

Collection #
SC 0110

**BOONE-DOUGLAS FAMILY
PAPERS, 1809-1891**

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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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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Arville L. Funk, William H. Roose. *Indiana's Birthplace; A History of Harrison County, Indiana*. F532.H4 R6 1966

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

Spraker, Hazel Atterbury. *The Boone Family: a genealogical history of the descendants of George and Mary Boone, who came to America in 1717*. Tuttle Co., 1922. 160-61, 228, 518-19.

Wayland, John Walter. *A History of Shenandoah County, Virginia*. Genealogical Publishing Company, 1980. 598-99.

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.

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