

**ARTHUR AND KATHLEEN POSTLE ARCHIVES AND
FRIENDS COLLECTION
EARLHAM COLLEGE, LILLY LIBRARY, RICHMOND IN**

Creator: Solomon Brumfield
Title: Brumfield Family Papers
Inclusive dates: 1820-1892
Extent: 1 box (.3 linear feet)
MSS #: 135

Language: Material is in English
Acquisition: The collection was purchased from Ron Purcell of Richmond in 2007.
Accruals: No accruals to the collection are expected
Access: The collection is open without restriction.
Copyright: Copyright is held by Earlham College
Processed By: Anne Thomason, Assistant Archivist, July 2008
Preferred Citation: Brumfield Family Papers, FMS 135, Friends Collection and Archives, Lilly Library, Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana

Abstract

Receipts, correspondence, legal and financial papers from the Brumfield-Smith families in Wayne County Indiana and in Jasper County Iowa.

Biography/History

The Brumfield Family Papers reflect the life of a family with Quaker origins in Wayne County, Indiana. The most significant documents in the collection are five letters written by Oliver H. Smith (1794-1859), a United States senator from Indiana 1837-1843 and author of the book *Early Indiana Trials and Sketches*.

Most of the papers in the collection pertain to Solomon Brumfield, who was born near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Feb. 9, 1805, the son of John and Margaret (Howell) Brumfield. In 1827 he married his first cousin once removed, Eliza Boone (1810-1886). They farmed in Wayne and Fayette counties in Indiana and lived for a time in Centerville before purchasing a farm nearby. Solomon was also considered one of the best veterinarians in the area. He died near Centerville, September 8, 1865. Other documents in the collection pertain to Solomon and Eliza's son Oliver H. S. Brumfield (1829-1907).

Solomon Brumfield's sister Mary Brumfield (1803-1881) was married in Wayne County in 1821 to Oliver Hampton Smith, an attorney who was a native of Bucks County, Pennsylvania. They lived in Centerville, Connersville, and Indianapolis, in addition to residing in Washington, D.C., while Oliver H. Smith served in the United States Senate as a Whig. For further information, see Ray C. Brumfield, *Descendants of Thomas Brumfield of Berks County Pennsylvania* (1962).

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of a small amount of correspondence and financial documents of the Brumfield family. Most of the collection comprises records from Wayne County, although some are from Iowa. The collection is arranged in two series, one of correspondence and one of financial, legal, real estate and tax records. The series of correspondence includes some letters written by Oliver Hampton Smith Brumfield. The correspondence also covers property issues, particularly regarding Edgar Burton and E.G. Linsted, both of whom lived in Iowa in the late nineteenth century. Correspondence is arranged in chronological order.

The larger financial series primarily includes receipts describing the business dealings of Solomon Brumfield. Receipts and records cover areas such as newspaper subscriptions, purchases of animals, deeds, loans and tax records. The series is arranged in chronological order. The records give a good picture of the kinds of business practices common for farmers in the nineteenth century and reveal property and financial information for the Brumfield family. There is one folder of miscellany that includes a funeral announcement for Solomon Brumfield.

Box/Folder Listing

Series 1: Correspondence

Box 1

Folder 1 Correspondence, 1830-1889

Series 2: Financial, Legal, Real Estate and Tax Records

Folder 2 1820-1835

Folder 3 1836-1839

Folder 4 1840-1849

Folder 5 1850-1855

Folder 6 1856-1859

Folder 7 1860-1892

Folder 8 Undated

Folder 9 Newspaper Subscription Receipts, 1823-1862

Folder 10 Jasper County Iowa documents, 1859-1861

Folder 11 Wayne County Tax Records, 1842-1890

Folder 12 Miscellaneous