

Collection #
P 0186

**BEULAH ADAMSON THOMPSON COLLECTION,
CA. 1860S–1980 (BULK 1903–1924)**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	3 photograph folders; 1 OVB photograph folder; 1 folder of negatives
COLLECTION DATES:	Ca. 1860s–1980 (bulk 1903–1924)
PROVENANCE:	Gifts from Beulah Thompson of Indianapolis, 1985 and 1986; photos loaned to make copy negatives in 1983
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ACCESSION NUMBERS:	1983.0915, 1985.0003, 1986.0772
NOTES:	

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lois Beulah Adamson Thompson and her father, Lisker Lackey Adamson, served as family historians for an extended family of Lawrence County, Indiana, pioneers and their descendants.

Lois Beulah Adamson Thompson was born on 13 October 1896, in Williams in Lawrence County, the only child of Lisker Lackey Adamson and Nellie Cynthia Rout Adamson. She grew up in Indian Creek Township in Lawrence County, where her family farmed. It appears that she often went by her middle name of Beulah.

Lisker Lackey Adamson (18 January 1870–13 January 1961) was born to Thomas Marion Adamson and Amanda J. Lackey Adamson, both of Lawrence County. Lisker was the sixth of seven children. His siblings were: Susan Netta (died at one day old on 27 February 1856); Laura Frances (Evans) (1857–1935); Emma D. (Jackson) (1860–1942); Anise Berthel (Myers) (1862–1942); Clark (1865–1908); and Fred K. (1873–1961). In April 1892, Lisker married Nellie Cynthia Rout.

Nellie Cynthia Rout Adamson (23 March 1875–3 November 1957) was the daughter of Wesley Rout and Louisa Williams Rout, both of Lawrence County. Nellie was the ninth of twelve children. Her siblings were: Almina “Minnie” (1859–1873); Gertrude (Rariden) (1861–1944); Eldridge (1863–1943); Ida (Marley) (1865–1959); Gelon (1866–1931); Virgil (1868–1953); James Dixon (1872–1904); Charles (1870–1904); Franklin (1877–1938); Peachy (McDaniel) (1880–1931); and Walter (1883–1969). A newspaper column reported in 1924 that Mrs. L. L. Adamson [Nellie Rout Adamson] was elected County Chair of a Millinery School that was led by Miss Nelle Flanningham from Purdue University.

Louisa Williams Rout (1841–1916) was born to James Dixon “Dick” Williams (1816–1856) and Cytha Cox Williams (1820–1906). Louisa’s sister, Minerva (1845–1913) married George W. Kern (1845–1927), and their sister Emily (1847–1926) married David Lewis Kern (1842–1928). George and David Kern were first cousins. There are Kern family members included in photographs in this collection.

Photographs in this collection provide evidence that Lisker and Nellie Adamson and their daughter Beulah, as well as Lisker’s sister Anise and her husband, Richard Myers, spent time at Trinity Springs. This was a health resort in Martin County, Indiana, known for its three natural sulfur springs that were believed to have curative properties. It is noted on the back of one photograph that they were there for the benefit of Lisker, who had been ill. Trinity Springs attracted many people for healing purposes during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Beulah married Hale Thompson (1895–1982) on 20 May 1917. They made their home in Spice Valley Township in Lawrence County, where they farmed. A 1917 newspaper announcement about their wedding mentioned that both had attended Purdue University. Writing on the back of a photograph in this collection indicates that they had attended a short course from January to March 1917 at Purdue, during which she studied home economics and he studied animal husbandry. The couple had two sons and a daughter: Harlan Hugh (1918–2003), Nina Lucille (Kinder West) (1920–2000), and Lee A. (1927–2016).

It appears that Beulah Adamson Thompson was involved with the “Home Department” of the Indiana Farm Bureau Cooperative Association. The Home Department was active in community and agricultural organization efforts, such as promoting victory gardens during the World War II era. It often worked in conjunction with other organizations, such as the Grange and other farm groups. Beulah died on 12 August 1988 in Bedford in Lawrence County.

Hale Thompson was the son of Alpheus Altman Thompson (1864–1948) and Lucy Williams Thompson. Lucy was born on 17 August 1867 to Lewis Ronald Williams and Sarah Elizabeth McDonald Williams. Lewis Williams was the first cousin of Louisa Williams Rout (Beulah’s grandmother). Lewis’s father, Garret Gibson Williams, was the brother of James Dixon Williams (Louisa’s father). The parents of Garret and James were Isaac Williams and Amelia Gibson Williams. Hale’s mother, Lucy, was the second cousin of Nellie Cynthia Rout Adamson (Beulah’s mother). Hale and Beulah were not only husband and wife, but also third cousins. There is a photograph in this collection of Lucy Williams (Thompson), ca. 1880s, posing with a group of fellow students at the State Normal College in Danville, Indiana. Lucy died on 29 August 1958 in Bedford.

Both Beulah and Hale are descendants of Isaac Williams (1779–1856). He was their great-great-grandfather, born in North Carolina, who served as a captain with the Tennessee militia during the War of 1812. The town of Williams was named after his family, who settled in the area circa 1816.

Lowery Adamson was a first cousin to Thomas Marion Adamson (father of Lisker Lackey Adamson). Lowery was born on 20 February 1841 in Illinois to Ivy Adamson and Zibeah Chestnut Adamson. Ivy’s brother, William W. Adamson, was Thomas Marion Adamson’s father. Ivy and William’s parents were Thomas Adamson and Rachel Williams Adamson, who married in Tennessee on 6 August 1796. Rachel was the daughter of Isaac Williams, Sr., and Rachel Pike Williams. Brothers William and Ivy married sisters Susan and Zibeah Chestnut.

According to *Rachel Williams-Adamson and Her Hoosier Clan* by Ben F. Dixon, Lowery Adamson “liked the way Elders Taylor and Mathis [Mathes] of Bedford had of preaching the Gospel ‘as she is writ’ – ‘where the Scriptures speak, we speak’ – and so he decided to become a Minister. He is one of a large quota of Disciples preachers turned out by the Adamson-Kern-Sears-Williams stock. And Lowery was among the best of them. Lawrence County marriage registers show that Elder Lowery Adamson was a great ‘marryin’ parson’.” Lowery married Mary Ellen Kern (1839–1911) in 1862. They had two daughters: Lillian (Kern) (1873–1939) and Hattie Jane (Rainey) (1876–1908). Lowery died on 20 August 1918 in Lawrence County.

James Madison Mathes, who was an influence on Lowery Adamson, was born on 8 July 1808 in Jefferson County, Kentucky. He was the second of eleven children of Jeremiah Mathes and Florence Cameron Mathes. The family moved to Owen County, Indiana, by 1819. He pursued a career in the ministry. On 5 March 1829, he married Sophia Glover (1809–1873) and they had six children. From 1830 to 1838, he taught school and preached on Sundays. During vacations he traveled to preach in the counties of Clay, Owen, Monroe,

Morgan, Putnam, and Lawrence. In 1838, he became a student at the State University in Bloomington. He became known for participating in debates on interpretations of the Bible. In November 1855, he moved to a farm near Bedford. In May 1861, he became a pastor at the Christian Church in Bedford. It was said that he baptized four thousand converts by 1862. He was publisher of *Weekly Record* and *The Evangelist Monthly Christian Monitor*. After the death of his first wife, he married Abigail M. Raugh Rickoff (1818–1898). He died on 16 June 1892 in Bedford.

Sources:

Items in the collection

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 27 April 2026):

Find a Grave

Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899–2017

Indiana, U.S., Marriages, 1810–2001

United States Federal Census, 1850–1950

U.S., Family History Books: *Rachel Williams-Adamson and Her Hoosier Clan* by Ben F. Dixon

U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007

“James Madison Mathes.” *History of the Restoration Movement*

https://www.therestorationmovement.com/_states/indiana/mathes.htm Accessed 27 April 2026.

Server, O. B. II. “Rambling Remarks: Millinery School.” *The Mitchell Tribune* (Indiana), 13 March 1924, p. 1.

“Surprise: Wedding Was That Of Mr. Hale Thompson And Miss Beulah Adamson Sunday.” *The Bedford Daily Mail* (Indiana), 22 May 1917, p. 1.

Visit Martin County. “Sight Seeing: Trinity Springs” http://www.visitmartincounty.org/sight_seeing.htm Accessed 27 April 2026.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists primarily of photographs related to the Adamson family of Lawrence County, Indiana. Two photographs of family members were taken at the Trinity Springs resort in Martin County. There are several photographs of school groups, including Kern School and Williams School in Lawrence County. Surnames of those represented include Williams, Kern, Bowman, Thompson, and McFarlin. One is of a class group at the State Normal College in Danville, Indiana, which includes Lucy Williams (Thompson), future mother-in-law of Beulah Adamson Thompson, the donor of this collection. Other photographs represent the family's involvement with farming and home economics organizations. One piece of correspondence and two photocopies of newspaper articles relate to the agricultural Grange organization.

The collection also includes two portraits of pioneer preachers: Lowery Adamson, who was a first cousin twice removed to Beulah Adamson Thompson, and James Madison Mathes, who was an early influence on Lowery Adamson.

There are also some photographic negatives without prints, which show Louisa Rout, Beulah's maternal grandmother; farm scenes; and the Bedford airport (1957).

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Photograph of Lisker and Nellie Adamson, Richard and Anise (Adamson) Myers, and Beulah Adamson at campsite at Trinity Springs, ca. August 1908 (writing on the back indicates that they went there to benefit Lisker, who had been sick).

Photograph of thirty-three people gathered by rock formation at Trinity Springs – only Lisker and Nell Adamson are identified [ca. 1908].

Photograph of eleven men in suits posing with prize-winning corn at the 1916 Corn Show. Some men are wearing ribbons – one says, “Fourth Prize – 1916 / 5-Acre Corn Contest.” Ten names written on back: L. L. [Lisker Lackey] Adamson, Ollie Bryant, Fred Adamson, Claud [Claude] Colglazier, Harry Elrod, C. G. Jones [or C. J. Jones?], Henry Martin, Earl Sowder, Curtis Sowder, Mart [Martin] Smith (photo by Spriggs of Bedford, Ind.).

State Normal College at Danville, Indiana – group photograph of thirty-two men and women. The only one identified is Lucy Williams Thompson [mother of Hale Thompson], third from left in back row [ca. 1880s].

Kern School – photograph shows eleven students of different ages standing outside a building. Beulah Adamson wrote on the back “my first year 1903 & 04” and identified everyone, left to right: Odena Kern and Roy Kern (children of Norman Kern); Grace Kern (daughter of George Kern and Minerva Williams, who was the sister to Louisa Williams Rout, Beulah’s grandmother); Alice Bowman and Eulalie Bowman (daughters of Jackson Bowman); Lottie Kern (daughter of George Kern); Herschel Bowman and Celia Bowman (children of Jackson Bowman); Beulah Adamson; Katie Bowman and Lizzie Bowman (daughters of Jackson Bowman). The teacher [not pictured] was Enoch Chapman.

CONTAINER

Photographs,
Folder 1

Photographs,
Folder 1

Photographs,
Folder 1

Photographs,
Folder 1

Photographs,
Folder 1

Williams School – photograph shows more than a hundred people – boys and girls of various ages and a few adults – standing outside school building, ca. 1907–1908. Written on back: “After Kern School bussed to Williams.” Names written on back are difficult to read (photo by Tom Jackson of Bedford, Ind.).

OVB Photographs,
Folder 1 of 1

Williams Common School, Class of 1911 – photograph shows ten students holding diplomas. Beulah Adamson wrote on the back that “This picture was taken May 28, 1911 at Dr. McFarlin’s by Milton Bex.” [Milton Bex is listed as a teacher in the 1910 and 1920 censuses.] Students are identified as: Louis Etchison, Christina Gehring, Lottie Hatfield, Stacia Bowden, Clyde Holmes, Cleona Mavity, “Beulah Adamson Thompson, only living one 1986,” Vivian Williams, Louise McFarlin, Orval Hill. Teacher [not pictured], Miss Lola Stephenson. Written at the bottom on back: “For Lee A. Thompson.” There is an original mounted print of this photograph and a reproduction print of the same photograph.

Photographs,
Folder 1

Williams High School, 1914–1915 – photograph shows forty-three students, including freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors, and teacher and principal posed outside a building. First row left to right: John Jones, Bart Short, Dee Jones, Ruth Hinshaw, Beryl McClung, Dorothy McFarlin, Alta Mitchell?, Eva Hall, Ruby Williams, Emil Reuter, Wilbur Dillman, Curtis Stroud, Kelsie Grissom? Dewey Pierce, Ralph McCoy, Olive Wilking not present.
Second row: Harley Hall, Noah Wagner, Beulah Adamson, Christina Gehring, Homer Spreen, Evadna Pierce, Leone Williams, Ida Kern, Lois Pitman, Sally Thompson, Lottie Hatfield, Jo Dillman, Cleona Mavity, Alma Dillman, Louise McFarlin, Ellis Barnes.
Third row: Mable Terrell?, Jennie Williams, May Feltner, Ernest Hall, Hale Thompson.
Fourth row: Perry Freeman, Claude Chastain, John A. Hert (principal), Frances Durrenberger (teacher), Ruby Tatom, Amanda Marley, Gladys Dollens, Bertha Clements, Wendell McClung (photo by Jackson of Bedford, Ind.).

OVB Photographs,
Folder 1 of 1

Photograph of approximately one hundred men and women standing in front of a large building – written on back: “Purdue Short Course Jan–Mar 1917 / Hale [Thompson] – Animal Husbandry – 7th from left 3rd row / Beulah [Adamson, soon to be Thompson] – Home Economics – 6th from left front row.”

OVB Photographs,
Folder 1 of 1

Photograph of twenty-four women and one man posing in front of businesses on a city street – written on back: “Mrs. L. L. Adamson / Dec 12, 1924 / C. U. Watson Co. Agri. Agt. County meeting Home Economics members / Mrs. J. T. McFarlin 4th from right in back row by Miss Gaddis / Mrs. Elsie Tirey 7th from right front row.” Other names are difficult to read, but appear to include: Mrs. Burns, Effie Sherwood, Dorothy Sherwood, Mrs. Everett Foster [Lydia Foster?], Mrs. Gaskel, Mrs. Mundy, Mrs. Harry Elrod [Dessie Elrod?], and Mrs. Reed.

OVB Photographs,
Folder 1 of 1

Farm Bureau Cooperative tour group, 19 October 1953 – photograph shows twenty-seven women gathered in the Board of Directors Room at the State Farm Bureau office on E. Washington Street in Indianapolis. The women are identified as:
Back row: Zula Armstrong, Eve Keith, Beulah Thompson, Delitha Cowden, Alice Fiddler, Rosa Wilkins, Pauline Thomson[?], Hazel Haymaker, Edith Knotts.
Middle row: Agnes Sears, Ada Simpson, Belle Williams, Bertha Whitkanack, Betty Overbay, Hope S. Ray, Rosanna Blackmore, Louise Ellett, Mary Snooks, Ethel Rollison, Martha Walton.
Front row: Flavia Chase, Joy Agnes Hoffman, Leora Gartner, Stella Gill, Grace Gallington, Mildred Eppert, Jennie Reinhart.

Photographs,
Folder 2

Letter addressed to Mrs. Hale Thompson in Williams, Indiana, from John W. Scott, secretary at The National Grange in Pennsylvania, dated 30 March 1967. The letter provides her with information she requested about the origins of White River Grange #1532 located in Indian Creek Township in Lawrence County and lists its charter members.

Photographs,
Folder 2

Photocopies of two newspaper articles:

- 1) "Liberty Grange—A Fine Building For Its Time"
[from *The Brownstown Banner* (Brownstown, Ind.),
21 April 1979, p. 2-A]
- 2) "Marshalls attend Grange conference" [from *The Mitchell Tribune* (Mitchell, Ind.), 7 February 1980,
p. A3]

Photographs,
Folder 2

Photograph of Lowery Adamson, seated in a chair and holding a Bible [ca. 1910s]; illustration of James Madison Mathes [lithograph by Thomas Sinclair of Philadelphia, ca. 1860s, appears to be a page removed from a book].

Photographs,
Folder 3

Twenty-eight black-and-white negatives on six strips: people and car at Collett Park [Terre Haute, Ind.?]; men working on bicycles [?]; farm animals tilling a field; turkeys; barber supply company; chickens; group portrait; Bedford airport; boy at Bedford airport (July 1957); Louisa Rout [with washtub?]; "F.B. nurse 1919" [Farm Bureau nurse? Standing by automobile]; portrait of a woman; Coca-Cola booth at what appears to be a festival. Some of these negatives, apparently made from old photographs, appear to be duplicates.

Cold Storage:
35mm b/w acetate
negatives