

Collection #  
P 0253

**FLACK FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS  
CA. 1917–CA. 1945, N.D.**

Collection Information	1
Biographical Sketch	2
Scope and Content Note	3
Contents	4

Processed by

Barbara Quigley  
23 September 2022

Manuscript and Visual Collections Department  
William Henry Smith Memorial Library  
Indiana Historical Society  
450 West Ohio Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

[www.indianahistory.org](http://www.indianahistory.org)

\*

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 folder of photographs

COLLECTION  
DATES: Ca. 1917–ca. 1945, n.d.

PROVENANCE: Unknown

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:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 0000.0500

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

William Henry Flack was born on 10 May 1891 to Henry Newton Flack (1869–1937) and Jane “Jenny” Elizabeth Stevenson Flack (1867–1911) in Linton, Greene County, Indiana. The son of a coal miner, William was raised in the Stockton Township of Greene County. By 1910, William also worked in the coal mines. By 1930 he owned the first gas station in Carlisle in Sullivan County, Indiana. His filling station and grocery store was located on old U.S. 41.

William H. Flack married Elva May Beck (1892–1975) in December 1913. The couple lived in Linton, where William worked for the Vandalia Coal Company, at mine number 20. They had two sons and two daughters: Marion Stanley (1915–1985), Francis Henry (1916–1977), Vera Mable (Crume) (1919–1981), and Avis June (Nash) (1923–1998). It appears that Francis took over running the gas station after William’s death on 14 February 1939.

Marion Stanley Flack was born on 18 January 1915. He married Ruth Evelyn Rembe (1917–2013) in Arlington, Virginia, in September 1937. They had two daughters, Ruth Avis (McKnight) (1940–2010) and Marian (Kovac) (born 1944). Marion S. Flack died on 30 September 1985 in Florida.

Ruth Avis Flack was born 27 April 1940. She married John Phillip McKnight in July 1959 in Florida. She had four children, eight grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren at the time of her death on 16 May 2010 in Beech Grove, Indiana.

Irvin, Roscoe, and Gilbert Hume were the three sons of Elijah Hume (1864–1934) and Sarah Matilda Wortman Hume (1862–1936). They grew up in the Haddon Township of Sullivan County. Irvin Ernest Hume (4 March 1892 – 20 December 1975) was a farmer. Roscoe Wortman Hume (22 July 1895 – 15 April 1985) and Gilbert Rex Hume (15 November 1897 – 12 June 1966) were automobile mechanics.

The Moler Barber College is a nationwide chain of training schools that started in Chicago in 1893. In 1899 it expanded into St. Louis, Missouri, and Des Moines, Iowa. Any relevance of the barber college photograph to the Flack family is not known.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 22 September 2022):

- Find a Grave
- Florida, U.S., Marriage Indexes, 1822–1875 and 1927–2001
- Indiana, U.S., Birth Certificates, 1907–1944
- Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899–2011
- Indiana, U.S., Marriages, 1810–2001
- United States Federal Census, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940
- U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918
- Virginia, U.S., Marriage Records, 1936–2014

The National Barber Museum and Hall of Fame. "A.B. Moler"  
<https://www.nationalbarbermuseum.org/about/hall-of-fame/18-1965-a-b-moler-illinois>. Accessed  
23 September 2022.

"Obituaries: Ruth Avis Flack McKnight." *The Indianapolis Star*, 19 May 2010, page A17.

"William H. Flack Dies in Carlisle." *Linton Daily Citizen*, 15 February 1939, page 1.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of nine black-and-white photographs – six snapshots and three real photo postcards – most of which pertain to the William H. Flack family of Carlisle, Sullivan County, Indiana. There are three images of Flack's gas station / grocery store in different time periods, a photo of his family's house, and a few photos of family members. Three of these photos have written on back to return to Ruth Avis Flack McKnight. There is also a photo of three Hume brothers of Carlisle; their relationship to the Flack family is unknown, but two of the brothers became automobile mechanics. One of the real photo postcards shows students posing in front of a Moler Barber College, but the college's location and its relevance, if any, to the Flack family is unknown.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

### CONTAINER

William Henry Flack in front of the first gas station in Carlisle. Signs can be seen for Red Crown gasoline, Kelly Springfield tires, Perfection kerosene, and Coca-Cola [ca. late 1920s–1930]

Folder 1 of 1

Unidentified man [could be William Henry Flack or Francis Henry Flack] standing in front of Flack's filling station, with sign for Standard Oil Company, n.d. (real photo postcard cut to smaller size)

Folder 1 of 1

Elva Flack in front of rebuilt and remodeled gas station with Red Crown pumps and signs for Iso-Vis motor oil, n.d.

Folder 1 of 1

William H. and Elva Flack family home, with round Red Crown gasoline sign on pole in front of house (real photo postcard), n.d.

Folder 1 of 1

Marion Flack seated in automobile [ca. mid- to late-1930s]

Folder 1 of 1

Ruth Avis Flack with dog called "Old Joe" [ca. 1945] [photo damaged]

Folder 1 of 1

Ruth Avis Flack holding something wrapped in a towel [ca. 1945] [photo damaged]

Folder 1 of 1

The Hume brothers: Gilbert, Roscoe, and Irvin, with Roscoe Hume in military uniform [ca. 1917–1918]

Folder 1 of 1

Unidentified students and instructor posing outside a Moler Barber College. A door is visible that has a sign that says, "The Rubens" and an address number of 3471. Location and relevance to this collection is unknown [ca. 1910s] (real photo postcard).

Folder 1 of 1