

Collection #
P 0878

**Fuchs-Hoffman-Kayser-Keller portraits
ca. 1860s–1870s**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder of photographs

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1860s–1870s

PROVENANCE: Gift from Jerry R. Marver of Greenwood, Indiana, 1994

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1994.0984

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The ten portraits in this collection were removed from an album before the processor of this collection saw them. A list of names of people whose portraits were once included in the album, but which had been removed sometime prior to donation to the Indiana Historical Society, indicates that portraits of several families of German descent had been collected in the album. It is unknown what relation all the various families had to each other. It appears that the portraits were of people who immigrated to Indiana from the Baden–Württemberg and Hesse-Darmstadt regions of Germany or who were children of such immigrants.

The surnames included in this collection are: Fuchs, Hoffman, Kayser, Keller, and Habekern. Portraits of some members of the Kayser, Keller, and Habekern families had been removed before donation. Other surnames of portraits that had been included in the album but that were removed prior to donation are: Hobbick, Meier, and Kyle. Catherine Meier was the sister of Henry Keller, and John Meier was her husband.

Fuchs

Reverend John Fuchs was born 1 December 1825 in Württemberg, Germany. In 1851 he married Anna Maria Bott and they immigrated to the United States the same year. She was the daughter of Gottfried and Anna Maria Bott, born in Württemberg on 15 December 1827. At the time of the 1860 census, John and Anna Maria Fuchs lived in the Patoka Township of Dubois County, Indiana, where he was a clergyman. As a minister, he was a circuit rider for the Evangelical Church, serving twenty-three districts in southern Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, and Ohio. By 1870 John and Anna Maria had moved to Elkhart, Indiana, and they were still there in 1880. They moved to Terre Haute, Indiana, by 1890, where John was the minister at Emanuel Evangelical Church.

Sometime between 1900 and 1909 John and Anna Maria moved to Indianapolis. Anna Maria Fuchs died on 23 April 1909. By 1910, John was retired and living with his daughter Lydia's family. John died on 1 November 1916 and was buried by his wife in Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis. John and Anna Maria Fuchs were sometimes known as John and Ann or Mary Fox. Their children included: Gottlieb, John, Lydia, Ann Mary, Henry, Eliza, Daniel, Emma, Andrew, and Cora.

Hoffman

Reverend John Hoffman was born 20 September 1837 in Ohio to German immigrants Frederick and Elizabeth Hoffman. In July 1862 John married Matilda Seitz in Illinois. She was born in Illinois on 10 May 1844 to German immigrants Christian Seitz and Elizabeth Schafer Seitz who came from Hesse-Darmstadt. John and Matilda's children included: Margaret, Daniel, Edward John, and Charles William.

At the time of the 1870 census, John is listed as a minister in Mount Carmel, Illinois. By 1880 they had moved to LaPorte, Indiana. A November 1881 newspaper article about the family's house being burgled indicates that they lived in Bremen in Marshall County, at that time. An April 1892 newspaper article reported that Reverend Hoffman, former Evangelical pastor at Elkhart, was being transferred to Dayton, Ohio. It appears that he lived in Dayton for the rest of his life. The 1900 census lists him as being a traveling minister, and the 1910 census shows him working in the real estate business. He died on

26 September 1917. In 1920, Matilda's son Charles, her widowed daughter Margaret, and Margaret's two daughters were living with her in Dayton. Matilda died on 8 March 1930.

Kayser

Frank Kayser, whose childhood portrait is in this collection, appears to have been Franklin H. Kayser, born 19 April 1866 to Gottfried and Rachael Kayser in Winchester, Randolph County, Indiana. Details of his upbringing are unclear. In December 1892 he married Cora J. Paver (1870-1917). They had a son named Willard Franklin Kayser (1895–1944). In 1900 the family lived in Marion, Grant County, where Frank worked as a shoemaker. In 1910, they lived in Mishawaka, St. Joseph County, where Frank worked at Premier Bed Co., an iron bed factory. They were still in Mishawaka at the time of Cora's death in 1917, but by 1920 Frank had moved to Indianapolis, where he worked in a tire factory.

In August 1925, Frank married the widowed Caroline Fredricke Scholder Clear (1864–1943) in Lansing, Michigan. At the time of the 1930 census, Frank was working as a "sweeper" for an automobile company in Lansing. Frank died in Lansing on 26 March 1941.

Other people with the Kayser surname whose portraits had been in the same album from which Frank Kayser's was removed were: Charles, Julia, Christian, Phillip, Mary Kayser Uphaus, and Mary Kayser Morris. Their portraits were not received by the Indiana Historical Society.

Keller

Henry J. Keller was born in August 1861 in Winchester, Randolph County, to German immigrants George Keller from Baden, and Catherine Kayser Keller from Württemberg. It appears that both George and Catherine were born in 1827, married in Germany in 1852, and then immigrated to the United States the same year. They moved from Ohio to Indiana around 1855, where George worked first as a shoemaker and then became a grocer in Winchester. Henry's older siblings included George, Catherine (Meier), Charles, and Julia, and he had a younger brother, Frank.

Henry married Edna L. Haynes in April 1885 in Randolph County. They had three children: Esther, Nellie, and Paul. The family moved to Muncie, in Delaware County, due to the rapid growth of the city as a result of the natural gas boom of 1887.

On 3 March 1888, Henry and partner George W. Bliss opened a clothing store in the Anthony Block on Walnut Street in Muncie. The business grew and moved several times, and partners came and went. The firm's name changed for the last time in 1913 to The Keller Company. In 1930, Henry retired due to illness five years before his death in a Richmond, Indiana, hospital on 6 June 1935.

Other people with the Keller surname whose portraits had been in the photograph album, but were not received by the Indiana Historical Society, were George and Frank Keller, as well as Henry's sister, Catherine E. Meier, and her husband, John Meier. It is not known what relation Catherine Kayser Keller was to other Kaysers whose portraits had been in the album.

Sources:

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 23 February 2024):

Find a Grave
Illinois, U.S., Marriage Index, 1860–1920
Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899–2017
Indiana, U.S., Marriages, 1810–2001
Indiana, U.S., Select Marriages Index, 1748–1993
Michigan, U.S., Death Records, 1867–1952
Michigan, U.S., Marriage Records, 1867–1952
U.S., City Directories, 1822–1995
United States Federal Census, 1860–1940

“Aged Circuit Rider Dies at Indianapolis: The Rev. John Fox, 90, Had Twenty-Three Charges Sixty Years Ago.” In *The Courier-Journal* (Louisville, KY), 3 November 1916, p. 6.

“Bold Burglars.” In *The South-Bend Daily Tribune*, 8 November 1881, p. 1.

“The Evangelical Conference.” In *The South-Bend Daily Tribune*, 12 April 1892, p. 4.

“Henry Keller, Long Merchant Here, Dies.” *Muncie Evening Press*, 6 June 1935, p. 1.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of ten portraits-eight cartes-de-visite and two tintypes. They had all been removed from an album before they were seen by the processor of this collection. Three of the portraits are not identified; the others are likely of people from Germany or of German descent. The surnames included in this collection are: Fuchs, Hoffman, Kayser, Keller, and Habekern.

Two of those identified – John Fuchs and John Hoffman – were Evangelical ministers and two others were their wives; they had lived in Elkhart, Indiana, at some point in their careers. The Kayser and Keller families lived in Winchester in Randolph County, Indiana. Henry Keller’s mother’s maiden name was Catherine Kayser, but it is not known how she was related to other Kaysers who were once included in the album.

This collection also includes a one-page typed list of the portraits once held in the album. Portraits of some members of the Kayser, Keller, and Habekern families had been removed before donation. Other surnames of portraits that had been in the album but that were removed prior to donation are Hobbick and Kyle; also listed are John C. Meier and Catherine E. Meier. Catherine Meier was the sister of Henry Keller, and John Meier was her husband.

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Mrs. Habekern (no other identifying information) – carte-de-visite portrait	Folder 1 of 1
Rev. J. Hoffman [John Hoffman, ca. 1870s] – carte-de-visite portrait by L.P. Jones of Elkhart, Indiana	Folder 1 of 1
Mrs. J. Hoffman [Matilda Seitz Hoffman, ca. 1870s] – carte-de-visite portrait by L.P. Jones of Elkhart, Indiana	Folder 1 of 1
Reverend John Fuchs [ca. late 1860s–1870] – carte-de-visite portrait by Jones & Slear of Elkhart, Indiana	Folder 1 of 1
Mrs. Fuchs [Anna Maria Bott Fuchs, ca. late 1860s–1870] – carte-de-visite portrait by Jones & Slear of Elkhart, Indiana	Folder 1 of 1
Frank Kayser [ca. 1870s] – carte-de-visite portrait	Folder 1 of 1
Henry Keller [ca. late 1860s–1870] – matted tintype portrait	Folder 1 of 1
Unidentified bearded man, seated – carte-de-visite portrait by E. & J. Bruening of Indianapolis [ca. 1860s]	Folder 1 of 1
Unidentified woman wearing white lace collar – matted tintype portrait by [Alfred] Hall’s Tintype and Ferrottype Gallery in Indianapolis [ca. late 1860s–1870]	Folder 1 of 1
Unidentified man with mustache – carte-de-visite portrait [ca. 1870s]	Folder 1 of 1