

MARCELLUS ADAMS PAPERS, 1795-1939

Collection #:
M 0001
OM 001

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Processed by:
Parker Hubbard Cohen
4 January 1996

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 manuscript box
COLLECTION DATES:	1795-1939
PROVENANCE:	Gift of Lee Rees, executor of Ellen M. Adams
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	Collection Calendar
RELATED HOLDINGS:	None
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1900.0201
NOTES:	Material transferred to Printed Collections, stored in map collection: <i>The Traveller's Pocket Map of Illinois</i> . Published by H.S. Tanner, 10 May 1830.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dr. Marcellus Martin Adams was born on November 12, 1834, in Hancock County, Indiana. A descendant one of the old pioneer families, he was the grandson of Moses Adams of North Carolina, and the son of Isaac Adams and Nancy Polk, both born in Scott County, Kentucky. Adams' family moved to Hancock County, Indiana in 1826, where his father worked as a cooper and shoemaker. The youngest of eleven children, Marcellus Adams was educated in a log school house until he attended seminary in Rushville during the winter of 1854-55. He taught school in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa from 1855-1856 and then returned home to Hancock County. After studying medicine for two years under his brother-in-law Dr. J. M. Ely in New Palestine (Acton), Hancock County, Adams began his practice on July 1, 1858, in Henry County and then moved to Freeport (Morristown), Shelby County a year later. During Civil War, Adams enlisted in the I Company, 3rd Indiana Cavalry on August 22, 1862, and was placed in charge of the new recruits' barracks in Indianapolis. On September 18, 1863, Adams was made an assistant surgeon of the 116th Regiment serving in East Tennessee. When the 116th returned to Indiana, Adams was placed in charge of transporting the sick and injured. In 1864, the Indiana Sanitary Commission sent him to the Cumberland hospital in Nashville, Hancock County, where he was in charge of two wards. Adams returned home to open his practice in Greenfield, Hancock County, on February 1, 1865, and practiced there continuously until his death. A noted bibliographer and collector of curios and relics, Adams spent much of his free time building a large and valuable library. He also took an interest in his family history. Adams married Miranda V. Bailey on October 20, 1858, and had three daughters, Clara, Fannie, and Nettie. One year after his first wife's death in 1873, Adams married Nancy Hinchman. He had three more daughters from the second marriage, Olive, Mary, and Ellen. An active Republican, Adams was regarded as the oldest practicing physician of Hancock County when he died at his home in Greenfield on August 4, 1909, of ptomaine poisoning at the age of 74.

Sources: Biographical files, Indiana State Library
Bowen, B.F. *Biographical Memoirs of Hancock County, Indiana*. Logansport: n.p., 1902, pp.273-278.
Indianapolis News. 4 Aug 1909, p.1.
Journal of the Indiana State Medical Association. Vol.2, p. 349.
Materials in the collection.
Report of W. H. H. Terrell, the Adjutant General, Indiana. Vol. III, p. 197.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Marcellus Adams Papers consist of legal and business documents, genealogical material, family correspondence, written compositions, election tickets, photographs, and newspaper clippings. Organized chronologically by material type, Adams' Papers show an interest in preserving family, personal, and professional history. The legal and business documents from as early as 1795, include land transactions and appraisals in Hancock and Rush County relating to the Adams, Hinchman, and other families. Pension materials, medical licenses, insurance documents, and medical bills relating to Adams' medical practice are also included. Correspondence with Adams' cousin W.H. Polk and genealogical notes offer a large amount of information on the Isaac Adams and W.H. Polk families of Scott County, Kentucky, as do the newspaper clippings that concern the Polk, Hinchman, and Adams families. Information from the clippings suggests that they were collected by Ellen M. Adams, the donor and Adams' youngest daughter. The papers also include correspondence to Adams' sister Rhoda A. (Mrs. John H. Hufford) and cousin Jefferson S. Polk. Two compositions by Adams relate his service during the Civil War. A facsimile of George Washington's accounts, Republican election tickets, a Benjamin Harrison campaign ribbon, and photographs of famous people and friends document Adams' active interests in politics, history, contemporary culture, and education.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Box 1:

Folder	Content
1:	Legal and Business Documents, 1795-1868
2:	Legal and Business Documents, 1870-1898
3:	Legal and Business Documents, 1903-1907, n.d.
4:	Correspondence, 1864-1899
5:	Correspondence, 1901-1909, n.d.
6:	Family History Notes
7:	Miscellaneous Writings
8:	Election Tickets
9:	(ART) Campaign Ribbon
10:	(VC) Photographs
11:	Newspaper Clippings

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's [online catalog](#)
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and **four** digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

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