

Collection #
P 0848

**JOHN A. ELLENBERGER POSTCARDS
1907-1908, N.D.**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

**VOLUME OF
COLLECTION:** 3 folders of postcards

**COLLECTION
DATES:** 1907–1908, n.d.

PROVENANCE: Gift from George Prell of Indianapolis, May 2017

RESTRICTIONS: None

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**ALTERNATE
FORMATS:**

**RELATED
HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION
NUMBER:** 2017.0139

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John Alfred Ellenberger was born in Cumberland, Marion County, Indiana, on 21 December 1889. His parents were John Lewis Ellenberger (1851-1941) and Eleanor June Deel Ellenberger (1858-1928). His paternal grandfather was John Ellenberger, who donated land in Irvington, which became Ellenberger Park. John Alfred attended Cumberland High School and then Central Normal College in Danville in Hendricks County. He subsequently taught in schools in Morgan and Monroe counties before marrying Maude Eaton, who had been his classmate at Cumberland and at Central Normal College. He reluctantly gave up teaching to help his aging parents, and then purchased the Eaton farm (previously the Huntington homestead) in the Warren Township of Marion County, which he continued to farm until the 1970s.

John's siblings included: Charles Edward (1877-1965), Anna J. (Hoag) (1879-1920), Mary (Huntington) (1880-1939), Myrtle Eleanor (Rowe) (1884-1917), Elsie Estella (Walker) (1885-1980), Lillian D. (1887-1897), and Clarence Max (1901-1943). Elsie, who is represented in this collection by several postcards that she wrote to her brother John, married George Mercer Walker in November 1923. George Walker was a widowed immigrant from Scotland who had a son named John at the time he married Elsie.

John and Maude married in Cumberland in May 1914. She was the daughter of Tiley and Adda Elmira "Myra" Huntington Eaton. Maude taught in Marion County schools before she married. John and Maude had a daughter, June Eloise Ellenberger (1915-2006). Maude died during the Spanish Flu pandemic on 16 April 1919 at the age of twenty-nine.

June Ellenberger was born 24 February 1915 in Cumberland. She married Arthur Frederick Prell (1908-1998) in September 1937. They had three children: Warren, Donna June, and George (the donor of this collection). June Ellenberger Prell died on 17 January 2006.

John married his second wife, Willetta Mae Fatout (1902-1988) in August 1929 in Cumberland. They continued living on the farm on S. Muessing Road in Cumberland. John A. Ellenberger died in Hancock County Memorial Hospital in Greenfield on 23 June 1979.

Dallas O. Long is another person represented in this collection by several postcards that he wrote to John A. Ellenberger. The research found a Dallas Overton Long who was born in Parke County, Indiana, on 16 May 1889. He had a sister named Clova (Adams). He lived in Terre Haute, Indiana, in 1910, and married Mary Catherine Schuman in August of that year. They later lived in Chicago, Illinois. He worked as a railroad telegraph operator. He died on 25 November 1972 in Vermillion County, Indiana.

There is a postcard in this collection from Fay Silver and another signed by L. Silver. Research reveals a man named Loury J. Silver who was a mail carrier in Indianapolis who had a wife named Fay Hessong Silver. They had two daughters, Edith and Gladys.

One postcard is from Robert Kitley (1889-1930). He lived and worked on his father's farm south of Julietta, southeast of Irvington. He died by a self-inflicted gunshot that was initially thought to be suicide, but was later believed to have been an accident.

Sources:

Information received with the collection.

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 23 January 2023):

Find a Grave

Indiana, U.S., Birth Certificates, 1907–1944

Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899–2017

Indiana, U.S., Marriage Index, 1800–1941

Indiana, U.S., Marriages, 1810–2001

Indiana, U.S., Select Marriages Index, 1748–1993

Marion County, Indiana, U.S., Marriage Index, 1925–2012

United States Federal Census, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940, 1950

U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947

U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942

Obituary for Dallas O. Long. *The Terre Haute Tribune*, 27 November 1972, p. 2.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists primarily of postcards written to John Alfred Ellenberger in 1907 and 1908. Some are addressed to him when he stayed with his parents near Irvington Station (Marion County) when they lived on a farm on the old National Road, U.S. 40 / E. Washington Street. Others were sent to him while he attended Central Normal College in Danville (Hendricks County), and some to Martinsville (Morgan County) when he taught school there. Seven postcards were from his sister, Elsie Ellenberger. Nine postcards were from Dallas O. Long, sent from Kokomo (Howard County), Franklin (Johnson County), and Illinois. Seven others are from various other people. Two postcards of Danville were not used.

There are twenty-five postcards, six of which are real photo postcards. They represent the Indiana towns of Kokomo, Greensburg, Franklin, Indianapolis, Columbus, Terre Haute, and Danville. They depict parks, courthouses and other buildings, street scenes, schools, and rivers.

The postcards are arranged as follows: first, the nine cards from Dallas O. Long, in chronological order; second, the seven cards from Elsie Ellenberger, in chronological order; third, the other seven cards written to John Ellenberger from various people, in chronological order; lastly, the two unused postcards of Danville.

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Postcard from Dallas O. Long addressed to John at Irvington Station, Indianapolis, postmarked from Kokomo on 30 August 1907, showing the City Park in Kokomo.

CONTAINER

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Real photo postcard from Dallas [O. Long] addressed to John at Irvington Station, Indianapolis, postmarked from Kokomo on 29 October 1907, showing a street scene in Indianapolis and the Court House in Crawfordsville. He mentioned that he had seen "Isle of Spice" [musical play].

Folder 1 of 3

Real photo postcard from Dallas O. Long addressed to John at Irvington Station, Indianapolis, postmarked from Kokomo on 5 November 1907, showing the Court House in Kokomo. He writes that he is "going to Sipe's opera house" and that he wishes that they "could go see Hamlet together."

Folder 1 of 3

Real photo postcard from Dallas [O. Long] to John at Irvington Station, Indianapolis, postmarked from Kokomo on 19 November 1907, showing Main Street Christian Church. He writes that he will have one week off at Christmas and will come see John and plans to see "A Night for a Day."

Folder 1 of 3

Real photo postcard from Dallas [O. Long] to John at Irvington Station, Indianapolis, postmarked from Kokomo on 2 December 1907, appears to show a man [possibly Dallas O. Long?] operating a telegraph machine. He writes that it is so cold that the "smoke freezes coming out of the chimneys."

Folder 1 of 3

Postcard from D.O.L. [Dallas O. Long] addressed to John at Irvington Station, Indianapolis, postmarked from Franklin, Indiana, on 5 March 1908, showing the Court House in Franklin. He writes that Franklin is "the finest little city in the state," that he is living in "a fine rooming and boarding house and we all play flinch [card game]."

Folder 1 of 3

Real photo postcard from D.O.L. [Dallas O. Long] to John in Martinsville, Indiana, postmarked 24 September 1908, showing a street scene in Franklin, Indiana. He writes, "Glad to hear of your good fortune, but would like to have you in some better locality. Come to the city often and don't get to be a backwoodsman."

Folder 1 of 3

Real photo postcard from Dallas [O. Long] to John in Martinsville, postmarked from Franklin on 17 November 1908, showing two men fishing [the one on the left appears to be the same man as the one at the telegraph machine in postcard listed above] with handwritten caption: "...when I was fishing with my line near Old Decatur." He tells John to try to "be at home next Sunday" because he plans to go then and wants to see John.

Folder 1 of 3

Postcard from D.O.L. [Dallas O. Long] addressed to John at Irvington Station, Indianapolis, postmarked from Paris, Illinois on 4 February [no year visible], showing Terre Haute High School. He writes that he took a ride "to the Dispatchers office at Terre Haute, it is a dandy little city, but, they burn lots of coal down there" and it is smoky.

Folder 1 of 3

Postcard from Elsie [Ellenberger] to John in Danville, Indiana, postmarked from Indianapolis on 19 May 1908, showing the "Ind Deaf & Dumb Academy."

Folder 2 of 3

Postcard from Elsie to John in Danville, Indiana, postmarked from Indianapolis on 26 May 1908, showing east entrance to Crown Hill Cemetery. She writes, "We had a rain last night so the lawn will be ready for you when you return."

Folder 2 of 3

Postcard from Elsie to John in Danville, Indiana, postmarked from Indianapolis on 2 June 1908, showing fountain in Military Park. She writes that "Isa is coming to spend one night with me before she leaves. You have not heard whether you passed? When you come I have something to tell you in regard to getting a school. Come Friday."

Folder 2 of 3

Postcard from Elsie to John in Danville, Indiana, postmarked from Indianapolis on 11 June 1908, showing the "Sailors and Soldiers Monument." She mentions having a strawberry feast, a visit from George Hyatt, and says, "You want to make a 'home run' Friday For you will have the pleasure of seeing all the old maids batchelors (sic) & schoolteachers."

Folder 2 of 3

Postcard from Elsie to John in Danville, Indiana, postmarked from Indianapolis on 17 June 1908, showing the "White River opposite White City, Indianapolis." She writes, "We just had a lovely time Sunday. They were so sorry you could not be with them. There were 4 generations present. 69 in all and 10 absent." She writes about a picnic in Fairview Park and of the wedding of [Elaine?] Huntington.

Folder 2 of 3

Postcard from Elsie to John in Martinsville, Indiana, postmarked from Indianapolis on 6 October 1908, showing the State Capitol. She writes that she wishes he could have gone with her to the singing services Sunday night.

Folder 2 of 3

Postcard from Elsie to John in Martinsville, Indiana, postmarked from Indianapolis on 9 December 1908, showing the dam in Broad Ripple. She writes about sending him his books and wants him to write to her about his Christmas plans.

Folder 2 of 3

Postcard from Fay Silver to John in Irvington, postmarked from Indianapolis on 7 September 1907, showing the I.O.O.F. [Independent Order of Odd Fellows] Home in Greensburg, Indiana. She writes, "School commences next wk. Feel for me."

Folder 3 of 3

Postcard from L. [Loury] Silver to John in Irvington, postmarked from Greensburg, Indiana, on 21 September 1907, showing a street scene in Greensburg. He writes, "We are looking for you down next Sunday, the 29th. Do not disappoint us."

Folder 3 of 3

Postcard from “Your Friend, [T.M.?.]” to John in Danville, Indiana, written from Cumberland on 3 June 1908, showing the fountain in Military Park in Indianapolis. The message reads, “I suppose you are studying hard....Mama’s incubator is hatching and I am spending some of my time watching it. Did you get home alright Sun with those strawberries? And that lovely boquet (sic)?”

Folder 3 of 3

Postcard from “Your friend, Mayme” to John in Danville, postmarked from Julietta [Marion County] on 4 June 1908, showing Spades Park. She asks if he is studying hard and having a fine time and mentions that she is getting ready to move. She acknowledges a postcard from him: “The postal was dandy.”

Folder 3 of 3

Postcard from “friend Birdie [?]” to John in Danville, Indiana, written on 21 July 1908, showing a boat on the White River at Broad Ripple Park. She asks if he hears from Mr. Linton.

Folder 3 of 3

Postcard from Robt. Kitley to John in Irvington, sent from Julietta [Marion County] on the morning of 5 October 1908, showing the “Summer House” in Military Park, Indianapolis. He is inviting John to a stag party at his home on the same day.

Folder 3 of 3

Unsigned postcard to John in Irvington, postmarked from Scottsburg, Indiana, on 5 October 1908, showing a marker for the Center of Population U.S.A., near Columbus, Indiana. The message says, “Hello Johnnie, Did you get a school this year? I didn’t, so will go to school again. Will go either to Columbus or Louisville.”

Folder 3 of 3

Two unused postcards from Danville, Indiana: Public Library and Big Four Rail Road Bridge.

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