

Collection #
P 0792

**DOROTHY M. WALTERS
PHOTOGRAPH COLLECTION, CA. 1890S–CA. 1917**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Four folders of photographs

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1890s–ca. 1917

PROVENANCE: Gift of John H. Langdon of Indianapolis, 2010

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2010.0229

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Dorothy Marie Walters was an educator in Marion and Fort Wayne, Indiana. She was born 14 September 1915 in Vincennes, Indiana, to Sara “Sadie” Irene Borden and Rumold Alphonse Walters. Her parents divorced before she was ten years old. She was raised in Vincennes primarily by her maternal grandparents, Firman Harris Borden and India Louise Highsmith Borden. Dorothy graduated from Vincennes University in 1936 and continued her career preparation at Indiana University. From at least 1976 to 1985 she was Assistant to the Principal at South Side High School in Fort Wayne. She retired after forty-eight years in the education field. She died on 1 August 1996 in Lutheran Homes, Fort Wayne, and was buried in Fairview Cemetery in Vincennes. The Dorothy M. Walters Memorial Scholarship is offered by Vincennes University to high school seniors preparing for a career in education.

Sadie Borden was born 20 April 1895 in Vincennes. She married Rumold Walters on 20 May 1915. By 1930 she had married Ira Burton “Bert” Herr (8 October 1884–14 February 1946), a widower with four children. Bert had a plumbing and heating business on North Seventh Street in Vincennes, and later owned and operated the Opell Café at Fifth and Main streets there. In his later years he was a salesman of commercial refrigeration equipment, store fixtures, and restaurant equipment. Sadie died 21 March 1947 in Terre Haute, Indiana, and was buried in Fairview Cemetery in Vincennes.

Bert Herr was the son of George Franklin Herr and Martha Anna Simons Herr. In 1900 the family lived in Vigo County, but moved to Sullivan County by 1910. It appears that Bert was the second of ten children of the twelve who were still living in 1910. His siblings included Raymond (15 February 1900–11 April 1954) and Blanche Hazel (16 November 1902–19 January 1989).

Firman Harris Borden (22 November 1862–5 February 1949) was born to a farmer, Charles Wesley Borden (1839–1922), and Christena Elvira Steffey Borden (1844–1935) in Lawrence County, Illinois. Firman worked as a carpenter and later as a building contractor in Vincennes. He married India Louise Highsmith around 1885. In addition to Sadie, their other children were: Minnie Marie (April 1889–8 September 1920 [Portland, Oregon], married Eric Ericksen), Royal Thomas (24 August 1892–19 September 1974), and Charles Wellington (15 January 1901–28 August 1954).

India Louise Highsmith Borden (11 September 1866–17 June 1954) was born in Crawford County, Illinois, to a farmer, Thomas Turner Highsmith (1813–1891), and Angeline Johnson Highsmith (1832–1883). India’s siblings and half-siblings (her father had previously been married to Elizabeth Reavill [1823–1855]) included: Mary C. (1843–1913 [Kansas], married John Carlyle), George W. (23 August 1851–20 November 1903), Ahijah Woods (24 July 1854–26 April 1917 [W. Terre Haute, Indiana]), James Buchanan (ca. 1857–1882), Lyda (b. 1865), John Thomas (3 April 1868–8 January 1922 [Montana]), Charles Henry (1869–[1924, Idaho?]), and Sarah “Sadie” G. (September 1872–25 September 1941 [Oregon]).

Sadie Highsmith married John Bernard Whelage (2 August 1863 [New Orleans, Louisiana]–15 December 1912) on 5 February 1892 in Post Falls, Idaho. In the early 1890s they lived in Spokane Falls, Washington, before moving to Portland, Oregon. In Portland, John Whelage worked as a bartender. Sadie's sister, Lyda Highsmith, married William A. Forrester on 20 July 1893 in Tacoma, Washington. In the mid- to late-1890s Lyda worked as a cook at the Portland Hotel in Portland. In 1900 Sadie kept a rooming house at 123 ½ Twelfth Street in Portland, where she and her husband John and daughter Irene (1893–1965, married Abraham Nelson), as well as her widowed sister Lyda and other boarders lived. It appears that Lyda may have died on 6 November 1901 in Portland. By 1918 Sadie had married Edmund A. Schloth (b. September 1869 [Iowa]), who worked as a linotype operator for a newspaper. Sadie died in Portland on 25 September 1941. Both Lyda and Sadie are buried in River View Cemetery in Portland.

Sources:

Ancestry <ancestrylibrary.com>. Accessed 27 August 2019:

Find a Grave

Idaho Select Marriages, 1878–1898; 1903–1942

Indiana Death Certificates, 1899–2011

Indiana Marriages, 1810–2001

Montana State Deaths, 1907–2016

New Orleans, Louisiana, Birth Records Index, 1790–1915

Oregon Death Index, 1898–2008

U.S. City Directories, 1822–1995

United States Federal Census, 1870–1940

U.S. School Yearbooks, 1900–1999

U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918

Washington Marriage Records, 1854–2013

Vincennes University. *VU News Releases*. “Hambrick Receives VU Foundation’s Dorothy Walters Memorial Scholarship” <https://www.vinu.edu/web/external-relations/news-releases/-/blogs/hambrick-receives-vu-foundation-s-dorothy-walters-memorial-scholarship> Accessed 27 August 2019.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of twenty-five black-and-white photographs from the estate of Dorothy M. Walters. Many of the people in the photographs are not identified, but those who have been identified appear to be relatives from Dorothy's mother's side of the family. This includes members of the Borden and Highsmith families. There are also photographs related to the Herr family – relatives of Dorothy's mother's second husband. The photographs were taken in Vincennes, Indiana, as well as in Illinois, Washington, Montana, and New York.

The collection is arranged into four series:

Series 1, Vincennes and Farmersburg, Indiana – Borden and Herr Families: This series is composed of nine photographs, six of which are known to have been taken by Vincennes photographers. Two others are related to the Herr family. Two photos appear to be of Charles Wesley Borden and his wife, Christena Elvira Steffey Borden. One photo has "Roy" written on the back [possibly Royal Thomas Borden]. There is no further identification.

Series 2, Illinois – Borden Family: This series consists of four photographs. Two were taken by a photographer in Robinson, Illinois [across the Wabash River from Sullivan County, Indiana]. Two have "Borden" written on back. One is a real photo postcard with a portrait of a woman that is addressed to [Minnie] Marie Borden. None of the portraits are otherwise identified.

Series 3, Highsmith Family in the Northwestern United States: This series is composed of four cabinet card portraits taken in Washington and Montana. Three were taken in Spokane Falls, Washington [ca. early 1890s] of sisters Sadie and Lyda Highsmith and Sadie's husband, John B. Whelage. One photo taken in Montana is of two unidentified young men [John Thomas Highsmith lived in Montana].

Series 4, Unidentified Photographs: This series includes eight photographs of unidentified families, couples, and individuals. One is dated 1917. Another is a portrait of a child taken in Brooklyn, New York.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Vincennes and Farmersburg, Indiana – Borden and Herr Families

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Cabinet card group portrait believed to be Charles Wesley Borden (1839–1922, from Lawrence County, Illinois) with his wife, Christena Elvira Steffey Borden (1844–1935) standing at far right, and two girls. (Photo by Thomson’s Studio, Vincennes)	Folder 1 of 4
Mounted photograph, appears to be Charles Wesley Borden and his wife, Christena Elvira Steffey Borden. [Not identified as having been taken in Vincennes.]	Folder 1 of 4
Mounted photograph of two men. “Roy” is written on the back [possibly one of the men is Royal Thomas Borden (1892–1974)]. (Photo by [Martin] Presnell of Vincennes)	Folder 1 of 4
Cabinet card of unidentified couple; man is seated, woman is standing. (Photo by Thomson of Vincennes)	Folder 1 of 4
Cabinet card of unidentified child in dress and boots. (Photo by [Elmer E.] Shores of Vincennes)	Folder 1 of 4
Cabinet card of unidentified couple and young child. (Photo by H. Reel of Vincennes)	Folder 1 of 4
Cabinet card photograph of unidentified young woman. (Photo by Thomson of Vincennes)	Folder 1 of 4
Real photo postcard portrait of a man in a hat, seated. The postcard is addressed to Blanche Herr in Farmersburg [Sullivan County], Indiana. The message is signed by Ray Herr. It appears to be postmarked from Alton, Illinois, on 1 June [1916?].	Folder 1 of 4
Photograph of a horse-drawn wagon in front of a house. Printed on the wagon is “Natural Gas Fitting / Bert Herr Plumbing.” Three men are standing by the wagon; a woman is standing on the porch of the house.	Folder 1 of 4

Series 2: Illinois – Borden Family

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Cabinet card portrait of an old man with a beard. “Borden” is written on back. (Photo by Lindsay of Robinson, Illinois [across the Wabash River from Sullivan County, Indiana])	Folder 2 of 4
Cabinet card portrait of a woman in a striped dress. “Borden” is written on back. [Name and location of photographer has been cut off.]	Folder 2 of 4
Cabinet card portrait of a young boy. (Photo by Lindsay of Robinson, Illinois)	Folder 2 of 4
Real photo postcard of woman seated outdoors with a book in her lap. The postcard is addressed to “Miss Marie Borden [Minnie Marie Borden, 1889–1920] / Portland, Ore.” It was written on 1 August 1908 from Birds [Lawrence County], Illinois, with the signature “me.”	Folder 2 of 4

Series 3: Highsmith Family in the Northwestern United States

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Cabinet card portrait of Sarah “Sadie” Highsmith Whelage [ca. early 1890s]. (Photo by Maxwell of Spokane Falls, Washington)	Folder 3 of 4
Cabinet card portrait of Lyda Highsmith Forrester [ca. early 1890s]. (Photo by Maxwell of Spokane Falls, Washington)	Folder 3 of 4
Cabinet card portrait of John B. Whelage (husband of Sadie Highsmith) [ca. early 1890s]. (Photo by Maxwell of Spokane Falls, Washington)	Folder 3 of 4
Cabinet card portrait of two young men. (Photo by Hamilton of Bozeman, Montana) [John Thomas Highsmith lived in Montana.]	Folder 3 of 4

Series 4: Unidentified Photographs

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Old woman with a live turkey.	Folder 4 of 4
Real photo postcard of a family with two children in an automobile, dated 2 September 1917.	Folder 4 of 4
Real photo postcard of a family with two children	Folder 4 of 4
Real photo postcard of two children seated on a bench; one is holding a doll.	Folder 4 of 4
Real photo postcard of a woman standing by a seated man.	Folder 4 of 4
Young girl seated, wearing a dress with a striped sash. (Photo by Frank Pearsall of Brooklyn, New York)	Folder 4 of 4
Cabinet card portrait of a man and woman standing by a piece of furniture.	Folder 4 of 4
Mounted photograph of bearded man with three young children. [Photo has a vertical crack in it and the mat is broken off.]	Folder 4 of 4