

Collection #
P 0843

**GARY COMMERCIAL CLUB PICNIC PHOTOGRAPHS,
11 SEPTEMBER 1913**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 OVB folder of photographs

COLLECTION DATES: 11 September 1913

PROVENANCE: Purchased from Heritage Photo Services, Indianapolis, 2002

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2002.0708

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Gary Commercial Club was organized in August 1907, the year after the town of Gary, Indiana, was founded by the United States Steel Corporation. The club was formed for the purpose of advancing Gary's interests and developing its resources.

Its first members were men who had come to Gary from eighteen different states and from Scotland, England, Germany, Austria, and Italy. On 25 November 1907, the club opened the Gary Hotel with a banquet that included guests Governor J. Frank Hanly, several congressmen from Indiana and Illinois, and the western officials of the United States Steel Corporation.

As of 1910, the club had about 200 members, who were business and professional men of the city, including merchants, contractors, doctors, lawyers, real estate dealers, and mill managers. The officers of the club were Horace S. Norton (president), Henry F. MacCracken (vice-president), Ernest C. Simpson (treasurer), and Arthur D. Schaeffer (secretary). Serving as directors were Henry G. Hay, Jr., Howard H. Harries, Arthur P. Melton, Homer H. Highlands, and Alfred S. Hess.

The Gary Commercial Club building at 615 Broadway was erected in 1911. In September 1913, the club launched a campaign to increase its membership from 300 to 600, which included offering honorary membership to all clergymen residing in Gary. By 1915 the club had about 500 members.

On Thursday, 11 September 1913, 126 members of the Gary Commercial Club traveled by automobile to Charles Bailey's farm, seven miles from Lowell in West Creek Township, for a picnic hosted by local farmers. A total of 300 people attended. Bailey's home was decorated in red, white, and blue, and long tables spread on the lawn held a feast. Bailey paraded ten of his show Herefords, with his full herd of ninety on view. A shepherd dog demonstrated guiding Bailey's sheep. A team of farmers played a ballgame against a team of Commercial Club members, with the Gary team winning 4 to 3.

Sources:

"Farmers Hosts to Gary Men." *The Lake County Times* (Hammond, Ind.), 11 September 1913, p. 8.

"Gary Farmers Meet with Jolly West Creek Bunch." *The Lake County Times* (Hammond, Ind.), 12 September 1913, pp. 1, 3.

Howat, William Frederick, MD. *A Standard History of Lake County, Indiana and the Calumet Region*, volume 1. Chicago and New York: The Lewis Publishing Company, 1915, p. 405. <https://indianamemory.contentdm.oclc.org/digital/collection/p1819coll6/id/13379/> Accessed 26 September 2022.

Schaeffer, A.D. "The Gary Commercial Club," *The Economist* (Gary Supplement), vol. XLIV, no. 22, 26 November 1910 https://archive.org/stream/theeconomist_201907/The%20Economist_djvu.txt Accessed 26 September 2022.

"Wants to Increase the Roster." *The Lake County Times* (Hammond, Ind.), 11 September 1913, p. 8.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of three mounted black-and-white photographs taken of groups of people in attendance at the picnic held on Charles Bailey's farm near Lowell, Indiana, for the Gary Commercial Club on 11 September 1913. The outdoor group portraits show men, women, and children. No individuals are identified. In each photograph one or two people are holding a sign that says, "Gary Commercial Club." The photographs were taken by William E. Vilmer of Crown Point, Indiana.

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Three mounted black-and-white group portraits of people who attended the picnic held on Charles Bailey's farm near Lowell, Indiana, for the Gary Commercial Club on 11 September 1913. (photos by William E. Vilmer of Crown Point, Indiana)

CONTAINER

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