^o 4	To Cassinet for Coat, Vest & 2 pair of Pantaloons & trimming pr.Bill	\$7,,04	
	Tailors Account for Making 4 Garments - - - - -	4,,50	
	To a pair of fine Kip Skin Boots - - - - -	4,,00	
2M ^o 11	-To a Quarte[r]s Board & washing - - - - -	20,,00	
	To A quarters Tuition \$5 & a Book \$2 - - - - -	7,,00	
	Doctors Bill \$1,,37— For Shoe Mending 50 ^{cts.}	<u>1,,87</u>	
			\$44,,41

1846 Horacio J Cox Guardian for Charles H Burchenal

In account with James Cockayne

11M ^o 18 th	To Cash paid for Postage on letter - - - - -	0,,5	
	Goods of William Harvy for Charles per Bill	10,,65	
	Tailors Act. for making 3 garments and Repairing	6,,00	
	Shoe Maker Act. for Shoes and mending Boots - - - - -	2,,00	
	Teachers Act. for Seven weeks Tuition - - - - -	3,,00	
	A Williams Act for 4 Months board & Washing	<u>26,,66</u>	
			\$48,,36

Saturday Dec 20.

I got up this morning at six fed my horse and cows after breakfast took a good many errands then went skating on the creek had a fine time skated till one o'clock after dinner went to Mr Vances sang till four then Sam and I popped some corn then I went home after supper went to the meat house and got a turkey and a stake amounting to about sixty cents after I had done this errand I went to the choir to sing but while singing the lamp on the organ fell of and spilt the greed over the one that was playing and when Sam and I the teacher left in a rage. (Professor Geysler) teacher)

Saturday January 24, 1850,

I got up this morning at five, to go to market to get some eggs, I went but could not get any I went home and come back in about an half hour and got the only dozen in market, paid twenty cents, after breakfast went all over town to get some turkies but could not get any, I also did many things at home, after dinner, I went for apples, and got a bech, for a quarter of a dollar, in the evening I went to Mr. Vances, and played some, and then got my lesson for monday after supper my cousin and I went to my aunts Spans, for some dishes, (as we are going monday to have some company) and spoons, after this I went to aunt Eckert's for a table, and wheeled it home on a wheelbarrow, after this I blacked father's boots, and when I had finished this I was so tired I could hardly stand up.

Saturday Dec 20.

I got up this morning at six fed my horse and cows after breakfast done a good many errands then went a skating on the creek had a fine time skated till one o'clock after dinner went to Mr Vances sang till four then Sam and I popped some corn then I went home after supper went to the meat house and got a turkey and a stake amounting to about sixty cents after I had done this errand I went to choir to sing but while singing the lamp on the organ fell of and spilt the greese over the one that was playing and upon Sam & I the teacher left in a rage. (Professor Geysler teacher)

Saturday January 24, 1852.

I got up this morning at five, to go to market to get some eggs, I went but could not get any I went home and come back in about an half hour and got the only dozen in market, paid twenty cents, after breakfast went all over town to get some turkies but could not get any, I also did many things at home, after dinner, I went for aples, and got a peck, for a quarter of a dollar, in the evening I went to Mr. Vances, and played some, and then got my lesson for monday after supper my cousin and I went to my aunt Spann, for some dishes, (as we are going monday to have some company) and spoons, after this I went to aunt Eckert's for a table, and wheeled it home on a wheelbarrow, after this I blacked father's boots, and when I had finished this I was so tired I could hardly stand up.

~~Friday~~ May 11th 1852; Wednesday 11

I got up this morning at five fed my horse, cleaned out my stable, and took the cows to pasture before prayers, after prayers, set breakfast came into Bank and worked till dinner, after dinner came again into Bank and worked till four, then went after the cows, and watered the horse and attended to things as usual, This evening got a new pair of shoes, price \$3.50, the reason I set this down, is because I wish to see how long they will last me, and then see if they are worth the money as the maker said they were, but we cannot always rely on their words, I have this evening come again into Bank to help Father do his work, I can't help him in this way I assort all the money, and count it putting five hundred of the fives and upwards in one pile, and ones in hundred piles, then Father can do his work in about half the time if I did not,

Thursday Nov 11 1852

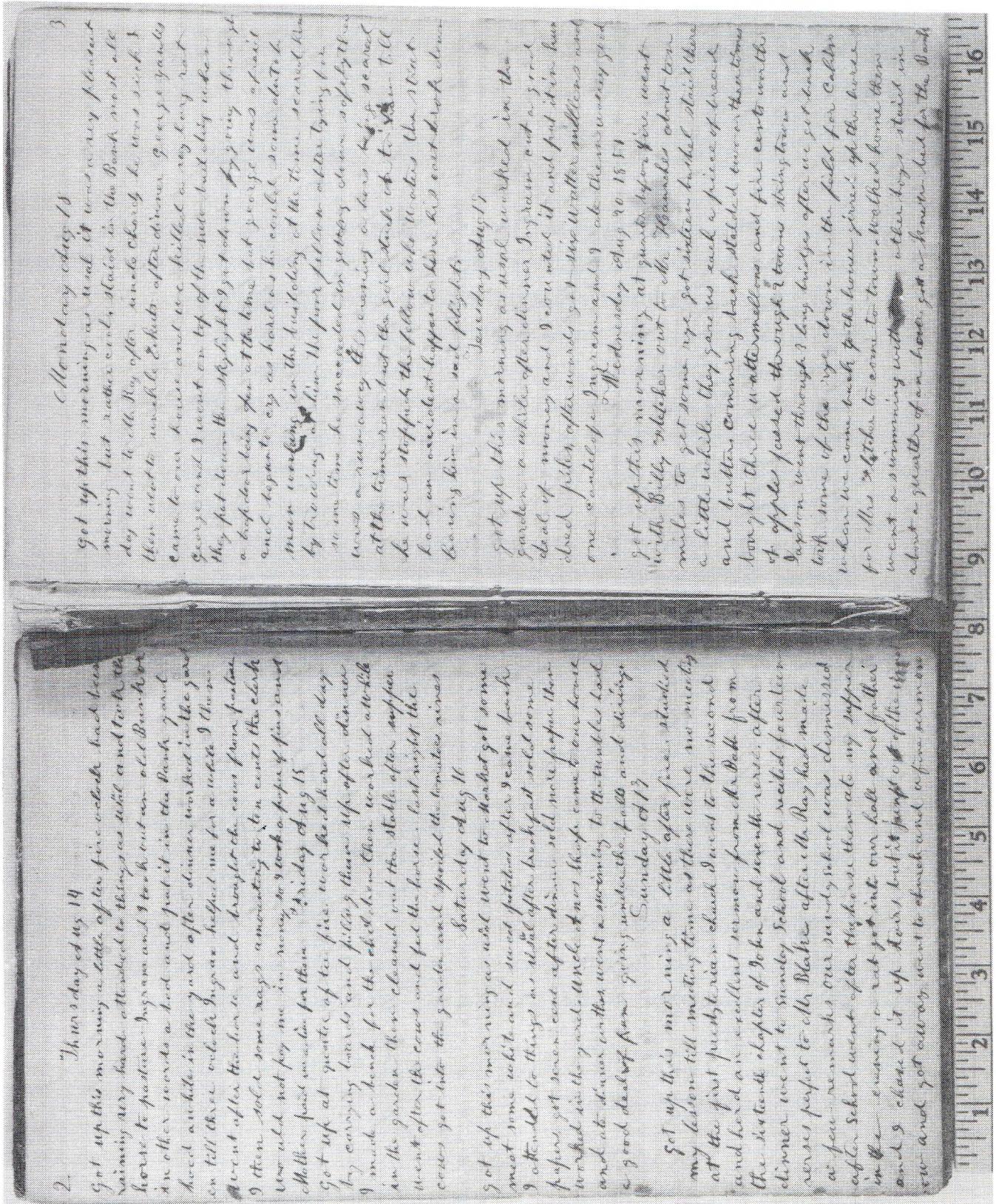
I got up this morning at half past five, came into Bank, copied the Letters, when I had taken my cows I went to school, I recited my lessons perfect to day, I was kept in this evening because I talked in school, but as soon as I got out, I went for my goods but finding they were not, I came home & as soon as I got across Washington Street, I saw them going home, when I had eaten my supper I came into Bank & got my flesh for tomorrow.

May 11 1852; Wednday

I got up this morning at five fed my horse, cleaned out my stable, and took the cows to pasture before prayers, after prayers, eat breakfast came into Bank and worked till dinner, after dinner came again into Bank and worked till four, then went after the cows, and watered the horse and attended to things as usual, This evening got a new pair of shoes, price \$1,35 cts. the reason I set this down, is because I wish to see how long they will last me. And then see if they are worth the money as the maker said they were, but we cannot always rely on their word, I have this evening come again into Bank to help Father do his work, I can help him in this way I assort all the money, and count it putting five hundred of the fives and upwards in one pile, and ones in hundred piles, then Father can do his work in about half the time If I did not,

Thursday Nov 11 1852

I got up this morning at half past five, came into Bank, copied the Letters, When I had taken my cows I went to school, I recited my lesons perfect to day, I was kept in this evening because I talked in school, but as soon as I got out, I went for my cows but finding them not, I came home & as soon as I got across Washington Street, I saw them going home, when I had eaten my supper I came into Bank & got my speech for tomorrow



Thursday Aug 14

Got up this morning a little after five o'clock had been raining very hard attempted to things as usual and took the horse to pasture. Ingram and I took out an old Bencher in other words a bad and put it in the back yard and hid it in the yard after dinner worked in the yard on till three o'clock Ingram helped me for a while I then went after the horse and brought the cans from pasture I then sold some rags amounting to ten cents the clerk we did not pay me in money so I took a paper of five cents Mother paid me for them Friday Aug 15

Got up at quarter of ten five. worked hard all day by carrying boards and filling them up after dinner I made a head for the stable when I worked all day in the garden then cleaned out the stable after supper went after the cows and fed the horse. last night the cows got into the garden and spoiled the tomatoes and

Saturday Aug 16

got up this morning as usual went to market got some meat some wheat and sweet potatoes after I came back I attended to things as usual after breakfast sold some papers got seven cents after dinner sold more papers then worked in the yard Uncle and Mrs. sheep came to our house and at dinner mother went a swimming to the tanks had a good deal of fun going under the falls and things

Sunday Aug 17

got up this morning a little after five. studied my lesson till meeting time as there were no meetings at the first presbytery church went to the second and had an excellent sermon from Mr. Bell from the last week chapter of John and month more after dinner went to Sunday School and recited fourteen verses perfect to Mr. Blake after Mr. Ray had made a few remarks our Sunday school was dismissed after school went after they were there at my supper in the evening I cut out our ball and father and I chased it up stairs but it kept off of the steps so and got away went to church and a few more

Monday Aug 18

got up this morning as usual at ten o'clock pleasant morning but rather cool. staid in the back most all day went to Mr. Ray after uncle changed he was sick I then went to Mr. Blake's after dinner George yardly came to our house and we killed a very large rat George and I went on top of the back but they were they put down the skylight got down by going through a hole door being for at the time but George was afraid and began to cry as hard as he could some started mean coughing in the kitchen at the time started him by talking of him the poor fellow after trying for some time he proceeded in getting down safely there was a run away after coming on here being scared at the time ran but the girl stuck to it till he was stopped the fellow like to take the start had an accident happened to him he cut back down leaving him in a sad plight

Tuesday Aug 19

got up this morning as usual worked in the garden a while after dinner Ingram cut a good deal of money and I counted it and put it in his pocket after words got two water melleons and one candle of Ingram and I at the same time got

Wednesday Aug 20 1851

got up this morning at quarter before five went with Billy splacher out to Mr. Henders about ten miles to get some eggs got sixteen bushel shuck there a little while they gave us each a piece of bread and butter coming back staid over a night bought three water melleons and five cents worth of apples passed through a town staying town and Ingram went through long bridges after we got back took some of the eggs down in the field for Calley when we came back got some good of the house for the splacher to come to town walked home then went a swimming with other boys staid in about a quarter of an hour got a horse but for the back