

Collection #
M 1121

THE GUIRL FAMILY IN INDIANA CA 1760s–2010

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Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box

COLLECTION
DATES: Ca. 1760s–2010

PROVENANCE: Gaia C. Guirl-Stearley, Villa Park, Illinois, 2010

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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

ALTERNATE
FORMATS: James Andrew Guirl Diaries, 1861–1863 (M 0452; F 1698).

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2010.0305

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The Guirl family history in Indiana can be traced back to Isaac Guirl (1813–1879) and Jane (Reddick) Guirl (1813–1888) who moved to Indiana from Ohio around 1855 with their five sons: William McGowan (b. 1830), William H. (b. 1835), Charles Augusten (b. 1836), James Andrew (b. 1841) and Abner Judson Guirl (b. 1846). The descendants of Charles Augusten later went on to become prominent businessmen in Clay County, Indiana, from the 1890s to the early 1920s.

The manuscript contains transcripts of the following: the Civil War diaries of James Andrew Guirl, and the memoirs of Abner Judson Guirl and Paul Raymond Guirl.

James Andrew Guirl (1841–1868) was born in Mt. Union, Ohio, the fourth son of Isaac and Jane (Reddick) Guirl. James Andrew moved to San Jacinto in Jennings County, Indiana, and lived there until he enlisted in the Union Army on 4 July 1861. Originally enlisting with Captain Goody's company at Mt. Vernon, Indiana, James Andrew later transferred to Captain Dailey's 22nd Regiment of Indiana Volunteers. His military career was impeded by illness and a game leg, and he was officially discharged from the army due to his disability on 8 August 1863. After the war, he also made a trip to Butler County, Pennsylvania, to visit his Uncle T. J. Meyres and to work in the oil fields. He died a few years later on 20 December 1868, in Benville, Indiana.

Abner Judson Guirl (1846–1935) was born in Mt. Union, Ohio, the fifth and youngest son of Isaac and Jane (Reddick) Guirl. At the age of eight, Abner moved with his family to Jennings County, Indiana. He worked in a saw and flour mill for five years, then built up a timber business. Abner Judson married his first wife, Molly Farris, of Jennings County, Indiana, in 1869. Molly died of typhoid and pneumonia in 1874. Abner Johnson married his second wife, Emma Estella Lewis of Noblesville, Indiana, in 1883, and then went into the dry goods and grocery business. He traded his stock of goods and property for a farm in Sullivan County in 1890, and then traded his farm for property in Clay County, Indiana, in 1902.

Paul Raymond Guirl (1891–1978) was born in Kirkland, Indiana, the son of Benjamin Morton Guirl and Blache (Nickey Guirl). His family moved to Illinois while he was still a child. He served in World War I in the 33rd Division. In 1919, Paul married his sweetheart, Thelma, after having not seen her for over two years. Paul had a successful career machine-tool business for nearly forty years.

Sources:

Materials in the collection.

M 0452 Collection Guide.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of one genealogical manuscript entitled, "The Guirl Family in Indiana," written by donor Gaia C. Guirl-Stearley in 2010. The time period covered is from circa 1760s to 2010.

The manuscript includes a transcription of the diaries of James Andrew Guirl from 1861 to 1863. The original diaries of James Andrew Guirl are in the Indiana Historical Society's collection (M 0452). The diaries are also available on microfilm (F 1698).

The manuscript is divided into five folders.

The first folder contains the cover, table of contents, a list of families related to the Guirl family by marriage, origins of the name Guirl, recollections of Jane Reddick Guirl (b.1813-d.1888) from the memories of her sons James Andrew and Abner Judson Guirl, and biographical information for the first five generations of Guirls.

The second folder contains the transcription of the diaries written from 1861 to 1863 by James Andrew Guirl (b. 1841–d. 1868), a Union soldier in the Civil War.

The third folder contains biographical information for the Indiana soldiers mentioned in the diaries of James Andrew Guirl; biographical information for the Indiana, Ohio, and Pennsylvania families mentioned in the writings of both James Andrew Guirl and Abner Judson Guirl; the memoir of Abner Judson Guirl, written circa 1930; excerpts from *A History of Clay County* (1909) for Benjamin M. Guirl and William Henry Guirl; biographical information for the sons of Charles Augusten Guirl; and records of the Guirl family contributions to Clay County, 1891–1921.

The fourth folder contains lists of Guirl marriages and births in Clay County, Indiana. The folder also contains the letters written by Charles James Guirl from 1918 to 1919, an article about the suicide of Charles James Guirl, and biographical information about Ethel Belle James, the estranged wife of Charles James Guirl.

The fifth folder contains biographical information for the sixth, seventh, and eighth generations of the Guirl family, a memoir written by Paul R. Guirl in 1975, and an afterword by author Gaia C. Guirl-Stearley.

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[Transcript of the Diaries of Andrew James Guirl,
1861–63. Pages 21–158]

Box 1, Folder 2

Manuscript: "The Guirl Family in Indiana," 2010
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Box 1, Folder 3

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Box 1, Folder 4

Manuscript: "The Guirl Family in Indiana," 2010
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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://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1121).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.