



**WALTER HAVIGHURST**  
**SPECIAL COLLECTIONS**  
MIAMI UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES • OXFORD, OHIO

**Myaamia Collection:  
Godfroy Family Papers  
1832-1895**

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Title: Godfroy Family Papers  
Dates: 1832-1895  
Media: Correspondence, Legal Documents, Financial Documents  
Quantity: 1.34 linear feet (1 box total)  
Location: Closed Stacks

**COLLECTION SUMMARY**

This collection contains primary documents belonging to Gabriel Godfroy and his descendants. These documents concern not only members of the Godfroy family, but also members of the Richardville, Bundy, and Mihšiiinkweemiša Families.

**PROVENANCE OF THE COLLECTION**

This collection was donated by Kenneth G. Hunter, a grandson of Gabriel Godfroy, and his grandson John Bickers.

**BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

Gabriel (Waapanaakikaapwa) Godfroy was born January 01, 1834 along the oonsaalamooni siipiiwi (Salamonie River) on his father, Francis (Palaanswa) Godfroy's reserve land in what is now Blackford County, Indiana. Ca. 1836 the family moved to Palaanswa's other reserve land near lihkipisinonki (Peru, Indiana) in Miami County. It was there Gabriel lived the rest of his life.

After his father, Palaanswa, died on May 01, 1840 Gabriel was raised by his mothers, his mother Seekaahkweeta and her older sister, Waapankihkwa. As a member of the Godfroy family he and all his relatives were exempted from removal in 1846; however, his older brother, Thomas (šiipaakana) Godfroy voluntarily went on removal, on which he perished, more than likely around Westport in the Kansas City area. He was married three different times throughout his life to Piitootanka, Elizabeth (Kinoosahkwa) Wapshing, and Martha Jane "Jennie" Logan. Between these three wives he had nineteen children, eleven of whom lived to adulthood.

As Gabriel grew up he became a leader in his family and eventually was respected by the entire community. He used his wealth and influence, as such; to represent his community in several law suits against the United States for money owed them through the treaty process and through illegal taxation of Myaamia lands.

The Richardvilles were another prominent Myaamia family from Kiikayonki (Fort Wayne). Jean Baptiste (Pinšiwa) Richardville was the nephew of Myaamia civil leader, Pakaana, and Myaamia war leader Mihšihkinahkwa, also known as Little Turtle. As a young man he succeeded Pakaana as the akima (civil leader) of Kiikayonki, and eventually the principal akima for Myaamia people. Along with the Godfroy, Mihšiinkweemiša, and šiipaakana-Slocum families, the Richardvilles were exempted from forced removal in 1846.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

The documents surrounding the Godfroy family tend to focus on Gabriel Godfroy. For many decades during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries Gabriel was seen as the head of the Godfroy family and was a well-respected leader outside of his family. As such, many of the documents relating to non-Myaamia people or entities involved him in some way. These documents relate to either Myaamia annuity payments due to the tribe through several different treaties signed with the United States or his representation of Myaamia people in a legal sense. These documents date from 1839-1895.

The Richardville family documents are almost exclusively estate papers, most relating to Joseph (Waapimaankwa) Richardville, the son of Akima Pinšiwa, Chief Jean Baptiste Richardville. The other estate paper concerns LaBlonde (Kiinkwaatehkwa) Richardville, a daughter of Pinšiwa. The only non-estate document in that series is a bill from Pinšiwa, who ran his own trading post, to a man named Jesse Vermily, who also worked as a trader. These documents range from 1832-1855.

The third series, the Community Documents, are documents that encompass many different family groups, although most of them relate back to Gabriel Godfroy in some form. These documents primarily relate to Myaamia people who considered themselves as members of the band of Mihšiinkweemiša, although Mihšiinkweemiša and other members of his family stated that they were not. The other three documents are about issues of annuity payments, power-of-attorney, and bills. These documents date from 1858-1892.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

Series I: Godfroy Family  
Series II: Richardville Family  
Series III: Community Documents

## RELATED MATERIALS

See also the Myaamia Collection: Turtle-Wells Family Papers. Printed materials from the Myaamia Collection are cataloged separately and can be located using the Libraries' online catalog.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Access:** This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the Walter Havighurst Special Collections, Miami University Libraries.

**Preferred Citation:** Researchers are requested to cite the *Myaamia Collection: Godfroy Papers The Walter Havighurst Special Collections, Miami University Libraries* in all footnote and bibliographic references.

**Provenance:** The collection was donated by the Hunter-Bickers Family.

**Processed By:** John Bickers, September-October 2013; 2014

**Property Rights:** The Walter Havighurst Special Collections, Miami University Libraries, owns the property rights to this collection.

**Copyrights:** Reproduction of materials in the collection is subject to the restrictions of copyright law. To use any materials not yet in the public domain, the researcher must obtain permission from the copyright holder.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

Note to Researchers: To request materials, please note both the box and folder numbers shown below.

### Series I: Godfroy Family

Box	Folder	Title	Description	Date
1	1	Godfroy Family Documents, 1839-1840	Promissory Note from Francis Godfroy to Hamilton and Tabor from \$931.24	Nov. 14, 1839
1	1	Godfroy Family Documents, 1839-1840	The Estate of Francis Godfroy	1840

Box	Folder	Title	Description	Date
1	2	Godfroy Family Documents, 1865-1879	Mortgage from Frances (Godfroy) Kisiman to Andrew Birkerd	June 14, 1865
1	2	Godfroy Family Documents, 1865-1879	Shipping order to George Conner and Gabriel Godfroy	Sept. 10, 1875
1	2	Godfroy Family Documents, 1865-1879	Letter from Charles Godfroy to Frank Hawkins regarding Miami Annuity Payments	Sept. 08, 1877
1	2	Godfroy Family Documents, 1865-1879	Notice from Frances Kisiman demanding Gabriel Godfroy and Valentine Wood give her the deed to her land now that she is no longer a minor	Oct. 17, 1877
1	2	Godfroy Family Documents, 1865-1879	Letter from J.W. Edsall for George Godfroy to F.A. Hawkins regarding his annuity payment	Nov. 05, 1877
1	2	Godfroy Family Documents, 1865-1879	Letter to Gabriel Godfroy from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs concerning Miami Annuity Payments	Oct. 03, 1878
1	2	Godfroy Family Documents, 1865-1879	Lewis Goodboo granting Gabriel Godfroy power of attorney	Oct. 16, 1878
1	2	Godfroy Family Documents, 1865-1879	Bill from Gabriel Godfroy to Ed Gray	Jan. 23, 1879
1	2	Godfroy Family Documents, 1865-1879	Letter to Gabriel Godfroy from Rep. James L. Evans regarding Miami Annuity Payments	Feb. 09, 1879
1	3	Gabriel Godfroy's Ledger	Gabriel Godfroy's Business Ledger from his work as a trader	1873-1905
1	4	Godfroy Family Documents, 1882-1909	Charles Kumler discharged as the guardian of Henry Warren Godfroy	Feb. 10, 1882
1	4	Godfroy Family Documents, 1882-1909	Letter to Gabriel Godfroy asking for money to pay for his ward's, Frances White's, bill at the Quapaw Agency	Sept. 28, 1883
1	4	Godfroy Family Documents, 1882-1909	Bill to Gabriel Godfroy for Joseph Pope from John S. Hale & Co.	Aug. 03, 1891
1	4	Godfroy Family Documents, 1882-1909	Warranty Deed from Benjamin Wallace to Gabriel Godfroy	April 04, 1892
1	4	Godfroy Family Documents, 1882-1909	Letter to Gabriel Godfroy from the agent at the Nez Perce	Dec. 28, 1895

Box	Folder	Title	Description	Date
			Agency regarding Anna and Alice Price	
1	4	Godfroy Family Documents, 1882-1909	A copy of Gabriel Godfroy's Address at the Tippecanoe Battleground	June 16, 1907
1	4	Godfroy Family Documents, 1882-1909	Letter to Gabriel Godfroy from George Hill regarding his lawsuit against William Farrar	Nov. 30, 1909

**Series II: Richardville Family**

Box	Folder	Title	Description	Date
1	5	Richardville Family Documents 1832-1842	Estate of Joseph Richardville	Sept 1832-Sept 1834
1	5	Richardville Family Documents 1832-1842	Estate of Joseph Richardville	N/A
1	5	Richardville Family Documents 1832-1842	Sale of Joseph Richardville's personal property	Sept. 29, 1834
1	5	Richardville Family Documents 1832-1842	Bill from John B. Richardville to Jesse Vermily	June 05-Aug 25, 1841
1	5	Richardville Family Documents 1832-1842	Report on the Estate of Joseph Richardville from Allen Hamilton to Judge Saml Stopplet	Nov, 19 1842
1	6	Richardville Family Documents 1854-1855	Estate of LaBlonde Richardville	April 15, 1854
1	6	Richardville Family Documents 1854-1855	Estate of Louisa Richardville Application	July 28, 1854
1	6	Richardville Family Documents 1854-1855	Final Settlement of Joseph Richardville's Estate	March 29, 1855

**Series III: Community Documents**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Date</b>
1	7	Myaamia Community Documents, 1858	Document from the Department of the Interior regarding placing certain people on Myaamia rolls	May 27, 1858
1	8	Myaamia Community Documents, 1866-1893	Myaamia claiming to be part of the Mihšiinkweemiša Band hire Gabriel Godfroy as their attorney in this claim	1866
1	8	Myaamia Community Documents, 1866-1893	Proposal between the same Myaamia people and Gabriel Godfroy to either allot or sell the Mihšiinkweemiša Reserve	1867
1	8	Myaamia Community Documents, 1866-1893	Letter to the Secretary of the Interior requesting the allotment of the Mihšiinkweemiša Reserve	1867
1	8	Myaamia Community Documents, 1866-1893	Bill for several Myaamia people	1879
1	8	Myaamia Community Documents, 1866-1893	George Godfroy and John Bundy giving power of attorney to Gabriel Godfroy, Peter Bundy, Judson Bundy, and Peter Godfroy	Sept. 23, 1893
1	9	Myaamia Community Documents, 1982-1984	Article from the Peru Daily Tribune regarding Stewart Rafert's work towards recognition for the Miami Nation of Indiana	Aug. 28, 1982
1	9	Myaamia Community Documents, 1982-1984	Article from the Peru Daily Tribune regarding a symposium honoring the Miami Nation	April 25, 1984
1	9	Myaamia Community Documents, 1982-1984	Descendants of Charles (aahsansanka) Marks	N/A