DUNN FAMILY
PAPERS, 1836-1924

Collection #
M 0090
OM 0105
BV 01083-1124, 2679

Table of Contents

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Processed by
Charles Latham
16 October 1993

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 manuscript boxes, 43 bound volumes, 4 small photograph boxes, 3 oversize items (6 linear feet)

COLLECTION DATES: 1836-1924

PROVENANCE: Unknown, before 1980

RESTRICTIONS: None

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

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

OTHER FINDING AIDS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1993.0493x

HISTORICAL SKETCH

George Grundy Dunn, Sr. (1812-1857), was born in Washington County, Kentucky. While a boy, he moved with his
family to Indiana, first settling in Monroe County and later moving to Lawrence County. Dunn attended Indiana
University, but left after a dispute with a professor during his third year. He then taught school in Switzerland County.
Later he returned to Bedford in Lawrence County where he studied law, served as principal of the Lawrence County
Seminary, and worked as a store clerk. In September 1835 Dunn was admitted to the bar and formed a partnership
with Col. R. W. Thompson. He married Julia Fell, daughter of Moses Fell and sister of Antoinette Fell, in 1841. The
following year he was elected prosecuting attorney for Lawrence County.

According to W. H. Smith, a former Indianapolis newspaperman who had heard a number of Dunn's speeches, Dunn
was noted for his strong convictions and for his mastery of invective and sarcasm. He was so successful as an attorney
that many other law firms gave up the Lawrence County segment of their practices. His impassioned oratory was also
considered a hallmark of his terms as a Congressman (Whig 1847-1849 and Republican 1855-1857) and as a State
Senator (1850-1852). He died after his second term in Congress.

Moses Fell Dunn (1843-1915), son of George Grundy Dunn, Sr., graduated from Hanover College in 1862, then
studied at Harvard University and in France and Germany. Fluent in several languages, he traveled extensively,
including several trips around the world and expeditions, primarily for fishing, throughout the United States. He
practiced law with his brother George Grundy Dunn, Jr. A Republican, he served in the state legislature in 1866. He
and his brother also operated a local limestone quarry. Never having married and leaving no family heirs, Moses Fell
Dunn left large amounts of land to Purdue University and to Bedford's Masonic Order. The Bedford city hospital was
renamed Dunn Hospital in his honor.

Little is known about George Grundy Dunn, Jr. (ca 1840-1891), who was perhaps eclipsed by his father and brother.
Apparently, however, he handled a substantial amount of the business of the law firm of Dunn and Dunn prior to his
death.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection, including 43 bound volumes, three manuscript boxes, and four small boxes of photographs, cover the
period 1836-1924. It is arranged by category and chronologically within category.

In Box 1, the first twenty-five bound volumes (BV 1083-1107) are account books and day books which cover the legal
business of George Grundy Dunn, Sr., until his death in 1857. The legal business of the succeeding firm, Dunn and
Dunn, is covered by the next six bound volumes (BV 1108-1112, 2679) and material in Folders 34-48, which contain
legal papers largely from the 1880s.

In Box 2 are seven folders (Folders 1-7) of correspondence. Folder 5 shows that during 1887 John A. Reed, a coal
merchant of Minneapolis, made George G. Dunn, Jr., a sort of guardian for his son Will Reed, who was wandering
about the East trying to "find himself." Folder 8 contains miscellaneous mementos of travel through Europe in 1888
and 1890, probably by Moses Fell Dunn, who at some point gave travel lectures, one dollar for a series of three.

Folders 9-13 of Box 2 contain receipts and miscellaneous papers. BV 1114-1124 contain account and day books of an
unidentified law firm which apparently succeeded Dunn and Dunn after 1915. Folder 26 contains occasional verse by
E. Antoinette Fell, sister of Mrs. Dunn, Sr. Ten personal notebooks, full of aphorisms and historical notes, probably by
Moses Fell Dunn are in Folder 28 of Box 2 and in Box 3.

In Boxes 4-7, stored in Visual Collections, are cartes de visite photographs apparently taken or collected by Moses Fell
Dunn during his travels. These are mainly from India and the Far East, and include buildings, individuals, and groups,
as well as some unusual objects.

There are three oversized documents in the collection, in OM 105. All relate to Moses Fell Dunn. In Folder 1 is a
certificate of membership in the Union Literary Society of Hanover College, dated 1860. In Folder 2 is his diploma
from Hanover, dated 1862. Folder 3 contains his 1894 passport, signed by Secretary of State Walter Q. Gresham.
BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

BOX 1: Legal records, 1836-1915
Records of George Grundy Dunn, Sr.

Folder Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>(BV 1083) Account book</td>
<td>12-3-1836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>(BV 1084) Account book</td>
<td>8-27-1832 to 8-28-1834</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>(BV 1085) Account book</td>
<td>4-14-1834 to 4-8-1839</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>(BV 1086) Account book</td>
<td>6-3-1835 to 9-14-1842</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>(BV 1087) Account book</td>
<td>1-27-1836 to 1-20-1840</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>(BV 1088) Account book</td>
<td>3-7-1837 to 11-7-1845</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>(BV 1089) Account book</td>
<td>2-20-1839 to 3-18-1842</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>(BV 1090) Account book</td>
<td>3-4-1839 to 11-13-1842</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>(BV 1091) Account book</td>
<td>5-4-1839 to 10-9-1840</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>(BV 1092) Account book</td>
<td>11-1-1839 to 6-13-1840</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>(BV 1093) Account book</td>
<td>1-7-1840 to 2-12-1841</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>(BV 1094) Account book</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>(BV 1095) Account book</td>
<td>5-4-1840 to 5-28-1842</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>(BV 1096) Account book</td>
<td>7-1-1840 to 8-19-1840</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>(BV 1097) Day book</td>
<td>9-1-1840 to 4-7-1847</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>(BV 1098) Account book</td>
<td>10-10-1840 to 4-13-1841</td>
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<td>(BV 1099) Account book</td>
<td>3-20-1841 to 10-21-1841</td>
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<td>(BV 1100) Account book</td>
<td>4-14-1841 to 8-31-1845</td>
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<td>(BV 1101) Account book</td>
<td>7-5-1841 to 9-1-1844</td>
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<td>(BV 1102) Account book</td>
<td>7-5-1841 to 3-20-1855</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>(BV 1103) Account book</td>
<td>10-23-1841 to 8-12-1844</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>(BV 1104) Account book</td>
<td>ca 1841</td>
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<td>(BV 1105) Account book</td>
<td>1-4-1842 to 9-22-1852</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>(BV 1106) Account book</td>
<td>1-1-1846 to 5-25-1850</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>(BV 1107) Account book</td>
<td>6-2-1851 to 6-23-1851</td>
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Records of Dunn and Dunn
(BV 1108) Account book -- 8-1-1856 - 12-24-1887
(BV 1109) Account book -- ca 1866
(BV 1110) Account book -- 5-12-1882 - 9-23-1889
(BV 1111) Account book -- 2-11-1913 - 12-13-1913
(BV 1112) Account book -- 12-20-1913 - 10-10-1914
(BV 1113) Prose/poetry
Index to cases n.d.
List of notes and accounts n.d.
(BV 2679) Case book 1853-1863
Papers from case book
Docket 1880, 1881
Legal papers -- real estate 1830-1889
Legal papers -- collections 1857
Legal papers -- civil war pensions 1865-1868
Legal papers -- judgments, affidavits 1867-1889
Legal papers -- estates 1871-1889
Legal papers -- insurance 1878-1886
Legal papers -- Gaar, Smith & Co. 1882-1889
Legal papers -- collections -- Mercantile Agency 1882-1886
Legal papers -- collections -- other agencies 1882-1889
Legal papers -- collections -- business and individual 1882-1889
Legal papers -- railroads 1882-1889
Legal papers -- miscellaneous 83-18

BOX 2: Correspondence; other; later legal business

Folder Contents

1 Correspondence-- clients and others 1880-1889
2 Correspondence -- clerks and lawyers 1876-1889
3 Correspondence -- Thos. C. Day & Co. 1884-1885
4 Correspondence -- Field, Thayer & Co. 1885
Correspondence -- John A. Reed 1887
Correspondence -- family and personal 1857-1890
Personal business 1882, 1887
Travel in Europe 1888, 1890
Receipts 1881-1891
Receipts-- Bedford taxes 1870-1891
Receipts-- commercial
Miscellaneous papers
Non-legal papers

Unidentified records

(BV 1114) Account book-- 10-24-1907 - 8-1-1921
(BV 1116) Account book-- 2-2-1914 - 12-26-1917
(BV 1117) Account book-- 5-11-1914 - 7-14-1921
(BV 1118) Day book-- 1914-1917
(BV 1119) Account book-- 6-6-1916 - 12-30-1916
(BV 1120) Account book-- 1-1-1917 - 6-8-1917
(BV 1121) Account book-- 10-19-1918 - 3-3-1919
(BV 1122) Account book-- 3-4-1919 - 8-12-1919
(BV 1123) Day book-- 8-14-1919 - 6-26-1922
(BV 1124) Day book-- 7-1922 - 8-1924
Clippings
Verse by E. Antoinette Fell ca 1889
Short story fragment-- "An evening in a tea garden"
Three personal notebooks

BOX 3: Personal notebooks
Folder Contents

Three personal notebooks
Two personal notebooks
Two personal notebooks

BOX 4 (VC) Cartes de visite of world travels
BOX 5 (VC) Cartes de visite of world travels
BOX 6 (VC) Cartes de visite of world travels
BOX 7 (VC) Cartes de visite of world travels

OVERSIZE-OM 105
Folder Contents

1    Moses F. Dunn-- Union Literary Society membership, 1860
2    Moses F. Dunn -- diploma, Hanover College 1862
3    Moses F. Dunn -- passport, 1894

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
2. Click on the "Local Catalog" icon.
3. Search for the collection by its call number, using the letter or letters designation and four digits (e.g., M 0715, SC 2234).
4. When you find the collection, go to the "Holdings" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.

END