

Collection #
M 0273,
OM 0156,
BV 1740-1743

**JOHN S. TARKINGTON
PAPERS, 1844-1923 (BULK 1910–1923)**

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Processed by

Charles Latham

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Manuscript Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 5 manuscript boxes, 5 oversize folders, 4 bound volumes; 83
photographs, 194 post cards, 1 post card album, and 1 tintype.

COLLECTION
DATES: 1844–1923 bulk 1910–1923)

PROVENANCE: Mrs. Booth Tarkington, 4270 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis, Ind.,

Summer 1951

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: *The Hermit of Capri* (BL 50 .T3 1910); *Posthumous Address to Alumni of DePauw University* (1912); Booth Tarkington Papers (M 0273); Slawson-Tarkington Papers (M 0370)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1951.0605

NOTES: 7 broadsides and 4 booklets transferred to Printed Collections

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Stevenson Tarkington (1832-1923) was born in Centerville, Indiana, the son of the Rev. Joseph Tarkington, a Methodist preacher (who served as pastor at Lawrenceburgh, Centerville, Brookville, Vincennes, and Greensburg) and Maria Slawson (Slauson).

John Tarkington graduated from Indiana Asbury University (later DePauw) in 1852, and earned an A. M. degree three years later. He moved to Indianapolis in 1852, served as private secretary to Governor Joseph A. Wright (1853-1857), then studied law in the offices of Albert G. Porter (later Governor). He set up his own law practice in 1855, and two years later married Elizabeth Booth, whose brother Newton Booth was then U.S. senator from California. They had two children, the author (Newton) Booth Tarkington (1869-1946), and a daughter, Mary Booth (nicknamed Haute—1861-1937), who married Ovid Butler Jameson.

Tarkington won a contested election for the Indiana General Assembly in 1863. Having served eight days as a private in one Indiana regiment in 1863, he helped to organize the 132nd Indiana Volunteers the next year, and served in it as captain and provost until the end of the Civil War.

Briefly after the war Tarkington practiced law in partnership with Oliver P. Morton and Elijah B. Martindale. In 1870 he was elected judge of the Fifth Circuit Court, serving Marion and Hancock Counties, and held the post for two years. In the later 1870s he practiced law alone. He retired early from his legal practice, and ran the safety deposit section of the Fletcher and Sharpe Bank. His first wife died in 1909, and a year later he married Mrs. Linda H. Schulz. He had a considerable literary bent, and did quite a bit of traveling. In his later years, under the compound pen-name John Steventon (apparently to avoid confusion with his famous son), he wrote and published two collections of essays, *The Hermit of Capri* (1910) and *The Auto-Orphan* (1913).

Sources:

Materials in collection

Indiana Biographical Series, Vol. 1, pp. 73-75, Vol. 4 pp. 234-235

Who Was Who in America, Vol. I

Dunn, *Indiana and Indianans*, Vol. 3, p. 1232

Biographical Directory of the Indiana General Assembly, Vol. I

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains correspondence, telegrams, legal papers, skits, typescripts and manuscripts of essays, printed material, post cards, and photographs, from John S. Tarkington, his father, his second wife, and others.

Series 1 contains correspondence, personal papers, and photographs of John S. Tarkington. Two large bodies of material here are papers, by Tarkington and others, from his years at Indiana Asbury University, 1847-1851; and second, papers from his service in the Civil War, mainly reports and rosters. Photographs stored in Visual Collections include two, possibly three portraits of John S. Tarkington at various ages, and a copy photograph of an outdoor Civil War group portrait.

Series 2 includes correspondence of Tarkington's second wife, mainly letters of condolence at his death in 1923; diaries and notebooks from 1856 to 1926; and a ledger for the years 1893-1899.

Series 3 and 4 contain Tarkington's literary output. In **Series 3** are successive revisions of his book *The Hermit of Capri*, beginning with manuscript and ending with the printed book. **Series 4** contains copies of essays written by Tarkington; **Series 5** contains the same kinds of materials written by others. Among the latter is a short account by his father, Joseph Tarkington, about the founding of a German Methodist church in Lawrenceburgh. This series also contains portraits, mostly unidentified, and a view of an unidentified house.

Series 6 contains two scrapbooks, mainly of clippings, belonging to Tarkington's daughter Haute.

Series 7, "Postals and Photographs: Europe" derives its name from a label found with the oversize photographs during reprocessing. Of note in this series are photographs from Capri, including photographs of Villa Narcissus made by Giorgio Sommer of Naples (1834-1914) and the Anglo-Saxon Company of Capri. Two photographs (Box 8) with the hand-written captions "View from top of Villa Narcissus, home of artist, looking West" and "Moorish Courtyard of Villa Narcissus / Sarin [?] (French Painter) and Coleman" suggest that Villa Narcissus could have been the home of Italian artist Enrico Coleman (1846-1911). One of the scenic photograph of a bay appears in Tarkington's *The Hermit of Capri*.

A deteriorated post card album containing 181 French post cards (127 views and 54 portraits) necessitated the removal the post cards from the album. The post cards have been retained in their original order, including loose cards not inserted into pre-slotted pages (Box 6). The loose post cards all have the notation "M273" on their versos. A hand-written itinerary of a multi-day trip is on the inside cover of the album, so the album was retained. A set of oversized post cards (Box 5, Folder 3), two oversize photographs of Château de Chenonceaux (OVA manuscript photographs), and an unidentified château may relate to this trip.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Correspondence and Papers of John S. Tarkington

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Autobiographical (during Civil War)	Box 1, Folder 1
Genealogical	Box 1, Folder 2
Indiana Asbury University: program announcements, 1848-1852	Box 1, Folder 3
Indiana Asbury University: papers attributed to JST	Box 1, Folder 4
Indiana Asbury University: untitled essays, 1847-1851, n.d. (folder 1)	Box 1, Folder 5

Indiana Asbury University: untitled essays, 1847-1851, n.d. (folder 2)	Box 1, Folder 6
Indiana Asbury University: untitled essays, 1847-1851, n.d. (folder 3)	Box 1, Folder 7
Indiana Asbury University: untitled essays, 1847-1851, n.d.	BV 1741-1743
Indiana Asbury University: diploma, 1852	OM 0156, Folder 1, Flat File, FF 11-c
Indiana Asbury University: essays and papers by classmates, 1850-1851	Box 1, Folder 8
Letters from John York, 1855	Box 1, Folder 9
Address to Indianapolis Sunday Schools, 7-4-1855	Box 1, Folder 10
Diary, 1857	Box 1, Folder 11
Letter about Indiana travels, 1860	Box 1, Folder 12
Civil War papers: 1863-June 1864	Box 1, Folder 13
Civil War papers: July-August 1864	Box 1, Folder 14
Civil War papers: September-November 1864	Box 1, Folder 15
Civil War papers: December 1864-1869	Box 1, Folder 16
Civil War papers: Quarterly reports, etc., 1864	OM 0156, Folder 2, Flat File, FF 11-c
Civil War papers: Officer's account book, 1864	Box 1, Folder 17
Civil War papers: Muster rolls, 1864	OM 0156, Folder 3, Flat File, FF 11-c
Civil War papers: Appointment to Captain; 132nd Regiment, Indiana Volunteers, 1864; Loyal Legion award, 1894; Sons of the Revolution Certificate, 1911	OM 0156, Folder 4, Flat File, FF 11-c
[copy photograph of an outdoor Civil War group portrait]	Visual Collections: OVC Photographs
[Portrait of John S. Tarkington (?), no date]	Visual Collections: Manuscript Photographs, Folder 1
Indiana court calendars, 1867, 1876, 1877	Box 1, Folder 18
Letters, 1881	Box 1, Folder 19
[Portrait of John S. Tarkington], Nicholson Brothers,	Visual Collections:

Indianapolis, 1903	Manuscript Photographs, Folder 2
California real estate, 1903	Box 1, Folder 20
Correspondence and papers, 1890-1909	Box 1, Folder 21
Correspondence and papers, 1910-1919	Box 1, Folder 22
Marriage certificate, 1911	OM 0156, Folder 5
Linda Schulz school certificates 1889, 1891	OM 0156, Folder 5
Last wills and testaments, 1913, 1922	Box 1, Folder 23
Speech at S. A. R. banquet, 1915	Box 1, Folder 24
Correspondence and papers, 1920-1923	Box 1, Folder 25
90th birthday, 1922	Box 1, Folder 26
“John S Tarkington”: seated portrait, half-tone sheet with printed signature, (three copies)	Box 1, Folder 27

Series 2: Correspondence, diaries, and notebooks of Linda S. Tarkington

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Linda S. Tarkington—correspondence, 1921-1930	Box 2, Folder 1
Linda S. Tarkington—letters of condolence, 1923	Box 2, Folder 2
Linda S. Tarkington—letters of condolence, 1923	Box 2, Folder 3
Diaries 1856, 1861; notebook, 1872	Box 2, Folder 4
Diary, 1857	Box 2, Folder 5
Diary, 1875-1904	Box 2, Folder 6
Diary, 1902-1926	BV 1740
Notebook fragments, 1886-1887, 1904-1905	Box 2, Folder 7
Ledger, 1893-1899	Box 2, Folder 8

Series 3: Writings: *The Hermit of Capri*

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Original manuscript	Box 3, Folder 1
Handwritten copy	Box 3, Folder 2
Handwritten copy	Box 3, Folder 3

Partial—typescript and handwritten	Box 3, Folder 4
Typescript with corrections	Box 3, Folder 5
Typescript with corrections	Box 3, Folder 6
Typescript with corrections	Box 3, Folder 7
Carbon of complete typescript	Box 3, Folder 8
Proof sheets	Box 3, Folder 9
<i>The Hermit of Capri</i> , bound copy. Another copy is in Printed Collections, BL 50 .T3 1910	Box 3, Folder 10

Series 4: Writings, John Stevenson Tarkington

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Letter to Mary—untitled	Box 4, Folder 1
To Mary—scenes from childhood	Box 4, Folder 2
"An April Fool," 1910	Box 4, Folder 3
"Bricks from an old courthouse"	Box 4, Folder 4
"Can a man do business on Christian principles?"	Box 4, Folder 5
"In memoriam Abram W. Hendricks"	Box 4, Folder 6
"An Italian journey"	Box 4, Folder 7
"My Henrietta"—three versions	Box 4, Folder 8
"My Henrietta"—with corrections	Box 4, Folder 9
"Occult science"—partial	Box 4, Folder 10
"Fragments of occult science"	Box 4, Folder 11
"The orphan"—with corrections	Box 4, Folder 12
"The orphan"—typescript	Box 4, Folder 13
"The college bell"	Box 4, Folder 14
"Punishment"	Box 4, Folder 15
"Relation of the spirit to animal man"	Box 4, Folder 16
"The Simpson twang" and others	Box 4, Folder 17
"What's the matter?"	Box 4, Folder 18

Dialect skit	Box 4, Folder 19
Notebooks with writings	Box 4, Folder 20
"From our staff correspondent," 1912	Box 4, Folder 21

Series 5: Writings, Others

CONTENTS

Autobiography of Joseph Tarkington

Joseph Tarkington—History of German Methodist church in Lawrenceburgh

Miscellaneous correspondence and papers

E. T. Dickey—Memoirs of the Mexican War, 1902

Jonathan Woodruff—founding of Ames Chapel, 1868

"Francis Bacon"—anonymous

Printed material

Cartes de visite portrait photographs

Tintype of two unidentified men

Unidentified house

CONTAINER

Box 4, Folder 22

Box 4, Folder 23

Box 4, Folder 24

Box 4, Folder 25

Box 4, Folder 26

Box 4, Folder 27

Box 4, Folder 28

Visual Collections:
Manuscript Photographs,
Folder 3

Visual Collections: Loose
Tintypes from Manuscript
Collections

Visual Collections:
Manuscript Photographs,
Folder 4

Series 6: Haute Tarkington scrapbooks

CONTENTS

Scrapbook #1

Scrapbook #2

CONTAINER

Box 5, Folder 1

Box 5, Folder 2

Series 7: Postals and Photographs: Europe

CONTENTS

[Photographs of Capri]

CONTAINER

Visual Collections:
Manuscript Photographs,
Folder 5

[Photographs of Capri and Amalfi, Italy (oversize)]	Visual Collections: OVA Photographs, Box 7
Photographs of Villa Narcissus, Capri (oversize)	Visual Collections: OVA Photographs, Box 8
[Photographs of Belgium Dairy Carts], L. P., photographer	Visual Collections: Manuscript Photographs, Folder 6
Cartes Panorama, Rouen and Chateau de Pierrefonds	Box 5, Folder 3
[French Post Cards]	Visual Collections: Postcards, Box 6
Cartes Postales [post card album]	Visual Collections: Photograph Albums
Photographs of Château de Chenonceaux. N. D., photographer	Visual Collections: OVA Photographs
Unidentified château	Visual Collections: Manuscript Photographs, Folder 7
Firenze [Florence, Italy] – Battistero. La Porta principale [East Door, “The Gates of Paradise”]. (Lorenzo Ghiberti). Photographs by Alinari	Visual Collections: OVA Photographs, Box 9
[Copy Photographs of Paintings and Statuary]	Visual Collections: Manuscript Photographs, Folder 8
[Copy Photographs of Classical and Relief Statuary]	Visual Collections: OVA Photographs, Box 10
[Copy photographs of Paintings and Other Art]	Visual Collections: OVA Photographs, Box 11

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://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Traditional Search" icon.
3. Click on the "Call Number" radio button.
4. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and four digits (in this case, M 0273, OM 0156, BV 1740-1743).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

