

Collection #
P 0034

**CHARLES AND ARLENE SCOVILLE PHOTOGRAPHS,
CA. 1906-CA. 1917**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 photograph folder; 1 OVA photograph folder
COLLECTION DATES:	Ca. 1906–ca. 1917
PROVENANCE:	Gift from Mrs. C.S. Wheeler of Indianapolis, 1966
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	<i>In Memoriam: Charles Reign Scoville</i> (pam BX7343.S32 I6 1938)
ACCESSION NUMBER:	1966.0099
NOTES:	<i>See also:</i> Glendale Christian Church Photographs (P 0782)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Charles Reign Scoville was a widely known Church of Christ pastor and evangelist. His wife, Arlene Dux Scoville, had extensive voice and music training and was a soloist in aid of her husband's work.

Charles Reign Scoville was born on a farm in DeKalb County, near Butler, Indiana, on 14 October 1869 to William Henry Scoville and Mary Ann Dickerhoff Scoville. He became a Christian at the age of sixteen and joined the United Brethren Church at Newville, Indiana. Five years later he enrolled in the Tri-State Normal College in Angola, Indiana. He joined the Church of Christ in Angola in 1891. He and his mother were baptized together by Reverend I. W. Lowman in the St. Joseph River not far from where Charles would eventually be buried.

After earning his bachelor's degree from Tri-State, Charles completed an eight-year classical ministerial course at Hiram College in Ohio. During his work there, he held many student pastorates and evangelistic meetings, resulting in the conversion of more than one thousand people. In 1901, Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, awarded him an honorary LL.D. degree.

Following a tour of twelve countries, Charles became the pastor of the Metropolitan Church of Christ in Chicago. He held that position for five years and then devoted his time solely to evangelistic work in almost every state in the nation as well as in other countries, including Australia.

On 17 October 1906, Charles married Arlene Cornelia Dux (pronounced "Dukes") in Chicago. She was the daughter of a prominent Chicago architectural sculptor. She worked alongside Charles in his evangelistic work. They had a daughter, Ruth Arlene (1915–1992).

It was said of Charles that, "of magnetic personality, keen mind, and possessing a vast fund of information he preached the Gospel with tremendous power." His name was known throughout the United States as one of the most successful evangelists. Although affiliated with the Disciples of Christ, his work was widely known to pastors and laypeople of other Protestant denominations, and his influence was international. His methods were forceful and persuasive in winning conversion of thousands during his forty years of evangelistic work.

He gave his last sermon at the Central Christian Church in Peoria, Illinois, on 2 January 1938. The Scoville Evangelistic Party was scheduled to begin a meeting in Garden City, Kansas, on 23 January, but on their way there, Scoville had a fatal heart attack on 23 January 1938 at the home of Reverend Cecil Vernon Pearce, pastor at First Christian Church in Garden City. A funeral service was held for him in Garden City and then another in Newville, Indiana, where his body was taken for burial. The church in Newville was one where Charles had preached and where he always returned one Sunday each year for services. Many memorial services were held by various churches across the country to honor him.

Arlene Cornelia Dux was born on 19 January 1885 in Chicago, Illinois, to Joseph Dux and Mathilde Beste Dux. She studied at Columbia College in Missouri for a year and had extensive vocal training from private tutors, including L. A. Phelps of Chicago and John Dennis Mehan and Oscar Saenger in New York.

In 1935, Charles and Arlene lived in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. By 1940, the widowed Arlene had moved to Indianapolis, where she continued her work as an evangelistic singer. In August 1943, she married her second husband, Reverend William Frederick Rothenburger (1874–1959), a Disciples of Christ minister, in Indianapolis. Arlene died on 31 August 1965. She was buried beside her second husband in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Sources:

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 29 August 2025):

Find a Grave

Marion County, Indiana, U.S., Marriage Index, 1925–2012

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

United States Federal Census, 1870–1950

Drake University, Office of the President. “Honorary Degrees Awarded by Drake University” <https://www.drake.edu/president/historicalresources/honorarydegreesawardedbydrakeuniversity/> Accessed 29 August 2025.

In Memoriam: Charles Reign Scoville, 1938. Pamphlet collection: BX7343.S32 I6 1938

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is composed of four photographs of Reverend Charles Reign Scoville and his wife, Arlene Dux Scoville. Two are portraits of them together (n.d. [ca. 1906]). There are also individual portraits of Arlene and Charles, each by the photographer Hartsook (ca. 1917).

The photographs by Hartsook were likely taken by John Frederick “Fred” Hartsook (1876–1930), who was born in Marion, Grant County, Indiana. By the time these portraits were taken, Hartsook was working as a photographer in California. Newspaper articles from 1917 to 1919 indicate that Charles and Arlene Scoville spent time in California from February through April of 1917.

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Portrait of Charles and Arlene Scoville, n.d. [ca. 1906?]

Full-length portrait of Charles and Arlene Scoville, standing by a pedestal; he appears to be wearing white gloves and a long-tailed coat, and she is wearing a long lacy dress (photo by Baker Art Gallery of Columbus, Ohio), n.d. [ca. 1906?]

Portrait of Arlene Dux Scoville wearing what appears to be a military-like uniform (photo by Hartsook) [ca. 1917; possibly taken in California].

Portrait of Charles Reign Scoville, who is looking down at paper he is holding in his hand (photo by Hartsook) [ca. 1917; possibly taken in California].

CONTAINER

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