WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN SPEECH PHOTOGRAPH, 1914

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Processed by

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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

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF 1 photograph folder COLLECTION:

COLLECTION

TION October 9, 1914

DATES:

PROVENANCE: Doris E. Toney, Brownsburg, IN

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NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Jennings Bryan (March 19, 1860-July 26, 1925) arrived at Martinsville, Indiana via the Vandalia Railroad from Indianapolis on the 8:25AM train on October 9th, 1914. Bryan, a Nebraska politician and three time Democratic nominee for President of the United States was currently serving as Secretary of State under President Woodrow Wilson. Bryan was scheduled to give a thirty minute oration covering the general topics of the day before catching another train to give another thirty minute speech at Spencer, Indiana, and so on. Bryan had a history of traveling the country to promote his political and social causes through rousing speeches and a large crowd turned out that morning from Martinsville and surrounding towns like Mooresville to hear him speak. As the newspaper said that day, "He will interest all and because of his prominence in the world all will want to see him."

Sources:

"William Jennings Bryan Tours Indiana State." *Martinsville Democrat*, 9 October 1914. Accessed via Newspaper Archive.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is made up of one photograph, which was taken from a higher vantage point, looking south on Jefferson Street in Martinsville. The photograph shows the crowd circled around the speaker's podium on the northeast corner of the Morgan County Courthouse grounds, rows of cars parked in the middle of the street and horses and buggies parked off to the sides. Bryan is the figure standing at the speaker's podium. Shop owners in downtown Martinsville were asked to put up American flags at their establishments for the occasion, and it appears from the photograph that many complied.

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