

Collection #
SC 3656

**IVA JORDAN
COLLECTION, CA. 1890S-1910S**

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

Processed by

Maire Gurevitz
January 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:** 3 manuscript folders

**COLLECTION
DATES:** ca. 1890s-1910s

PROVENANCE: Gift of Marilyn Finn, Newman, IL

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:** 2020.0098

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Iva Jordan (1872-1944) was born to Isaac Jordan and Margaret Barsham Jordan in Helt Township, Vermillion County, Indiana. She had a younger brother, William, and the family had a farm. Letters in the collection indicate that Jordan may have received her training to be a teacher at the Indiana State Normal School in Terre Haute, Indiana. Upon her graduation, Iva worked as a teacher in Dana, Indiana. Noted Hoosier journalist Ernie Pyle was her student, and he mentioned her on a couple of occasions in his column, usually extolling the virtues of the community created by the citizens of Dana. In one column, he notes that Iva and her sister-in-law came to his family's aid after his mother had a stroke. Iva helped do the washing and ironing and the sisters brought food over. In another, he highlights the Jordan sisters and how it is difficult for them to find help around the house and farm, as most young men are away and engaged in the war effort.

Sources:

"Ernie Pyle." *The Times-Mail*. 16 November 1943, Page 4.

Ancestry.com

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains correspondence received by Iva Jordan from friends and acquaintances over the span of almost thirty years, as well as checks cashed by Jordan at the Dana State Bank in 1917. Most correspondents seem to be other teachers, perhaps former classmates of Iva's from the Indiana State Normal School. They discuss their current teaching roles and share news of mutual friends.

Of particular interest is a letter sent to Iva on January 1st, 1893 from Lulu Williams, also a teacher, of Rolling Prairie, Indiana. In this letter, Williams seems to be responding to a letter from Iva Jordan discussing "women's rights" and suffrage. Williams then goes on to explain her personal thoughts about women's place in society and voting. She also questions the validity of immigrant and Black men having the right to vote when white women do not. A letter dated July 7, 1902 from F.J. Kimball, a former colleague at the Dana school and eventual Superintendent of Marion, Indiana schools, contains a description of Indiana University, where Kimball decided to continue his education. Another letter from Lulu Williams, in February 1903, mentions attending a party at the local doctor's house and having X-rays taken as a party trick. Williams writes about the strange feeling of seeing her own bones, and comments that she might need to give up corporal punishment in the classroom because where once she thought she was powerful, she now sees that her bones are small. At this time, Williams lived in Marion, Indiana, during the time of the natural gas boom, and she mentions that a restaurant she used to frequent for meals, The Palace, was blown up by a gas explosion.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Correspondence, n.d.

Correspondence, 1890-1913

Signed Checks from State Bank of Dana, 1917

CONTAINER

Folder 1 of 3

Folder 2 of 3

Folder 3 of 3