

Collection #
P 0888

**CHURUBUSCO SCHOOL CLASS PHOTOGRAPH,
CA. 1876–1877**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 OVA photograph folder

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1876–1877

PROVENANCE: Purchased from Heritage Photo Services, Indianapolis, 2000

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ACCESSION NUMBER: 2000.0625

NOTES:

HISTORICAL / BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Mina Lord, before she married Jacob W. Nickey, was a teacher of intermediate grade students at the school in Churubusco, Indiana, in 1876–1877.

Churubusco is a town in Smith Township in northeastern Whitley County, Indiana. Originally, the area had two towns – Union and Franklin – which had both been settled by European Americans in the early nineteenth century. The towns bordered each other, divided by a railroad track. By the 1840s, the population had grown large enough to qualify for a post office. The Postmaster General denied the use of either “Union” or “Franklin” as the name for the new post office because both were already used by other Indiana towns. The community selected the name Churubusco, after the site of the 1847 Battle of Churubusco in Mexico, won by the United States, during the Mexican-American War. The name had been suggested by local school teacher Eliza Rich. The residents decided that it was unlikely that any other Indiana town would already have chosen such a unique name. The Churubusco Post Office was established in 1848.

By the 1870s, the population of Churubusco had grown enough to necessitate the building of a new school. A brick structure with four rooms was erected in 1875. It was not long before that building needed to be remodeled to accommodate increasing attendance, and then another building was erected on the same lot.

Almina “Mina” Lord was born in the Root Township of Adams County, Indiana, in September 1856. It appears that she was the youngest of perhaps as many as eleven children of Reuben Lord and Sabrina Benson Lord. She grew up near Monmouth, where her father was a farmer.

In September 1877, Mina married Jacob Wilson Nickey (1854–1925) in Adams County. They had one daughter, Ethel Maude (Schwinger) (1880–1953). At the time of the 1880 census, the Nickey family lived in the Smith Township of Whitley County, where Jacob farmed. At the time of the 1900 census, Jacob had gone to work as a livestock dealer in Buffalo, New York, while Mina and Maude (as her daughter was called) lived in Churubusco, where Maude worked as a teacher in nearby Eel River Township in Allen County. In May 1902, Maude married Patrick H. Maloney, who died in a drowning accident two months later.

By 1905, Mina and Maude had joined Jacob in Buffalo. Jacob became president of the Williamson Commission Company, and Maude continued her teaching career. In August 1907, Maude married William Henry Schwinger. During World War I, William and Maude both served in France – he in the Army and she as a nurse with a Red Cross ambulance. After Jacob’s death, Mina and Maude became owners of the Williamson Commission Company. Mina Lord Nickey died on 9 December 1941 in Buffalo.

Sources:

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 19 July 2024):

Find a Grave
Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899–2017

Indiana, U.S., Marriages, 1810–2001
New York, U.S., State Census, 1905
United States Federal Census, 1860–1940
U.S., Newspapers.com Marriage Index, 1800s–current

“Business Names” in *The Buffalo Evening News* (Buffalo, NY), 10 January 1927, p. 14.

“Deaths in Indiana: Columbia City” in *The Indianapolis Star*, 29 November 1925, p. 38.

“Eel River Township Institute” in *The Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, 14 October 1900, p. 8.

Kaler, S. P. and R. H. Maring. *History of Whitley County*, B. F. Bowen & Co. Publishers, 1907. Reading Room Collection: F532 .W6 K3 1977

Obituary for Mina L. Nickey in *The Buffalo News* (Buffalo, NY), 10 December 1941, p. 58.

Obituary for Mrs. William H. Schwinger in the *Buffalo Courier Express* (Buffalo, NY), 1 October 1953, p. 8.

“William Schwinger, Irving Air Chute Executive, Is Dead” in *The Buffalo Evening News* (Buffalo, NY), 6 April 1964, p. 32.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of one tintype photograph that shows forty-four people posing with the Churubusco school building in Whitley County, Indiana, in the background. All are standing except for two young women in chairs, one on each end. The teacher is identified as Mina Lord [likely the person at far left, seated; the other young woman seated at far right may be an older student]. The students are not identified by name and appear to be of various ages.

A handwritten note that accompanied the photograph reads: “The Intermediate Grade of the / Churubusco School of 1876–77 / Mina Lord – Teacher / Presented to the Class of 1884 / By Mina L. Nickey / Buffalo N.Y. / My age is 83 yrs – 9 months” [ca. June 1940]. The tintype is in a mat measuring $10 \frac{3}{4} \times 13 \frac{3}{4}$ with the opening measuring $5 \frac{7}{8} \times 7 \frac{3}{4}$ inches.

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Matted tintype photograph of Mina Lord’s class of intermediate grade students at Churubusco School, 1876–77.

CONTAINER

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