BOONE-DOUGLAS FAMILY
PAPERS, 1809-1891

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September 6, 2019

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 5 Manuscript Folders

COLLECTION DATES: 1809-1891

PROVENANCE: Purchased from Herman A. Schindler, Charleston, South Carolina, October 1949, October 1950, December 1950.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ACCESSION NUMBER: 1949.1023; 1950.1020; 1950.1224

NOTES:
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Benjamin Pennebaker Douglas and Victoria Boone were married on June 4, 1863 in the town of Corydon in Harrison County, Indiana. They had two children who lived to adulthood, William Boone Douglas and Mary Maude Douglas, born in 1864 and 1867 respectively. A third child, Annie Pope Douglas, died in infancy in 1870.

Benjamin Pennebaker Douglas, whose father Adam immigrated from Ireland to Virginia in 1812, was born in Newmarket, Virginia on July 22, 1820. Douglas then moved to Harrison County, Indiana in 1834. There he worked as an attorney, land surveyor, and Democratic politician. He held various public offices, including Harrison County Auditor in 1849, State Representative 1857-1859, County Clerk in 1868, and judge in the Third Indiana Judicial District. Douglas was also a partner in a general store in Corydon, Douglas Denbo and Company, which was looted by Confederate troops during Morgan’s Raid in 1863. He died in Corydon in 1904 at the age of 84.

Victoria Boone was born on July 11, 1837 at Sandy Farm, the extended Boone family’s home in Meade County, Kentucky, and grew up on her father Hiram Cassel Boone’s Indiana property in Harrison County. Victoria’s grandfather Samuel Boone was a cousin and associate of Daniel Boone, the famous Kentucky settler. Several members of the Boone family had settled in the Ohio River valley, and Victoria therefore had a large network of family and friends throughout southern Indiana and Kentucky, which she maintained through correspondence. Victoria died in 1885 at age 47.

Victoria and Benjamin’s son William Boone Douglas became an archaeologist, engineer, lawyer, and land surveyor in the Southwest United States. He studied Pueblo Native American archaeological sites in New Mexico and advocated for the formation of national parks and monuments throughout the Southwest to preserve the region’s natural beauty and archaeological value.

Sources:

Materials in the Collection


SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains legal documents and correspondence relating to the Boone and Douglas families from 1809-1891, with the bulk of the documents relating to Victoria and Benjamin Douglas from 1840-1870. Folder one contains legal documents and correspondence from the Boone family from 1813-1887, consisting mostly of indentures for land in Harrison County in the 1820s. Folder two contains Victoria Boone’s correspondence, largely with her Boone family relatives in Kentucky. One letter from Victoria’s husband Benjamin discusses the Emancipation Proclamation. Folder three contains Benjamin Douglas’s personal and professional correspondence, including local and state political matters. Folders four and five contain miscellaneous documents from Benjamin’s political career and legal practice pertaining to other residents and businesses in Harrison County.
CONTENTS

Legal indenture for sale of two lots in Corydon, IN from Henry and Rebecca Heth for $1 to the city of Corydon. July 28th, 1813.

Legal indenture for sale of lot number 84 in Corydon, IN for $110 from Moses Boone and wife to William McIntosh. October 3rd, 1818.

Boone and Luckett marriage authorization, Harrison County. December 21st, 1823.

Legal indenture for sale of 103 acres of land in Harrison County from John and Lucy Boone to James Bell for $550. January 25th, 1823.

Legal indenture for sale of Lot 25 in Laconia, IN from John and Lucy Boone to Jesse Marsh. January 25th, 1823.

Legal indenture for sale of lot number 16 in Laconia, IN, from George and Lucy Boone to Nancy Ann Fritts. May 22nd, 1826.

Letter from John Boone to his brother H.C. Boone in Kentucky. January 8th, 1826.

Land sale of 10 acres from W.P. Boone to H.C. Boone for $300 per acre. September 29th, 1853.

Letter from W.P. Boone in Louisville to his uncle H.C. Boone in Indiana, discussing a legal dispute over land and asking for a history of the Indiana branch of the Boone family. April 10th, 1856.

Letter to Allie Luckett, William Boone Douglas’s future wife, from her sister. September 25, 1887.

Letter to Victoria Boone from her cousin Robert Boone discussing his plans for the Fourth of July. June 12th, 1855.

Letter to Victoria Boone from Clemmie at Sandy Farms containing family news and asking for Victoria to send her flower seeds. April 17\textsuperscript{th}, 1852.

Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Boone from Robert Boone describing his time at a ball. July 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 1852.

Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Boone from Robert Boone in Paducah, KY discussing his social life. July 3\textsuperscript{rd}, 1853.

Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Boone from her brother W.B. Boone describing his trip to Memphis. TN. 1855.

Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Boone from a friend. June 7\textsuperscript{th}, 1857.

Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Boone from her future husband Benjamin Douglas discussing Christmas celebrations. December 24th, 1857

Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Boone from A.J. Johnson. April 30\textsuperscript{th}, 1858.

Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Boone from her sister Mallie Boone discussing the valentines they have received. February 20\textsuperscript{th}, 1858.

Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Boone from her sister. July 1\textsuperscript{st}, 1859.

Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Boone from her cousin which mentions the death of Benjamin Douglas’s first wife Annie Pope. 1859.

Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Boone from W.S. Hooper in Paoli, IN thanking her for her donation of several books about Methodism. October 30\textsuperscript{th}, 1859.

Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Boone from her sister Mallie H. Boone. December 17\textsuperscript{th}, 1860

Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Boone from A.J. Johnson. May 25\textsuperscript{th}, 1860.

Folder 2

Letter from Victoria Douglas to her sister describing her Christmas celebrations. January 15, 1884.

Folder 2

Letter from Victoria Douglas to Jean. September 13\textsuperscript{th}, 1882.

Folder 2
Letter to Victoria Douglas from her sister Mallie. N.d. Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Douglas from her brother H.C. Boone discussing his new homestead and his desire for companionship. September 20th, 1868.

Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Douglas from her friend Eliza, who has been hired by a new school with over 300 students. September 7th, 1866.

Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Boone from Benjamin Douglas 5 months before their marriage, mentioning events surrounding the Civil War, including the Emancipation Proclamation and the Battle of Murfreesboro. January 4th, 1863.

Folder 2

Letter to Victoria Douglas from a cousin, informing Victoria of the death of the cousin’s daughter and expressing condolences for a fire that destroyed some of Victoria’s husband Benjamin’s property. N.d.

Folder 2

Letter to Benjamin Douglas offering honorary membership in the Philomathean Society of Indiana University. N.d.

Folder 3

Letter to Benjamin Douglas from his uncle William Douglas in Laconia, asking to be unsubscribed from the Corydon Democrat newspaper, telling of his health issues, and discussing a political scandal. June 24th, 1867.

Folder 3

Letter fragment to Benjamin Douglas from his sister Charlotte, containing family news. N.d.

Folder 3

Letter to Benjamin Douglas from unknown sender. N.d.

Folder 3


Folder 3


Folder 3

Letter to Benjamin Douglas from his first wife Annie, written on her 23rd birthday and their third wedding anniversary. July 31st, 1858.

Sworn testimony from Benjamin Douglas’s business partners, employees, and other witnesses on the value of goods stolen from the Douglas Denbo and Company store by Confederate troops during Morgan’s Raid in 1863. The estimated value of the goods taken was $4,178. December 24th, 1864.

Legal documents relating to a lawsuit over a land dispute between James Harding and Mahala Elsey. N.d.

Letter to Benjamin Douglas from a fellow Democrat asking him to form a political alliance with a Mr. Collins of Washington County, in order to prevent the Republicans from winning a judicial election. Collins and Douglas were running as Democrats and splitting the vote. August 25th, 1873.

Letter from Benjamin Douglas to Judge George V. Howk in Indianapolis, asking when his court will be in session so that Douglas can file a case before it adjourns. Also includes Howk’s response. June 16th, 1879.


Letter to B.P. Douglas from John Newlin. May 18th, 1883.

Letter to B.P. Douglas from a friend. September 13th, 1883.

Letter to B.P. Douglas from his sister Kate Bartley expressing condolences for the death of his wife Victoria. June 8th, 1885.

Letter from B.P. Douglas to his daughter Maude telling her about his trip to Louisville to visit members of the Boone family. January 26th, 1891.
United States Internal Revenue receipt for the payment of $21.10 in Excise Tax by B.P. Douglas. May 1st, 1863. Folder 3

Adams Express Company receipt for the delivery of $160 from B.P. Douglas in New Albany, IN to George Thompson in Whitestown, IN. October 2nd, 1872. Folder 3

Receipt for tuition for Alfred Pope paid by B.P. Douglas. September 1, 1859. Folder 3

Tax receipt for Harrison County property tax, paid by Adam Douglas’s heir. 1855. Folder 3

Letter from J.H. Thompson, Secretary of State of Indiana, to a Mr. Ford. May 4th, 1847. Folder 4

Request for proposals from contractors for an iron bridge across Indian Creek in Corydon, IN. December 6th, 1877. Folder 4

Circular from C.D. Caldwell of Zanesville, Ohio regarding iron bridges, sent to the County Auditor in Corydon, IN. March 2nd, 1868. Folder 4

Price list from The Smith Bridge Company for an iron truss bridge, n.d. Folder 4

Incorporation document for The Oolite Stone Company. September 16th, 1878. Folder 4

Letter from U.S. Senator from Indiana Daniel W. Voorhees, ensuring a constituent from New Albany ensuring them that he is working to pass a bill approving the construction of a government building in New Albany after just passing a bill to construct one in Terre Haute. March 26th, 1882. Folder 4

Letter from the Indiana delegation in Congress to the President recommending S.M. Stockslager for the position of Commissioner of the General Land Office. March 20th, 1885. Folder 4

Document from Indiana Governor James Whitcomb confirming James Giles as sheriff of Harrison County. August 20th, 1844. Folder 4
Legal document for sale of 160 acres to Samuel Sands for $315. December 1809.  

Legal document for sale of horses, cows, and household goods from Peter Vandevender to Jacob Thesmer for $125.67. March 27th, 1815.  

Document confirming Richard Heth as county clerk for Harrison County. April 28th, 1817.  

Legal document for monetary dispute between several Harrison County residents. May 21st, 1819.  

Land deed for sale of lots number 22 and 23 in Elizabeth, Indiana from Jacob and Susannah Zenor to William Jeffery for $25. March 20th, 1818.  

Land deed for sale of plot 100 in Corydon, IN from Davis and Elizabeth Floyd to Daniel French and John Tipton for $300. January 4th, 1819.  

Deed for sale of land from Caleb and Elizabeth Harrison to Benjamin Roll for $550. March 29th, 1820.  

Land deed for sale of 160 acres from James and Leah Miller to Isaac Kinzer for $418. May 6th, 1823.  

Land deed for sale of lot number 164 in Corydon, IN from Davis and Elizabeth Floyd to the Master and Wardens of Pisgah Lodge No. 5 for $100. May 21st, 1823.  

Indenture for sale of a plot of land from William and Elizabeth Boone to trustees of the Indian Creek Baptist Church for $5. April 28th, 1827.  

Legal document for lawsuit filed by the Corydon Steam Mill Company against David Bartley for $1,618.50 in unpaid debts. February 27th, 1836.  

Legal document in which John and Matilda Tipton give their lawyer Dennis Pennington power of attorney to sell or rent their land in Jefferson and Harrison Counties. August 23rd, 1838.  

Payment of $14 from Governor David Wallace to Thomas Fearis. February 2nd, 1838.
Indenture for sale of 160 acres in Harrison County from Thomas Posey to C. Likens for $640. April 8th, 1846.

Indenture for sale of parts of several lots in Corydon, IN from Thomas Posey to Frederick H. Lamping for $150. December 28th, 1846.

Indenture for sale of land from Smith and Emily Blythe to Cornelia Green for $1. January 6th, 1866.