

Collection #
M0846

TURPIN FAMILY PAPERS, CA. 1860–1949

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Processed by

Kathryn M. Wilmot
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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:	1 half size document case
COLLECTION DATES:	1860–1949 (bulk ca. 1860–1900)
PROVENANCE:	Raymond M. Featherstone, Jr., Indianapolis, IN, December 2004.
RESTRICTIONS:	None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2005.0078

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The correspondence and documents contained in this collection originated from seven interrelated families; namely, the Turpins, Brocks, Gliddens, Richardsons, Warrens, Browns, and Walkers.

Robison Turpin was a farmer and teamster, born in 1805 in Bourbon County, Kentucky. In 1827 he married Rachel Powell, born in 1807. In 1834, Robison and Rachel became early settlers of Lincoln Township, Hendricks County, Indiana when they purchased land near present day Clermont. Rachel and Robison remained in Indiana until their deaths; hers in July 1880 and his on August 31, 1880. The Turpins had at least nine children: Jacob, Doctor, Harvey, Harrison, Elizabeth, John W. G., Anderson, Martha, and Henry.

Much of the Turpin material in the collection relates to the descendants of Henry Turpin, his wife Amelia Ellen Brock, and the Brock side of the family. Son of Robison Turpin, Henry Turpin was born on January 11, 1835 in Hendricks County, Indiana. He worked on his father's farm, taught school, and served in the Civil War in Company I, Seventh Indiana Infantry, and Company G, Twentieth Indiana Infantry. Henry began service in 1862 and his regiments participated in the battles of Second Bull Run, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, and the Battle of the Wilderness, where he was wounded. In November 1865, Henry married Amelia Ellen Brock (born January 7, 1845 in Kentucky), daughter of Leland Brock and Amanda Goddard. The couple had three children: Cora B., born September 7, 1866; Willie C., born April 24, 1868; George H., born February 24, 1874. The 1885 *History of Hendricks County, Indiana* states that Henry Turpin "ranks among leading farmers of Lincoln Township, and is owner of 200 acres of land." Henry Turpin died on April 16, 1909, followed by Ellen on January 5, 1933.

Ellen's brother, Joseph F. Brock was born on March 18, 1854 in Kentucky. Orphaned at the age of six, Joseph lived in Decatur County, Indiana, and in 1879 moved to Shelby County, Iowa. Joseph owned a watch making and jewelry shop at 520 East Market Street in Harlan, Iowa. In 1881, he married Anna L. Peterson, born August 27, 1862. Joseph and Anna had two children, Ivy G. Brock and Frank P. Brock. The family moved to Enterprise, Mississippi around 1897 and subsequently to Girard, Kansas by 1899. Joseph continued his jewelry trade in both locations. A letter from 1913 indicates Joseph had moved to Lawrence, Kansas and was practicing optometry.

The Glidden family is also represented within this collection. Thomas Jefferson Glidden was born ca. 1804 in Maine and later moved to Noble County, Ohio to practice farming. Jefferson's wife was Levina (or Lavina) Blake, born ca. 1809 in Ohio. Children of this marriage include: Francis F., born August 3, 1826; James, born ca. 1828; Russell, born ca. 1829; William, born ca. 1831; Mary, born ca. 1834; Mahala, born ca. 1838; John, born ca. 1844; Simeon, born ca. 1844; Melissa, born ca. 1847; Leonard, born ca. 1849; Theodore, born ca. 1851; Lillian, born October 3, 1854.

On April 2, 1845 in Belmont County, Ohio, Francis (Frank) F. Glidden married Margaret Westbrook, born ca. 1827.

Children of this marriage include: Lemuel, born ca. 1846, Miles, born ca. 1848; Martha, born ca. 1850, Lydia, born ca. 1851; Rhoda, born ca. 1853; Russel, born ca. 1858; James, born ca. 1859; Margaret, born ca. 1862; and Francis O, born ca. 1864. After the birth of their daughter Margaret, Frank and his wife moved to Indiana. During the Civil War, Frank was drafted into D Company, Indiana Twenty-fifth Infantry on October 5, 1864, and died of unknown wounds on February 4, 1865. Margaret is shown on the 1870 census as a widow living in Brown County, Indiana.

At least two of Jefferson Glidden's other sons also served in the Civil War. James (Jim) Glidden and Leonard Glidden both enlisted as privates in "A" Company, Ohio 161st Infantry on May 2, 1864. They were both wounded on July 6, 1864 at Maryland Heights, Maryland, but survived.

The Richardson family resided in Ohio. In Massachusetts in 1834, Charles Richardson, born 1808 in New Hampshire, married Floria (Flora) E. Hurlburt, born 1812 in New York. By 1839, the Richardsons had moved to Brecksville, Ohio. Their children included: James (Dennis), born January 2, 1848; Martha, born ca. 1842; Ennis, born ca. 1840; Lewis, born ca. 1845; Julia, born ca. 1839; Henry. Flora died in 1883.

In 1874, Dennis Richardson married Anna Maria Unongst Webber, born in Wisconsin in 1853. He served in Company M, 1st Regiment, U.S. Artillery (Regular Army) during the Civil War. Dennis died on August 20, 1892, followed by Anna on March 29, 1936. Dennis and Anna Richardson had eleven children: Florence Mae, Susan Fern, Edith Augusta, Mary Eliza, Lillian Martha, Carrie Belle, Ruby Winifred, Fred A., Harry Chester, James Victor, George Albert. Carrie Belle, known as Belle, was born in April 1887 and married O. Clark. She received her Ohio teaching certificate in April 1904 and was involved in the Berea, Ohio Rebekah Lodge.

The Warren family is represented in the collection via brothers Luke C. and John Weasley Warren. Their parents were John Warren, born July 6, 1790 in Canada, and Elizabeth Collins, born ca. 1799 in Johnson County, Indiana. John and Elizabeth had at least five children: Amanda M.; Neal; Minerva; John W. Warren, born November 2, 1821 in Johnson County; Luke C., born on April 5, 1830.

John W. Warren married Ellen Groseclose of Johnson County, IN on December 21, 1843. Between 1852 and 1856 they moved to Story County, Iowa, where John was employed as a farmer. The couple had at least four children: Elizabeth Catherine; Esther M.; Jefferson C.; John W. Ellen Warren died ca. 1894 and John W. was buried on September 1897 in Center Grove Cemetery, Story County, Iowa.

Luke C. Warren's original occupation was that of cabinet maker and carpenter. He married Nancy Dyson on July 24, 1850 and the couple had ten children, including John H., Amanda M., James, Omar Pasha, Charley, and Daisy. During the Civil War, Luke served in the 20th Battery, Indiana Light Artillery. After returning from the war, he began his lengthy career in the ministry, serving throughout the state of Indiana and establishing numerous churches and congregations. Luke died ca. 1911.

The Brown family material relates to D. Brown, Polly M. Brown, and Grace Brown Ayers. According to census data, Daniel Brown was a farmer born in Kentucky where he met his wife Polly. The 1860 census shows the couple living in Hendricks County, Brown Township, Indiana along with their children George, Eveline, Alvin, and John. John later married Dora Gore and they had a child, Grace Brown, born December 1888. Grace married Byron Ayers in 1908 in Hendricks County, Indiana.

The Walker family material relates to Charles, Lydia, Roy, Jean, and Bessie. The 1900 census for Johnson County, Hensley Township, Indiana reveals a 52-year-old farmer named Charles Walker residing with his wife Lydia A., and their children Bessie, Leroy, and Delia.

Sources:

Information in collection

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Adjutant General’s Office. *Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Indiana*. [Vol. 4, pg. 107, 442.] Indianapolis: A. H. Connor [etc.] State Printer, 1865–69. General and Reference Collection, E506.2.I39 T4 1865.

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“HeritageQuest Online.” Search for “Margaret Glidden.” 1870 U.S. Federal Census for Indiana, Brown County, Jackson Township. Series M593, Roll 301, Page 323. Cited 15 August 2005.

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“Civil War Soldiers and Sailors System.” Search for “Richardson, Dennis.” Available from <http://www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/soldiers.htm>. Cited 18 August 2005.

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“HeritageQuest Online.” Search for “Daniel Brown.” 1860 U.S. Federal Census for Indiana, Hendricks County, Brown Township. Series M653, Roll 265, Page 723. Cited 15 August 2005.

“HeritageQuest Online.” Search for “Charles Walker.” 1900 U.S. Federal Census for Indiana, Johnson County, Hensley Township. Series T623, Roll 381, Page 103. Cited 15 August 2005.

“Roots Web.” Website search for “Grace Marie Brown.” Available from <http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-in/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=:1903216&id=I94203483>. Cited 11 August 2005.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Except for the Turpins and Brocks, the relationships between these seven families are unclear. The collection consists primarily of correspondence between family members and various documents, including a few deeds and wills. As many of the family members were farmers, the letters exchanged between them provide information on crops and weather. In addition, the letters mention health issues, illness, and death, and diseases such as measles, smallpox, diphtheria, and typhoid fever.

The Turpin family correspondence in folder 1 contains letters exchanged between Ellen Turpin, George Turpin, Joseph Brock, and Anna Brock, with a few letters relating to Robison Turpin, Henry, and Willie. Topics include marriage and

courtship, hunting, health and sickness, farming and crops, and monetary issues. An 1862 letter from Mary Turpin reveals her concerns about the Civil War. This portion of the collection also includes a handwritten love song entitled “Silver Threads Among the Gold,” originally a poem by Eben E. Rexford, set to music by H. P. Danks. An 1894 letter from Anna Brock mentions the fall election, the Populist Party, and hearing Governor McKinley speak. George Turpin’s business card and an announcement for the 1916 Turpin Family Reunion are in this folder as well.

The Glidden family correspondence focuses on the Civil War, including three letters written to Francis (Frank) Glidden and two to his wife, Margaret. Jim Glidden’s letter to Frank was written while Jim was stationed in Nashville, Tennessee and discusses the number of soldiers in Nashville, smallpox, and Jim’s impending marriage. Jim also tells Frank about the opportunity for employment as a wagoneer, blacksmith, or carpenter, detailing the monthly wages Frank could expect for each position. Frank’s father, Jefferson, writes to Frank about family, monetary troubles, the “oil excitement,” and illnesses. He also mentions the Red River battle, the service of his sons Jim and Leonard, the upcoming presidential election and Abraham Lincoln, as well as his inability to hire a substitute to take Frank’s place in the war. Later letters from Jefferson to his daughter-in-law Margaret discuss Frank’s death and Margaret’s need for money. Material relating to Margaret Glidden also includes various receipts (including one for family medical services), a letter to her son Lemuel mentioning Frank’s homesickness, and a letter to Margaret from Betty White discussing deaths, funerals, and Civil War news. Recipes for sore throat and catarrh are in folder 2 as well.

The Richardson papers consist mainly of a few last wills and testaments, deeds for the sale of real estate, claims for Civil War pensions, and a teaching certificate, letter, and Rebekah Lodge receipt for Belle Richardson Clark.

The Warren papers consist of letters to Luke Warren, including one from A. M. Neill regarding the death of her daughter from diphtheria, an obituary for Luke’s son Charlie, and various documents relating to Luke’s service as a minister. John Warren’s papers include one deed, and two letters.

The Brown and Walker family papers contain letters to Grace Brown Ayers regarding chicken, turkey, and duck eggs, a receipt for Polly M. Brown for D. Brown’s coffin, and a folder of receipts for Walker family members for money orders, dog taxes, and postal savings deposits. There is a card for Bessie Walker certifying her membership in the “Young People’s Reading Circle of Indiana.”

Folders 7 and 8 contain general writings and documents. Letters mention social life, marriages, fashion, sickness, crops, education, and weather. One letter written by “Sallie” in 1872 details the “epizooly” disease affecting her horses (likely the epizootic influenza that killed many horses in 1872).

Other documents include receipts, religious writings, and various advertisements for coffee, a sewing machine, medicine and medicinal cures, and a letter from a law firm offering assistance in obtaining Civil War pensions. There are various handwritten poems and songs including: Civil War poem entitled “The Volunteer’s Wife to Her Husband;” love poem entitled “Far Away, Far Away;” song entitled “The Tune the Old Cow Died On.”

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Warren family documents and correspondence,	Box 1, Folder 4

1860–1893

Brown family documents and correspondence, 1862–1917	Box 1, Folder 5
Walker family documents and receipts, 1887-1939	Box 1, Folder 6
General writings and documents, 1854–1917; n.d.	Box 1, Folder 7
General advertisements, 1867–1909; n.d.	Box 1, Folder 8

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, M0846).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.