

Collection #
P 0288

BLACKFORD COUNTY PHOTOGRAPHERS COLLECTION, CA. 1880–1939

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 document case of photographs, 6 OVA photograph folders, 1 OVC photograph folder
COLLECTION DATES:	Ca. 1880–1939
PROVENANCE:	Forms part of the Cecil Beeson/Blackford County Historical Society Collection.

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS: None

RELATED HOLDINGS: None

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1994.0734T

NOTES:

HISTORICAL/BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The photographs in this collection were originally part of subject files in the Cecil Beeson/Blackford County Historical Society Collection. The collection includes thirty-one portraits of families, sports teams, school classes, and other groups. The names of the families who originally owned the photographs are not known. These images were assembled by the IHS processor into a single collection in order to re-establish the original context in which they were created. Other images by these photographers exist within collections of family photographs from Blackford County.

J. C. (James) Adams operated a photographic studio in Hartford City from ca. 1893 to ca. 1907. The business was located at 401 South Jefferson Street from 1895 to 1903, and at 209 1/2 North Jefferson Street from 1905 to ca. 1916. He lived with his wife Mary, and son John at 438 East Patterson Street in Hartford City. Adams' occupation is listed as "farmer" in the 1916 *Hartford City Directory*. He died 21 September 1927 at the age of 71. John Adams is listed as a photographer in the 1906–07 *Hartford City Directory*, but his name does not appear in subsequent publications.

The Burris Smith Studio operated in Blackford County from ca. 1916 to the 1920s. The Burris family resided in Montpelier, but it is not known which member of this large family operated a photography business. A stamp on one image refers to this studio as Burris-Smith, which may indicate a partnership between two individuals.

William A. Franzlau and his brother Harry O. Franzlau established the Franzlau Brothers studio at 112 1/2 North High Street ca. 1904. This was the address of the G.W. Stewart Photography Studio circa 1902. William Franzlau operated the business under the name Franzlau from ca. 1906 to ca. 1916. Franzlau later operated the Franzlau Photo Shop at Crawfordsville, Indiana from ca. 1925 to ca. 1935.

Paul Homer operated a portrait studio in Hartford City ca. 1939.

J. Kessler was a photographer in Hartford City ca. 1880–ca. 1900. His name is not listed in directories or gazetteers of this period.

R. H. Knight is listed in the 1902–1903 *Hartford City Directory* as a photographer located at 201 South Jefferson Street.

Calvin S. Schaeffer operated a portrait studio at 414 South Jefferson Street in Hartford City from ca. 1887 to ca. 1916.

The only photograph by Smith found within collections associated with Blackford County dates from 1917. The Smith studio may have been associated with Burris Smith.

G.W. Stewart operated a photographic studio at 112 1/2 High Street in Hartford City from ca. 1902 to ca 1904. The 1903 *Hartford City Directory* also lists him as a “glassworker.” Stewart advertised in the 1906 *Hartford City Directory* as a “dealer in picture frames,” at 221 Van Cleve Avenue. There is no evidence to suggest that the Franzlau brothers assumed the equipment or negatives of the Stewart business.

Wright Photo appears to have existed in Hartford City in the 1930s, based on the content of the photographs in this collection.

Sources:

Items found in the collection.

Directory of Hartford City, 1902–03. Troy, Ohio: Troy Democrat Company Printers, 1902.

Directory of Hartford City, 1906–1907. Troy, Ohio: Troy Democrat Company Printers, 1906.

Hartford City Illustrated. Hartford City, Indiana, ca. 1888.

Indiana State Gazetteer and Business Directory, Volume 1. 1880-1881. Indianapolis:

R. L. Polk & Co., 1880.

Indiana State Gazetteer and Business Directory, Volume 5. Indianapolis: R. L. Polk & Co., 1889.

Indiana State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1895-1896. Indianapolis: R. L. Polk & Co., 1895.

Indiana State Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1902-1903. Indianapolis: R. L. Polk & Co., 1902.

Johnson's Business Directory of Indiana. Washington D.C.: Johnson Publishing Company, ca. 1902.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of 31 black-and-white photographs. These are arranged into eleven series by photographer or studio name. Most items are portraits posed at studios in various locations in Blackford County. The photographs date from ca. 1880 to 1939. Individuals and families are represented in studio portraits, printed as cabinet cards, and cartes de visite. Group portraits include sports teams and school classes. Many of these photographs are mounted, with the name of the photographers' studio embossed on the mount. Industries and other buildings in Hartford City are represented on postcards. Folder titles contained in brackets [] were supplied by the processor on the basis of the content of the image.

Series 1: J. C. Adams, contains one cabinet card; a portrait of Michael Sauer dressed in sheriff's garb.

Series 2: Burris Smith, includes two duplicate images; World War I soldiers gathered to depart for Camp Taylor, and a portrait of graduates of Erwin School, Licking Township, ca. 1916. Governor M. C. Townsend, then Superintendent of Schools for Blackford County, stands with the children in this photograph.

Series 3: Franzlau, consists of one postcard and five mounted portraits, largely of schoolchildren in what may be Licking Township. Three group portraits of teachers and students are mounted on one board. Governor M.C. Townsend is identified in one of these images. Children who appear to be from the Kleefisch family can be identified in a large group portrait of children. The event may be a birthday party.

Series 4: Paul Homer, contains one studio portrait of Byron (Barney) Hall.

Series 5: J. Kessler, consists of two cartes de visite, and one cabinet card.

Series 6: R. L. Knight, contains two postcards, one which depicts the Hartford City Paper Mill, and a second which shows the Van Cleve Building.

Series 7: M. L. Photo, includes two postcards, one which shows the Sneath Glass Company, and a second which depicts Central School. There is also a mounted image of laborers who appear to be clearing land.

Series 8: Calvin S. Schaeffer, contains one studio portrait of a small girl.

Series 9: Smith, contains one print of a 1917 basketball team. The subjects in this photograph are identified.

Series 10: G.W. Stewart, consists of three portraits of unidentified families, and two mounted images of performers at the Van Cleve Opera House.

Series 11: Wright Photo, consists of three photographs. These include duplicate images of the Hartford City Chamber of Commerce Boosters, and a group portrait of players in the Junior Baseball League of 1932.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: J. C. Adams, ca. 1893-ca. 1907

CONTENTS

Michael Sauer

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Series 2: Burris Smith, ca. 1916-1917

CONTENTS

Mothers of the Boys

Erwin School

Blackford County, W.W. I Soldiers

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 2

OVA Photographs,
Folder 1

OVA Photographs,
Folder 2-3

Series 3: Franzlau, ca. 1905-ca. 1916

CONTENTS

[Residence, Hartford City]

[Group Portrait, Includes Kleefisch Children]

[Group Portrait of Children, Girls]

[Graduation Class, Licking Township]

[Basketball Teams]

[Portrait, Jacob W. Parsley, Policeman]

[Graduating Students]

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

OVA Photographs,
Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

OVC Photographs,
Folder 1

Series 4: Paul Homer, 1939

CONTENTS

Byron Hall

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 8

Series 5: J. Kessler, ca. 1880-ca. 1900

CONTENTS

Susan Gale; John Noonan (?)

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 9

Series 6: R. L. Knight, ca. 1902-ca. 1903

CONTENTS

Hartford City Paper Mill, and Van Cleve Building

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 10

Series 7: M. L. Photo, ca. 1909-ca. 1914

CONTENTS

Sneathe [sic] Glass Co., and Central School

[Laborers Digging Trench]

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 11

Box 1, Folder 12

Series 8: Calvin S. Schaeffer, ca. 1890-1905

CONTENTS

[Portrait of Young Girl]

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 13

Series 9: Smith, 1917

CONTENTS

1917 [Basketball] Champions

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 14

Series 10: G.W. Stewart, ca. 1902-ca. 1904

CONTENTS

[Three Studio Portraits]

Van Cleve Opera House

[Van Cleve Opera House] Mr. Mikado

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 15

OVA Photographs,
Folder 5

OVA Photographs,
Folder 6

Series 11: Wright Photo, ca. 1930-ca. 1932

CONTENTS

[Hartford City Boosters]

Junior Baseball League Season, 1932

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 16

Box 1, Folder 17

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://157.91.92.2/>
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, P 0288).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.