PAUL DRESSER FRAGMENT, [1898?]  

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Processed by  
Charles Latham  
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USER INFORMATION  

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 item  
COLLECTION DATE [1898?]  
PROVENANCE: Forrest H. Sweet, Battle Creek, Michigan, 11 April 1941  
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  
ACCESSION NUMBER: 41.0404  

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH  

Paul Dresser (1857-1906), the older brother of novelist Theodore Dreiser, was born in Terre Haute, Indiana, the son of John Paul Dreiser and Sarah Schnab (Sarah May Schneppes). It was a blue-collar family, and Dresser (he changed his surname in 1873) had many jobs: in a woolen mill, a bakery, and a post office; as a pressman. He was sent to St. Meinrad's Seminary in southern Indiana, but ran away within a year to join a minstrel show selling Hamlin's Wizard Oil. After some time in minstrel shows, he wrote and acted in melodramas and farces.
Dresser was most famous for writing what became the state song of Indiana, "On the banks of the Wabash far away." He also wrote "My gal Sal" and others less well-known, such as "He fought for the cause he thought was right," "The letter that never came," and "The pardon that came too late." He died in Brooklyn.

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**SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection consists of one item, a manuscript fragment (three staves) of the score of "On the banks of the Wabash far away," signed by Dresser. An accompanying letter of 20 October 1898 from Howley, Haviland Co., 280-286 Broadway, New York, indicates the source.

**CATALOGUING INFORMATION**

MAIN ENTRY: Dresser, Paul, 1858-1906

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Dresser, Paul, 1858-1906

State songs--Indiana

Indiana--Songs and music

END