

Collection #  
M 1523  
OM 0775

**WILLIAM S JORDAN FAMILY  
COLLECTION, 1890-1949**

|                        |   |
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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** One manuscript box, one half-size manuscript box, four oversized manuscript folders, one box of photographs, one half-size photographs box, two OVA photographs folders, three OVB photographs folders, one artifact

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1890-1949

**PROVENANCE:** Robert J. McClure, Greenwood Village, Colorado

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:** Water Powered Mills Committee Collection, 1843-1983, M0837; Cephas M. Huddleston Collection, ca. 1900, P0159; Herbaugh Family Collection, P0283;

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 1998.0302

**NOTES:**

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

William Sherman Jordan (1864-1941) was a farmer and grain thresher, first in partnership with his brother B.F. Jordan, with whom he also ran a flour mill. Around 1895 William married Effie Dean Clark (1876-1948). The couple had four daughters and raised them on their farm near Oaktown in Knox County. William was also active in town administration, serving as president of the town board of trustees.

Eldest daughter Modeste Jordan (1896-1968) may have been a teacher in her teens or twenties. In 1944 she became a notary public. She married neighbor Medford Burton late in life, at the age of 53.

Esperance Jordan (1898-1977) had a child at around age 15 and married the father, Oaktown storekeeper Donn D. Shepard. Their son, Whelin Shepard, was born with a birth defect and used a wheelchair until his death at the age of 13 in 1926. Esperance and Shepard divorced. Esperance later married George Schlieper and settled with him in Cincinnati.

Nora Jordan (1902-1954) worked as a switchboard operator and, along with her husband Albert Schoone, a marble and tile dealer.

Mercedes "Martha" Jordan (1904-1997) enjoyed a teaching career of 45 years in various parts of Indiana. She married neighbor and fellow teacher Raymond McClure in 1939. Martha also enjoyed a long life, passing away at the age of 93 in 1997.

Sources:

Material in the collection

U.S. Federal Census records, [ancestrylibrary.com](http://ancestrylibrary.com)

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of material accumulated by William S. Jordan, his four daughters and their spouses. Most of the material associated with the daughters was created in their adulthood after they had left the farm. For that reason, the collection has been arranged into series according to the material's owner/creator.

Series I consists of material about William S. Jordan, his threshing and milling businesses, and his real estate holdings. Also in Series I are photographs of William's farm and farmhands, the Martinsville Sanitarium shortly after its construction, and a group of Oaktown Odd Fellows and Ladies of Rebekah. Also some policies from the Supreme Tribe of Ben Hur.

Series II, Modeste Jordan Burton, includes a fraternal benefit society application, her certificate of appointment as a notary public, letters about her husband's failing health, sheet music, and an issue of the *Oaktown Press* newspaper.

Series III, Esperance Jordan, consists only of one baby photograph of son Whelin Shepard. However, Esperance and Whelin appear regularly in Martha Jordan's photograph album in Series V.

Series IV consists of material from Nora Jordan Schoone, and includes her third-grade report card from Oaktown Public Schools in the 1912-1913 school year.

Series V consists of material from Martha Jordan McClure, and is the largest series. Martha's photograph album contains photos of Martha and her sisters on the farm, their friends, and some extended family. It also contains photographs of her father's impressive threshing machine, the mill, and granary. The photos have been removed from the album but maintained in the order in which they appeared in the album. However, it is not chronological. Much of the rest of Series V consists of material related to Martha's own education and her long career as an educator, including teaching contracts. Finally, a number of photographs of Oaktown High School sports teams coached by Martha's husband Raymond McClure are included.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: William S. and Effie Clark Jordan**

| CONTENTS  | CONTAINER                       |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Threshing account book, W.S. and B.F. Jordan, 1890-1907                                       | Box 1, Folder 1                 |
| Threshing account books, 1891; 1905-1907  | Box 1, Folder 2                 |
| Home and farm views, circa 1900   | Photographs:<br>Box 2, Folder 5 |
| Martinsville Sanitarium, circa 1900   | Photographs:<br>Box 2, Folder 6 |
| Supreme Tribe of Ben Hur policies, William S. Jordan, 1901; Martha A. Baer, 1906              | OM 0775<br>Folder 1 of 4        |
| Land indentures and deeds, Knox County Indiana, William and Effie Jordan, 1902-1916           | Box 1, Folder 3                 |
| Correspondence and records related to land in Texas, 1905-1914                                | Box 1, Folder 4                 |
| Miscellaneous, 1909-1948, n.d.  | Box 1, Folder 5                 |
| Receipts, Fisher Automobile Co., 1910; Nichols & Shepard Co. grain separator, 1914            | Box 1, Folder 6                 |
| Prudential life insurance policy, William S. Jordan, 1911                                     | OM 0775<br>Folder 2 of 4        |
| William Jordan banking book, 1911-1913  | Box 1, Folder 7                 |
| State Board of Accounts report for Oaktown Indiana, 1914                                      | Box 1, Folder 8                 |
| Odd Fellows and Ladies of Rebekah, Oaktown, 1914  | Photographs:<br>Box 2, Folder 8 |
| “Seeing Salt Lake” postcard, circa 1915   | Photographs:<br>Box 2, Folder 9 |
| Financial documents and correspondence, William Jordan and Warren/Rose Light, 1926-1933, n.d. | Box 1, Folder 9                 |

## Series 2: Modeste Jordan Burton

### CONTENTS

Modeste Jordan with school children, circa 1913

Application for benefits in Royal Neighbors of America, 1916

Modeste Jordan with patriotic girls, circa 1917

Sheet music: Helmareidi waltzes, 1914; I Ain't Goin' to be a Fool There Was, 1916; We're on Our Way to France, 1917; I'll Go a Mile to Carry a Smile, 1920; Twilight Dreams, 1921; Wabash Blues, 1921

Real estate assessments, 1925

Prudential life insurance policy, 1932

Certificate of appointment as notary public, 1944

Correspondence, Medford Burton to Modeste Jordan Burton, 25 June 1947

Doctors' reports for Medford Burton, 1947-1951

Correspondence, Clara Dixon to Modeste Jordan Burton, 1947-1954

Address book, circa 1950

Funeral guestbook, obituaries, etc. for Medford Burton, 1952

Miscellaneous, 1943-1951, n.d.

*The Oaktown Press*, 20 August 1964

## Series 3: Esperance Jordan

### CONTENTS

Whelin Shepard baby photo, 1913

### CONTAINER

OVA Photographs,  
Folder 1 of 2

Box 1, Folder 10

OVA Photographs,  
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Box 1, Folder 11

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Folder 2 of 4

Box 1, Folder 12

Box 1, Folder 13

Box 1, Folder 14

Box 1, Folder 15

Box 1, Folder 16

Box 1, Folder 17

Box 1, Folder 18

Box 1, Folder 19

### CONTAINER

Photographs:  
Box 2, Folder 7

#### **Series 4: Nora Jordan Schoone**

##### CONTENTS

Third grade report card, 1912-1913

Clipping, n.d.; funeral program, 1954

##### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 20

Box 1, Folder 21

#### **Series 5: Martha Jordan McClure**

##### CONTENTS

C.V. Strickland Rural Songsters, vols. 1-3, 1899-1906

Diplomas, Indiana Common Schools, 1918; Oaktown High School, 1922

Teaching contracts, Busseron Township Schools, Knox County, 1924-1928

Teaching contracts, Elkhart City Schools, 1928-1940

Prudential life insurance policy, 1932

Teaching contracts, 1941, 1946-1951

Directory, Marion County Schools, 1947-1948

Directory, Knox County Public Schools, 1948-1949

Teaching contracts, Busseron Township Schools, Knox County, 1952-1957

Teaching contracts, Penn Township, St. Joseph County Schools, 1958-1969

Directory, St. Joseph County Schools, 1961-1962

Reimbursement records, 1967, n.d.

Payroll records, 1949-1968

Artifact: Guestbook, cottage at Gun Lake, Free Soil, Michigan, 1942-1950

Indiana History workbook of Tom McClure, 1955

##### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 22

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Box 1, Folder 24

Box 2, Folder 1

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Box 2, Folder 2

Box 2, Folder 3

Box 2, Folder 4

Box 2, Folder 5

Box 2, Folder 6

Box 2, Folder 7

Box 2, Folder 8

Box 2, Folder 9

Box 2, Folder 10

Box 2, Folder 11

|  |                                   |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Martha Jordan photo album, circa 1913-1925   | Photographs:<br>Box 1, Folder 1   |
| Martha Jordan photo album, circa 1913-1925   | Photographs:<br>Box 1, Folder 2   |
| Martha Jordan photo album, circa 1913-1925   | Photographs:<br>Box 1, Folder 3   |
| Martha Jordan photo album, circa 1913-1925   | Photographs:<br>Box 1, Folder 4   |
| Martha Jordan photo album, circa 1913-1925   | Photographs:<br>Box 1, Folder 5   |
| Martha Jordan photo album, circa 1913-1925   | Photographs:<br>Box 1, Folder 6   |
| Martha Jordan photo album, circa 1913-1925   | Photographs:<br>Box 1, Folder 7   |
| Martha Jordan photo album, circa 1913-1925   | Photographs:<br>Box 1, Folder 8   |
| Martha Jordan photo album, circa 1913-1925   | Photographs:<br>Box 1, Folder 9   |
| Martha Jordan photo album, "Trip west, Colorado and Dells, Wisconsin," 1920 (1 of 3) | Photographs:<br>Box 2, Folder 1   |
| Martha Jordan photo album, "Trip west, Colorado and Dells, Wisconsin," 1920 (2 of 3) | Photographs:<br>Box 2, Folder 2   |
| Martha Jordan photo album, "Trip west, Colorado and Dells, Wisconsin," 1920 (3 of 3) | Photographs:<br>Box 2, Folder 3   |
| Martha Jordan photo album, circa 1913-1925   | Photographs:<br>Box 2, Folder 4   |
| Oaktown High School boys' basketball team, 1920-1921                                 | OVB Photographs,<br>Folder 1 of 3 |
| Oaktown High School boys' basketball team, 1922                                      | OVB Photographs,<br>Folder 2 of 3 |



Oaktown High School boys' basketball team [2],  
1924-1925

OVB Photographs,  
Folder 3 of 3

Oaktown High School [?] boys' basketball team, n.d.

Photographs:  
Box 2, Folder 10

Baseball team, Avon Indiana, n.d.

Photographs:  
Box 2, Folder 11

Photos removed from Ray and Martha McClure Gun  
Lake cottage guestbook, 1949

Photographs:  
Box 2, Folder 12