

Collection #  
M 0089  
BV 1125–1128  
F 0173

## JACOB PIATT DUNN COLLECTION, 1812–1955

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Reprocessed by

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Indiana Historical Society  
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes; 1 box photographs; 4 bound volumes; 1 reel microfilm.

COLLECTION DATES: 1812–1955

PROVENANCE: Family of Jacob P. Dunn, Indianapolis, March 1934, July 1936, February 1955

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Boomhower, Ray. *Jacob Piatt Dunn Jr. A Life in Politics*. Indianapolis: Indiana Historical Society Press, 1997 [F 526 .D85 B73 1997]

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1934.0305; 1936.0714; 1955.0222

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jacob Piatt Dunn (1855–1924) was a prominent journalist, historian, and political figure as well as the Secretary of the Indiana Historical Society from its reorganization in 1886 until his death. Dunn was born in Lawrenceburg (Dearborn County) but resettled with his family in Indianapolis in 1861. Dunn graduated from Earlham College in 1874 and the University of Michigan law school two years later. He practiced law in Indianapolis for three years then moved to Colorado where he became a prospector. Dunn's journalism career began in Colorado when he started writing for newspapers in addition to prospecting. He returned to law practice in Indianapolis in 1884 but changed professions four years later when he took a job with the Indianapolis *Journal*. He later joined the editorial staff of the Indianapolis *Sentinel* in the 1890s and later worked for three other Indianapolis newspapers: the *Star*, the *News*, and the *Times*.

Dunn's pro Democratic Party editorials resulted in his being elected as State Librarian in 1889 and 1891. Dunn, however, is best remembered for his historical writings which included: *Massacres of the Mountains: a History of the Indian Wars of the Far West* (1886); *Indiana, A Redemption from Slavery* (1888); *True Indian Stories* (1908); *Greater Indianapolis* (two volumes, 1910); and *Indiana and Indianans* (five volumes, 1919).

Near the end of his life, Dunn returned to his mining interests and in 1921 he joined with a group of prominent Indianapolis men in forming the Hispaniola Mining Company, a speculative association which sought to discover mineral deposits in Haiti. Dunn served as the company's field agent and ventured to the Caribbean to find potential mining sites. The search proved negative and he returned to Indianapolis three months later with an unsuccessful report.

Sources:

Original collection guide.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains a wide range of materials concerning both Dunn and his family. Papers pertaining to Dunn include personal, business and historically related correspondence; business and professional papers; manuscripts, essays, speeches and other writings; and general documents. Family papers in the collection contain materials pertaining to a number of Dunn's relatives, including: his grandfather, Isaac Dunn; his father, Jacob Dunn, Sr.; his uncle, George Dunn; his wife, Charlotte Dunn; and his father in law, Aquilla Jones, Jr.

Much of Dunn's correspondence deal with his writing and publishing career; these include inquiries in regard to his historical research, details of preparing manuscripts for publishing, and letters regarding his published works. There also is correspondence regarding his work with the Indiana Historical Society including his efforts to engage Lew Wallace for a lecture in 1887. Additional items include materials relating to his expedition to Haiti as the field agent for the Hispaniola Mining Company in 1921 including a daily log book.

Materials relating to Dunn's writing career include manuscript sections from his histories of Indiana including a hand written manuscript of *Indiana, A Redemption from Slavery* and a typed transcript of several chapters from *Indiana and Indianans*. There also are religious essays by Dunn on the Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis and speeches on the themes of religion, patriotism during World War I and politics.

The papers of George (1819–1853) and Jacob Dunn, Sr. (1811–1890) primarily deal with the two brothers' mining endeavors in California during the late 1840s and early 1850s. Subjects include partnerships with other miners, the death of George Dunn, and related issues. There is also an undated essay, presumably by Jacob Sr., on their venture and George Dunn's officer's commission in the Indiana Voluntary Infantry during the Mexican War.

The Aquilla Jones papers mainly deal with his business dealings and partnerships. Charlotte Dunn materials mostly comprise correspondence and personal items. There also are manuscripts not attributed to Dunn including some by Meredith Nicholson.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Jacob Piatt Dunn, Jr. Papers, 1884–1955**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Personal Correspondence, Oct. 1884–June 1885	Box 1, Folder 1
Personal Correspondence, Sept. 1888–July 1913	Box 1, Folder 2
Personal Correspondence, Dec. 1921–May 1922, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 3
Research Correspondence, July 1885–Feb. 1886	Box 1, Folder 4
Research Correspondence, March 1886–Aug. 1897	Box 1, Folder 5
Research Correspondence, Dec. 1898–Feb. 1910	Box 1, Folder 6
Research Correspondence, April 1900–Aug. 1902, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 7
Publishing Correspondence, Sept. 1884–Aug. 1923	Box 1, Folder 8
Critical Correspondence, Feb. 1886–Oct. 1922	Box 1, Folder 9
Indiana Historical Society Papers, Sept. 1887–Aug. 1955, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 10
Publishing Agreements, Nov. 1885–Feb. 1917	Box 1, Folder 11
Haiti Business Correspondence, Jan.–May 1922	Box 1, Folder 12
Haiti Formal Documents, Dec. 1918–Feb. 1922, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 13
Haiti Travel Documents, Dec. 1921–Jan. 1922	Box 1, Folder 14
Newspaper Clippings, Haiti, Jan.–April 1922	Box 1, Folder 15
Haiti Log Book and Miscellany, Aug. 1918–Feb. 1922, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 16
Miscellaneous Papers of Jacob P. Dunn, March 1870–May 1916, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 17
Jacob Dunn Scrapbook, 1880s	BV 1126
Scrapbook, Clippings of Indiana History	F 0173

Jacob Dunn Poll Book	Box 1, Folder 18
Library Catalog Cards, Various Dates	Box 1, Folder 19
Library Catalog Cards, Various Dates	Box 1, Folder 20
Library Catalog Cards, Various Dates	Box 1, Folder 21

**Series 2: Manuscripts of Books, Speeches, Writings, 1836–Ca. 1920a**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Handwritten Manuscript, “Indiana, A Redemption from Slavery” (1 of 6)	Box 2, Folder 1
Handwritten Manuscript, “Indiana, A Redemption from Slavery” (2 of 6)	Box 2, Folder 2
Handwritten Manuscript, “Indiana, A Redemption from Slavery” (3 of 6)	Box 2, Folder 3
Handwritten Manuscript, “Indiana, A Redemption from Slavery” (4 of 6)	Box 2, Folder 4
Handwritten Manuscript, “Indiana, A Redemption from Slavery” (5 of 6)	Box 2, Folder 5
Handwritten Manuscript, “Indiana, A Redemption from Slavery” (6 of 6)	Box 2, Folder 6
Scrapbook of Reviews of “Indiana, A Redemption from Slavery	BV 1127
Typewritten Manuscript, “Indiana and Indianans”	Box 2, Folder 7
Typewritten Manuscript, “Indiana and Indianans” Chapter 4	Box 2, Folder 8
Typewritten Manuscript, “Indiana and Indianans” Chapter 6	Box 2, Folder 9
Typewritten Manuscript, “Indiana and Indianans” Chapter 7	Box 2, Folder 10
Typewritten Manuscript, “Indiana and Indianans” Chapter 8	Box 2, Folder 11

Typewritten Manuscript, "Indiana and Indianans" Chapter 9	Box 2, Folder 12
Scrapbook of Reviews, "Massacres of the Mountains"	BV 1128
Manuscript, "Father Gibault"	Box 2, Folder 13
Essay, "Passing of Darwinism"	Box 2, Folder 14
Two Speeches	Box 2, Folder 15
Seven Essays Concerning Presbyterian Church in Indiana	Box 2, Folder 16
Essay, "The Truth about Haiti"	Box 2, Folder 17
Writing Projects	Box 2, Folder 18
Two Speeches	Box 3, Folder 1
Three Political Speeches	Box 3, Folder 2
Three Religious Speeches	Box 3, Folder 3
Galley Proofs	Box 3, Folder 4
Notes of J. P. Dunn	Box 3, Folder 5
Letter to Gen. Lorenzo Thomas from Col. C. Carson, Feb. 1864 (Hand copy?)	Box 3, Folder 6
Bill of Sale for Slave, 24 October 1836	Box 3, Folder 7

### **Series 3: Family Papers, 1812–1947**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Isaac Dunn, Court Appearances and Legal Documents, March 1812–July 1835	Box 3, Folder 8
Isaac Dunn, Legal Records, Feb. 1818–March 1855	Box 3, Folder 9
Isaac Dunn, Financial Papers, May 1812–July 1858	Box 3, Folder 10
Papers of George, John, and Jacob Dunn, Sr., Oct. 1836–March 1858	Box 3, Folder 11

Financial Record Book, Armstrong, Jones & Co. Sept. 1876–Sept. 1883	BV 1125
Aquilla Jones, Business Papers, Oct. 1862–Nov. 1878	Box 3, Folder 12
Aquilla Jones, Business Papers, Feb. 1879–Oct. 1889	Box 3, Folder 13
Aquilla Jones, Business Papers, April 1883–Oct. 1889	Box 3, Folder 14
Aquilla Jones, Personal Finances, July, 1869–Dec. 1889	Box 3, Folder 15
Aquilla Jones, Invitations, Oct. 1869–Nov. 1892	Box 3, Folder 16
Flora Jones Papers, March 1861–Nov. 1892	Box 3 Folder 17
Charlotte Dunn Papers, 1885–July 1887	Box 3, Folder 18
Charlotte Dunn Correspondence, Sept. 1887–Jan. 1947	Box 3, Folder 19
Manuscript, “Indiana’s First Wary”, translated by Caroline and Eleanor Dunn	Box 3, Folder 20
Two Non-Dunn Religious Manuscripts	Box 3 , Folder 21
Unidentified Non-Dunn Items	Box 3, Folder 22

#### **Series 4: Photographs**

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Family Vacations	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 1
Gold leaf-Edge Photographs, not identified	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 2
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Christmas Cards from the Frederick Polley’s	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 4
Santo Domingo Post Cards	Photographs: Box 1, Folder 5

Christopher Columbus Related Items

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 6

Unidentified People and Places

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 7

## 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:  
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0089).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.