

**FINDING AID to the**

**JOHN M. COYNER, 1827-1908  
COLLECTION, 1860-1919**

MSS 22  
(2 linear ft.)

By

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Hanover, Indiana

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT STATEMENT

The John M. Coyner (1827-1908) Collection contains an autograph book, scrapbook, writings of Coyner as founder of the Salt Lake Collegiate Institute, correspondence, ephemera, and photos.

## BIOGRAPHICAL STATEMENT

John McCutchen Coyner was born in Augusta Co., VA, on Sep. 16, 1827. He received his A.M. degree at Hanover College in 1856. In 1873 he received a Ph.D. from Hanover College. He was an associate principal and professor of mathematics at Waveland, IN from 1852-1861. For the next four years he worked as president of the Academy at Lebanon, IN. He worked again as president from 1865-1867 at the college institute at Centerville, IN. He was the superintendent of both the public schools at Cambridge City, IN from 1869-1871 and at Rushville, IL from 1871-1873.

Coyner moved west in 1873 and for the next two years was the principal of a grammar school for the Nez Perces Indians in Lepwia, Idaho. Coyner moved to Salt Lake City, Utah in 1875 and founded the Salt Lake Collegiate Institute. Coyner was the principal of the institution and was an outspoken critic of the Mormon Church. He lived in Utah for a little over ten years before moving to California. In 1897 his residence was Palms, CA. Coyner died on May 17, 1908 in Hopkinsville, KY. (Biographical data was taken from the "Alumni Record: 1827-1927," *Bulletin of Hanover College*, Vol. 20 No. 4, Jan. 1, 1928, p. 32.)

## PROVENANCE

The John M. Coyner Collection was donated by Phyllis Coker on Nov. 10, 1999.

## RESTRICTIONS AND PERMISSIONS

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**SERIES 1 COYNER MATERIALS, 1860-1919**

**Box 1 Autograph, Utah Materials, Correspondence, and Ephemera,  
1860 Apr.-1919 Mar. 28  
10 fd.**

Fd. 1-2 Autograph Book, 1860 Apr.-1861 Mar. 26  
1 v.

While working as a principal and professor at Waveland, IN,  
Coyner asked students to autograph the book and write a small  
statement. The first few pages are a homemade student index.

Fd. 1 Original  
Restricted

Fd. 2 Photocopy

Fd. 3-8 Salt Lake Collegiate Institute and Presbyterian History in Utah, 1879-1904

Fd. 3 Pamphlets against Mormonism, 1879-1882  
2 items

Item

- 1 "Letters on Mormonism," 1879 by John M. Coyner  
Restricted
- 2 "Handbook on Mormonism, 1882

Fd. 4 Photocopy of "Letters on Mormonism"

Fd. 5 *The Mormons*, 1904 by Samuel E. Wishard  
1 v.

Wishard describes the growth of Presbyterianism in Utah and the  
impact Presbyterians made in Utah education in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.  
The book is a history of the church in Utah.

Fd. 6 "Annual Announcement of the Salt Lake Collegiate Institute for 1908-  
1909"

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**Box 1 Cont.**

Fd. 7-8 Scrapbook, 1881 Sep. 10-1900 Jun. 20  
1 v.

The scrapbook is filled with newspaper articles from Salt Lake City regarding the Salt Lake Collegiate Institute and Coyner's visit to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school he founded. Also included in the scrapbook is the 1900 graduation program for the institute.

Fd. 7 Original  
Restricted

Fd. 8 Photocopy

Fd. 9 Correspondence, 1902 Sep. 16-1919 Mar. 28  
14 items

Item

- 1 F. H. Beck to John Coyner, 1902 Sep. 16
- 2 W. S. Bartlett to Presbyterian Laity Assoc. of Southern California, 1902 Nov. 13
- 3 Samuel N. Wilson to John Coyner, 1902 Dec. 16
- 4 Kate C. Woody to [Coyner], [n.d.]  
This is the second page of a letter written from Los Angeles.
- 5 John T. Hanna to John Coyner, 1903 Jun. 8
- 6 John Coyner to Eddie F. Coyner, 1903 Oct. 29
- 7 H. G. Flieth to John Coyner, 1904 Feb. 2
- 8 To John Coyner, 1907 Aug. 14
- 9 R. Coyner to John Coyner, 1908 Feb. 4
- 10 To My dear uncle [Coyner], 1908 Apr. 26
- 11 John M. Coyner to friends, [n.d.]
- 12 Typed letter of John M. Coyner to Friends, [n.d.]
- 13 Donald W. Skeel to E. F. Coyner, 1911 Mar. 9  
The letter discusses a burial lot in Los Angeles that was likely purchased by John Coyner when he lived in California.
- 14 Margaret Matilda Coyner to Aunt Mattie, 1919 Mar. 28

Fd. 10 Ephemera  
22 items

The items in this folder includes Coyner's business card, his funeral announcement, postcards, picture postcards of Galesburg, IL, a Christmas card, a financial report for 1902-1903 for the First Presbyterian Church in Wausau, WI, and other materials.

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**Box 2                    Financial Records and General Publications, 1903-1909 Mar. 28**  
**6 Fd.**

Fd. 1-4            Financial Records, 1903-1907 Dec. 12

- Fd. 1            Dove diary, 1903
- Fd. 2            Grandview Ranch account book, 1904 Jan. 1-1907 Oct. 1
- Fd. 3            Bank book, 1905 Jun. 11-1907 Dec. 12
- Fd. 4            Financial book, ca. 1906-1907

Fd. 5            *Furnishing for Workers*, [n.d.] by Munhall  
1 v.

Munhall's book focuses on religious issues and was one of Coyner's favorite texts.

Fd. 6            Christian magazines and a Salt Lake Collegiate Institute Calendar, 1904-1909 Mar. 28  
4 items

Item

- 1            *Florence Crittendon Magazine*, 1907 Mar.
- 2            *Herald and Presbyterian*, 1908 Jan. 15  
The cover article is on the First Presbyterian Church of Princeton, Indiana.
- 3            *The Visitor*, 1909 Mar. 28
- 4            "Our Church Calendar," 1904  
The calendar was produced by the First Presbyterian Church of Salt Lake City, Utah.

**Box 3                    Photographs, 1860-1919**  
**5 Fd.**

Since so few of the pictures have dates the folder descriptions do not have span dates. Dates are found on individual items if they are known.

Fd. 1            Coyner Family Photographs, Relatives, and Friends  
11 items

Item

- 1            Mr. and Mrs. John M. Coyner and daughter Eunice, [1860s?]
- 2            Mr. and Mrs. John M. Coyner with older children, [n.d.]
- 3            John M. Coyner and dog, [n.d.]
- 4            Unknown man, [n.d.]  
The photo is a tintype and was found in Coyner's Bible.

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**Box 3 Cont.**

Fd. 1 Cont.

Item

- 5 L. W. McIntyre, 1887 Nov. 17
- 6 Unknown woman, [n.d.], M. A. Potts Photographer, Indianapolis, IN
- 7 Unknown woman, [n.d.], Fowler Photographer, Indianapolis, IN
- 8 Bascoes (4 boys), [n.d.]  
The back says "the Quartet."
- 9 Mrs. James M. Coyner and baby daughter Helen Ruth Coyner [ca. 1919]
- 10 Mary [D---u] and Estelle Srafer, 1898 Sep. 22, Memphis TN.
- 11 Unknown parents and five young children, [n.d.]

Fd. 2 Salt Lake City, UT and Los Angeles, CA Photos  
17 items

Items 1-8 Photos taken in Salt Lake City, UT

Item

- 1 Unknown young woman (Coyner daughter?), [n.d.] Newcomb  
Photographer
- 2 Unknown young man, [n.d.]
- 3 Mabel P. Truby, [n.d.], Fox & Symons
- 4 Mabel P. Truby, 1873, St. Louis, MO
- 5 Unknown old man, 1860, C. R. Savage Photographer
- 6 James McKee Coyner, [n.d.]
- 7 Prof. R. L. Caskey[?], 1900 Jun. 11
- 8 Mrs. R. G. M's niece, 1899 Mar.

Items 9-17 Photos taken in Los Angeles, CA

Item

- 9 Mother and baby daughter, [n.d.], Tresslar Photographer
- 10 Cousin Jode Wilkerson's wife [n.d.]
- 11 Harriet, 1898 Jan., Scholl
- 12 Unknown man, [n.d.], Westervelt
- 13 Unknown woman, [n.d.], Westervelt
- 14 Young girl [Coyner's daughter?], Imperial Studio
- 15 Woman, [n.d.], Marceau
- 16 Man, [n.d.], Marceau
- 17 Mr. and Mrs. John M. Coyner standing on the porch of their California  
home, 1899, Garden City Photo Co.

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**Box 3 Cont.**

Fd. 3 Kansas City, MO. and General Photos  
Items

Items 1-5 Photos taken in Kansas City, MO

Item

- 1 Man, [n.d.], Thomson Photographer
- 2 Middle-aged man, [n.d.], C. T. Pomeroy
- 3 Middle-aged woman, [n.d.] C. T. Pomeroy
- 4 Emma Conyer, [n.d.], Studebaker
- 5 Ben Conyer, [n.d.], Studebaker

Items 6-16 General photos

Item

- 6 Older woman, [n.d.], Buttersworth, Wilmington, OH
- 7 Mary Jeannette Vedder, 7 months old
- 8 Heber W. Coyner (early 20s), [n.d.]
- 9 Heber W. Coyner (age 27), 1902, Rockford, IL
- 10 Robert C. Coyner [before 1901], Vestine, Rockford, IL
- 11 Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Coyner, 1892 Summer
- 12 Howard M. Whitehead, 1900 Sep. 1
- 13 Older woman, [n.d.], Edward Adams, Atlanta, GA
- 14 [Ma--] Coyner, (ca. age 4), [n.d.], Zimmerman, Rockford, IL
- 15 Jeannette Wilson and baby daughter, [n.d.], Zimmerman, Rockford, IL
- 16 Jeannette Wilson, [n.d.]

Fd. 4 Photos of Homes  
8 items

Item

- 1 Postcard with photo of a home, [n.d.]
- 2 "The Old Folks at Home," 1907 Jun. 1
- 3 Two women and a child standing outside a home, [n.d.], United States View Co., Opelika, AL.
- 4 The Conyer Homestead near Greenfield, Ohio with E. F. Conyer and another man standing on the road in front of the home, [n.d.]
- 5 Conyer Homestead near Greenfield, Ohio, with two men posing, [n.d.]
- 6 Photo of a home, [1908]
- 7 Photo of inside a decorated church after a funeral
- 8 Large building in Tennessee, 1901

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**Box 3 Cont.**

Fd. 5            Group photos  
                     11 items

Item

- 1     Will R. Coyner and two men standing outside of Coyner Pharmacy, 1903 Summer
- 2     About 100 member standing outside of a building, [18--]
- 3     John M. Coyner and another teacher standing in a filled classroom, 1880 Nov. 24, Pasadena, CA
- 4     Family, friends, and associates of John M. Coyner outside his California home, [n.d.]
- 5     40 people standing outside of a church, 1903 Jul.
- 6     50 men posing near a large house, [n.d.]
- 7     H. W. Coyner family photo taken near a well, 1918 Oct.
- 8     H. W. Coyner, his wife and daughters, 1918 Oct.
- 9     3 children, [n.d.]
- 10    100 children standing outside a school building, [n.d.]
- 11    Commissioners of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church, [18--] May 20, Washington's Home, Mount Vernon, VA  
         John M. Coyner's is the first person on the left side of the picture.

**Oversize**

**Box 4            General Assembly Photographs, 1893 and [n.d.]**  
                     **2 photographs**

**The photographs are held in an oversized box that also houses MSS 68 Oversize Box 1.**