

Regional History Collection Finding Aid
Lewis Historical Library, Vincennes University

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Title: Howard Burnett Papers

Collection Date(s): 1806-1959

Extent and Forms of Material: Two Boxes; one linear foot.

Creator: Howard Burnett

Biographical or Historical Sketch: Howard R. Burnett (June 12, 1890-Sept. 6, 1967) was a teacher and head of the History Department at Lincoln High School, Vincennes. Burnett was an historian who wrote about Vincennes University, the First Methodist Church of Vincennes, and former Indiana Governor and Knox County resident James D. "Blue Jeans" Williams (Jan. 16, 1808-Nov. 20, 1880), among other topics. The son of Thomas and Cora Burnett, he had one brother, Charles, and was married to Pearl Snyder in Knox County, Indiana, Apr. 21, 1911. They had one daughter, Carol. Burnett was President of the Old Post Association for the Preservation and Restoration of Historic Vincennes.

Repository: Lewis Historical Library, Vincennes University, Vincennes, IN. Please address questions to rking@vinu.edu 812-888-4330 <http://www.vinu.edu/lewis-historical-library>

Collection Number: RHC 4

Processing Note: Processed by Richard King, Librarian, librarian, Apr., 2015; supervised by Abigail Creitz, Technical Services Librarian.

INFORMATION FOR USERS OF THE COLLECTION

Conditions Governing Access: The collection is open for research use.

Physical Access: Researchers must wash hands and dry thoroughly before use. Gloves must be worn when handling photographs and negatives. Archives must remain in Lewis Historical Library.

Technical Access: Use copies when available.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use: Copyright held by Vincennes University. Lewis Library makes no guarantees regarding copyright restrictions. Reproduction fees must be paid by requester. All duplication requests must be reviewed by Lewis Historical Library supervisor.

Preferred Citation: Howard Burnett Papers, 1806-1959, Regional History Collection, Lewis Historical Library, Vincennes University, box number 4.

IN-DEPTH INFORMATION ABOUT THE COLLECTION

Administrative/Biographical History:

Scope and Content: The collection consists of Howard Burnett's research, notes, and writings for his Master of Arts thesis titled A History of Vincennes University (Indiana University, June

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1936). Included are a typescript of a history of the First Methodist Church (1809-1959), and biographical notes about Indiana governor James D. “Blue Jeans Williams,” and miscellaneous papers.

System of Arrangement: Collection is arranged by date and topics.

Acquisition Information: This collection was donated by Curtis G. Shake in Feb. 15, 1971.

Related Archival Materials:

- Typed Civil War diary of Aurelius Merriman Willoughby, 30th Indiana. (Copy.) RHC 47.
- Note cards used by Burnett in writing History of Vincennes University. (Location unknown.)
- Williams, James D. “Blue Jeans.” Papers. RHC 43.

Access Points:

Subject/Names:

Williams, James D. (James Douglas), 1808-1880
(non-LCSH) First Methodist Church (Vincennes, Ind.)

Subject/Topical:

Governors--Indiana--1877-1880.
Governors--Indiana—Biography.
Vincennes Region (Ind.)--History.
Knox County (Ind.)--History.
Vincennes University.
Vincennes University--History.

Geographical: Vincennes (Ind.)

Form/Genre:

Container List:

Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	Typescript of Minutes and Proceedings of the Board of Trustees for Vincennes University, Indiana Territory (Dec. 6, 1806-Mar. 7, 1807).
1	1	Handwritten copy of publication statement by E. Stout from the <i>Indiana Gazette</i> (date unclear).
1	1	Handwritten copies of articles from the <i>Western Sun</i> , dated June 1, 1808; Oct. 20, 1810, and May 19, 1810.
1	1	Handwritten copy of Proceedings of the Trustees of the Borough of Vincennes from and after 1 st Monday in February 1815 through April 27, 1816.

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1	1	Handwritten copy of an article about Vincennes Races from the <i>Gazette</i> , Saturday, Nov. 6, 1880.
1	2	Typescript of Petition to Congress Aug. 17, 1807 against sale of Vincennes University.
1	2	Typescript of Charter of Vincennes University, Sept. 17, 1807.
1	2	Typescript of Rules for the First School at Vincennes University, Jan. 26, 1811.
1	2	Typescript of Petition to Congress, Dec. 17, 1818, concerning Vincennes University.
1	2	Handwritten copy (?) of "An Act to Incorporate an University in the Indiana Territory," Sept. 17, 1807.
1	2	Typescript of "A Joint Resolution of Both Houses of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana," Jan. 22, 1820.
1	2	Typescript of The State v. the Trustees of the Vincennes University, 1820.
1	2	Typescript of "The Knox County Seminary Law of 1824."
1	2	Handwritten list of names of Trustees of Vincennes University and the dates they served (Oct., 1930).
1	2	Typescript of "The Vincennes University Law of 1838, An Act relative to the Vincennes University," Feb. 17, 1838.
1	2	Typescript of "The Law of 1838" pertaining to Vincennes University, Feb. 17, 1838.
1	2	Typescript copy of letter by Bishop Simon G. Brute, lending support to Vincennes University, 1839.
1	3	Typescript of "B.B. Killikelley's Letter of Acceptance" to be President of Vincennes University, Apr. 27, 1840.
1	3	Typescript of Report of Committee on Instruction, Vincennes University, May 1, 1840.
1	3	Typescript of Opinion of Chancellor Kent regarding Vincennes University, Dec. 4, 1843.
1	3	Typescript of Annual Report of George B. Jocelyn, Principal of the Prep. Department of the Vincennes University, July 6, 1846.
1	3	Typescript of the Rev. B.B. Killikelley's Diploma, May 5, 1818.
1	3	Typescript of the Annual Report of the Principal of the Prep. Dept. of the Vincennes University to the Committee of Education, for the Term Beginning Oct. 18, 1847 and ending Sept. 15, 1848. Submitted July 7, 1848.
1	3	Typescript of Contract with Israel W. Booth, Feb. 13, 1854, Vincennes University.
1	3	Typescript of Report of I.W. Booth for 1854, Vincennes University, Feb. 23, 1855.
1	3	Typescript of Report to the Trustees of Vincennes University for 1872-1873, June 27, 1873.
1	3	Typescript of Vincennes University Centennial Ode. Written by Hubbard Madison Smith, M.D., of Vincennes, Ind. From the <i>Vincennes Sun</i> , Dec. 7, 1906.

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1	3	Typescript of letter to Mr. H.R. Burnett of Monroe City, Indiana from Marie Thale, Research Assistant at Indiana State Library, concerning the law regarding the Knox County Seminary passed in 1824. July 26, 1932.
1	4	Typescript of Petition Against Sale of Vincennes University by Citizens of Knox County (names listed). No date.
1	4	Typescript of Announcement of the Vincennes Academy (information about the course of instruction and basic regulations). No date.
1	4	Handwritten Bibliography concerning Howard Burnett's Master's thesis. No date.
1	4	Typescript of "Early History of Vincennes University," by Howard R. Burnett. No date.
1	4	Typescript of an article titled "The Ancient Cathedral Library in Vincennes. No author, no date.
1	4	Typescript of "Specifications for the Knox County Seminary Building," Knox County Commissioners Record C. Describes in detail the proposed construction and design of the building. No date.
1	4	Typescript of "Petition to the Legislative Council and House of Representatives of the Indiana Territory." No date.
1	5	Typescript of article titled "Education (To be continued), from the <i>Wabash Telegraph</i> , Friday, July 6, 1827.
1	5	Typescript of article titled "Education" (continued), from the <i>Wabash Telegraph</i> , Friday, July 13, 1827.
1	5	Typescript of article from the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Saturday, Oct. 2, 1830, discussing status of Vincennes University.
1	5	Typescript of article from the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Saturday, Oct. 16, 1830, discussing the status of Vincennes focusing on business enterprises.
1	5	Typescript of article from the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Saturday, Sept. 17, 1831, discussing the history of Vincennes and speculating that the date of the city cannot be clearly established.
1	5	Typescript of article titled "Masonic Address" from the <i>Vincennes Saturday Gazette</i> , Saturday morning, July 1, 1837. Does not list the name of the person who made the speech.
1	5	Typescript of "Constitution of the Knox County School Association," from the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Mar. 17, 1838.
1	5	Typescript of "Proceedings of the Knox County School Association," from the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Saturday, Mar. 10, 1838.
1	5	Typescript of a play titled "Pan American Day Program Presented Apr. 12, 1941 Script by Students of the History Department of Lincoln High School."

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1	6	Typescript of "Splendid Address Delivered by Rev. H. H. Willis at the Methodist Church Centennial Celebration," from the <i>Vincennes Morning Commercial</i> , Saturday, Apr. 24, 1909.
1	6	Typescript of speech (or sermon), undated, author not listed.
1	6	Typescript of written notes concerning unnamed church issues. No date.
1	6	Typescript of written notes from an apparent Civil War diary, dated Feb. 19, 1865 to July 6, 1865.
1	6	Typescript of poem titled "The Old Church Bell," by Emma Woodman. No date.
1	6	Typescript of short story with Vincennes setting involving horse racing and descriptions of life, titled "The Source of His Strength." Not dated, no author listed.
1	6	Typescript of copy of letter published in the <i>Vincennes Sun-Commercial</i> from former Vincennes University student Angus Gaines, who discussed his impressions of Vincennes, mentioned the Fairgrounds and various local personages. Not dated.
1	6	Handwritten notes on a card detailed the <i>Western Register and Terre Haute Advertiser</i> dates of issue (July 21, 1823-Sept. 7, 1824).
1	6	Handwritten notes from various articles in the <i>Western Register and Terre Haute Advertiser</i> from July 21, 1812 to Sept. 21, 1827.
1	6	Handwritten notes from apparent Vincennes University Board of Trustee minutes, Dec 19, 1806 through Apr. 4, 1808.
1	6	Handwritten copy of article titled "Washington Entombed" about the funeral of George Washington, America's first president. From the <i>Ulster County Gazette</i> , Dec. 20 (1800?).
1	6	Handwritten essay titled "Early Settlers," by Pauline Pea, with apparent focus on individuals in Harrison Township in Knox County, Indiana. Not dated.
1	6	Typescript of article titled "Description of a Husband By His Wife, from the <i>Western Sun</i> , Feb. 25, 1809.
1	6	Handwritten description of court case (lawsuit) with bill of expenses for river trip to Falls of Ohio (Joseph Decker Jr. v. John N. Seiley (sp.?). June 1794.
1	6	Typescript copy of tax matter decision, Palmyra Township, Mar. 24, 1801, Knox County.
1	6	Typescript of court proceedings involving construction of the Knox County Jail, and apparent dissatisfaction with the building quality, Apr. 23, 1816.
1	7	Typescript of report to Knox County Commissioners by H. M. Smith, M.D., Physician to the County Almhouse, for services rendered (focusing on a specific grisly case involving amputation of a patient's leg), Dec. 3, 1849.
1	7	Handwritten copy of legal cases from Knox County Circuit Court A, 1817-1822.

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1	7	Typescript of account titled "Harrison in Vincennes" mentioning effort by the Old Post Association to raise money to beautify the grounds about the William Henry Harrison home and assist fund-raising by Mr. and Mrs. Eli Lily. Includes information from the files of the Vincennes Gazette, dated from May 23, 1835.
1	7	Handwritten note about establishment of "Prison Bounds" by the Knox County Commissioners, 1814-1820.
1	7	Handwritten note concerning costs of erecting a gallows to hang Thomas McKinney and costs of coffin for his victim, James Boyde, from Knox County Commissioner Records 1820-1823.
1	7	Handwritten copy of "Laws Passed at the First Session of the Indiana Territory Begun and Held at the Borough of Vincennes on Monday the Twenty-Ninth of July in the Year 1803," as printed by Elihu Stout. Date range including revisions 1805 to 1814.
1	7	Handwritten article (possibly a speech?) discussing origins of "The Borough of Vincennes," 1805-. Undated, no author listed.
1	8	Typescript of article titled "Commerce of the Wabash" discussing steam boat travel and business along the Wabash River. From the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Apr. 16, 1831. No author listed.
1	8	Typescript of article titled "Free School Meeting" about the establishment of a free school in Vincennes, Indiana, from the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Mar. 3, 1838.
1	8	Typescript of article by S. L. Crosby titled "Convention for a School Association" concerning interest in creating a society for promoting schools in Knox County, Indiana, from the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Mar. 3, 1838.
1	8	Typescript of article titled "Health of Vincennes" concerning Public Burial Grounds and causes of death if those interred. From the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Feb. 6, 1841.
1	8	Typescript of article titled "Wabash River," concerning problems with river navigation and discuss of steam boats, from the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , May 18, 1839.
1	8	Typescript of article by S. L. Crosby titled "Convention for a School Association" urging the need for creation of a society for promoting schools in Knox County, Indiana, from the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Feb. 17, 1838.
1	8	Typescript of article titled "The Borough of Vincennes, discussing various issues involving the establishment of the Borough. Undated, author not listed, but seems to be a speech.
1	8	Typescript of article titled "Early Vincennes" concerning the early history of the city, listing establishment date of 1733, ending the discussion about 1833. Author unlisted.
1	8	Typescript of article titled "The Quilting Party," explaining gathering of women in cold New England evenings to socialize and make quilts to pass the time (not Vincennes specific), published in the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Feb. 5, 1831.

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1	8	Typescript of article titled "Levee Notice" concerning establishing a levee along the Wabash River with list of landowners to be affected. Signed by Commissioners J. B. Martin and Vital Bouche. From the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Mar. 1, 1834.
1	9	Typescript of article titled "Agriculture Society of Knox County," published in the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Apr. 15, 1837.
1	9	Typescript of original last will and testament of Michael Lacassagna, Louisville, Kentucky, Oct. 17, 1797.
1	9	Inventory of property of Pierre Amable Daigneu, Knox County Probate Office, May 4, 1793.
1	9	Typescript of letter from Antion Gamilen, Judge of Probate for Knox County, to W. James Sullivan, brother of Daniel Sullivan, deceased, about the latter's creditors. July 24, 1790.
1	9	Typescript of Probate court document concerning property of Alexander Valle, "Postvincents," May 14, 1793.
1	9	Typescript of court documents of trial of Thomas McKinney for the murder of Jas Boyd (The State of Indiana vs Thomas McKinney), filed by Knox County Clerk R. Buntin. Oct. 15, 1822.
1	9	Typescript of court documents concerning State of Indiana vs. Thos. McKinney, Circuit Court C Order Book. Description of proceedings leading to McKinney's scheduled execution, Oct. 15, 1822.
1	9	Typescript of "Lurid Story of an Early Vincennes Hanging." (Tom McKinney, convicted of murdering Jas Boyd.) From the <i>Vincennes Sun</i> , Aug. 29, 1905.
1	9	Typescript of report and resolutions of "Prudential Committee of Knox County School Association," published in the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Mar. 24, 1838.
1	9	Typescript of "Circular, to the Trustees of Schools in Knox Co.," discussing need for data about schools and progress they are making," by S. L. Crosby, Secretary, published by the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Apr. 7, 1838.
1	9	Typescript of "Common School Education, No. 1," concerning teaching of religion in schools, by author "Locke." Published by the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Aug. 13, 1836.
1	9	Typescript of "Common School Education, No. 2," concerning teaching of religion in schools, by author "Locke." Published by the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Aug. 20, 1836.
1	9	Typescript of "Common School Education, No. 3," concerning teaching of religion in schools, by author "Locke." Published by the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Aug. 27, 1836.
1	9	Typescript of "Common School Education, No. 4," concerning quality of teachers in schools, by author "Locke." Published by the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Sept. 3, 1836.

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1	9	Typescript of "Common School Education, No. 5," concerning preparation of teachers in schools, by author "Locke." Published by the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Sept. 10, 1836.
1	9	Typescript of "Common School Education, No. 6," concerning the teaching profession in schools, by author "Locke." Published by the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Sept. 24, 1836.
1	9	Typescript of "Common School Education, No. 7," concerning the teaching profession in schools, by author "Locke." Published by the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Oct. 8, 1836.
1	9	Typescript of "Common School Education, No. 8," concerning the use of books in schools, by author "Locke." Published by the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Oct. 15, 1836.
1	9	Typescript of article titled "Harrison in Vincennes," concerning William Henry Harrison and his visit to Vincennes in 1835. Author unlisted, dates from the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> starting in May 21, 1835.
1	9	Typescript of "Remarks of Gen. Harrison" concerning Harrison's visit to Vincennes, May 25, 1835, published in the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , June 6, 1835.
1	9	Typescript of article with resolutions concerning dinner for William Henry Harrison during his visit to Vincennes, May 25, 1835, published in the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , May 23, 1835.
1	9	Typescript of invitation to William Henry Harrison to attend a dinner in his honor during his Vincennes visit (May 25, 1835), signed by 14 residents, published in the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , May 30, 1835.
1	9	Typescript of coverage of dinner given in honor of William Henry Harrison during his Vincennes visit on May 25, 1835, published in the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , May 30, 1835.
1	9	Typescript of article about "The Historic Mansion of Ex-Gov. Williams Burned Saturday," (James D. "Blue Jeans" Williams.) Published in the <i>Indianapolis Star</i> , Dec. 5 189?.
1	9	Typescript of notes titled "Historical Bits" concerning the Masonic Lodge in Vincennes. Not dated.
1	9	Typescript of "Wabash Improvement Meeting" proceedings. Representatives from Knox, Sullivan, Vigo counties in Indiana and Wabash and Lawrence counties of Illinois participated in this organization to improve navigation of the Wabash River by steamboats. Published in the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Nov. 2, 1839.
1	9	Typescript of "A High-Handed Measure. An Attempt at Robbery and Arson," concerning criminal activity, published in the <i>Vincennes Gazette</i> , Feb. 27, 1841.
1	9	Typescript of "Knox County Whig Convention," Apr. 9, 1842, putting forth resolutions in support of political candidates.
1	9	Typescript of article titled "Vincennes, the Cradle of Freemasonry in Indiana." Undated, though references dates from 1733 to 1959

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1	10	Handwritten biographical work (140 pages) titled "The Last Pioneer Governor of Indiana—"Blue Jeans" Williams. A note included indicates Howard Burnett has not been proven to have been the author, though portions of the book may have been published under his name (Vincennes Historical and Antiquarian Society, 2001).
1	11	Handwritten letter by J. L. Fatout (sp.?) to School Trustees proposing to construct a school building, Mar.ch 30, 1878.
1	11	Handwritten article titled "Medical History of Vincennes, Indiana," by A. Patton, M.D., citing "Transcriptions of the Indiana State Medical Society," dated Jan. 5, 1875.
1	11	Typescript article titled "'Blue Jeans' Williams—For Governor!" from NTGS Tales and Trails Col., Oct. 2000.
1	11	Handwritten notes from newspaper articles concerning Indiana Governor "Blue Jeans" Williams' political ventures and a speech, 1871-1877.
1	11	Handwritten articles concerning Indiana Governor "Blue Jeans" Williams, no author listed but presumably by Howard Burnett. Undated. "Blue Jeans Religion," "'Blue Jeans' Rule for Success," "Origin of Name Blue Jeans," "Blue Jeans Simplicity," "Blue Jeans Justice," "Blue Jeans and Fine Live Stock," "Blue Jeans as Justice of the Peace," and "The Pony Story." Undated.
1	12	Typescript of "First Methodist Church 1809 1959, By Howard R. Burnett (published by Kramac, Vincennes, Ind., 1961). 137 pages.
2	1	Typescript of "History of Vincennes University" (Final Copy), by Howard R. Burnett, Master's Thesis, June, 1936, Indiana University ("copied and zeroxed summer 1970 from the original, part I").
2	2	Typescript with hand-written corrections of "History of Vincennes University," by Howard R. Burnett. Master's Thesis, June, 1936, Indiana University (part I).
2	3	Typescript with hand-written corrections of "History of Vincennes University," by Howard R. Burnett. Master's Thesis, June, 1936, Indiana University (part II).
2	4	Typescript (Final Copy) with hand-written corrections of "History of Vincennes University," by Howard R. Burnett. Master's Thesis, June, 1936, Indiana University (part II).
2	5	Typescript (Final Copy) with hand-written corrections of "History of Vincennes University," by Howard R. Burnett. Master's Thesis, June, 1936, Indiana University (part II).
2	6	Typescript ("duplicate copy) of "History of Vincennes University" (Final Copy), by Howard R. Burnett, Master's Thesis, June, 1936, Indiana University ("copied and zeroxed summer 1970 from the original," part I).

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