

Collection #  
P 0858

**BENJAMIN FRANKLIN NICHOLSON HOMES PHOTOGRAPHS,  
CA. 1896-1901**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION:** 1 folder of photographs

**COLLECTION  
DATES:** Ca. 1896–1901

**PROVENANCE:** Unknown

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Benjamin Franklin Nicholson was born on 30 January 1877 near Salem, Washington County, Indiana. His parents were David Darnold Nicholson and Mary Frances Botts Nicholson (1850–1880). His paternal grandparents were Benjamin Franklin Nicholson (1824–1887) and Mary Ann Johnson Nicholson (1831–1890).

At the time of the 1880 census, the younger Benjamin was living on his grandparents' farm in the Washington Township of Washington County. The elder Benjamin, born on 10 November 1824 in Washington County, was the son of another Benjamin Nicholson who had settled in Washington County in 1812. Benjamin (1824–1887) was second sergeant of his company in the Mexican War from 1846-1847 and a participant in the Battle of Buena Vista/La Angostura. He was a farmer and served as Township Trustee, County Appraiser, County Commissioner, and County Sheriff in Washington County. He and his wife, Mary Ann Johnson Nicholson, had seven children: John W., David Darnold, Sarah "Sally" A. (Hitchcock), Archibald J., Emaline (Grimes), Martha Ellen (Standish), and Maria (Cauble). Benjamin died on 15 March 1887 at his home approximately three miles northeast of Salem.

David Darnold Nicholson was born on 13 February 1851. He had three wives, being widowed twice. He married his first wife, Mary Frances Botts, in April 1873 in Washington County. In addition to their son Benjamin Franklin (born 1877), they had another son, Alva Benton Nicholson (1878-1910). After the death of Mary Frances, David married the widowed Clara Ellen Sutherland Wright (1847–1918) in 1881. By 1900 they were living in Bedford, Lawrence County, where David was a dentist. After Clara's death, he married the widowed Lucy Ann Perkins Trinkle (1860–1943) in March 1919 in Orange County. In 1920, David and Lucy were living in Orleans in Orange County, where he was still working as a dentist. David died on 14 March 1923 in Orleans.

Benjamin (born 1877) married Grace Isabell Butters (1886–1945) in Los Angeles, California, in November 1907. By 1910 they lived in Chicago, Illinois, where Benjamin worked for a newspaper. They had a son, Robert Lawrence Nicholson (1908–1985), who became a history professor. By 1918, Benjamin was working in real estate in Chicago, which he was still doing at the time of the 1940 census. The 1950 census lists him as an advertising agent for a labor union. Benjamin died in Chicago on 14 September 1960.

Emaline Nicholson was born on 19 February 1859 in Washington County. She married James P. Grimes (1849–1928) in October 1875 in Washington County. They had five children: Grover Cleveland (1884–1967), Benjamin Franklin (1887–1956), Fanny (Trueblood) (1888–1967), Mary (Brown) (1893–1958), and Cecil (1896–1918). They farmed in the Washington Township of Washington County. After Emaline died on 12 March 1898, James married Anna Kearby (1862–1938) at the end of 1899.

### Sources:

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 30 May 2023):

California, U.S., County Birth, Marriage, and Death Records, 1849–1980  
Find a Grave  
Indiana, U.S., Marriage Index, 1800–1941  
Indiana, U.S., Marriages, 1810–2001

United States Federal Census, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950  
U.S., City Directories, 1822–1995  
U.S., Sons of the American Revolution Membership Applications, 1889–1970  
U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of two mounted black-and-white photographs of homes near Salem, in the Washington Township of Washington County, Indiana, where members of the Nicholson family lived. One photo shows the large, two-story home of Benjamin Franklin Nicholson (1824–1887). A man and four children [possibly Nicholson’s son-in-law, James P. Grimes and his four eldest children, ca. 1896] are seen standing in the yard near some beehives. The other photograph is of the house where Benjamin Franklin Nicholson (1877–1960), grandson of the elder Benjamin and son of David Darnold Nicholson, was born.

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Mounted photo of a large two-story house with beehives in the yard. A man and four children stand in the yard [possibly James P. Grimes and his four eldest children, ca. 1896]. Written on back: “Grandfather Nicholson’s home. This is the way James Grimes let it run down.” [“Grandfather Nicholson” would be Benjamin Franklin Nicholson (1824–1887); James Grimes married Benjamin’s daughter, Emaline.] (Photo by Mobley’s Art Gallery of Salem, Ind.)

Mounted photo of a house in poor condition. Written on back: “Taken 1901 / The house in which I was born Jan 30<sup>th</sup> 1877.” [Benjamin Franklin Nicholson was born on that date to David Darnold Nicholson and Mary Frances Botts Nicholson, in or near Salem in the Washington Township of Washington County.]

### CONTAINER

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

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