

Richard L. Dawson Papers

L 043
1857-1921
2 mss boxes

Rare Books and Manuscripts Division

Indiana State Library

Processed by: Jennifer Duplaga, 2004

Finding aid updated: Edythe Huffman, 11/16/2015

Biographical:

Richard Lew Dawson was born to Riley and Catherine Dawson on January 20, 1852 in Franklin County, Indiana. Dawson was a writer of humorous sketches and poetry and often gave his characters Hoosier dialects. His works appeared in popular newspaper and magazines, such as the Chicago Current, Saturday Herald, the Indianapolis Journal, the Sentinel, and Century Magazine. He was one of the founding members of the Western Association of Writers, formed in 1866. Dawson died April 23, 1921.

Scope and Content Note:

This collection contains the papers of Richard Lew Dawson, including: drafts of his larger poetry and essay collections; original handwritten stories, poems and music; editorials and newspaper columns written by Dawson; and advertisements and programs from his speaking engagements. Also included in the collection is a series of newspaper articles regarding the history of the modern calendar, together with Dawson's own homemade perpetual calendar. The correspondence includes letters from T.E. Dawson, Richard Lew Dawson's grandfather, to his parents during the Civil War. The bulk of the letters are to Dawson from correspondents such as J.W. Carr, Henry M. Buttes, Mary Rodifer Wilson, Barton Evermann, John D. Shelley and W. W. Grant. The Dawson family records include the grammar school attendance records for Lovinia Dawson; Methodist Episcopal Church quarterly tickets for Riley and Catherine Dawson, an obituary for T.E. Dawson and a handwritten copy of U.S. Grant's first field order during the Civil War.

Box and Folder Listing:

Box 1:

Folder

1. Correspondence, 1857-1921
2. Dawson family, 1859-1900
3. Miscellaneous, 1864-1916
 - 1864, July 13 Beck Sullivan wedding card
 - 1870, Nov. 2 Josie Condy wedding invitation
 - 1882, June 10 Lily Thompson 7th grade graduation card
 - 1895, July 23 Newspaper article, "Sabbath School Celebration"
 - 1913, Feb. 22 Joaquin Miller poem, "To Juanita"
 - 1913, Feb. 22 Picture of Joaquin and Juanita Miller
 - 1913, Feb. 22 Christmas card with Juanita Mill poem
 - 1913, Feb. 22 Joaquin Miller poems
 - 1913, Oct. 7 Newspaper article on the principle churches of Indianapolis in 1858
 - 1915, Apr. 15 Newspaper article with picture of Dr. Mary R. Wilson
 - n.d. Index to Literary California
 - n.d. Three torn envelopes with notes from Kitty Thompson Wirick
 - n.d. Business card for Richard Lew Dawson
 - n.d. Small sketch of flowers
 - n.d. Publication information for The Model Republic
 - n.d. Newspaper article about the aurora
 - n.d. Short biography of William Colby Cooper
4. Advertisements and speaking engagements, 1872-1911
5. Dawson editorials/newspaper column, 1882-1920
6. Stories, poems and music, 1883-1918 (folder 1 of 2)
7. Stories, poems and music, 1883-1918 (folder 2 of 2)
8. Calendar, n.d. (Dawson perpetual calendar, newspaper clippings, etc.)
9. Draft- "Fifth Ward School," n.d.
10. Draft- "Florida Nights," n.d.
11. Draft- "Growing Upward," n.d. (folder 1 of 2)
12. Draft- "Growing Upward," n.d. (folder 2 of 2)
13. Draft- "Old Hoosier Ways," n.d. (folder 1 of 3)
14. Draft- "Old Hoosier Ways," n.d. (folder 2 of 3)
15. Draft- "Old Hoosier Ways," n.d. (folder 3 of 3)

Box 2.

Folder

1. Draft- "Red Roses and True," n.d.
 2. Draft- "Songs from Sea to Sea," n.d.
 3. Draft- "Speaking Pictures," n.d.
 4. Draft- "The Taming of McGoogle," n.d.
 5. Draft- "Under the Apple Tree," n.d.
 6. Draft, "Weeds and Johnny-jump-ups," n.d.
 7. Edgar Allen Poe, n.d. (newspaper clippings, Dawson essay, etc.)
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Collection Information

Size of Collection: 2 mss boxes
Collection Dates: 1857-1921
Provenance: Kitty Thompson Wirick, 1934, 1937, 1946
Restrictions: None
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Alternate Formats: None
Related Holdings: None
Notes: None