CAROLINE DUNN
COLLECTION, CA. 1870–1992

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Manuscript and Visual 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:
Manuscript Materials: 2 document cases, 2 oversize folders
Visual Materials: 1 box of photographs, 4 folders of color photographs, 1 OVA box of graphic works
Artifacts: 2 items

COLLECTION: Ca. 1870–1992
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Caroline Dunn (1903–1994) was born in Indianapolis, the daughter of Jacob Piatt Dunn and Charlotte Elliott Jones Dunn. Her father was State Librarian, secretary of the Indiana Historical Society, and author of *Greater Indianapolis* (1910) and *Indiana and Indianans* (1919).

Caroline Dunn attended Benjamin Harrison School #2 in Indianapolis and graduated from Shortridge High School and from Butler University (A.B. 1923). While in college she worked in the Children’s Department of the Indianapolis Public Library. After college she worked four years in the School Libraries Department of the Indianapolis Library; she then went to Columbia University, earning a library science degree in 1928.

From 1928 to 1936 Caroline Dunn was librarian of the public library in Connersville. In 1936 she returned to Indianapolis as reference librarian at the State Library, and from 1939 to 1973 she was also librarian of the W. H. Smith Library of Indiana Historical Society. She also served from 1940 to 1990 as secretary of the Society of Indiana Pioneers.

In 1970 Indiana University, as part of the dedication of its new library, gave Miss Dunn the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. She was a longtime member of the First Presbyterian Church, and an active member of the Indianapolis Woman’s Club. She wrote many short articles. Her longest work was a booklet published in 1937 on her father’s work on the language of the Miami Indians.

Jacob Piatt Dunn, Jr., (12 April 1855–6 June 1924) was born in Lawrenceburg, Indiana and moved to Indianapolis in 1861. He graduated from Earlham College (1874) and the University of Michigan. Dunn’s career included practicing law in Indianapolis, and prospecting for silver and working as a news reporter in Colorado. Dunn is recognized as a historian, journalist, politician, and ethnologist. He published a large number of historical works, and as an ethnologist he studied the Miami language and created a dictionary.

Aquilla Jones a native of North Carolina born 8 July 1811 spent his later years as a state treasurer and member of the
legislature. A personal friend of vice president Thomas Hendricks, he was also appointed postmaster at Indianapolis. He was married twice, first in 1836 to Sarah Ann Arnold, she died soon after, then in 1840 he married Harriet Cox. They were the aunt and uncle of Caroline Dunn’s mother.

Sources:
Materials in the collection.
Ancestry.com *United States Federal Census*

**SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains correspondence, club and church papers, historical notes, travel materials, and photographs and prints from the period 1875–1992.

Series 1 contains Correspondence arranged chronologically, 1887–1992. Within it are postcards written by her father to her when she was a child. There are also Christmas cards from various years including some made by her friend Indiana artist Floyd Hopper.

Series 2 Papers hold some records of Dunn’s school and college work. There is a copy of her 1937 booklet on her father’s work in the Miami language, records of her honorary doctorate at Indiana University in 1970, a Woman’s Club paper of 1992 containing reminiscences of older club members including Dunn.

Series 3 Historical Notes contains historical notes, several of these are about personal experiences, records of the Society of Indiana Pioneers, and families.

The collection concludes with Series 4, Visual Materials and Artifacts. The photographs date from the 1870s to the 1960s. The formats represented include cabinet cards, cartes de visite, tintypes and studio portraits. There are photographs of Caroline Dunn alone and in groups, of family groups, of summer resorts in New York and Wisconsin. There are also portraits of Caroline’s parents and other family members, including Aquilla and Harriet Jones, as well as friends of her parents.

Other photographs include early views of Indianapolis and the Dunn home, and color snapshots of the City-County Building and tunnel to the State Office Building under construction in 1960. The collection also contains postcards of Indiana scenes and the 1913 flood in Indianapolis, and original and reproduction graphic works.

The two artifacts are an Onyx clock and candelabra. These were gifts to Jacob Piatt Dunn, Jr. and Charlotte Elliott Jones from officials at the State House at the time of their marriage on 23 November 1892.

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Christmas cards, 1927, 1941, n.d. [Frederick Polley and others], Box 1, Folder 15
Christmas Greetings 1956 Frederick Polley 606 East Edwards Ave. Indianapolis, First State Capitol at Corydon [color woodcut print], OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 1

Series 2: Papers, 1915–1992

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Correspondence concerning honorary degree at Indiana University, 1970, Box 1, Folder 23
Honorary degree at Indiana University, 1970, OM 0099, Folder 1
Honorary degree congratulatory letters, Box 1, Folder 24
10/4/1970


Caroline Dunn in cap and gown, [1970]

Indiana University Alumni Association, 1971

Retirement, 1973

Certificate, Society of Indiana Pioneers, 1975

Trips—Aurora and Lawrenceburg, Indiana, 1975

European trip, 1975

Snapshots of European trip, 1975

Scandinavian trip, 1976

European trip, 1977

Election of Jacob Piatt Dunn to Indiana Academy, 1978

Indianapolis Woman’s Club October 16, 1992 “Past Friday’s Voices” [paper about Caroline Dunn and other members]

Series 3: Historical Notes,

CONTENTS

Historical notes, n.d.

Paper and notes on Connersville

Papers: “History,” “Fords I Have Known”, “April 3,” Old Union Cemetery [1975]

Notes for talk on historical sources

Notes on the song “Home on the Range”

Short paper about Indianapolis Public Library from 1919–1923

Notes: Markle family of Vigo County

Notes : Mount Vernon, Ind., ca. 1960

Notes : Wishard family, ca. 1988
Notes: Zionsville, Ind., 1987 
Notes from journals at Indiana State Library 
First-Meridian Heights Presbyterian Church, 1944–1975 
Society of Indiana Pioneers, 1930–1992 
Notes for Pioneers handbook 
Portfolio Club: papers laid in programs, 1984–1988 
Mary E. Studebaker and Robert Carleton Fox on his birthday 7 Oct. 1976 
Mary E. Studebaker photo from Christmas card, 1977 
Transcript of letters of Dr. William Sackville, 1874–1907 
Piatt Castles, West Liberty, Ohio 
Clippings, 1892–1972, n.d. 

**Series 4: Visual Materials and Artifacts, ca. 1875–1979, n.d.**

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Caroline Dunn, 1941–1979 
Caroline Dunn and family, ca. 1900–1910 
Caroline in family groups, 1920s 
Caroline Dunn in groups, 1926–1946 
School groups, ca. 1910–1919 
Jacob Piatt Dunn, ca. 1880–ca. 1919 
Jacob Piatt Dunn [metal plate engraving, n.d.] 
Charlotte Jones Dunn, ca. 1875–ca. 1890 

**CONTAINER**

Photographs: 
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Charlotte Jones Dunn and Jones family members, ca. 1875–1890 [tintypes]  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 8

Robert Jones, brother of Charlotte, ca. 1870s  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 9

Aquila and Harriet Jones, ca. 1870, uncle and aunt of Charlotte  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 10

Aquila Jones, ca. 1870 [enhanced photograph]  OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 2

Women friends of Charlotte Jones, ca. 1890s  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 11

Men friends of Charlotte Jones, ca. 1890s  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 12

Children of Charlotte’s friends or relatives?, ca. 1890s  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 13

Caroline Jane Lines, 1938–1953  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 14

Dunn residence at 915 N. Pennsylvania St., ca. 1890  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 15

1st Presbyterian Church, ca. 1890
Elevated view of Indianapolis, taken near University Park (NW of Second Pres. Church at Vermont/Pennsylvania) looking SE toward Marion County Courthouse, ca. 1890

Groups: not family, ca. 1920–1940s  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 16

Individuals: not family, 1915–1940s  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 17

Dunn family excursion in Morgan County, ca. 1910  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 18

Dunn family excursion at Plum Lake, Wisconsin, ca. 1910  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 19

Waldheim Camp, Big Moose, New York, photographs and postcards, ca. 1915  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 20

Fish Creek, Wisconsin, postcards, 1921  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 21

Caroline Dunn at Pokagon State Park, 1939  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 22

Postcards of Indianapolis during the 1913 Flood  Photographs: Box 1, Folder 23
Bedford, Indiana postcards, ca. 1960, Snoddy’s Mill, Fountain County, ca. 1960
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 24

Portrait of Caroline Dunn, unidentified photographs of women and couples, group portrait of Pennsylvania Railway workers, ca. 1910–1940
Photographs: Box 1, Folder 25

Construction photos of tunnel to State Office Building, State Library and Historical Building, April, May 1960
Color Photographs: Folder 4

Excavation for new City County Building, May 1960

*Defrichemens* (cleared land) [etching and relief half tone of rural scene with log cabin, three men clearing land of logs, print from book, 2 copies] n.d.
OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 3

*The Mustacheless Stranger* [ink drawing of a man seated at desk smoking a cigar, on verso note written “Gaar Williams. Cartoon in News. White Jape was City Controller. Mr. Williams sent it to me J.P.D.”] n.d.
OVA Graphics: Box 1, Folder 4

Onyx clock and candelabra, gifts to Jacob Piatt Dunn, Jr. and Charlotte Elliott Jones at the time of their marriage, 23 November 1892
Artifacts: 1991.0787X

**CATALOGING INFORMATION**

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

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, M 0667).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.