

Collection #
P 0744
OM 0714

**COOK, ISLEY, AND LANK
FAMILY MATERIALS, CA. 1870–2008**

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Processed by

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Indiana Historical Society
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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: One photograph box, one half size manuscript box, one OVB photograph box, one box of tintypes, three photograph albums, one oversize manuscript folder, five OVA photograph folders

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1870–2008

PROVENANCE: Joseph Wearing, Toronto, Ontario, Canada

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2015.0351

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The Cook, Isley, and Lank families were related through marriage and lived in Oxford, Indiana, and the surrounding towns. The families cultivated farms which helped to establish the area. Many family members completed high school and attended Indiana University. They were also pillars of their community, through their involvement with the church and county schools.

The Lank Family came to Indiana from Ohio. Susannah Lank (1831–1904), her brother Thomas J. Lank (1837–1919), and eight other siblings were born to parents John Lank and Sarah Wilkins in Fayette County, Ohio. When Susannah and Thomas were young, their family moved to Warren County, Indiana. In 1854, Susannah married James William Cook, and the pair soon moved to a farm in Oxford, Indiana. Their siblings, Thomas J. Lank and Mary Hannah Cook (1837–1903), also moved to the farm to assist the newlyweds with household and farm chores. While working at the farm, Thomas and Mary began dating and married in 1860. After marrying, they established their own house and farm in Benton County.

John A. Cook (1855–1917) married Sarah A. Isley (1855–1939) on 16 April 1878 in Benton, Indiana. Cook was the first of twelve children born to his parents, James W. Cook and Susanna Lank Cook. John grew up on his family farm in Benton, Indiana. John attended Green Hill Seminary and later earned a teaching license. John was extremely religious and traveled the state, sharing his faith with others. He later purchased his own 160-acre farm, and was well-known for his breeding of pure Hampshire and Shropshire down sheep. John and Sarah had three children: Alpha Thomas (1879–1955), Arthur Jacob (1881–1948), and Margaret Susan (1884–1958).

Sarah A. Isley was the youngest of four children born to Benjamin Isley and Margaret Southard. Benjamin was a carpenter by trade, and the family also owned a large farm. Following the death of Benjamin, his second eldest son, Thomas B. Isley (1840–1890), took care of the farm, acquiring more land until he owned nearly 600 acres. Thomas was a member of the Masonic Lodge and died due to injuries from a train accident.

Alpha Thomas Cook married Leota E. Snyder in 1901, and they had four children: Margaret, John, Wesley, and Herbert. Alpha remained in Benton, Indiana, and worked as a farmer. Arthur Jacob Cook married Dorothy Stewart in 1902. They had five children: Anna, Arthur, Mildred, Ernest, and Elizabeth. Arthur and his family lived near Lafayette and held a series of jobs, like farmer, machinist, and deliveryman. Margaret Susan Cook attended Indiana University at Bloomington and obtained a degree in teaching. Following her graduation in 1908, Margaret taught at Oxford High School. Margaret married John Faunt Thompson in 1910 and moved to St. Louis, Missouri. They had four children together: Margaret, John, Keith, and Ann.

Sources:

Material in the collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is arranged into six series: Family Photographs, Indiana University and Other Schools, Family Trips, Misc. Photographs, Correspondence, and Family Papers. Each series is arranged chronologically.

Series 1: Family Photographs contain photographs pertaining to various family members of the Cook, Isley, Lank, and Thomason families from the 1870s through the 1930s. This series also includes unidentified photos and tintypes of children, women, men, and groups of people. Many of the unidentified photographs are undated.

Series 2: Indiana University and Other Schools consists of photographs and information relating to family members who taught at or attended schools in Indiana. There are photographs of local county schools, Sunday Schools, and Indiana University. This series also contains information relating to Margaret Susan Cook's graduation from Indiana University in 1908.

Series 3: Family Trips contain pictures and scrapbooks of various family vacations throughout the year. Trips appear to be taken mostly during the winter and spring/summer in Attica, Indiana and to a camp near the Wabash River.

Series 4: Miscellaneous Items contains all other photos and items: a photograph of Indiana's Fifth Bishop, a photograph of farm animals, photos of home exteriors, open-casket photos, and a "Do You Remember When?" booklet.

Series 5: Correspondence pertains to all family correspondence. This includes the letters from the Cook, Isley and Rood families. Also included are letters from Ann Rood, as she communicated with various relatives to gather information and pictures about their family history.

Series 6: Family Papers contain all information related to researching the family's history. This includes genealogical research, marriage certificates, the family record book, news clippings, etc.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Family Photographs

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Pheebe Anna Cook, ca. 1870s

Sarah Ann Isley, 1871

John A. Cook and Sarah A. Isley, September 6, 1878

John A. Cook and his Business Partners, 1890

Margaret Cook's Dining Room, 1901

Margaret S. Cook and Barbara Blessing, 1901, n.d.

Group Photo with Margaret Cook, 1904

Cook Home in Oxford, Indiana, July 1910

Ritenour Family Photo [Photocopy], 1910

Various Thompson Family Photos, 1914, n.d.

John A. Cook and Sarah Isley Cook with
Grandchildren, Ca. 1915

Margaret Cook and Daughter Margaret Elizabeth
Hampton, 1925

Sarah A. Cook and Lulu Ritenour, 1939, n.d.

Young Photo of John A. Cook and William Henry
Cook, n.d.

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John A. Cook and Sarah Isley Cook with Children Arthur, Alpha, and Margaret, n.d.	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 14
Grandma Cook and Grandchildren, n.d.	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 15
Alpha Leota Cook with Children John, Wesley, and Margaret, n.d.	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 16
Susan Cook with Son John, Grandson Alpha, and Great-Grandson, n.d.	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 17
Sons of William Henry Cook, n.d.	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 18
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Margaret Southland Isley, n.d.	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 21
Family Photo Album, n.d.	PAA Album Storage
Cook Family Photo, n.d.	OVA Photographs, Folder 2 of 5
John A. Cook, Sarah A. Isley, and Sons Outside of Their First Home, n.d. [Black and White]	OVA Photographs, Folder 3 of 5
John A. Cook and Sarah A. Isley Outside of First Home with Sons, n.d. [Sepia]	OVB Box 1, Folder 1
Susanna Lank Cook and her Daughters: Mary, Evangeline, Lucy, Pheeba, and Lily, n.d.	OVA Photographs, Folder 4 of 5
Unidentified People from Indiana University, 1906	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 22
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Unidentified Women, n.d.	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 24

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Unidentified Men, n.d.	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 25
Unidentified Group of Men, n.d	OVB Box 1, Folder 4
Unidentified Groups of People, n.d.	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 26
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Indiana University Sophomore Class, 1901	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 27
Margaret Susan Cook Oxford High School Diploma, 1903	OM 0714, Folder 1 of 1
Oxford High School Graduating Class, 1903	OVA Photographs, Folder 1 of 5
Margaret Cook Thompson County Schoolhouse Class, 1903–1904, n.d.	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 28
John Faunt Thompson Attica High School Diploma, 1904	OM 0714, Folder 1 of 1
Indiana University Photo Album, Ca. 1908	PAA Album Storage
Margaret Susan Cook Indiana University Graduation Materials, 1908	Manuscripts, Box 1, Folder 13
Sunday School Groups, 1930	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 30
Loose Photographs from Indiana University Photo Album, 1942, n.d.	Photographs, Box 1, Folder 31

Series 3: Family Trips

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Kamp Komfort on the Wabash, August–September
1906

Attica, Indiana Winter Visit, n.d.

Trip to the Wabash River, n.d.

Scenes on the Picturesque Wabash, n.d.

Travel Scrapbook, n.d.

Family Vacation Photo Album, n.d.

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PAA Album Storage

Series 4: Miscellaneous Items

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Empanon Club, 1908

Various Unidentified Home Exteriors, 1937, n.d.

Open Casket Viewing (Male), n.d.

Open Casket Viewing (Female), n.d.

Rev. Joseph Marshall Francis, Fifth Bishop of Indiana,
n.d.

Farm Animals, n.d.

"Do You Remember When?: Boyhood Adventures of
Tommie and Eddie Campbell," n.d.

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Isley Family Correspondence, 1890–1893

Ann Rood Correspondence, 1980–1984, n.d.

Other Correspondence, 1891–1981

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Series 6: Family Papers

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Cook Family Record Book, 1831–1933

Hanns Family Genealogy, 1939, n.d.

Cook Family Genealogy, 2008, n.d.

Isley Family Genealogy, n.d.

Lank Family Genealogy, n.d.

Family Cemetery Papers, n.d.

John A. Cook and Sarah A. Isley Marriage Certificate,
April 16, 1878

News Clippings, 1904–1925, n.d.

Certificate of Endowment for Mrs. Margaret
Thompson, June 6, 1935

Ralph Blaisdell Line of Descent, July 1949

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