

Collection #  
P 0671

**BESSIE W. BRENDDEL FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS,  
CA. 1880–1955**

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 half-size photograph box

COLLECTION  
DATES: Ca. 1880–1955

PROVENANCE: Unknown

RESTRICTIONS: None

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FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 1993.0761X

NOTES: Bessie Winifred Johnson Brendel was the first wife of Wallace  
Wilson Brendel.  
*See also:* Michael H. Miller Collection (P 0385)

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Bessie Winifred Johnson Brendel was born 16 March 1875 in Hamilton County, Indiana, to Theodore (1844–1916) and Alpha (1847–1901) Johnson. Bessie studied music at DePauw University Seminary and was later employed as a real estate agent. She married Wallace Wilson Brendel (1871–1954), a blacksmith, on 24 December 1894. The couple had two daughters, DeEtte and Eleanor. The family lived in Anderson, Indiana. Bessie and Wallace apparently divorced by 1919.

DeEtte was born in 1897. She married Anthony VanKoevering (1891–1954) on 29 March 1918 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. From 1917–1919, she taught physical education while the couple lived in Bedford Hills, New York. Later in 1919, she was physical director at a YWCA in Grand Rapids, Michigan. By 1920, DeEtte was living with her mother and sister in Anderson and teaching in a school there. She and her mother soon moved to West Lafayette, Indiana, where DeEtte was supervisor of physical culture in public schools. DeEtte died on 20 October 1925 in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Her remains were transported for burial to Grand View Cemetery in West Lafayette. Her mother, Bessie, died 29 December 1955, and was buried by DeEtte.

Eleanor was born on 18 November 1904. She attended Purdue University and became a lead interior decorator for the L.S. Ayres Company department store. On 17 April 1927, she married Herschel E. Miller (1902–1981) in a West Lafayette Methodist church. Herschel had graduated from Purdue University in 1926 and worked as a mechanical engineer for the Allison Division of the General Motors Corporation. The couple had one child, Donald Haydon Miller (1935–2011). Eleanor passed away on 11 August 1972.

### Sources:

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 28 March 2022):

- Find a Grave
- Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899–2011
- Indiana, U.S., Marriage Index, 1800–1941
- Indiana, U.S., Marriages, 1810–2001
- Michigan, U.S., Marriage Records, 1867–1952
- New York, U.S., State Employment Cards and Peddlers' Licenses, 1840–1966
- United States Federal Census, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940
- U.S. City Directories, 1822–1995
- U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900–1999
- U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014

*Delta Upsilon Quarterly*. "Obituaries," Winter 1982, p. 25 <https://issuu.com/deltaupsilon/docs/quarterlywinter1982> Accessed 28 March 2022.

Materials in the collection

Miller, Michael. Personal communication, 3 January 2022

"Mrs. Brendel, Lafayette, Dies." *Indianapolis Star*, 30 December 1955, p. 5.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This family collection contains photographs of the Brendel, Johnson, and Miller families. The majority of photographs are portraits of individuals. There is also a laminated memorial obituary for Bessie Brendel.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

Dorothea Johnson, Theodore Johnson, and Alpha Johnson, n.d.

Bessie and Wallace Brendel, ca. 1880-1920s

David J. Miller, 1903-1905

DeEtte Brendel and Eleanor Brendel Miller, ca. 1904-1925

Herschel E. Miller, ca. 1907-1920

Unidentified Men, 1917 and n.d.

Eleanor Brendel Miller, ca. 1920s

Donald H. Miller, ca. 1937-1943

Bessie W. Brendel and Donald H. Miller, ca. 1940

Bessie Brendel, Memorial Obituary, 1955

### CONTAINER

Photographs, Box 1,  
Folder 1

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Folder 2

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