

Collection #  
M 0772  
BV 3446—3448  
OM 0396

## VINCENT H. DAY FAMILY COLLECTION, 1834–1994

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Processed by

Emily Ellis  
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Revised by  
Pamela Tranfield  
3 April 2003

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION:

3 manuscript boxes, 3 bound volumes, 3 oversize folders, 1 box  
photographs, 4 folders color photographs, 2 folders oversize  
photographs, 1 folder oversize graphics, 1 videocassette,  
artifacts

COLLECTION 1834–1994  
DATES:

PROVENANCE: Alice Applegate, 8926 Northern Drive, Avon, IN 46123, 19  
November 1999 (2000.0136), 14 December 1999 (2000.0182)

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE None  
FORMATS:

RELATED None  
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION 2000.0136; 2000.0182  
NUMBER:

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

Vincent H. Day was born in Kentucky on 4 January 1826. His parents, Ambrose and Joanna Day, were farmers on land they purchased from the government when they moved to Fillmore (Putnam County), Indiana, in 1829. Vincent later acquired 19 parcels of his own land to farm, owning 1,683.79 acres. In 1881, he was the largest landholder in Putnam County.

Vincent Day first married Margaret Wilkinson and the union bore five children. Margaret Day and her youngest child died of smallpox in 1865. Following Margaret's death, Vincent married Lucinda Frank (1842–1927) on 5 December 1866. Their union bore two children, Frank and Ora Day. Vincent lived as a farmer until his death on 14 October 1885. Following Vincent's death, Lucinda married William Dimler on 17 July 1886. They remained on the farm until William's death on 12 January 1908.

Frank V. Day was born on 7 June 1871 in Fillmore, Indiana. He lived on the family farm with his parents, Vincent and Lucinda Day, and his brother Ora. Frank farmed the remaining 209 acres of his father's land. He also built kitchen cabinets with Frank Coss in the Old Goulding Mill, and from 1916 to 1918 he made parts for gramophone cabinets.

Frank Day married Ida Mae Wright on 23 September 1892. They had two children, Charles and Wilbur Day. In the early 1900s Frank built a house and outbuildings for his family on the farm. Frank V. Day died in May 1947.

Ida Mae Day was born on 17 January 1873 in Belle Union (Putnam County), Indiana. Her grandparents, Samuel and Jane Wright, were early pioneers of Putnam County. Ida's parents, Rev. Nelson and Caroline Wright, owned 165 acres of land in Mill Creek Township (Putnam County). Rev. Wright was a minister at the Methodist Episcopal Church for over twenty years. Ida was converted at a revival meeting in 1884 conducted by her father and two other ministers at the Old Beech Grove Methodist Episcopal Church. Ida married Frank Day on 23 September 1892.

Charles A. Day was born on 3 September 1898 in Fillmore to Frank and Ida Wright. Charley was given a certificate of proficiency from a Marion Township (Putnam County) school in 1913. He was a farmer on the family homestead until his death on 8 October 1993. Along with farming, Charley was a fisher, hunter, and trapper, selling many furs to the F.C. Taylor Fur Company in St. Louis. He was also a member of the Fillmore Conservation Club, where through his

research of the local habitat, 1600 Brown trout were released into the waters of two tributaries of Clear Creek and Big Walnut that ran through his property.

Wilbur V. Day was born on 16 August 1901 in Fillmore to Frank and Ida Wright. He attended school with his brother in Marion Township. On 18 September 1927, Wilbur left the Day farm permanently to marry Mary Lucille Britton, and the union bore two children, Donald and Alice Day. He became a minister in a Methodist church in Indiana. On 6 December 1976, Wilbur was presented with a Hoosier Homestead Farm certificate, awarding the family for owning their farm for over 100 years. The farm had been in the Day family since 1853. Wilbur died on 25 May 1986.

Donald E. Day was born on 27 October 1932 in Roachdale (Putnam County), Indiana. He was an American history Professor. Donald Day married Lois James and they had three children. Alice Day was born 18 November 1937 to Wilbur and Mary Day. She is a schoolteacher. On 18 December 1959 she married her first husband Arthur Lee Masten and the union bore three children. On 30 June 1970 Alice married Erwin Neier. On 2 November 1985, Alice married her third husband, Charles C. Applegate, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Following her uncle Charley's death in 1993, Alice and Donald organized an auction on 8 October 1993 to sell many of the family belongings remaining on the Day farm.

#### Sources:

*Atlas of Putnam County*, Chicago, J.H. Beers and Co., 1879. Reprint, Evansville, Indiana, Unigraphic, In., 1973.  
Reference Room: rratlas G1403. P8 A8 1973

*Biographical and Historical Record of Putnam County*, Chicago, Lewis Pub. Co., 1887. Reprint, Knightstown, Indiana, Eastern Indiana Publishing Co., 1967. Reference Room: rr F532. P9 B56 1967

*Census of Indiana*, 1860: Indiana State Library.

*Putnam County Sesquicentennial Committee, A Journey Through Putnam County History*, Greencastle, Indiana, 1966  
Reference Room: rr 532. P9 J68 1966

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection includes manuscripts, artifacts, printed material, and photographs generated by the Day family of Putnam County, Indiana.

**Series 1:** Vincent H. Day's materials include legal documents dating from 1834. Included in the documents are thirty-four Warranty Deeds, written in ink, describing the buying and selling of land in Fillmore from April 1834 to October 1885. Also included in the series are mortgage documents from several members of the county and Vincent's insurance documents from the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Co., the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Co., and other companies.

The collection also includes Vincent H. Day's account books from 1880-83, tax receipts for 1871-83, a court summons, quit claims, and business letters. A photocopy of his last will and obituary from 1885 are also present in the series.

**Series 2:** Lucinda (Frank) Day Dimler's materials consist of legal documents from May 1886 to August 1912. The documents include a court document concerning Lucinda's widow claim (against her children and stepchildren) to her recently deceased husband's land. Also included is a letter from Kruse and Dewenter Manufacturers of Wrought Steel Warm Air Furnaces concerning the shipment of a furnace to the Dimler home.

A photocopy of William Dimler's obituary is present in the series, as well as a typed photocopy of a land deed from 14 August 1912 in which Lucinda Dimler sold Aaron and Mattie Cooper of Putnam County a section of land for \$6,000. Also within the series are nine black and white photographs of Lucinda Dimler's family including herself, her brother Reverend Andrew Frank, her husband William Dimler and his family, and her son Frank with his wife Ida. Artifacts within the series include a small red cloth covered jewelry box with the initials V.H.D. and L.D. on the lid, decorated by clear beads and containing two metal pin hooks and two green beads. There is also and a wooden box

with a sliding lid and a mailing address for William Dimler, postmarked 1907.

**Series 3:** Frank V. Day's materials consist of several notes and letters concerning farm expenses, as well as pamphlets on parts from Duplex Mill and Manufacturing Company. . Other documents include a detailed letter and diagram from the Edison-Bell Phonograph Corporation explaining how to lubricate a spring, and a small drawing that Frank drew in school. A photocopy of a newspaper article on Frank's erecting two stone monuments on his land is also within the collection.

Other manuscript materials include a contract dated 20 April 1918 between Frank V. Day and his mother asking her to move off his land within thirty days of the arrangement. A cemetery deed from 29 May 1920 for a seventy-five dollar plot in the Fillmore Cemetery and a resolution of respect from the Oddfellow Lodge following Frank's death are also present in the series. Personal items include his marriage license of 23 September 1894 to Ida Mae Wright and two bank books from 1922 and 1944.

Artifacts within the series include a brown velvet jacket and trousers Frank wore as a child and a cardboard box with mailing address to Frank Day containing a pair of broken eyeglasses. Ephemera consists of what appear to be printed gift tags made by Frank V. Day to his sons Wilbur V. Day and Charles A. Day in 1917. A letter dated 20 February 1894 from a sister to her little brother is also within the series. The author and her relationship to the Day family are unclear.

**Series 4:** Ida Mae Day's materials include letters written between Ida Wright and Frank Day from October 1891–September 1894, before their wedding that same month. The letters detail the couple's affection for one another as well as circumstances occurring within their lives. Also included are poems and hymns written by Ida in ink and pencil on an assortment of paper. The poems and hymns express her deeply religious sentiments and love of her home in Indiana.

Further manuscript materials include clippings and notes concerning homemade remedies and recipes; the occurrences of birth and death among her family and friends; as well as a note concerning her son Charley's bed and bedclothes. Printed material includes two pamphlets on knitting, and a small schoolbook titled *Lucie and Her Pony* containing notes written in pencil on the inside cover and several pages.

The series also holds two newspaper clippings of Ida's obituary as well as a handwritten copy of her husband's obituary, a photocopy of the front page of the family Bible where many notes were written, and a letter from Mrs. R. B. Stoops requesting information on the Wright family for the construction of a family tree. Artifacts within the series consist of three containers of chemicals, an Ex-Lax pillbox, a wood bottle for Jaques Little Wonder capsules, a wood container holding a glass bottle and a liquid, and an eyeglass case with a note identifying the glasses inside to be Ida Wright's first pair.

**Series 5:** Charles A. Day's materials consist of several handwritten notes on varying sizes of paper concerning the family farm and his involvement in hunting, trapping, and fishing. The notes detail productive game regions, proper usage of traps and bait, and receipts from his business with several fur companies. Other notes and legal documents include letters and invoices from different businesses, real estate assessments, and selective service classification cards from 1942–43.

Other printed material include a brochure for Pioneer Metal Boats in Middlebury, Indiana, which details models and prices, and a brochure for John Deere tractors discussing parts and mechanics of the Model H tractor. The series also holds a biology book Charley made while in school. This holds pressed leaves with identification as well as three experiments he conducted concerning oxygen, hydrogen, and nitrogen. Four composition books and a spiral notebook hold information concerning his income and expenses on the farm from January 1951 to July 1992.

Charley's materials also include personal documents such as tax forms, bankbooks, and his social security card. Other personal materials consist of two letters dated October 6 and September 14, written in pencil, to Charley from his grandmother Lucinda Dimler concerning current family activities and expressing her desire for correspondence. A letter from K. Boyd on 6 October 1941 in Muncie, Indiana, invites Charley to visit and tells of the abundance of game to be found near Muncie. Charley's report cards, several school papers, including grammar, history and math work,

and his diploma are also found within the collection. The latest material within the series is a laminated copy of his obituary and his nephew Donald's handwritten eulogy to be read at the funeral. Artifacts within the collection include a brown fox pelt, a blue cardboard jewelry box from H.S. Werneke Jeweler and Optometrist containing tax receipts, and an outfit (red velvet jacket and shorts) worn by Charley as a child.

**Series 6:** Wilbur Day's materials within the collection include three report cards, one of which is dated 31 August 1911 and signed by his teacher Stella Webster. The series also includes a letter written by Wilbur on 30 March 1948 discussing the amount left to be paid to his brother Charley Day after borrowing money to finance a new car. Other printed materials includes a copy of the book written by Wilbur Day titled *Through Hell to Heaven* which details his struggles after a car accident that nearly took his life on 4 November 1960.

Also within the series is a letter from the Department of Commerce dated 6 December 1976 recognizing the Day family with a Hoosier Homestead Award for having maintained their farm for over 100 years. With the letter is a certificate recognizing Wilbur V. Day and Mary L. Day for their ownership of a farm in Putnam County since 1853. Otis R. Bowen, the governor of Indiana, and Robert D. Orr, the lieutenant governor, and the commissioner of agriculture signed the certificate.

**Series 7:** Other Day family materials within the collection include several black and white photographs of the Day and Wright families, as well as relatives of William Dimler. Included within the series are photographs of Charley and Wilbur Day as children, the Day family homestead, Ora Day's wedding day, and the first airplane to land near Fillmore, Indiana, in August 1918. There are also several colored photographs, a flyer, and two newspaper articles documenting the auction at the Day farm in October 1993. The family's belongings were sold due to the death of Charles A. Day, the last member to live on the homestead. Other visual materials within the collection consist of a videotape containing two television programs on the Day family farm, one from 4 August 1994 on WFYI channel 20 and the other from 14 October 1994 on WTHR channel 13. A hand-drawn picture of Jewell Wright, cousin to Charley and Wilbur Day, wearing the fox fur pelt is also included.

Manuscript materials include a daybook holding a ledger of receipts, debts, recipes and home remedies, as a photocopied page of three pictures of relatives, two short family histories, and two pamphlets. One pamphlet (1933) concerns Firestone Gum-Dipped Tires.

Artifacts within the collection consist of several articles of children's clothing, including a set of black wool fingerless gloves, an infant's white lace bonnet, two pairs of shoes, a black bathing suit, white lace shirt, and two small caps. Other articles of clothing include a corset, a white silk handkerchief from the World's Fair in 1893, fourteen lace collars, and a white collar.

Other artifacts include a red box for infant's hose; a copper tray with a relief of the Educational Building in St. Louis, Mo., 1904; two garters from President Suspender Co., Shirley Mass., still in the original box; a compass from Plan Ltd., Neuchatel, Switzerland, still in its original box; a black cardboard box for an automatic revolver containing assorted buttons; a box for chocolates from the Indianapolis Candy Co., containing hair braids, combs, two spoons and assorted jewelry; a key chain with keys; a white jewelry box containing a necklace and ring; a small yellow bowl containing an assortment of rocks, shells, fossils, and other materials; a set of binoculars with a leather case; and a metal purse with a decorative design in white, yellow, pink, blue, and black.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Vincent H. Day, 1834–circa 1885**

#### **CONTENTS**

Warranty Deeds, Apr. 1834–May 1859

Warranty Deeds, Oct. 1860–May 1862

#### **CONTAINER**

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Box 1, Folder 2

Warranty Deeds, Dec. 1864–Jan. 1871	Box 1, Folder 3
Warranty Deeds, Apr. 1874–Oct. 1885	Box 1, Folder 4
Mortgage Documents, Jan. 1862–June 1880	Box 1, Folder 5
Insurance Documents, Aug. 1874–Dec. 1876	Box 1, Folder 6
Insurance Documents, March 1878–Aug. 1880	Box 1, Folder 7
Insurance Documents, July 1880–Oct. 1885	Box 1, Folder 8
Account Book, 1865	Box 1, Folder 9
Account Book, 1880–83	Box 1, Folder 10
Tax Receipts, Apr.1871–Oct. 1883	Box 1, Folder 11
Legal Documents, Apr. 1874–Oct. 1885	Box 1, Folder 12
Legal Documents, Jan. 1874–Apr. 1885	Box 1, Folder 13
Last Will and Obituary [photocopy] circa 1885	Box 1, Folder 14

## **Series 2: Lucinda Day Dimler, 1875–circa 1920s**

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Legal Documents and Notes, 1875–1885	Box 1, Folder 15
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Dimler Family, circa 1890s	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 14
Dimler Family, circa 1920s	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 2
William Dimler’s Box	Artifacts: Accession no. 2000.0136
Cloth Jewelry Box	Artifacts: Accession no. 2000.0136

## **Series 3: Frank V. Day, 1894–circa 1955**

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Letter, re: Phonograph lubrication and diagram	Box 2, Folder 2

Bank Books, Greencastle and Fillmore, 1922; 1944	Box 2, Folder 3
Receipts, Sept. 1941–Dec. 1945	Box 2, Folder 4
Letter, 20 Feb. 1894	Box 2, Folder 5
Ephemera, 1917	Box 2, Folder 6
Notes, n.d. (circa 1888–1955)	Box 2, Folder 7
Notes and Drawing, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 8
Notes, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 9
Cemetery Deed, 1920	Box 2, Folder 10
Oddfellow Lodge Certificate, 1947	Box 2, Folder 11
Marriage License, 1894	OM 0396, Folder 1
Diploma	OM 0396: Folder 4
Childhood Clothes	Artifacts: Accession no. 2000.0136
Wooden Box with eyeglasses	Artifacts: Accession no. 2000.0136

#### **Series 4: Ida Mae Wright Day, 1890–circa 1960**

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Family Notes, circa 1921–circa 1960	Box 2, Folder 13
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Poems and Hymns, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 15
Schoolbook, <i>Lucy and Her Pony</i> , circa 1890	Box 2, Folder 16
Home Remedies and Recipes, circa 1920s–circa 1940s	Box 2, Folder 17
Recipe Book, 1939–circa 1950	Box 2, Folder 18
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2000.0136

Portrait of Jewell Wright, circa 1930s

Visual Collections: OVA  
Graphics

**Series 5: Charles A. Day, 1911–76**

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Letters, re: hunting and trapping, Aug. 1935–May  
1944

Notes, Pamphlet, re: hunting and trapping, 1919–  
1947

Notes and Receipts, re: hunting and trapping, n.d.

Notes and Receipts, re: hunting and trapping, n.d.

Farm Records, Jan. 1951–Dec. 1954

Farm Records, Jan. 1955–Dec. 1964

Farm Records, Jan. 1965–Dec. 1973

Farm Records, Jan. 1982–July 1992

Tax Receipts, Oct. 1929–Apr. 1932

Letters, Invoices, Aug. 1930–48

Legal Documents, Apr. 1932–Sept. 1949

Letters from Grandmother Lucinda Dimler, n.d.

Letter, 6 Oct. 1941

Personal Documents, 1940s–1984

Obituary, Eulogy, October 1993

Fox Pelt

Blue Jewelry Box

Velvet Outfit

Biology Book

John Deere Tractor Pamphlet

CONTAINER

Box 3, Folder 1

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Artifacts: Accession no.  
2000.0182

Artifacts: Accession no.  
2000.0136

Artifacts: Accession no.  
2000.0182

BV 3447

OM 0396, Folder 2



Pioneer Metal Boats	OM 0396, Folder 2
Advertisement, Frank L. Singer Fur Co.	OM 0396, Folder 2

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Hoosier Homestead Award, 1976

*Through Heaven and Hell*, by Wilbur Day

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Printed Collections:  
T233.D27 1978

### **Series 7: Day Family, circa 1900s–1994**

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Auction Advertisement and Farm History, 8 Oct. 1993

Family History, 1997

Advertisements and Pamphlets

Auction Advertisement, 8 Oct. 1983

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Copper Tray

Compass

Key Chain

Bowl of Misc. items

Metal Purse

First “aeorplane” to come down, near Fillmore, 11 Aug. 1918

Charley M. Wright, Caroline Wright, circa 1894

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Box 3, Folder 20

Box 3, Folder 21

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BV 3448

Artifacts: Accession no.  
2000.0136

Artifacts: Accession no.  
2000.0136

Artifacts: Accession no.  
2000.0136

Artifacts: Accession no.  
2000.0136

Artifacts: Accession no.  
2000.0136

Artifacts: Accession no.  
2000.0136

Artifacts: Accession no.  
2000.0136

Visual Collections:  
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Visual Collections:

	Photographs, Folder 3
Frank V. Day, Oscar A. Day, circa 1900	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 4
Ora and Addie's Wedding Picture, August 1918	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 5
Charley and Wilbur Day, 1899-ca. 1920	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 6
Wilbur and Charley Day, circa 1920	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 7
Frank and Ora Day [group photograph of schoolchildren], 1880s	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 8
Charley and Wilbur Day, 1902-ca. 1905	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 9
Caroline Wright, Dave Wallace, circa 1880s	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 10
Ida M. Wright Day with her five brothers and mother Caroline, father Nelson Wright	Visual Collections: OVA Photographs, Folder 1
Dimler, Day Families, 1897	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 11
Mollie Benbow, circa 1900	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 12
Charley and Wilbur Day, 1902-circa 1906	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 13
Charley Day, 1902; 1920	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 15
Charles A. Day, Wilbur V. Day, Ida Mae Day, Frank Day, 30 March 1932	Visual Collections: OVA Photographs, Folder 2
Ora and Ida Day, 1936	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 16
Day Family, 1943-50	Visual Collections: Photographs, Folder 17
Charley Day, 1991, Age 93	Visual Collections: Color Photographs, Folder 1
Day Family Farm Auction, 8 October 1993	Visual Collections: Color Photographs, Folder 3
Day Family Farm Auction, 8 October 1993	Visual Collections: Color Photographs, Folder 4

Day Family, Home and Farm, circa 1910  
[reproductions made with color film]

Visual Collections: Color  
Photographs, Folder 2

*Day Family Farm*. WFYF, Channel 20, 4 August  
1994; WHTR, Channel 13, 14 October 1994.

Visual Collections: VHS  
Videotape, Videotape  
Storage

## 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 basic call number (in this case, M 0772).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.