

Collection #:
M 0789,
BV 3460–3468

**LORENZO DOW BROWN
JOURNALS AND TRANSCRIPTIONS
1859–2001 (BULK 1859–1894)**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	6 document cases, 9 bound volumes, 2 CD-ROMs
COLLECTION	1859–2001 (bulk 1859–1894)

DATES:

PROVENANCE: Carol Hite Andersen, Arlington Heights, IL 60005, 5 November 2001

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2002.0023

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lorenzo Dow Brown was born on 7 August 1839 in Montmorenci, Indiana. He was the fourth and last child of Mary and Michael Brown. His siblings were two brothers, Simon and Wesley, and a sister, Sarah E. (born in 1837). Before his birth, Lorenzo's parents had migrated 800 miles from Virginia to Montmorenci, where they owned a farm of over 160 acres.

The earliest of Lorenzo Dow Brown's daily journals is from 1859. In the beginning his journals were small, consisting of a few sentences for each day's events. After he married Mary Elizabeth Robinson in 1861 and his family grew, the entries in his journals also grew larger. Lorenzo and Mary Brown had eight children, two of whom died at birth. The others were John (1862-1933), Thaddeus Stevens (1866-1954), Mary June (1870-98), May Lily (1874-1960), Elizabeth Rebecca (1877-1948), and Edith (1879-1962).

Several aspects of Brown's life are reflected in his journals. He was very devoted to Christianity and a member of the Wesleyan congregation. In some of his diaries he speaks about religious issues. For example, he didn't accept Christmas as a holiday and states that it was an invention of the Pope and the Catholic Church, and he promises to fight them. Another theme in the journals is Brown's passion for inventions, some of which were patented. Among his inventions was a "wheel vehicle" that resisted tipping (Patent # 41,476; 9 February 1864).

According to the journals Lorenzo Dow Brown had problems with his family members: he speaks about his wife Mary not obeying him, and he writes about his son Thaddeus, who left home desiring to study without saying anything to his parents.

Lorenzo Dow Brown lived in Montmorenci until 1892, when he and his family moved to Elkhart, Indiana. His journals continue until 1894. Brown died at the age of 60 in Elkhart, on 16 September 1899. His wife Mary died in Elkhart on 15 September 1902.

Sources:

Information in the collection, specifically the preface to the transcriptions and biographical sketches of family

members was written by Carol Andersen (Box 6, Folder 9).
1860 Indiana Census, Tippecanoe Country.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains thirty journals written by Lorenzo Dow Brown during the period 1859–94. Journals for the years 1861, 1862, 1869 and, 1874 are missing from the collection.

The collection includes thirty-two transcriptions of the journals made by Carol Hite Andersen, great-granddaughter of Lorenzo Dow Brown and donor of the collection, between 1993 and 2001. Each transcription includes a detailed index done by Andersen.

The collection also includes compilations from the journals (made by Carol Andersen) on the following topics:

- “The true story of the wheel vehicle of Lorenzo Brown” (with copies of schemes and other primary sources)
- “Writings of Lorenzo Dow Brown Between 1873 to 1893”
- “Inventions”

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Journals, 1859–94

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Series 2: Transcriptions and Indexes to the Journals for 1859–94

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Transcription and Index, 1893	Box 6, Folder 7
Transcription and Index, 1894	Box 6, Folder 8

Series 3: Writings of Carol Andersen and Compilations from the Journals, 1993-2001

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“Preface,” “From the Journal of Lorenzo Dow Brown,” “What Happened to Lorenzo and Mary and the Children?” and other writings of Carol Andersen on Lorenzo Dow Brown	Box 6, Folder 9
The True Story of the Wheel Vehicle of Lorenzo Dow Brown” [includes patents, advertisements]	Box 6, Folder 10
“Writings of Lorenzo Down Brown Between 1873 to 1879” [includes photocopied published articles]	Box 6, Folder 11
Inventions, including the wheel vehicle	Box 6, Folder 12

Series 4: CD-ROMs, containing files of transcriptions, 1993-2001

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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: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its call number using the letter or letters designation and four digits (in this case, M 0789).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.