

Collection #  
M 0109

## BENJAMIN FRANKLIN FOLGER COLLECTION, 1829–1929

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Processed by

Charles Latham  
November 1989

Revised by Emily Comstock  
30 June 2005

Revised by Dorothy A. Nicholson  
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

### COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION:

Manuscript Materials: 2 document cases  
Visual Materials: 1 box of photographs, 1 OVA graphic, 1 OVB

photograph

COLLECTION 1829–1929  
DATES:

PROVENANCE: Willard Heiss, ca. 1960

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1960.0009

NOTES:

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

This collection carries through four generations of three families, Folger, Ross, and Allender, who moved from North Carolina to Rush County, Indiana.

Dr. Benjamin Franklin Folger, 24 July 1806–7 January 1879, son of Reuben and Lydia (Wilson) Folger, moved to Sumner, Posey Township, Rush County, about 1850. In 1834 he married Nancy Ross, 12 January 1816–17 October 1905, daughter of John and Jane Ross. Nancy (Ross) Folger was a prime mover in the founding of the Blue River Wesleyan Methodist Church at Sumner.

One of the sons of Franklin and Nancy Folger was William O. Folger, born 27 April 1849, who lived at various times in Manilla and Carthage, Indiana, both in Rush County. On 24 September 1874 he married Lydia E. Allender, 8 December 1849–14 July 1912, whose family lived in Beech Grove and Arlington, also in Rush County. She had a brother in Kansas and sisters in Bluffton, Indiana, Texas, and Washington.

A daughter of William and Lydia Folger was Mary Florence Folger, who was born 27 November 1879. She taught at the Indiana School for the Deaf in 1903 and was still living in Indianapolis at 555 North Hamilton Street in 1929. Her father apparently lived with her in Indianapolis after his wife's death in 1912.

Sources: Materials in the collection.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of genealogical materials, correspondence, diaries and notebooks, four books, photographs, and clippings. It is arranged chronologically within each category.

**Series 1: Historical Context and Correspondence:**

The first folder of the collection contains family background information from family trees to origins of the Folger name. The correspondence largely concerns the distaff side of the family. Nancy (Ross) Folger appears, writing in a very shaky hand, until 1903 when she was in her late eighties. All of the Allender relatives of Lydia Folger keep her up to date on their far-flung activities until her death in 1912. Mary Florence Folger writes weekly to her family from her job at the School for the Deaf. In the 1927–1929 correspondence, addressed as "My dear Toots," she receives a lively series of letters from Earl Beyer about his life at the Battle Creek Sanitarium.

### **Series 2: Personal Effects:**

Folders 19 and 20 contain poems, one is an elegy by Melinda Folger, sister of B. F. Folger, another is a long doggerel description of the preachers who had served the church, presumably Blue River Wesleyan Methodist. Folders 23 through 25 contain diaries, including a religious diary of John and Jane Ross, 1829–1830.

The final manuscript folders contain notebooks, including one with vital statistics for the Folger and Allender families, a hymnal dated 1835, *Songs of Zion* by Thresher, a Lindley Murray *English Reader* of 1836, and two Sunday school texts.

### **Series 3: Visual materials:**

The visuals consist of various photographs, tintypes, cabinet cards, and cartes de visite. These portray images of family members, the Allender homestead, the Blue River Wesleyan Methodist Church, scenes from various parts of Indiana, especially Marion County. Also incorporated into the collection is a scrap of wallpaper from the Allender home in Rushville and a rather large photograph of the Pembroke Arcade.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Historical Context and Correspondence**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Genealogical materials	Box 1, Folder 1
History of Blue River Wesleyan Methodist Church, 1853	Box 1, Folder 2
Correspondence, 1852–1860	Box 1, Folder 3
Correspondence, 1861–1870	Box 1, Folder 4
Correspondence, 1871–1877	Box 1, Folder 5
Correspondence, 1878–1880	Box 1, Folder 6
Correspondence, 1881–1890	Box 1, Folder 7
Correspondence, 1891–1893	Box 1, Folder 8
Correspondence, 1894–1896	Box 1, Folder 9
Correspondence, 1897–1900	Box 1, Folder 10
Correspondence, 1901–1903	Box 1, Folder 11
Correspondence, 1904–1905	Box 1, Folder 12

Correspondence, 1907–1908	Box 1, Folder 13
Correspondence, 1909–1911	Box 1, Folder 14
Correspondence, 1912	Box 1, Folder 15
Correspondence, 1913, 1924	Box 1, Folder 16
Correspondence, 1925–1929	Box 1, Folder 17
Correspondence, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 18

## Series 2: Personal Effects

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Melinda Folger poem, 22 Apr. 1848	Box 1, Folder 19
Two poems, n.d.	Box 1, Folder 20
Miscellaneous	Box 1, Folder 21
Clippings	Box 1, Folder 22
Religious diary, John and Jane Ross, 1829–1830	Box 1, Folder 23
Diary, Col. Isaac F. Folger, 1866, 1870	Box 1, Folder 24
Diary excerpts, 1874–1876; diary, 1878	Box 1, Folder 25
Account books, 1856, 1876–1878; notebook, 1892; recipe book	Box 1, Folder 26
Memoranda, 1878	Box 1, Folder 27
Written words to hymns, n.d.	Box 2, Folder 1
<i>Songs of Zion</i> ; ... by M. Springer, 1835	Box 2, Folder 2
Items found inside the <i>Songs of Zion</i> book: some scraps of cloth, a drawing, and cross stitch samples	
<i>English Reader: or Pieces in Prose and Poetry...</i> by Lindley Murray, 1830. Typewritten slip inserted with message “Lydia Ellen Allendar’s Book”	Box 2, Folder 3
<i>The Child’s Scripture Question Book</i> , American Sunday School Union, 1836. Inscribed “B.F. Folger’s book”	

## Series 3: Visual Materials

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
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Franklin and Nancy Folger, ca. 1870–1900	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 1
William O. and Lydia (Allender) Folger, ca. 1860s–1900	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 2
Daniel and Jane (Folger) Presnall, ca. 1860s–1890	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 3
Folger family, ca. 1860s–1870s	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 4
Garland and Mary Allender, ca. 1870s	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 5
Allender and Parrish family,, ca. 1860s–1890s	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 6
Allender homestead, ca. 1920	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 7
Wallpaper scrap from Allender house, Rushville, Indiana	OVA Graphics: Folder 1
Blue River Wesleyan Methodist Church , ca. 1882, 1919	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 8
Carthage, Indiana, group photos at the Strawboard Factory, ca. 1907, Carthage High School group, 1908	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 9
Airplanes at Speedway, racetrack at Speedway, Airplane at Ft. Harrison, City Market, Saint Vincent Hospital, Riley’s House at Lockerbie, Monument Circle view from top, 1919, 1920, 1922	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 10
Pembroke Arcade	OVB Photographs, Folder 1
Indiana miscellany: Jones preacher [tintype], Earlham College Dorm 1916–17	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 11
Indiana Postcards Marion County: Indiana: Tornado damage 18 May 1927, Jennings County: Bridge construction Rush County: Covered Bridge, Mays, Indiana	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 12

## 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, M 0109).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.