

Collection #
SC3665

**DIXON AND HUFFMAN FAMILY
COLLECTION, 1847 - 1894**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

Processed by

Samantha Cohron
November 2023

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: 2 manuscript folders, 3 photograph folders, 3 cased images, 1 printed item

COLLECTION DATES: 1847 – 1894

PROVENANCE: Gift of Susan Elba Campbell, Mountain Brook, Alabama, April 2023

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2023.0043

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Mary Eliza Dixon Huffman was born in Ohio on May 10, 1829 to Reverend William Dixon and Rachel Pearson Dixon. Following the death of her father in 1844, Mary and her mother moved to the town of Attica, Indiana. In 1848, Mary attended Fort Wayne Female College. The college was founded in 1846 by the Indiana Northern Conference Methodist Episcopal Church and later merged with Fort Wayne Medical College to form Taylor University. On August 2, 1849 Mary married Reverend Walter Light Huffman (1816 – 1891) in Fountain County, Indiana. Together, the couple had three known children, Elba, Albert, and Emma. Mary Eliza Dixon Huffman died on June 19, 1871 at the age of 42 in Peru, Indiana.

Reverend Walter Light Huffman was born June 5, 1816 in Tioga County, New York. In 1837, he moved to Crawfordsville, Indiana where he preached his first sermon. Shortly after, he became a travelling minister in the state of Indiana. During this time, he also served as an agent for what is now DePauw University in Greencastle. During his 52-year ministry, Reverend Walter Light Huffman is said to have preached over 1,300 funerals and married over 1,100 couples. The *Indianapolis Sentinel* named him as “one of the oldest and best known Methodist ministers in the West.” Reverend Walter Light Huffman died on May 15, 1891 at the age of 74 in Peru, Indiana.

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains photographs, correspondence, newspaper clippings, and a chemistry textbook related to Mary Eliza Dixon Huffman and her husband Reverend Walter Light Huffman. The correspondence includes letters from Walter Light Huffman to Mary Eliza Dixon Huffman shortly before their marriage in 1849, as well as letters from Rachel Pearson Dixon to her daughter. The newspaper clippings consist of the obituaries of Rachel Pearson Dixon, Mary Eliza Dixon Huffman, and Reverend Walter Light Huffman, as well as various clippings pertaining to the Dixon Huffman family spanning from 1885 to 1894. The collection also includes Mary's chemistry textbook from Fort Wayne Female College titled *Elements of Chemistry*.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Fort Wayne Female College Chemistry Book, 1847

Correspondence, 1849 – 1853.

Newspaper Clippings, 1855 – 1894.

Mary Eliza Dixon Huffman, ca. 1860s

Walter Light Huffman, circa late 1800s.

Hannah Mills Huffman, n.d.

Rachel Pearson Dixon, n.d.

Mary Eliza Dixon Huffman, n.d. [2 images]

CONTAINER

General Collection:
2023.0043

Folder 1 of 2

Folder 2 of 2

Photographs,
Folder 1 of 3

Photographs,
Folder 2 of 3

Photographs,
Folder 3 of 3

Cased Images

Cased Images