

# ALBANY INSTITUTE OF HISTORY & ART

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## A Guide to the Parker Dunn Papers

### Collection Summary

**Collection Title:** Parker Dunn Papers

**Call Number:** MG 45

**Creator:** Prentiss Carnell

**Inclusive Dates:** 1910s to 1960s

**Bulk Dates:** Same

**Abstract** Parker Dunn was a winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor. The bridge over the Hudson River was named in his memory. An American Legion Post was named for Parker Dunn.

**Quantity:** 3 Boxes, 1 Oversize Box

### Administrative Information

**Custodial History:** Unknown

**Preferred Citation:** Parker Dunn Papers, MG 45. Albany Institute of History & Art Library, New York.

**Acquisition Information:**

Accession #: Unknown

Accession Date: Unknown

**Processing Information:**

Processed by Prentiss Carnell; completed on November 2, 2006.

### Restrictions

**Restrictions on Access:** None

**Restrictions on Use:** Permission to publish material must be obtained in writing prior to publication from the Chief Librarian & Archivist, Albany Institute of History & Art, 125 Washington Avenue, Albany, NY 12210.

#### **Index Term**

**Persons** Parker F. Dunn, James W. Dunn, Mary Mimney

**Organizations** Parker F. Dunn American Legion Post #971

**Subjects** Medal of Honor, Dunn Memorial Bridge

**Places** Grandpre, France; St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands

**Document Types** None

**Titles** None

#### **Biography of Parker Francis Dunn**

Born August 8, 1890 in North Albany, attended Cathedral Academy, attached to Immaculate Conception Roman Catholic Cathedral.

Left school at age 11 to help support his aunt, Mary Mimney, with whom he lived from age 18 months on the death of his mother.

Was turned down for enlistment three times before he was drafted at age 26.

As Pvt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class, he was assigned to the Intelligence Section, Company A, 312 Infantry (Battalion?), 78<sup>th</sup> Division of New York and New Jersey soldiers, American Expeditionary Force.

Died October 23, 1918, having volunteered to deliver critical messages in the heat of battle at Grandpre, France.

#### **Scope and Contents of the Collection**

Information about the life of Parker Dunn, winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor, including his military experience and family life. Also the naming of the bridge over the Hudson River in his memory, as well as the replacement bridge. Also the pension problems of Parker Dunn's foster mother. An American Legion Post was named for Parker Dunn.

#### **Organization of the Collection**

The materials have been roughly sorted into American Legion records, Bridge memorabilia, and Congressional Medal of Honor references. A Scrapbook is included of Dunn family members and bridge documents. AIHA has Dunn's Congressional Medal of Honor as well as the Catholic cross he carried when he died.

## Related Material

None that we are aware of.

**Separated Materials** The Congressional Medal of Honor, the ribbon on which it can be worn, decoration ribbon and rosette were transferred to the AIHA Collections. Also a medal given by the City of Albany to Private Dunn.

## Other Finding Aids

None

## Detailed Description of the Records/Papers/Collection

### Box Inventory

- I A. Congressional Medal of Honor, including ribbon when worn  
Also ribbons and rosette, transferred to Collections

Box 1 of 3

- B. Financial Records  
Parker F. Dunn (American Legion Post?) – 1977. Membership 1942 – 1957, 1961 – 1966. Also 1958 – 1969.
- C. Medal, awarded by City of Albany. (Transferred to Collections)
- D. Souvenir Program  
Rededication of Dunn Memorial Bridge, August 15, 1933  
American Legion Post 971 – Parker F. Dunn Post
- E. American Legion Post Book  
1955-1969, Also check stubs 11/06/1969 to 2/15/1977
- F. File of letters  
1. Pension for foster mother  
2. Dedication matters
- G. File – Dunn memorial Bridge matters  
Photo of Gov. Lehman signing Dunn Bridge bill, Chap. 312, Laws of 1933, document and pen in OV box.  
Miscellaneous clippings & papers regarding Congressional Medal of Honor winners  
Miscellaneous letters, etc. re bridge dedication and more.

Box 2 of 3

- H. File – Miscellaneous  
1. Photo July 1, 1932 “Leaving for Convent on Saratoga” (?)  
Police Officers and Auxiliary  
2. The Evangelist, May 23, 1968 article with picture of Parker  
Dunn and drawing, good description of Congressional Medal

- of Honor event. Note reference to illustration from book, "Rank and File by Theodore Roosevelt.
3. Letter and enclosures Jesse Cunningham to Irene Mimney, Parker Dunn's cousin and "foster mother". He is a "bridge lover". Pictures of Parker Dunn and unidentified tintype of child with Obituary of Dennis McMahon
  4. Folded poster "Why a Parker F. Dunn Memorial Bridge"
  5. Misc. clippings and newspaper photos
  6. 1932 resolution from Parker F. Dunn American Legion Post # 971 to name bridge
  7. Program Nov. 11, 1924 Initial Ball of PF Dunn Post #971. It was a Police and Firemen's post.

I. Miscellaneous

1. NY Times Magazine article Nov. 24, 1963 re Congressional Medal of Honor winners
2. Article, plaque on new Dunn Memorial Bridge, Nov. 9, 1972
3. Postcards of old and new bridge
4. Copy of letter from Knights of Columbus Overseas, Dec. 5, 1918 describing life and death of Parker F. Dunn signed by Edward N. Scheiberling, Judge and AL Post officer
5. Opening new Dunn Memorial Bridge with old, Dec. 22, 1970
6. Demolition of old Bridge, May 11, 1971
7. Legal document, estate of James W. Dunn, father of Parker Dunn, to Mary Mimney, Apr. 21, 1933
8. Blueprint of Bridge plaque
9. October 24, 1976 Program of Congressional Medal of Honor ceremony at Albany Veterans' Administration Hospital. Accounts of four living CMH winners.

J. Miscellaneous

1. Letters regarding Bridge matters
2. Formal Invitation to Bridge dedication

K. Miscellaneous

1. Detailed description of October 23, 1918 death of Parker Dunn
2. Papers regarding pension for Mary Mimney
3. Letters from congressman Parker Corning, signed "Jack"
4. Letter of August 8, 193 signed by John Boyd Thacher, 2<sup>nd</sup>

Box 3 of 3

II Family Scrap Book

- A. Family Photographs
- B. Clippings

- C. Photo of Memorial Service
- D. Buried in St. Agnes Cemetery, Menands
- E. Memorial Cartoon – WW I, WW II
- F. Postcards of Bridge – there were two bridges, the original and the present bridge from the Empire State Plaza to Rensselaer
- G. Catholic cross carried by Parker Dunn when he died, identifying him as Roman Catholic.

### III Oversize items

- A. 1933 Proclamation and pen
- B. Drawing (or photograph) of Parker Dunn
- C. French Poster, torn, honoring Parker Dunn
- D. Citation of Congressional Medal of Honor for Parker F. Dunn  
Dated November 25, 1924. He died October 23, 1918.