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Duncan and Hines Family Papers (MSS 447)

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Joseph Dillard Duncan (known as Dillard Duncan), was born on 21 November 1814 in Culpeper County, Virginia, the son of Edmund Duncan (1787-1860) and his first wife Harriet Ann Dulaney (1794-1835). When he was a young child, his family moved to Warren County, Kentucky, where he lived the rest of his life. In 1841, he married Jane Covington (1817-1900), the daughter of Joseph Covington and Nancy L. Berry. Dillard Duncan was a farmer and horse dealer, served on the Warren Fiscal Court, and was a member of Providence Knob Baptist Church in Rockfield, Kentucky. He died at his home near Rockfield on 5 December 1905.

Among the children of Joseph Dillard Duncan and Jane (Covington) Duncan were: Drusilla Ann Duncan (1844-1905), who married John Cox Underwood (1840-1913); Euclid Marshall Duncan (b. 1850), who married Cora Holloway; Henry Field Duncan (b. 1854), who married Sallie Buford; Woodford Dulaney Duncan (1856-1934), who married Sally Proctor; Simon Bolivar Buckner Duncan (b. 1861), who married Nannie Adams; and Eliza Cornelia Duncan (1846-1884), who married Edward Ludlow Hines (1842-1920).

Among the children of Eliza Cornelia Duncan and Edward Ludlow Hines were: Hiram Markham Hines (1871-1917); Edward Ramsey Hines (1874-1935); William Warner Hines (1875-1948); John Porter Hines (1878-1961), who married Margaret Gates Nicholls; Annie Duncan Hines (1973-1951), who married Arthur Scott Hines; and Duncan Hines (1880-1959). After his wife’s death in 1884, Edward Ludlow Hines found it difficult for health reasons to raise his children and consequently they scattered, some living with relatives and others seeking their fortunes in the west. Duncan and Porter Hines spent much of their youth at the farm of their grandparents, Dillard and Jane Duncan. There, according to his biographer Louis Hatchett, Duncan first gained an appreciation of good food through Jane’s influence. Duncan Hines later became a household name for his restaurant guidebooks and for food products, especially cake mixes, marketed under his name.
COLLECTION NOTE

This collection consists primarily of correspondence, accounts, deeds, clippings and other miscellaneous personal papers of Joseph Dillard Duncan, his wife Jane (Covington) Duncan and their children and grandchildren in the Duncan and Hines families. An inventory and genealogical information is in Folder 1; the genealogical notes are intended to show relationships among the individuals most prominently featured in this collection and should not be construed as complete.

Folder 2 contains correspondence of Dillard Duncan. The correspondence is mostly with family members, principally his brother Charles, sons Euclid and Henry, and grandson Hiram Markham Hines (known as Markham). Dillard writes them with family news, describes the fortunes of his farm, and comments on his feelings of isolation after the death of his wife in 1900. Dillard’s brother Charles writes from Marshall, Illinois of horses, family and farming matters, and in one letter severely criticizes the conduct of their brother Woodford’s wife. Dillard’s son Euclid writes in 1871 from medical school in Philadelphia of the prevalence of smallpox and his attempts to economize; he also writes from Marshall, Illinois, where he established his medical practice. Of interest is an 1837 letter to Dillard from a cousin, Samuel J. Read, conveying a rumor about Dillard’s being engaged and speculating on the remarriage of Dillard’s widowed father, Edmund Duncan.

Folder 3 contains miscellaneous accounts, contracts, notes and receipts of Dillard Duncan. Included are accounts for household goods for both Dillard and his father Edmund, promissory notes, and documents in connection with the administration of an estate.

Folder 4 contains letters to Simon Bolivar Buckner Duncan (known as Buckner). Included are letters from his parents, Dillard and Jane Duncan, who write of the farm, his siblings and other family members. Dillard additionally writes from Mississippi of his dealings in horses, and Buckner’s nephew Markham Hines writes from Trinidad, Colorado.

Folder 5 contains correspondence of Dillard Duncan’s son-in-law, Edward Ludlow Hines. Of interest is an 1883 letter from Trinidad, Colorado, in which Hines discusses the possibility of making a living raising livestock, and notes that his brother Walter also resides there. He expresses concern for the health of his wife Cornelia (“Nela”) and notes that the environment is not hospitable toward women. Most of the letters in this folder, however, are dated after Hines, then a widower, retired in the 1890s to a home he built on the Gasper River northwest of Bowling Green, Kentucky. His son Edward R. Hines writes to him of his activities in, and impressions of, the Oklahoma Territory, and his son Warner writes from Louisville, suggesting in one letter that his father investigate obtaining a clerk’s position for Duncan with the Louisville & Nashville Railroad. Hines also writes several letters to his daughter-in-law, Margaret Hines, the wife of his son John Porter Hines (known as Porter), keeping her updated on his gardening and poultry-raising.

Folder 6 contains correspondence of Edward L. Hines’s son Markham Hines. Included is a childhood letter to his grandmother Jane from Trinidad, Colorado. Later letters to his brother Porter and sister-in-law Margaret Hines describe Markham’s activities in Colorado, where he works for the U.S. Forest Service; in New Mexico, where he describes conflict relating to the Mexican Revolution and mining activities; and in St. Louis, Missouri, where he lives and works near his brother Edward. Markham’s letters from New Mexico and St. Louis refer to a woman, “Clara,” although their relationship is not made clear. Markham’s brother Edward also writes
him from Oklahoma to differ sharply with him on political questions relating to the 1896 presidential election.

Folder 7 contains correspondence of various members of the Hines family. Of interest is correspondence between Porter Hines and his family, written during his work as a steamboat captain on the Tennessee River in 1916-1917. Porter’s mother Cornelia (“Nela”) Hines also writes her brother and mother about her family life in Trinidad, Colorado in the 1880s.

Folder 8 contains various papers relating to Porter Hines, including receipts, a clipping regarding his marriage, and correspondence relating to his river steam vessel engineer’s license. Also included are two documents conveying to Porter’s wife Margaret and to his uncle Walter certain assets from the estates of deceased family members.

Folder 9 contains two Covington family letters: one to Jane (Covington) Duncan’s father Joseph related to drawing deeds; and the other to one of Jane (Covington) Duncan’s children in which the writer outlines their relationship through the family of Jane’s mother.

Folder 10 contains deeds and surveys relating to the Duncan, Hines and Dulaney families.

Folder 11 contains notes and narrative sketches of the Civil War military service of Edward Ludlow Hines and Hiram Woodford Dulaney, the nephew of Dillard Duncan’s mother Harriet (Dulaney) Duncan.

Folder 12 contains court documents surveying lands in Edmonson County, Kentucky as homestead exemptions under the bankruptcies of Edward Blair and James Madison. (The Register in Bankruptcy was a member of the Underwood family.)

Folder 13 contains miscellaneous unidentified accounts for livestock, furniture and household supplies.

Folder 14 contains miscellaneous financial notations and a letter to “Dulaney,” a neighbor of Dillard Duncan’s, seeking to trace a lost payment for a horse purchased from Dillard during the Civil War.

Folder 15 contains a family record (births, deaths, marriages), primarily of members of the Adams family.

**SHELF LIST**

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Folder 14  Miscellaneous notes and correspondence  1872, n.d.  4 items
Folder 15  Family record – Adams family  n.d.  2 items

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS DUNCAN and Hines Family Papers 1834-1942
447

Correspondence, accounts, deeds, clippings, and miscellaneous papers, primarily of Joseph Dillard Duncan and Jane (Covington) Duncan of Warren County, Kentucky, and their children and grandchildren in the Duncan and Hines families.

1 box. 15 folders. 167 items. Originals, photocopies.
2005.137.2

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