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The Putnam Museum of History and Natural Sciences is named for the Charles Edwin and Mary Louisa (Duncan) Putnam family. The Putnam family was influential in several aspects of community life including in the Museum's early history as donors to the collection, officers of the Davenport Academy of Science and financial supporters.

Mary Louisa (Duncan) Putnam and her husband, Charles Edwin Putnam, moved to Davenport, Iowa after their marriage on December 9, 1854. Mary Louisa Duncan Putnam was born September 23, 1832 in Jacksonville, Illinois, and died February 20, 1903. She was the daughter of Joseph Duncan, an Illinois Congressman and the state's fifth governor. Her childhood home is operated as a history house museum, the Governor Duncan Mansion.

Charles Edwin Putnam was born February 19, 1825, in Saratoga Springs, New York and died in 1887. He had practiced law in Georgia for a short time before setting up a practice in Davenport.

Charles Edwin Putnam was a lawyer, banker, and businessperson. His son William Clement Putnam joined him in practicing law and continued to do so after his father's death. Several members of the family were significantly involved in the development of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences, later the Davenport Public Museum and still later the Putnam Museum of History and Natural Sciences. In particular, Mary Louisa (Duncan) Putnam, Joseph Duncan Putnam, William Clement Putnam, Edward Kirby Putnam, and Elizabeth Duncan Putnam played vital roles in the institution's development.

Father of Joseph Duncan Putnam, Charles Morgan Putnam, John Caldwell Putnam, Henry St. Clair Putnam, William Clement Putnam, George Rockwell Putnam, Elizabeth Duncan Putnam, Edward Kirby Putnam, Hamilton Putnam, Benjamin Risley Putnam, and James Berthoud Putnam.

PUTNAM, MARY LOUISA (DUNCAN)

Mary Louisa Duncan Putnam was born September 23, 1832 and died February 20, 1903

The Putnam children by age

PUTNAM, JOSEPH DUNCAN

Born 10-18-1855, died 1881. Son (first child) of Charles Edwin and Mary Louisa (Duncan) Putnam.

PUTNAM, CHARLES MORGAN

Born 1-6-1857, died 1919. Son (second child) of Charles Edwin and Mary Louisa (Duncan) Putnam. Married.

PUTNAM, JOHN CALDWELL

Born 3-19-1859, died 5-27-1879. Son (third child) of Charles Edwin and Mary Louisa (Duncan) Putnam.

PUTNAM, HENRY ST. CLAIR

Born 7-8-1861. Son (fourth child) of Charles Edwin and Mary Louisa (Duncan) Putnam. Married Dorothy van Patten-Torrey (?) 1918.

PUTNAM, WILLIAM CLEMENT (I)

Born 6-26-1862, died 1-13-1906. Son (fifth child) of Charles Edwin and Mary Louisa (Duncan) Putnam.

PUTNAM, GEORGE ROCKWELL

Born 5-24-1865, died July 1953. Son (sixth child) of Charles Edwin and Mary Louisa (Duncan) Putnam. Married Marta (Moller). Father of Elizabeth Duncan Putnam and Kristi Putnam.

PUTNAM, ELIZABETH DUNCAN

Born 1-9-1867, died 5-5-1928. Daughter (seventh child) of Charles Edwin and Mary Louisa (Duncan) Putnam. Elizabeth, known as Bessie, served as the Academy's treasurer and was involved in Davenport civil organizations including the Tr-city Garden Club.

PUTNAM, EDWARD KIRBY

Born 11-17-1868, died 5-22-1939. Son (eighth child) of Charles Edwin and Mary Louisa (Duncan) Putnam. Married Hilma (Sandberg) 1906. Adoptive father of Edward Sandberg Putnam. Was an English professor at Stanford in 1906 when William Clement died, he returned to Davenport to manage the Putnam Trust property. He served as the Museum's director from 1927 to 1939.

PUTNAM, HAMILTON

Born 6-20-1870, died 4-10-1872. Son (ninth child) of Charles Edwin and Mary Louisa (Duncan) Putnam.

PUTNAM, BENJAMIN RISLEY

Born 1871. Son (tenth child) of Charles Edwin and Mary Louisa (Duncan) Putnam. Married Willela (Thorington) 1907. Father of William Clement Putnam (II) and Thorington Putnam.

PUTNAM, JAMES BERTHOUD

Born 3-18-1874, died 2-11-1875. Son (eleventh child) of Charles Edwin and Mary Louisa (Duncan) Putnam.