

# PLEASANT JENKINS PAPERS, 1881 - 1967

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Collection #  
M 528  
OM 122

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Processed by  
Charles Latham  
May 1989  
Karen Larson  
June 1994

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## USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize folder; and visual materials

COLLECTION DATES: 1881-1967

PROVENANCE: A gift from R. Donald Tyler, Indianapolis, IN and Forrest B. Tyler, College Park, MD, 25 July 1984

RESTRICTIONS: none

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: none

OTHER FINDING AIDS: none

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 84.0707

NOTES: Booklets were transferred to Printed Collections.

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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Pleasant Jenkins (1869-c1930) was born in Georgetown, Indiana, outside New Albany, the son of Leroy and Charlotte (Baylor) Jenkins. He was educated in local one-room schools, and in 1888, after completing work at No. 9, took courses at Central Normal School in Danville, Indiana.

He began teaching at Lanesville in 1889, then moved to Corydon, where in 1903 he became Harrison County Superintendent of Schools. By 1907, when he transferred his certificate back to Floyd County, Jenkins had attended six terms of normal school. He continued to teach there into the 1920s, and at the same time managed the farm inherited from his father.

In 1896 Jenkins married Lizzie K. Johnson, daughter of Harvey and Nancy (Byerly) Johnson of Georgetown. Their daughter, Velsie Jenkins Tyler (1904-c1970), was educated in the local one-room schools, and graduated from Georgetown High School in 1920. After attending one summer term of college, she taught for three years, then married.

From 1929 to 1935 Mrs. Tyler worked as saleswoman in a department store. In 1937 she worked on the Federal Writers Project of WPA as an historical writer supervised by Ross Lockridge. After a period as a social worker (the first in Floyd County), she joined the Indiana State Employment Office in 1943, and served there more than 25 years. Beginning in 1954, she was active in the local organization of Business and Professional Women. She married Wallace Tyler and had two sons, R. Donald Tyler, an executive at the Allison engine plant in Indianapolis, and Forrest B. Tyler, a psychologist.

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling three manuscript boxes, contains letters, papers and licenses, short historical articles, and programs. It is arranged by correspondent, and chronologically within correspondent.

Box 1 contains the papers of Pleasant Jenkins, covering the period 1881-1923. The bulk of the correspondence is from the years 1888-1896, and 1902-1907. The personal correspondence (1888-1896) relates to Jenkin's long courtship (1888-1898) of Lizzie Johnson, descriptions of life at Central Normal School, arrangements for meetings, and occasional misunderstandings. All this gives a picture both of the beginnings of a rural teaching career and of the restrictions of a rural courtship at a time when a 'date' consisted of a long walk home from church. The correspondence from 1902-1907 involves Jenkins' position as Superintendent. This material includes bills and advertisements for school supplies as well as professional correspondence between Jenkins and others concerning school matters. Also included are a number of Jenkins's teacher's licenses, and some of his notebooks.

The next two boxes contain the papers of Velsie Jenkins Tyler. Box 2 contains some correspondence, along with material from her involvement with the Indiana Employment Office and with the Business and Professional Women; also medical notes from her period of service as a social worker. Box 3 contains the short historical sketches which she wrote for the Federal Writers Project: material on Floyd County and New Albany and has material topically arranged under such headings as Customs, Morgan's Raid, Tales and Legends, and Underground Railroad.

Box 3 also contains material on R. Donald Tyler and his work at Allison; two psychological monographs of which Forrest B. Tyler is a co-author; and a number of programs, especially of dramatic productions at Speedway High School in the 1960s in which Donald Tyler's son took part.

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## BOX AND FOLDER INVENTORY

### I. PLEASANT JENKINS

#### **Box 1: Correspondence--Personal Folder**

- 1: 1881
- 2: 1887
- 3: January-April 1888
- 4: May-December 1888
- 5: January-June 1889
- 6: July-December 1889
- 7: 1890
- 8: 1891
- 9: 1892
- 10: 1893
- 11: 1894
- 12: 1895-1896
- 13: 1897-1898
- 14: 1903
- 15: 1906-1908
- 16: 1921-1924
- 17: n.d.

**Correspondence--Professional:**

- 18: Programs (Commencement and Teachers Association) 1890, 1893, 1896, 1897, 1900
- 19: 1902
- 20: Publishers/supplies 1902
- 21: January-July 1903
- 22: August-December 1903
- 23: Publishers/supplies, January-June 1903
- 24: Publishers/supplies, July-August 1903
- 25: Publishers/supplies, September-December 1903
- 26: 1904
- 27: Publishers/supplies 1904

28: January-August 1905

29: September-December 1905

**Box 2 Correspondence--Professional Folder:**

1: Publishers/supplies 1905 (see also OM 122)

2: January-April 1906

3: May-December 1906

4: Publishers/supplies, January-July 1906

5: Publishers/supplies, August 1906

6: Publishers/supplies, September-December 1906

7: 1907

8: Publishers/supplies, 1907

9: Miscellaneous/undated material

10: Clippings

11: Teacher's licenses 1891 - 1923

12: Cards 1919, 1926 & n.d.

13: Notebooks

14-21: (VC) Photographs (stored OVA), 1906 and n.d.

**Box 2: II. VELSIE JENKINS TYLER Folder:**

22: Biographical

23: Correspondence-- 1921 - 1936

24: 1960 - 1970

25: Organizations-- New Albany Business and Professional Women

26: Indiana State Employment Office

27-31: Medical and Physiological notes

**Box 3:  
Folder :**

1: Diary of auto trip 1955

- 2: Historical and folklore sketches written for Federal Writers Project Floyd County I
- 3: Floyd County II
- 4: Floyd County Flora and Fauna
- 5: Floyd County General Topography
- 6: New Albany-- Places of Interest
- 7: New Albany
- 8: New Albany-- Distinguished People
- 9: Harrison County
- 10: Scott County
- 11: Customs
- 12: Early settlements and trails
- 13: Family history
- 14: Morgan's Raid
- 15: Quakers
- 16: Songs
- 17: Tales and legends
- 18: Tall tales
- 19: Underground Railroad
- 20: Miscellaneous
- 21: Notes from published sources
- 22: (VC) Photographs Velsie Jenkins Tyler Banquets & Award Presentations ca. 1957-62

**BOX 3: III. TYLER FAMILY**

**Folder:**

- 23: R. Donald Tyler
- 24: Forrest B. and Bonnie Tyler
- 25: (VC) Photo album Pleasant Jenkins family photograph album (stored with albums)

**BOX 3: IV. OTHER**

- 26: Georgetown High School "Broadcast" 1940
- 27: Speedway High School dramatics 1963-1967

**CATALOGUING INFORMATION**

MAIN ENTRY: Jenkins, Pleasant, 1869-ca. 1930

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Jenkins, Pleasant, 1869-ca. 1930--Photographs

Tyler, Velsie Jenkins, 1904-ca. 1970

Tyler, R. Donald

Tyler, Forrest B.

Central Normal College (Danville, Ind.)

New Albany Business and Professional Women's Club

Indiana. Employment Security Division

General Motors Corporation. Allison Division

Federal Writers' Project

Teachers colleges--Indiana--Danville

Teachers--Training of--Indiana--Danville

Teachers--Indiana--Harrison County

School superintendents--Indiana--Harrison County

Education--Indiana--Harrison County

Social workers--Indiana--Floyd County

Courtship--Indiana--Floyd County

Textbooks--Indiana--Harrison County

Folklore--Indiana

Women in business--Indiana--New Albany--Societies and clubs

Employment tests--Indiana

Travelers--United States--Diaries

Theater programs--Indiana--Speedway

Underground railroad--Indiana

Floyd County (Ind.)--History

Floyd County (Ind.)--Folklore

Indiana--Folklore

New Albany (Ind.)--Description and travel

Harrison County (Ind.)

Georgetown (Ind.)

END