

Collection #
P 0035

**HIDER FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS,
1906-1927**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 photograph folder

COLLECTION
DATES: 1906–1927

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NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John and Sadie Hider were Syrian immigrants who arrived in Indianapolis around 1897. They and their two sons, John and Lewis, established businesses on the Near Westside, including grocery stores and an ice cream cone factory.

John (b. ca. 1868), Sadie (ca. 1875 to 1880–1940), and son John (ca. 1895–1945) were born in Syria. Lewis Vernon Hider was born in Indianapolis; records show a variety of birth years from 1898 to 1900. Sadie's maiden name was Freije.

At the time of the 1910 census, the elder John worked as a storekeeper and the family lived at 401 W. Norwood Street, near where Lucas Oil Stadium is today. In his youth, son John was a newsboy with *The Indianapolis News*, delivering the paper on routes on the south side. Just before World War I, the elder John took a trip back to Syria and died while there.

By 1917, Sadie and her two sons lived at 553 Agnes Street, which today is University Boulevard, at North Street. They opened a grocery store there. In May 1921, John married Selma (1902–1963). By 1922, John was operating an ice cream cone factory at that address. By 1924, Lewis opened a grocery store at 552 Blake Street, at the corner of Blake and North Street.

At the time of the 1930 census, Sadie, Lewis, and John, Selma, and their first three children were all living at the Agnes Street address. By 1933, John had given up the ice cream cone business and was running a grocery store at 545 Blake Street. He and his wife and children had moved to North Warman Avenue. Lewis was then operating the grocery store at the home address he still shared with his mother on Agnes Street. By 1935, Lewis and his mother had moved to North Harding Street. Sadie died at home on 14 October 1940.

John and Selma had four children: Evelyn (Toole) (1922–1995), Robert Kenneth (1925–2013), William Francis (1927–1984), and Lorraine (Orner) (1932–1999). In 1928, John fulfilled a longing to visit Syria, the place where he was born but had left too young to remember. John died on 1 February 1945 in the Eli Lilly & Company clinic. He was a member of the Syrian Orthodox Church, Knights of St. George, and the Indianapolis Moose Lodge. After John's death, his sons Robert and William kept the store at 545 Blake Street going as Hider Brothers for some years.

As a young man, before he entered the grocery business, Lewis worked for the Loose-Wiles Biscuit Company and the Red Star Yeast Company. He also raced cars. He ran his Hider's Market from 1924 to 1934. After that, he held a variety of jobs: sheet metalworker for the Hall-Neal Furnace Company, mail carrier, salesman for the Patsy Ann Cookie Company and for the Indiana Baking Company, and at USN-Avionics and Hazeltine, among other jobs. In the early 1940s he served in the Army with the military police at Fort Benjamin Harrison.

In August 1943, Lewis married Anna Belle (Davis?) (1910–1977). In the late 1950s, they moved from North Harding Street to 5961 Cadillac Drive in Speedway. Anna Belle worked as a waitress at Pizza Inn. Lewis retired by 1964. He died on 12 April 1984.

Sources:

Information that arrived with the collection

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 21 August 2025):

Find a Grave
Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899–2017
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U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014

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Indiana University Indianapolis, University Library. “Indianapolis City Directory Collection” [Indianapolis City Directory Collection | University Library](#) Accessed 21 August 2025.

“News to Take Indianapolis to Holy Land Traveler.” *The Indianapolis News*, 11 June 1928, p. 14.

Nolker, Noelle, *et al.* “A Walk Down Agnes Street: Exploring the Archaeology of an Indianapolis Neighborhood,” 8 December 2023 <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7e363201fa8e4e05bb1164f305d58908> Accessed 21 August 2025.

Obituary for John Hider. *Indianapolis News*, 2 February 1945, part 2, p. 16.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection is composed of photographs pertaining to the John and Sadie Hider family of Indianapolis and the businesses established by their sons, John and Lewis. The businesses include grocery stores and an ice cream cone factory. There are seven copy photographs and two photocopies of photographs. The photocopies show a 1910 school group and a 1911 First Communion group.

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Lewis Hider and his brother, John Hider, sitting on a bench at Riverside Park, 1906.

Four men standing in Lewis Hider's grocery store located at the corner of Blake and North streets, 1919. [The man at far left appears to be Lewis Hider.]

Man standing in Lewis Hider's grocery store, 1924.

Man standing outside of L.V. Hider's grocery store at the corner of Blake and North streets, 1927.

John Hider and his brother, Lewis Hider, in John's ice cream cone factory at the corner of Agnes and North streets, 1926.

John Hider in his grocery store at the corner of Agnes and North streets, n.d.

Sadie Hider with grandchildren Robert and Evelyn Hider, by an automobile [ca. 1927].

Photocopy of school group, grades 3-4B, shows thirty-six boys and a priest posed outside a brick building, 11 March 1910.

Photocopy of First Communion group, shows approximately 100 children, most or all of them boys, outside an ivy-covered building [St. John's?], 1911.

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