

Regional History Collection Finding Aid
Lewis Historical Library, Vincennes University

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Title: Watts Collection

Collection Date(s): 1928-1964

Extent and Forms of Material: 2 boxes

Creator:

Biographical or Historical Sketch: Harry T. and Florence Watts of Vincennes, Indiana. A husband and wife team that together collected, preserved and wrote about Vincennes and George Rogers Clark history. The collection contains correspondence between the Watts team and a number of leading historians of the time, and the subject matter deals with the early French and pre-statehood period. Mr. Watts, an engineer, surveyed the Clark Trail from Kaskaskia to Vincennes.

Mrs. Watts did a rather detailed study of the forts of Vincennes and published her findings in the *Indiana Magazine of History*. Some original maps and correspondence were copied and added to the Watts' files.

The collection contains a tremendous amount of resource material for a study of Vincennes.

Repository: Lewis Historical Library, Vincennes University, Vincennes, IN. Please address questions to rking@vinu.edu 812-888-4330 <http://www.vinu.edu/lewis-historical-library>

Collection Number: RHC#12

Processing Note: Processed by Dr. Patricia Ann Owens, volunteer, June 2015. Supervised by Richard King, Reference Librarian.

INFORMATION FOR USERS OF THE COLLECTION

Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Researchers must wash hands and dry thoroughly before use. Gloves must be worn when handling photographs and negatives. Archives must remain in Lewis Historical Library.

Technical Access: Use copies when available.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: Copyright held by Vincennes University. Lewis Library makes no guarantees regarding copyright restrictions. Reproduction fees must be paid by requester. All duplication requests must be reviewed by Lewis Historical Library supervisor.

Preferred Citation: Title and date of item, Regional History Collection, Lewis Historical Library, Vincennes University, box number _.

IN-DEPTH INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLECTION

Administrative/Biographical History:

Scope and Content: The collection includes/comprises/consists of files, maps, manuscripts, and research materials.

System of Arrangement: Collection is arranged by dates.

Acquisition Information: Donor and donation date of collection is unknown

Related Archival Materials:

Access Points:

Subject/Names: Harry T. and Florence Watts

Subject/Topical: Vincennes, Indiana, George Rogers Clark, pre-statehood Indiana

Geographical: Indiana

Form/Genre:

Container List:

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Contents</u>
1	1	Watts Collection, Research on Fort Knox – photocopy of letter from Lieutenant Governor Edward Abbot dated 1777, typed copies of letters dated 1803-1810, typed and handwritten notes related to history of Fort Knox, folder contains handwritten subject dividers, typed manuscript – history of Fort Knox.
1	2	Watts Collection, Correspondence 1928-1934 – includes letters concerning the route of George Rogers Clark to Vincennes and related subjects (wide variety of historical societies and other sources).
1	3	Watts Collection, Correspondence 1935-1945 – includes letters related to Vincennes history including Zachary Taylor, his daughter and Jefferson Davis, typed and handwritten manuscript.
1	4	Watts Collection, Correspondence 1947-1953 – includes letters related to Jefferson Davis’ signature, copy of bail bond of Jefferson Davis, Sarah Taylor, photocopy of Jefferson Davis letter with signature, typed manuscript concerning Zachary Taylor and Vincennes.
1	5	Watts Collection, Correspondence 1954-1959 – includes letters concerning silver pieces made by Antoine Oneil, William Henry Harrison Trail Commission, variety of Vincennes history topics, handwritten research notes, Vigo Silver at Harrison House.

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2	1	Watts Collection, Correspondence 1960-1964 – includes letters relating to William Henry Harrison Trail, Indian treaties negotiated by Harrison, Indiana Sesquicentennial Commission, and on-going research topics of Mrs. Watts.
2	2	Watts Collection, Miscellaneous – includes note cards, handwritten research notes and manuscripts, the Rayneval Memorandum of 1782, manuscript in French, newspaper articles, typed manuscript – “A French Political Document of 1782.” Memorandum Prepared for Vergennes by Reyneval (translated by Florence Watts), typed manuscript (in English), typed manuscript concerning Fort Knox.
2	3	Watts Collection, Miscellaneous – Florence E. Gold, Gymnastic Dance Music booklet, fort map, handwritten manuscript noted as transcription of part of a letter from Charles Larrabee, newspaper clipping, topographical map, notes related to Fort Knox, assorted handwritten notes on a variety of topics, Girl Scout booklet on the topic of folk dancing and earning the badge, information related to Sesquicentennial of Indiana.
2	4	Watts Collection, Notes of General Josiah Harmar, Bowman’s Journal, Masons – copy of article about Harmar by Howard H. Peckman, typed manuscript Harmar papers, handwritten manuscript of Bowman’s Journal, handwritten manuscript concerning Masons.
2	5	Watts Collection, Indiana Sesquicentennial Commission – minutes, letters, list of members of the advisory committee, copy of proclamation (with seal).
2	6	Watts Collection, Miscellaneous, Business Papers – copies of orders from Headquarters of the Army (1895) concerning Robert C. Van Vliet and Ulysses G. Kemp and appointments to Vincennes University, papers related to Vincennes University (1905), reports from the Engineering Department at Vincennes University, report for the year 1930 of Parks and Playgrounds Commission and related letters, Articles of Incorporation of The Knox County Society for Crippled Children (1946).
2	7	Watts Collection, Gage, Vincennes Documents of 1772, Indiana Magazine of History – handwritten notes, typed manuscript in

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		French and English related to General Gage, list of "Folks Songs of Old Vincennes" (program).