

Collection #  
P0327

**PURVIANCE FAMILY  
PORTRAITS AND PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1860–CA. 1910**

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June 1999

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 OVA Graphics box

COLLECTION  
DATES: Ca. 1860–ca. 1910

PROVENANCE: Donated by granddaughters Monica Jo Purviance Hall and  
Margaret Ellen Purviance, Hillsboro, Missouri, 1990

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 1991.0003

NOTES:

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Joseph Wasson Purviance, the son of James and Elizabeth Purviance, was born 15 October 1812 in New Paris, Ohio. He married Mary Aletha Van Horn (16 May 1815–15 March 1863) on 7 May 1835. The couple moved to Huntington, Huntington County, Indiana in 1848.

Mary Aletha Van Horn bore six children who lived to adulthood: William Roscoe (b. 13 October 1837); Phoebe Elizabeth; James Samuel (b. 10 January 1842); Francis Marion (b. 18 October 1846); Joseph Van Horn (b. 10 February 1850); and Clarence Eugene (b. 19 October 1852).

Joseph Wasson Purviance served as county treasurer in 1854 and 1868. During the Civil War he enlisted as a captain on 12/29/1863 and was commissioned into “D” Co. in the 130th Infantry, Indiana Volunteers. He was promoted to major on 3/1/1864 and was transferred from company D to Field & Staff. He Resigned on 7/1/1864.

A widower after the war he then married Henrietta Craft on 11 June 1865. The union produced three children: Margaret May, Laura Bell, and Lucy Marion. Purviance died 29 October 1885 in Huntington.

Sources:

Items in the collection.

Terrell, W. W. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana*. Vol. 3. Indianapolis: Samuel M. Douglass, 1866.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection contains six portraits of the Joseph Wasson Purviance and Mary Aletha (Van Horn) Purviance family of Huntington, Indiana. Also included is some Purviance family information from the donors.

The portraits of Joseph W. Purviance and Aletha Purviance date from ca. 1860s and appear to be watercolor portraits copied from photographs.

The group portrait of Purviance sons, Joseph V., James, William, and Clarence, was made circa 1900. Joseph V. Purviance appears with Francis Marion Purviance in one portrait made ca. 1890. Joseph and Francis are also depicted in individual cabinet cards made ca. 1910.

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Francis Marion Purviance, born Oct. 18, 1846  
[ca. 1910]

Joseph VanHorn Purviance, born Feb. 10, 1850  
[ca. 1910]

Joseph VanHorn Purviance and Francis Marion  
Purviance [double portrait ca. 1890]

Purviance brothers:  
Front-Joseph VanHorn and James Samuel  
Rear-William Roscoe and Clarence Eugene  
[group portrait ca. 1900]

Typed notes of Purviance biographical information  
from the donors

Joseph Wasson Purviance  
[watercolor portrait possibly copied from a  
photograph]

Mary Aletha VanHorn Purviance  
[watercolor portrait possibly copied from a  
photograph]

### CONTAINER

OVA Graphics:  
Box 1, Folder 1

OVA Graphics:  
Box 1, Folder 1

OVA Graphics:  
Box 1, Folder 1

OVA Graphics:  
Box 1, Folder 1

OVA Graphics:  
Box 1, Folder 2

OVA Graphics:  
Box 1

OVA Graphics:  
Box 1

## 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, P0327).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.