

Collection #
P 0025

**DELAWARE COUNTY, INDIANA
COLLECTION, CA. 1850-CA. 1940**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 3 photograph folders

COLLECTION
DATES: Ca. 1850–ca. 1940

PROVENANCE: Eugene S. Wierbach, Muncie, Indiana

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 1944.0916

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Delaware County, Indiana, located fifty miles northeast of Indianapolis, was established on January 26, 1827. The city of Muncie, the seat of government for the county, is widely known for its role as Middletown, USA.

In 1876, drillers were looking for coal northeast of Muncie when they struck natural gas. This initiated a gas boom that by 1886 brought prosperity to east central Indiana. Glass, iron, and steel companies flocked to the area and developed a diverse economy of natural gas, coal and oil, railways, agriculture, and automobiles.

The donor, Eugene Studebaker Wierbach, was a native of Delaware county and the author of several articles on local history. He was born in Muncie on September 26, 1904, and he lived there until the mid-1940s when he relocated to California where he lived until his death on April 1, 1986.

Sources:

ancestrylibrary.com

Robert M. Taylor. "Indiana: a new historical guide" Indiana Historical Society, 1989, 1992. General Collection: F527 .I538 1992

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This small collection contains photographs, negatives, and typed and handwritten materials relating to some Delaware County houses, a tollgate house, and Muncie railway history. The visual materials were collected by the donor, and it appears he is responsible for writing the short stories and building descriptions that accompany the photographs.

Folder 1 contains photographs with written information about the Samuel Brady House, the Brandt House, and Zehner House. Also included is an unidentified photograph of a man and young boy standing by a wagon drawn by oxen.

Folder 2 has a photograph of the first streetcars in Muncie and an undated newspaper article on the establishment of street railway service there. There is also an essay written by the donor on the last tollgate house in the county accompanied by a photograph and three negatives of the structure.

Folder 3 contains four brief descriptions of the following houses: Bowles House, Robert Long House, John Marsh House, and the Medsker House.

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Photographs:

Samuel Brady House

Brandt House

Zehner House

[unidentified wagon drawn by oxen with man and small boy]

Photograph: "First Street Cars in Muncie"
accompanied by undated article on establishment of
the first street railway in Muncie

Essay written by Gene Wierbach titled:
"Last Tollgate House in the County?"
accompanied by 3 negatives and 1 photograph

Brief histories of the following Muncie area houses:

Bowles House

Robert Long House

John Marsh House

Medsker House

CONTAINER

Photographs: Folder 1

Photographs: Folder 2

Photographs: Folder 2

Photographs: Folder 3