

Collection #
P 0373

MARTINSVILLE SANITARIUM AND BELLIS FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1898–CA. 1912

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June 1999

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29 October 2003

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 4 folders

COLLECTION
DATES: Ca. 1898–ca. 1912

PROVENANCE: James G. Worl, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, November 1979.

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1979.1107

NOTES:

HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Constructed ca. 1897, the Martinsville Mineral Springs Hotel (Martinsville Sanitarium) operated as a health resort in Martinsville, Indiana, until ca. 1957. The hotel offered a therapeutic setting, healing baths, and an exclusive mineral water for treatment of diseases of muscles and joints, stomach, and kidneys. In ca. 1911 guests paid \$18.00 to \$35.00 per week for a room and treatments at the sanitarium. The two-story building at 210 West Pike Street was conveniently located within two blocks of a streetcar line and 150 feet from the Pennsylvania Railroad station.

The building later became the Kennedy Memorial Christian (retirement) Home ca. 1957, and the Ken-Mar Apartments ca. 1981.

William K. (1854–1914) and Emma (Brooks) Bellis first resided at 1030 North Meridian Street, Indianapolis ca. 1898. William K. Bellis, a solicitor, was president of the Martinsville Mineral Springs Hotel. He was also secretary and general manager of the Railway Officials and Employees Accident Association. Emma (Brooks) Bellis was the daughter of John Brooks, a capitalist and banker in Washington, Indiana. The couple had no children.

Jesse W. Brooks, brother to Emma, was manager of the Martinsville Sanitarium ca. 1910.

Sources:

Items in the collection.

Dunn, Jacob Piatt. *Greater Indianapolis*. Vol. 2. Indianapolis: Lewis Publishing Co., 1910.

Martinsville, Morgantown Telephone Directory. Indianapolis: Indiana Bell Telephone Company, Inc. 1958.

“Martinsville Sanitarium, Martinsville, Ind., USA, Where Rheumatism Meets Its Waterloo!” ca. 1911 [pamphlet, Indiana State Library, Indiana Division].

Reed, George Irving, ed. *Encyclopedia of Biography of Indiana*. Vol. 2. Chicago: Century Publishing and Engraving Co., 1899.

Robertson's 1982 Martinsville, Indiana City Directory. Hillsdale, Michigan: Robertson Directories Inc., 1982.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains thirteen photographs, grouped into four folders. Nine of the photographs are directly associated with the Bellis family and the Martinsville Sanitarium. An unknown individual identified the photographs and wrote captions on the backs of the photographs.

Folder 1 contains four photographs of street scenes in Indianapolis, ca. 1898. Three photographs show a military

parade on West Washington Street, possibly related to the Spanish American War. The processor dated these photographs based on the existence of businesses visible in the images. The fourth photograph shows fire fighters operating steam-powered fire wagons at the scene of a fire at an unidentified location.

Folder 2 shows two exterior views of the Bellis home at 1030 North Meridian Street in Indianapolis. The third photograph is a group shot with Jesse W. Brooks and Emma Bellis at what appears to be the Garfield Park Conservatory in Indianapolis.

Folder 3 depicts the comforts of the Martinsville Sanitarium. These interior views of the sanitarium include a bedroom, the dining room, and a parlor. The rooms are simply furnished with heavy chairs, wallpaper borders, and tapestries, with some furnishings in the Arts and Crafts style.

Folder 4 shows three different views of fashionably dressed men, women, and a small child “relaxing” in the parlor and an enclosed porch. In the photograph by the Bretzman Photography Studio of Indianapolis, an elderly man is identified in ink on the front with the initials “J.H.B.”

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: <http://157.91.92.2/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0373).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.