

Collection #  
P0463

**AMERICAN FURNITURE COMPANY  
BATESVILLE CABINET COMPANY  
PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM, CA. 1925**

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1 May 2000

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**COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: One album containing 19 photographs

COLLECTION  
DATES: ca. 1925

PROVENANCE: Ruth S. Klopp, Portsmouth, OH

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: *American Furniture Company*, TS887 .A52 1899; *The Batesville Casket Company*, HD9999.C652 B3; Romweber Company's *Viking Oak Catalog*, TS887 .R69 1943; *Of This Heritage: The Biography of John A. Hillenbrand*, F534.B19 D35 1954

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1993.0330

NOTES:

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The American Furniture Company in Batesville, Indiana, has its roots in the Batesville Carving Company, which was founded in 1866 by Frederick Greemann, and Schrader Furniture Company, created by Herman Schrader in 1875. The Schrader Furniture Company also included a general store next to its factory. In 1876 Schrader sold the store to Hillenbrand Brothers, a dry goods and grocery store owned by John and William Hillenbrand of Ripley County, Indiana. Schrader and his associates established the American Furniture Company on 21 April 1879, which came under new management in 1885 with John Hillenbrand as a principal investor. The Hillenbrand partnership, however, was dissolved on 31 December 1887 when John acquired his brother William's assets. In February 1888, the American Furniture Company organized yet again, this time with John St. Clair as president and John Hillenbrand as vice-president.

The Batesville Carving Company became the Batesville Bracket Factory around 1870, which succumbed to fire in 1874. In 1876 William T. Greemann's sons established the Greemann Brothers Manufacturing Company with their father serving as president until his death on 6 December 1899. Despite continued success for a time, the company began to fail after involvement in manufacturing low-end bedroom furniture for mail order firms such as Sears Roebuck & Company. The Greemann Brothers Manufacturing Company went into receivership in 1912 and was purchased at auction in March 1913 by Hillenbrand interests. After the acquisition, the Batesville Cabinet Company was incorporated in 1913. Hillenbrand focused this company on the production of dining room furniture, whereas the American Furniture Company remained a manufacturer of "high grade bedroom suites." Substantial land holdings were among the assets acquired in the Greemann purchase, and by 1921 Hillenbrand had constructed a combined plant for the American Furniture Company, the Batesville Cabinet Company, and another acquisition the Batesville Casket Company.

### Sources:

*An Atlas of Ripley County*. Philadelphia: D.J. Lake, 1883. (Reprint) G1403.R5 G7 1973

*Atlas and Plat Book of Ripley County and Part of Franklin County*. Batesville, IN: Herald, 1921. G1403.R5 A8 1921

History of Ripley County, Indiana. Batavia, OH: Clermont, 1968. F532.R5 H57 1968

Jerman, Ed. C. *History and Directory of Ripley County*. . . Versailles, IN: Republican Print, 1888. F532.R5 J4 1888

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The 19 photographs in this album illustrate model interior furnishings ca. 1925 for dining rooms and bedroom suites. Each photograph in addition to the album cover includes an emblem of the G.F. Service Company, which is likely the photographic firm hired to take the photographs.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

Model interiors photograph album

### CONTAINER

Album Storage, PAB

## 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://opac.indianahistory.org/>
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 0463).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.