

**FINDING AID to the**

**D. B. DUNCAN'S MAMMOTH CAVE TRIP, 1873-74  
TYPESCRIPT**

**MSS 20**  
(.1 linear ft.)

By

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Hanover, Indiana

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## **SCOPE AND CONTENT STATEMENT**

Duncan and four other Hanover College students spend their winter break from Dec. 19, 1873 to Jan. 6, 1874 travelling from Hanover, IN to Mammoth Cave, KY. Duncan describes in a daily record their journey by steamboat to Louisville and their journey by foot to Mammoth Cave and the retracing of their route home. The major portion of Duncan's writings is the description of Mammoth Cave.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT**

David Boyle Duncan was born in Londonberry, Ireland on Nov. 19, 1848. He was a student and tutor at Hanover College from 1873-1874. He attended the Lane Theological Seminary in Cincinnati from 1874-1877 and was a licensed Presbyterian minister. He was ordained in Cincinnati on Nov. 14, 1877. He worked as a pastor from 1877-1884 at New Richmond, Ohio. He received an A.M. degree from Hanover College in 1883 and a Doctor of Divinity degree from Hanover College in 1895. From 1884-1903 he was the pastor at Ashland and then in Crawfordsville, IN from 1904-1909. Beginning in 1909 he served as a pastor in Fairfield, WA and later became a resident of Richfield, Idaho. Duncan died July 2, 1926. (Biographical data is from the "Alumni Record: 1827-1927," *Bulletin of Hanover College*, Vol. 20 No. 4, Jan. 1, 1928.).

## **PROVENANCE**

Agnes Jane Duncan Plummer, a granddaughter of David Duncan, made the typescript from his grandfather's manuscript. Plummer donated a copy of the typescript to Hanover College.

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**SERIES 1    MAMMOTH CAVE TYPESCRIPT, 1873-1874**

Fd. 1            Mammoth Cave Typescript, 1873 Dec. 19-1874 Jan. 6  
                    41 p.

Following the close of the fall term at Hanover College five students embarked on a Christmas journey. David Boyle Duncan recorded their travels entitled, "Our Trip to Mammoth Cave," which spans from Dec. 19, 1873 to Jan. 6, 1874. The group first traveled to Louisville by steamboat and then toured the library and museum there. With a map they set out across Kentucky. They slept outdoors at times and were sometimes treated to the hospitality of the country people. On Christmas Eve they stayed at Cave City, Kentucky and they spent Christmas at Mammoth Cave. The description of the cave comprises about fourteen pages of the typescript. On Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> the group began their return journey. By Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> they had arrived in Munfordsville. During their return trip Duncan described meeting a Baptist and Presbyterian minister, and a man who knew Abraham Lincoln and his family. The men arrived in Louisville and boarded the steamer on January 6, 1874. By the evening they were in Madison and Hanover.