



Guide to the William Boone Douglass papers, 1809-1948

This collection guide was produced in **2020 March**.

This PDF version was created on **April 2, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	3
Arrangement	6
Administrative Information	7
Related Materials	8
Names and Subjects	8
Collection Inventory	9

Summary

Collection Title:

William Boone Douglass papers, 1809-1948

Creator:

Douglass, William Boone, 1864-1947

Abstract:

William Boone Douglass (1864-1947) was a white lawyer, engineer, and surveyor from Corydon (Harrison Co.), Indiana who was known for his survey work in the southwest United States. Collection includes correspondence, genealogical material, maps, photographs, notebooks on the Pueblo Indians, and other papers of Douglass and of various members of the Boone and Douglass families.

Extent:

8.75 Linear Feet

Language:

Materials in English.

Collection ID:

RL.11831

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1tk6v>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], William Boone Douglass Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

Collection includes a biographical sketch of Douglass, correspondence of the Boone and Douglass families, genealogical information and research, financial and legal documents, material related to Douglass' survey work and national parks, printed and visual material, and writings.

Correspondence pertains to family matters, the Kansas-Nebraska question, the passing of the first overland mail from California through Cassville, Missouri in 1858, elections to be held in Indiana in 1860, Douglass' surveying activities, establishment of a National Park of the Cliff Cities of New Mexico, the securing of power from Boulder Dam, and other matters. There are several Civil War letters from both Union and Confederate soldiers. There is a large amount of correspondence for Douglass' parents, Benjamin P. Douglass and Victoria Boone, as well as for his son, William Boone Douglass, Jr.

The financial and legal documents include receipts, account books, deeds, a court docket from an unidentified court, and patent case files and diagrams. Also of note is an 1814 deed of emancipation for Sally and Champion, two formerly enslaved people, who were emancipated by William Vincett in Harrison County, Indiana.

Booklets, brochures, and publications cover a wide range of topics and locations, including traveling in Santa Fe, N.M., the Transylvania Company and the founding of Henderson, K.Y., and the history of U.S. coinage laws.

Material related to Douglass' survey work consists of notes, writings, and drawings about the different sites that he surveyed, particularly those in present-day Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico, as well as maps and plats. Douglass' published "Notes on the Shrines of the Tewa and Other Pueblo Indians of New Mexico" (1917) is included in the writings. Also included are many photographs of Utah, New Mexico, and the Southwest. These photographs show natural formations, the surveyors, and also Pueblo peoples and customs, including Santiago Naranjo, Francisco Naranjo, and the Pueblo peoples' traditional Buffalo Dance. The Notebook on Pueblo Indians, Vol. I, contains descriptions of Douglass' visit to the San Ildefonso Pueblo and his observations of dwellings, meals, symbols, and rituals, with particular attention paid to the Scalp Dance. Vol. II contains notes on the Tewa language, cardinal colors and locations, clans, culture, and history, as well as Douglass' notes on other publications that address the Tewa language and Pueblo peoples. Douglass' survey work prompted him to advocate for the establishment of a "National Park of the Cliff Cities of New Mexico"--material related to this effort, including proposed legislation and maps, is in the collection.

Correspondence, clippings, and the material related to Douglass' survey work make mention of the indigenous groups and individuals he encountered, including the Paiute, Navajo, and Pueblo peoples and Jim Mike, Santiago Naranjo, and Francisco Naranjo. Most of the material about Jim Mike addresses his role in leading Douglass to the natural bridges in Utah, including what is now known as Rainbow Bridge National Monument.

Biographical/Historical

William Boone Douglass was a white lawyer, engineer, and surveyor from Corydon (Harrison Co.), Indiana. He was born in Corydon on June 30, 1864, to Benjamin P. and Victoria Boone Douglass. Douglass graduated from Corydon High School in 1882, after which he worked in the law office of his father and S. M. Stockslager. In 1886 he began attending Georgetown University School of Law, from which he graduated in 1888. In 1889 he married Allie Lockett in Indiana, and they went on to have four children: Marguerite, Dorothy, Maude, and William Jr. In 1904 Douglass was appointed as an examiner of surveys in the General Land Office, and from 1908 to 1912 he surveyed and named three natural bridges situated on land in Utah, Colorado, and Arizona belonging to the Paiute and Navajo peoples. Jim Mike, a Paiute man, showed Douglass the locations of these natural bridges. Douglass began surveying Pueblo lands and shrines in New Mexico in 1910, and as a result of this survey work he advocated for the creation of a National Park of Cliff Cities. Douglass also advocated for the establishment of other national parks and reservations in the Southwest. In the 1930s Douglass worked as a patent attorney in Washington, D.C. He also served as president of the Boone Family Association and the American Order of Pioneers. Douglass passed away in South Carolina on July 7, 1947.

Jim Mike, a Paiute man, was born on May 3, 1872, in Utah. Collection material frequently refers to him as "Mike's Boy" and "Jim," while U.S. Census records indicate that his native name was "Cowboy." These records also indicate that Mike's tribal association was with the Utes, though it is unclear which branch. Jim Mike showed William Boone Douglass the locations of the three natural bridges that Douglass investigated and named. Jim Mike married and had at least two children, Apwea (Harry) Mike and Pe-upp (Margaret) Mike. Jim passed away in Utah on September 28, 1977.

Santiago Naranjo, a Santa Clara Pueblo man, was born in the Santa Clara Pueblo of New Mexico, likely in the 1850s (recorded dates vary from 1854 to 1862). He married Filomena Baca around 1884, and they had at least five children together. Santiago Naranjo served as governor of the Santa Clara Pueblo from at least 1911, possibly until 1929 or later. It is unclear if this term was continuous or interrupted. Santiago Naranjo likely passed away in the mid- to late-1940s (newspaper records indicate he was still living in 1944).

Francisco Naranjo, a Santa Clara Pueblo man, was born in the Santa Clara Pueblo of New Mexico, likely in the 1840s (recorded dates vary from 1838 to 1848). He married Maria Catarina Tafoya (sometimes seen in records as Catalina), and they had at least four children together. Naranjo became a leader in the Santa Clara Pueblo, serving as governor at some point prior to 1911 and specifically leading the Winter people in the Pueblo. Naranjo also founded and led a federation with representation from all of the Pueblos in New Mexico to advocate for their interests. Naranjo was considered a progressive by his peers,

and he was particularly invested in decreasing liquor distribution in Pueblos. Francisco Naranjo passed away on October 10, 1920.

Paiute is a term that refers to three different groups of indigenous peoples: Northern Paiute, Southern Paiute, and Mono. Due to their location in Utah, it is most likely that collection material referring to "Paiute" is referencing Southern Paiute people. Southern Paiute homeland includes present-day southern Nevada, northern Arizona, and central and southern Utah. The Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah received federal recognition in 1980 and comprises five tribal bands: Cedar Band ([Suh'dutsing] Cedar People); Indian Peaks Band ([Kwee'choovunt] Peak People); Kanosh Band ([Kawnaw'os] willow jug); Koosharem; ([Paw goosawd'uhmpuhtseng] Water Clover People); Shivwits ([See'veets eng] Whitish Earth People).

Traditional Navajo homeland, Dinétah, includes present-day southeastern Utah, southwestern Colorado, northwestern New Mexico, and northeastern Arizona. The Navajo Nation was officially recognized by the U.S. federal government in 1868. Today Navajoland, Diné Bikéyah, is situated in Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico.

Pueblo homeland includes present-day New Mexico, Arizona, and Colorado, but today most Pueblo people live in New Mexico. There are nineteen Pueblo tribes in New Mexico: Acoma, Cochiti, Isleta, Jemez, Laguna, Nambé, Ohkay Owingeh, Picuris, Pojoaque, Sandia, San Felipe, San Ildefonso, Santa Ana, Santa Clara, Santo Domingo, Taos, Tesuque, Zia, and Zuni. Each Pueblo is a sovereign nation. Of these Pueblos, six are considered to be Tewa peoples, a grouping of Pueblo peoples who speak the Tewa language. The six Tewa-speaking Pueblos are: Nambé, Pojoaque, San Ildefonso, Ohkay Owingeh, Santa Clara Pueblo, and Tesuque.

Sources: Wikipedia; Ancestry; "Francisco Naranjo, the 'Grand Old Man' of the Pueblo Indians," American Issue, 1911; Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah; Navajo Nation Government; Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. All sources accessed June 17-23, 2022.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Material is arranged in the following general order: correspondence, genealogical and personal material, financial and legal material (including patents), material related to Douglass' survey work and national parks, other printed and visual material, and writings.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

Acquisition Information

The William Boone Douglass papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library in 1951.

Processing Information

Processed by Rubenstein Staff.

Accessions described in this collection guide are from 1951.

Reprocessed by Leah Tams, June 2022.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Material

Researchers may be interested in the following collections outside of Duke:

William Boone Douglass Correspondence, 1920-1922, at the University of New Mexico Center for Southwest Research & Special Collections.

Boone-Douglas Family Papers, 1809-1891, at the Indiana Historical Society.

Boone mss., 1791-1868, at Indiana University Bloomington.

Santiago Naranjo Papers, 1906-1945, at the Fray Angélico Chávez History Library (New Mexico History Museum).

Palace of the Governors Photo Archives at the New Mexico History Museum.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Kansas-Nebraska Act (United States)
- American Civil War (1861-1865)
- Aztec Ruins National Monument (N.M.)
- Hoover Dam (Ariz. and Nev.)
- Indiana -- Officials and employees.
- Indiana -- Politics and government.
- National parks and reserves -- New Mexico
- Patents -- United States
- Postal service -- United States -- History
- Pueblo Indians
- Tewa Indians
- Slavery -- Indiana
- Soldiers -- Confederate States of America -- Correspondence
- Soldiers -- United States -- Correspondence
- Surveyors -- Records
- Diplomatic and consular service
- Journals (accounts)
- Photographic prints
- Deeds
- Pueblo of Santa Clara, New Mexico

- Douglass, Benjamin P.
- Boone family.
- Douglas family.
- Mike, Jim, 1872-1977
- Naranjo, Francisco, -1920
- Naranjo, Santiago

Collection Inventory

Biographical information, circa 1951	Box 1
Correspondence, 1820-1924	Box 1
Physical Description: 9 folders	
Correspondence, 1925-1935	Box 2
Physical Description: 6 folders	
Correspondence, 1936-1948	Box 3
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Correspondence, undated	Box 3
Genealogical material, circa 1900-1948	Box 3 Box 4 Box 8
Physical Description: 4 folders	
Genealogy notebooks, circa 1890-1930	Box 4
Physical Description: 2 Volumes	
Boone Family Association member book, circa 1925-1940	Box 4
Daniel Boone redwood plaque, undated	Box 4
Scope and Contents	
Plaque is broken in two pieces.	
Family photographs, 1943 and undated	Box 4
Academic materials, 1888-1909	Box 4
Certificates, awards, and membership cards, 1852-1944	Box 4

	Box 8
Special passport and consulate information for William Boone Douglass Jr., 1941-1945	Box 4
Account books, 1862-1878	Box 4
Physical Description: 4 Volumes	
Receipts and other financial documents, 1850s-1920	Box 4
Court docket, 1890-1900	Box 4
Legal and property documents, 1809-1940	Box 4 Box 5
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Patent case files and diagrams, 1880s-1930s	Box 5
Patent diagrams and blueprints, circa 1920s-1930s	Oversize-folder 1
Bills, proclamations, and other material related to national parks, 1909-1916 and undated	Box 5
Notes and writings by William Boone Douglass about Native American culture and sites, circa 1909-1917	Box 5
Scope and Contents	
Includes published "Notes on the Shrines of the Tewa and Other Pueblo Indians of New Mexico."	
Drawings and notes by William Boone Douglass on Native American culture and sites, circa 1909-1917	Box 5 Box 8
Scope and Contents	
A folder of larger drawings is located in Box 8.	
Archaeological map of the proposed National Park of the Cliff Cities, 1914	Box 8
Maps and diagrams of New Mexico, circa 1908-1916	Box 8

Land grant maps and plats of New Mexico and the southwest, circa 1909-1913	Oversize-folder 2
Diagrams of Native American cultural sites, circa 1913	Oversize-folder 1
Notebooks on Pueblo peoples, circa 1919	Box 6
Physical Description: 2 Volumes	
Photographs for report on New Mexico survey, circa 1909-1917	Box 6
Photographs of New Mexico and Native American cultural sites, circa 1909-1917	Box 6 Box 7 Box 8
Physical Description: 3 folders	
Scope and Contents	
Includes photographic portraits of Santiago Naranjo and Francisco Naranjo, as well as photographs of unidentified Pueblo people, sites, and artifacts. One oversized photograph is located in Box 8.	
Photographs of Abó and Gran Quivera ruins in New Mexico, circa 1909-1917	Box 7
Photographs from New Mexico, 1916-1919	Box 7
Photographs, prints, and drawings, circa 1909-1917	Box 7
Scope and Contents	
Likely from or related to survey work in New Mexico.	
Department of Interior press release and regulations for leasing public lands, 1930, 1937	Box 6
Booklets, brochures, and publications, 1908-1937	Box 6
Newspaper clippings, 1910-1924 and undated	Box 6
Maps, artwork, advertisements, and other material, circa 1900-1941	Box 6
Photographs from the Bureau of Standards, circa 1930s	Box 6

Colored engravings of Niagara Falls, circa 1870-1920	Box 6
Writings and notes by William Boone Douglass, 1884-1889	Box 6
Writings and notes by others, 1820, circa 1910-1940	Box 6
Notebook, undated	Box 6