

Collection #
M 0413
OM 0610–0611

**WALTER NATHANIEL CARPENTER
FAMILY PAPERS, 1864–1977**

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Processed by

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16 August 1984

Revised by
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July 2016

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Manuscripts: 7 document cases, 2 oversized manuscript folders
Visuals: 3 tintypes, 1 oversize graphic
Artifacts: 17 artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: 1864–1977

PROVENANCE: Richard C. Stanfield, Indianapolis, Ind., 1980, 1984
Robert Patton, Midlothian, Va. 2002;
James C. Orem, McCordsville, Ind., 2004

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Louise Carpenter Stanfield Collection (P0236)
Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Indiana Visual Collection (P0005)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1980.1123, 1984.0802, 2002.0608, 2004.0131

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Walter Nathaniel Carpenter was born September 7, 1865 in Indianapolis, the son of Edwin and Louisa Hale Carpenter. Carpenter learned Pitman shorthand from an English tutor, and pursued shorthand reporting as a career. For a time in the 1880s, he worked in Muncie, Indiana, in the Delaware Circuit Court. Returning to Indianapolis, Carpenter worked as a court reporter, and became Federal District Court Reporter around 1902.

On February 22, 1887, Walter and Lizzie D. Coburn (1865–1940) were married in West Indianapolis. Lizzie's parents were James F. and Lydia C. Coburn. The young Carpenter couple had four children: Paul C., Frederick H., Louise A., and Elinor C. Carpenter. The couple built a home in 1893 at 51 West Drive in Woodruff Place. The address was later changed to 926 West Drive.

Walter was an amateur photographer who documented his family at home and on vacations as well as many historic events and buildings in Indianapolis. While Walter was reporting a case in 1937, he collapsed and later died on August 27, 1937. Carpenter's son Paul C., who had previously been his father's partner, succeeded him as Federal District Court Reporter on September 26, 1938.

Carpenter's daughter Louise Carpenter (1879–1979) married businessman and veteran of World War I, Orris E. Stanfield, on August 4, 1928. The Stanfields lived at 683 Middle Drive in Woodruff Place until Walter's death when they moved in with her mother at 926 West Drive Woodruff Place. Orris became vice-president of the Business Furniture Company in Indianapolis where he worked for nineteen years. Orris died on September 21, 1956. Orris' and Louise's son Richard C. Stanfield (1930–1988), attended Arsenal Technical High School and Butler University and became a sales representative for the Indianapolis Bond and Share Corporation. Several years after Orris' death, Louise married Norman L. Schneider.

Elinor Carpenter attended Indiana University and married Allison Verne MacCullough of Utica, New York on July 11, 1931. Allison graduated from Springfield College, and did graduate work at Clark University and Indiana University. In Indianapolis he was a faculty member of Park School and scoutmaster of Boy Scout Troop 4. At the time of the wedding he was assistant head master of the Utica Country Day School in Utica, N.Y.

Richard Carpenter's aunt Crystal, married Edward E. Green, a former vice-president of Arsenal Technical High School. He resigned his position there to accept a federal government appointment in Brazil during the early 1950s.

Sources:

materials in the collection

www.ancestrylibrary.com

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The material, spanning the years 1864 to 1977, consists of personal letters to and from Walter N. Carpenter, Walter's diaries, Carpenter family materials, and papers of Walter's daughter Louise Carpenter Stanfield, her husband Orris Stanfield, and their son Richard Stanfield.

Series 1: Walter Carpenter Correspondence, 1880–1932; Most of Walter's letters date from the 1880s and were bound and kept by him in three binders. These letters were both personal and business oriented, and document Carpenter's early career and stay in Muncie, Indiana.

The binders that held the letters had the following listed on their spines:

No. 1 / Letters from Oct 18th, 1880 to May 9th, 1884 / 1880–1884

No. 2 / My Correspondence from May 4, 1884 to August 10, 1886 / Memoranda. Bills and Receipts filed in Back Part

No. 3 / Correspondence from August 10, 1886 to Oct 1st 1887 Walter N. Carpenter

Each bound group of letters were arranged alphabetically but may have not been wholly alphabetical. The letters on the folder headings are attempts to keep the alphabetical grouping. A few letters not bound within the main group, have been included. These letters don't have the two small holes at the top of the page, as do those letters which were bound.

Series 2: Carpenter Family Papers, 1872–1977; includes household accounts, address books, tax papers, newspaper clippings, and travel diaries mostly for tracking expenses, some of the Carpenter children's school papers and letters, and some material generated by Walter's wife Lizzie.

Series 3: Walter Carpenter Diaries 1883–1937; Walter Carpenter made almost daily entries in his 36 diaries. Most of his notes are written in Pittman Shorthand, but occasionally he wrote in English. He also clipped newspaper articles where he or family members and friends are mentioned and these were found between the diary pages. Because of their acidic nature these have been removed, copied, and are stored in folders along with the diaries. Walter's last diary entry was on June 27, 1937, just three days before he collapsed in court and two months before his death.

Series 4: Louise and Orris Stanfield Family, 1911–1976; includes some of Louise's school papers, the couple's personal and business correspondence, papers Louise presented to the Culture Club, and medical and property tax records. There are also school and personal papers of their son Richard Carpenter Stanfield.

Series 5: Ephemera, Clippings, Postcards, 1864–1974; Walter Carpenter collected printed material and ephemera on historic topics, the poet James Whitcomb Riley, Woodruff Place, family and friends, and current events of the day. This practice was

continued by the family after his death, but to a lesser extent. Anything printed before 1937 in this series was probably collected by Walter. The series contains newspaper clippings, full newspaper pages on various events and historic celebrations, and presidents Teddy Roosevelt and Benjamin Harrison. There are also speeches, a partial court transcript, magazines, and a travel booklet and postcards from trips.

Series 6: Tintypes and Artifacts, ca. 1880–ca. 1920s; there are three tintypes in this series, 2 portraits of Lizzie Carpenter, and one of Walter Carpenter seated with two other young women. The artifacts appear to have belonged to Walter and Lizzie and include a purse, handkerchief, lace collar, pince-nez glasses, a lock of hair, and a ribbon. There are also military buttons and a belt buckle from WWI that probably belonged to Orris Stanfield.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Walter Carpenter Correspondence: 1880–1932

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Correspondence: Jan.–April, 1884–B	Box 1, Folder 1
Correspondence: Aug.–Dec., 1883–B	Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence: Sept. 1882–Dec. 1883–B	Box 1, Folder 3
Correspondence: Dec. 1882–May 1883–B	Box 1, Folder 4
Correspondence: 1883–1888–C	Box 1, Folder 5
Correspondence: 1883–1884–D & E	Box 1, Folder 6
Correspondence: 1882–1884–G	Box 1, Folder 7
Correspondence: 1882–1884–H	Box 1, Folder 8
Correspondence: 1881–1884–J & K	Box 1, Folder 9
Correspondence: 1882–1884–L–P	Box 1, Folder 10
Correspondence: 1881–1884–R	Box 1, Folder 11
Correspondence: 1880–1884–S	Box 1, Folder 12
Correspondence: 1884–W	Box 1, Folder 13
Correspondence: 1883	Box 1, Folder 14
Correspondence: 1885–1886–B	Box 1, Folder 15
Correspondence: 1885–1886–B	Box 1, Folder 16
Correspondence: 1885–1886–C	Box 1, Folder 17
Correspondence: 1885–1886–C	Box 1, Folder 18
Correspondence: 1885–C	Box 1, Folder 19
Correspondence: 1885–1886–G	Box 1, Folder 20

Correspondence: 1885–1886–H & J	Box 2, Folder 1
Correspondence: 1885–J	Box 2, Folder 2
Correspondence: 1885–1886–M	Box 2, Folder 3
Correspondence: 1885–1886–W	Box 2, Folder 4
Correspondence: 1885–1886–R & S	Box 2, Folder 5
Correspondence: 1886–1887–B	Box 2, Folder 6
Correspondence: 1887–B & C	Box 2, Folder 7
Correspondence: 1886–1887–D & G	Box 2, Folder 8
Correspondence: 1887–H & J	Box 2, Folder 9
Correspondence: 1886–1887–K, L, & M	Box 2, Folder 10
Correspondence: 1887–S	Box 2, Folder 11
Correspondence: 1886–1887–T–Y	Box 2, Folder 12
Correspondence: 1894–1899	Box 2, Folder 13
Correspondence: 1908–1932	Box 2, Folder 14

Series 2: Walter N. Carpenter Family Papers, 1872–1977

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Walter N. Carpenter Accounts: January 1, 1903–January 1, 1907	Box 2, Folder 15
Walter N. Carpenter Trip Expenses: 1910, 1916, 1926	Box 2, Folder 16
Walter N. Carpenter Household Accounts: 1911–1921	Box 2, Folder 17
Abstract of Title to James F. Coburn's Third West Indianapolis Addition and building permit, 1887, 1889	Box 3, Folder 1
Crown Hill Cemetery Deed for Coburn family lot of land, 1898	OM0610

Records for house on lot 51 in Woodruff Place, 1872–1977	Box 3, Folder 2
House plans and additions, 1886–1906	Box 3, Folder 3
Property Tax Receipts: 1919, 1920, 1926, 1927, 1935	Box 3, Folder 4
Walter Carpenter ephemera: Pittman Phonetic Journal advertisement, business cards, profile of Walter by Kin Hubbard, clippings, Pullman railroad printed materials, 1883, 1904–1931	Box 3, Folder 5
Lizzie D. Carpenter: Address book 1917 Date book 1924 Engagement book 1928	Box 3, Folder 6
Lizzie D. Carpenter cash accounts, 1904, 1920, 1921, 1929, n.d.	Box 3, Folder 7
Lizzie D. Carpenter: postcards, name card, invitation to daughter Elinor's wedding, unfinished letter to brother Bert, Coburn family lot diagram at Crown Hill Cemetery, 1908–1938	Box 3, Folder 8
Carpenter children school papers, 1910–1914, n.d.	Box 3, Folder 9
Letters from Carpenter children and grandchildren, 1898–1929	Box 3, Folder 10
Family genealogy	Box 3, Folder 11
Walter N. Carpenter obituary, August 27, 1937	Box 3, Folder 12

Series 3: Walter N. Carpenter Diaries, 1883–1937

CONTENTS

Diary No. 1, 1883
444 N. New Jersey, Indianapolis
359 Park Avenue, Indianapolis
Marquette, Michigan

CONTAINER

Box 3, Folder 13

Diary No. 2, 1884 359 Park Avenue, Indianapolis newspaper article "None Great by Chance" glued inside back cover	Box 3, Folder 13
Diary No. 3, 1885 359 Park Ave., Indianapolis	Box 3, Folder 13
Diary No. 4, 1886 [Walter's grandfather dies, Dec. 29]	Box 3, Folder 14
Diary No. 5, 1887 [Walter and Lizzie marry] [Walter secures job in Muncie]	Box 3, Folder 14
Diary No. 6, 1888 Indianapolis and Muncie, Indiana	Box 3, Folder 14
Items removed from Diaries 4, 5, & 6: shorthand letter dated Dec. 24th 1882 "Trip to China" flyer, Nov. 22, 1888, Muncie "William A. Leonard, Draughtsman" business card "Michigan Lumber Transportation Co." ribbon	Box 4, Folder 1
Diary No. 7, 1889 Muncie, Indiana	Box 4, Folder 2
Diary No. 8, 1890 Indianapolis, Indiana	Box 4, Folder 2
Diary No. 9, 1891 957 West Morris St., Indianapolis	Box 4, Folder 2
Diary No. 10, 1892 957 West Morris St., Indianapolis	Box 4, Folder 3
Diary No. 11, 1893 Indianapolis, Indiana	Box 4, Folder 3
Diary No. 12, 1894 1017 N. Pennsylvania Street, 51 Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 4, Folder 3
Diary No. 13, 1895 51 Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 4, Folder 4

Diary No. 14, 1896 51 Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 4, Folder 4
Diary No. 15, 1897 51 Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 4, Folder 4
Diary No. 16, 1898 51 Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 4, Folder 5
Diary No. 17, 1899 51 Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 4, Folder 5
Diary No. 18, 1900 51 Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 4, Folder 5
Diary No. 19, 1901 51 Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 4, Folder 6
Diary No. 20, 1902 51 Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 4, Folder 6
Diary No. 21, 1903 51 Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 4, Folder 6
Diary No. 22, 1904 51 Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 5, Folder 1
Diary No. 23, 1905 51 Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 5, Folder 1
Diary No. 24, 1906 51 Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 5, Folder 1
Printed items removed from Diary 24, 1906 Marcy "The" Jeweler card Corydon-New Albany Bus schedule	Box 5, Folder 2
Diary No. 25, 1907 51 Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 5, Folder 3
Diary No. 26, 1908 926 (51) Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 5, Folder 3
Diary No. 27, 1909 926 West Drive, Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 5, Folder 3

Printed items removed from Diary 25, 1907 images of Washington, D.C. & Niagara Falls Printed items removed from Diary 27, 1909 images of scenes in New York	Box 5, Folder 4
Diary No. 28, 1910 926 West Drive, Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 5, Folder 5
Diary No. 29, 1911 926 West Drive, Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 5, Folder 5
Diary No. 30, 1912 926 West Drive, Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 5, Folder 5
Diary No. 31, 1913 926 West Drive, Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 5, Folder 6
Diary No. 32, 1914 to 1918 926 West Drive, Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, Ind.	Box 5, Folder 6
Diary [No. 33] 1919 to 1923 926 West Drive, Woodruff Place Office: 1017 Lemcke Bldg. n.e. corner Market and Penn. Sts. family birthdays written on the back page	Box 6, Folder 1
Diary [No, 34] 1924 to 1928 926 West Drive, Woodruff Place	Box 6, Folder 1
Diary [No. 35] 1929 to 1933	Box 6, Folder 2
Diary [No. 36] 1934 to 1937	Box 6, Folder 2
Clippings removed from diaries, 1885–1932	Box 6, Folder 3

Series 4: Louise A. and Orris Stanfield Family, 1911–1976

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Louise A. Carpenter school papers, 1911–1914, n.d.	Box 6, Folder 4
Louise A. Carpenter Shortridge High School Diploma, 1914	OM 0610
Stanfield correspondence, 1930–1939	Box 6, Folder 5

Stanfield correspondence, 1940–1949	Box 6, Folder 6
Stanfield correspondence, March–November 1952	Box 6, Folder 7
Stanfield correspondence, July–December 1953	Box 6, Folder 8
Stanfield correspondence, January 1954–May 1958	Box 6, Folder 9
Stanfield correspondence, 1952–1969	Box 6, Folder 10
Stanfield correspondence, 1973–1974	Box 6, Folder 11
Stanfield correspondence, 1975–1976	Box 6, Folder 12
Stanfield correspondence, n.d. [appears to be mostly notes and letters from grandchildren]	Box 6, Folder 13
Stanfield correspondence, n.d. [letters from a homesick Richard Stanfield written from camp, notes and letters from other relatives]	Box 6, Folder 14
Culture Club Papers: topics written and presented by Louise Carpenter Stanfield	Box 7, Folder 1
Estate Settlement of Orris E. Stanfield, 1957	Box 7, Folder 2
Orris and Louise Stanfield: Red Cross certificate for Louise, Business Furniture Corporation celebration for Orris, Second Presbyterian memorial for Orris	Box 7, Folder 3
Richard C. Stanfield: Arsenal Technical High School Commencement 1949 Butler University program 1952 Arsenal Technical H.S. reunion, 1974	Box 7, Folder 4
<i>The Arsenal Cannon</i> : 1947, 1948 [featuring photo of Richard C. Stanfield, 1947 "The Passing of the Old Arsenal Cannon" article written by Walter N. Carpenter, Richard's grandfather, 1948]	Box 7, Folder 5
"The Passing of the Old Arsenal Cannon" [typed story written by Walter N. Carpenter]	Box 7, Folder 6

Arsenal Technical H.S. "Unveiling of the Murals" program, March 9, 1949	Box 7, Folder 7
Richard C. Stanfield divorce papers, 1969, 1970	Box 7, Folder 8
Lenore Stover papers concerning inheritance from the John C. Groub estate, 1949	Box 7, Folder 9

Series 5: Ephemera, Clippings, and Postcards, 1864–1974

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Speeches collected by Walter Carpenter: [typed speech by President Benjamin Harrison at train stopover in Muncie, Indiana, ca. 1889] Speech by Thomas Edison taken from over the radio, February 11, 1929 "Extract from "The Lamplighter" by Cummins"	Box 7, Folder 10
Court Case Transcript: E.C. White, a witness called on behalf of the State, n.d.	Box 7, Folder 11
Clippings: James Whitcomb Riley, 1889–1896, n.d.	Box 7, Folder 12
Clippings: Indiana history and events, 1887–1932, n.d.	Box 7, Folder 13
Clippings: Carpenter family and friends, 1892–1974, n.d.	Box 7, Folder 14
Clippings: Woodruff Place, 1946–1972, n.d.	Box 7, Folder 15
[expandable envelope case that contained clippings, notes by Walter N. Carpenter written on the fronts of envelopes, case patented Sept. 1, 1896]	Box 7, Folder 16
<i>The Atlantic Monthly, a magazine of literature, art, and politics.</i> Vol. XIV.–August, 1864.–NO. LXXXII. [magazine with note by Walter N. Carpenter dated 1883]	Box 7, Folder 17
<i>Harper's New Monthly Magazine</i> , No. 354. November, 1879 [saved by Walter N. Carpenter]	Box 7, Folder 18
<i>Summer Tours via the Great Lakes</i> , 1883 ["W.N. Carpenter" written on front]	Box 7, Folder 19

Postcards: Arizona, California, Alabama, Missouri, Feather River Route, 1915, 1916 [some cards dated by W.N. Carpenter]	Box 7, Folder 20
<i>Indianapolis Parent Teacher</i> , March 1962 [photo of Mrs. W.N. Carpenter from 1912 on page 3, she was an officer of the first Indiana chapter of the National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Association]	Box 7, Folder 21
"Massachusetts—A Visit to Bunker Hill Monument— Interesting Revolutionary Relics." [illustrations from a weekly newspaper, ca. 1876]	OM 0611
"New York,—Progress of the Work on Bartholdi's Statue of "Liberty," Bedloe's Island." [illustrations from a weekly newspaper, ca. 1876]	OM 0611
<i>Boston, 1630–1880</i> Published by Rand, Avery & Co., Boston, September 17, 1880 [8 page illustrated newspaper documenting Boston history]	OM 0611
Harper's Weekly, September 11, 1886, page 581 "Incidents of the Earthquake at Charleston. ..." [illustrations showing damaged sites]	OM 0611
<i>Harper's Bazar</i> , March 5, 1887 "The New York of 1822" by Felix Oldboy [article with illustrations, pages 167, 168]	OM 0611
<i>Cincinnati, 1788–1888</i> Centennial Paper Published by The John Shillito Company [4 page illustrated newspaper documenting Cincinnati's centennial]	OM 0611
"Selecting His Staff" [color illustration from <i>Judge</i> depicts President Benjamin Harrison in military uniform seated in camp surrounded by other men in various military uniforms, ca. 1889]	OM 0611

The World's Fair Vol. XXIV, Monday Evening, May 1, 1893, Supplement to the *Indianapolis News*.
[4 page illustrated article]

OM 0611

The Washington Post, March 5, 1905
"Scene at Roosevelt Inaugural Ball"
[2 page illustration of President Theodore Roosevelt and his wife in receiving line, Indiana's Vice President Fairbanks behind him and to the right]

Oversize Graphic:
Folder 1,
Flat File 2-F

Series 6: Tintypes and Artifacts, ca. 1880–ca. 1920s

CONTENTS

[Lizzie D. Coburn Carpenter,
as a young girl ca. 1880, as a young woman, ca. 1885]
[2 portraits]

[lock of dark brown hair found with Lizzie D. Coburn
Carpenter's tintype]

[Walter N. Carpenter with two young women,
ca. 1885]

[expandable metal frame and clasp for a purse with
blue cord handle, jeweled lid]

[black silk purse, lined with ivory colored silk]

[white cotton handkerchief with lace trim]

[collar, lace]

"Home Nursing"
[American Red Cross pin, Indianapolis Area Chapter]

[nameplate] "SOUVENIR"
[Silver color metal pin]

[Button]
[square beige plastic jeweled button]

CONTAINER

Tintypes: 1 & 2

Artifacts:
1984.0802

Tintype: 3

Artifacts:
R0951

Artifacts:
R0952

Artifacts:
R0953

Artifacts:
R0954

Artifacts:
R0955

Artifacts:
R0956

Artifacts:
R0957

[Buttons] [U.S. Army World War I, 5 combat issue buttons, probably belonged to Orris Stanfield]	Artifacts: R0958 R0959
[eyeglasses, pince-nez, probably belonged to Walter N. Carpenter]	R0960
[eyeglasses with black leatherette case, one lens missing]	Artifacts: R0961
[eyeglasses, pince-nez, with black leatherette case, probably belonged to Walter N. Carpenter]	Artifacts: R0962
[brush, clothing, with wooden handle and black bristles in red cardboard box]	Artifacts: R0963
[buckle, belt: E Pluribus Unum, military brass belt buckle with eagle, probably belonged to Orris Stanfield]	Artifacts: R0964
[white ribbon with the following inscriptions in Walter's handwriting] "February 22nd 1887" "September 14th 1885" "February 22nd 1886" "Lizzie February 22nd 1885 Walter March 1885"	Artifacts: 1984.0802
[framed poem entitled "Taint," note on verso] "From Mr. and Mrs. Green on my 64th birthday, W.N.C." [ca. 1924]	Artifacts: 1984.0802