

Collection #
P 0892

**JOY H. CARSON POSTCARD COLLECTION,
1907-1911**

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27 September 2024

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 folders of postcards

COLLECTION DATES: 1907–1911

PROVENANCE: Gift from Major Robert A. Kasprzak of Dayton, Ohio, 2024

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2024.0082

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Joy H. Carson lived most of her life in Michigan City, LaPorte County, Indiana, where she was a music teacher and music director for the area's schools for thirty-two years. She was born on 26 October 1894 in Michigan City to Finley Cassius Carson (1858–1937) and Jennie Bell Hutchison Carson (1862–1943). They lived in Michigan City except for a time around the early 1920s when they lived in Tipton, Indiana. The 1920 census lists Joy as a music instructor there. By 1930 she and her parents had returned to Michigan City.

Joy was a member of the First United Methodist Church and served as its organist. She also played the organ for Trinity Episcopal Church and Sinai Temple. She was a member of Monday Musicale, a charter member of the Tri Kappa service sorority, the National Music Teachers Association, Daughters of the American Revolution, and the American Association of University Women. Shortly before her death she was voted a member of the Elston Hall of Fame.

Joy Carson died on 16 December 1986. At the memorial service held for her at First United Methodist Church, her grand piano was dedicated to the church. She was buried in Greenwood Cemetery in Michigan City, beside her parents.

Jennie Hutchison Carson grew up in Idaville, in the Jackson Township of White County, Indiana. At the beginning of his life, Finley Carson's family lived near Lockport in Carroll County, Indiana, but by 1870 had moved to near Monticello, Jackson Township, White County, and by 1880 to the Idaville area. Finley had several siblings, including Phoebe Adaline (Henderson), Thomas W., James Adams, Ellen Eliza (Waldsmith), Perry, Clara Floreen (Friday), and John Albert. Thomas had a daughter named Bernice (Sexson) (1892–1985), Clara had a son named George Leland Friday (1894–1965), Perry had a son named Leslie (1888–1973), and John Albert had a son named Merle (1896–1978). There are postcards in this collection signed by people named Bernice, Leland, Leslie, and Merle.

One of the postcard correspondents was Marrion Woods (1894–1953), the daughter of Bert Benson Woods and Effie May Leggett Woods. Marrion was born in Frankton, Madison County, Indiana. By 1910 the Woods family lived in Cicero, Hamilton County. By 1920 Marrion lived in Michigan City, working as a bookkeeper for a paper box company. It appears that she was employed there for many years and lived in Michigan City for the remainder of her life.

Another correspondent was Mabel Demass of Chesterton, in Porter County. Mabel Leslie DeMas [as the surname appears to have been altered] was born 17 April 1897 to Elmer and Jessie Taylor DeMas. In July 1918, Mabel married Irvin Milroy Sellers (1899–1969) in Cuyahoga County, Ohio. They lived in South Bend and had four children: Richard, Kathryn, Robert, and Jerry; only Kathryn and Robert lived to adulthood. By 1950 Mabel and Irvin were separated and Mabel worked as a telephone operator for the city newspaper. In July 1970 she married Harry S. Breeden (1904–1970) in South Bend; he died five months later. Mabel died on 21 February 1989 in Phoenix, Arizona, where her daughter lived, and was buried in South Bend, Indiana.

Hazel E. Rogers was another correspondent. She was born on 22 January 1891 in Michigan to Robert and Wilmina "Minnie" Thies Rogers. Hazel attended DePauw University and was a Michigan City schoolteacher until her retirement. She was a member of the First United

Methodist Church, Order of the Eastern Star, Women's Study Club, Business and Professional Club, and the American Association of University Women. Hazel died on 3 June 1976 in Michigan City.

Another correspondent was Ethel Fay Hoffman, born 1 August 1894 to Charles and Anna Hosler Hoffman. In October 1911, Ethel married Clyde George Olsen (1891–1959) in Elkhart County. They lived in St. Joseph County, Indiana, and had four daughters: twins Vera and Verna, Sarah, and Marjorie. Ethel died on 14 April 1977 in Michigan.

Rufus Dexter Couch (1852–1921) and his wife Fannie Smith Couch (1852–1921), previously of Michigan City and elsewhere, sent a postcard to the Carson family of their house in Woodruff Place, Indianapolis, at Christmas time in 1909. He worked as an agent for the Lake Erie and Western Railroad Company. Fannie died about two and a half months after Rufus died.

Another correspondent was Ramona Martin, born on 5 September 1894 to Francis V. Martin, M.D., and Nettie Herrold Martin. She grew up in LaPorte County. In November 1919 Ramona married Glenn Lewry Morgan (1892–1977), a farmer. Their children were Barbara, Gilbert, Patricia, and Francis. Ramona died in Florida on 14 April 1988 and was buried in Michigan City.

Sources:

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 27 September 2024):

- Cuyahoga County, Ohio, U.S., Marriage Records and Indexes, 1810–1973
- Find a Grave
- Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899–2017
- Indiana, U.S., Marriage Certificates, 1960–2012
- Indiana, U.S., Marriage Index, 1800–1941
- Indiana, U.S., Select Marriages Index, 1748–1993
- Michigan, U.S., Death Index, 1971–1996
- United States Federal Census, 1860–1950

“Mrs. R.D. Couch Died Thursday Night.” *The Noblesville Ledger*, 30 September 1921, p. 1.

Obituary for Joy H. Carson in *The South Bend Tribune*, 18 December 1986, p. B6.

Obituary for Miss Hazel E. Rogers in *The South Bend Tribune*, 5 June 1976, p. 12.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of forty postcards. Twenty-nine were sent to Joy Carson; five were sent to one or both of her parents. Several were sent by relatives of Joy's father, Finley C. Carson. Six postcards of Michigan City were not used, including three real photo postcards of the collapse of the Franklin Street Bridge over Trail Creek after being struck on 24 June 1910 by the *S.S. United States* excursion ship that traveled between Chicago and Michigan City.

The postcards show scenes of and/or were postmarked from the following cities and towns in Indiana: Cicero (2), Crawfordsville (2), Elkhart (1), Greencastle (1), Hammond (3), Idaville (3), Indianapolis (4), Lafayette (4), Logansport (1), Michigan City (8), Monticello (3), Newcastle (1), South Bend (2), Star City (1), Tipton (1), West Lafayette (2), and Winona Lake (1). One from Hammond has a foldout of 24 views. One mailed from Idaville is of a hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.

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Two postcards postmarked from **Cicero**, Hamilton County, from Marrion Woods to Joy Carson – one has an illustration and a James Whitcomb Riley poem (1908); the other is a real photo postcard of the M.E. Church [Methodist Episcopal] and parsonage in Cicero (1911).

Folder 1 of 2

Two postcards of **Crawfordsville** sent to Joy Carson – one of the Ben-Hur beech tree (1909); the other of the Carnegie Public Library (1911).

Folder 1 of 2

One postcard of the L.S. & M.S. [Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad] depot and park in **Elkhart**, postmarked from Chesterton [Porter County] and sent by Mabel Demass [DeMas] to Joy Carson (1909).

Folder 1 of 2

One postcard of Meharry Hall, DePauw University, in **Greencastle**, sent to Joy Carson by her friend Hazel E. Rogers, who wrote that chapel was held in the Hall every morning (1910).

Folder 1 of 2

Three postcards of **Hammond**, Lake County: one has a foldout of 24 miniature views (1908); one is of a Masonic Temple [1909?]; and one is of Harrison Park, mailed in 1910 to Joy Carson from Ethel Hoffman who thanks Joy for the nice time she and Edna had at Joy's home.

Folder 1 of 2

Three postcards mailed from **Idaville**, White County: one shows an illustration of George Washington and was sent by A. Henderson [probably Phoebe Adaline Carson Henderson (1847–1928), sister of Finley Carson] to Joy Carson in February 1909; one of the new Idaville High School sent by J.A.C. [possibly James Adams Carson (1852–1943), brother of Finley Carson; or James's wife, Jennie A. Carson (1851–1939); or John Albert Carson (1867–1926), brother of Finley Carson] sent to Joy Carson (1909); and one of a New Orleans Hotel sent to Mrs. F.C. Carson [Joy's mother, Jennie] from Clara [Finley Carson's sister, Clara Carson Friday (1864–1937)], expressing concern about Finley's accident (1911).

Folder 1 of 2

Four postcards from **Indianapolis**: one with a verse and an illustration of James Whitcomb Riley sent to Joy Carson (1907); a real photo postcard of the house of Mr. and Mrs. R.D. Couch at 846 2nd [Middle] Drive, Woodruff Place, addressed to Mr. and Mrs. F.C. Carson & Joy (1909); one of the 30th Street and Bell Fountain Bridge from “Mary” to Joy Carson (1911); and one of the Grand Hotel from “Mary” to Joy Carson (1911).

Folder 1 of 2

Four postcards of **Lafayette**, Tippecanoe County: one of the courthouse sent to Joy Carson from her cousin, Leslie Carson (1888–1973) [son of Finley Carson’s brother Perry], who mentions teasing Bernice [probably his cousin, Bernice Carson (Sexson) (1892–1985), daughter of Finley Carson’s brother Thomas, who lived in West Lafayette] (1909); one of Main Street Bridge over the Wabash River, sent to Joy Carson from her friend “Sunny Jim” (1909); one of the YMCA building to Joy Carson from Bernice [probably her cousin, Bernice Carson, daughter of Finley Carson’s brother Thomas] (1910); and one of the animal enclosure at Columbian Park (postmarked from Hammond, 1910).

Folder 1 of 2

One postcard of the Administration Building, **Logansport**, Cass County, to Joy Carson from A. Henderson [probably Joy’s aunt, Finley Carson’s sister Phoebe Adaline Carson Henderson (1847–1928)], who writes that she is up most of the time with the aid of two canes (1909).

Folder 2 of 2

Two postcards from **Michigan City**: one is of Trail Creek and was sent to Mrs. F.C. Carson [Joy Carson’s mother, Jennie Carson] from Anna Andershock (1909); one of Washington Park Beach sent to Joy Carson in Ohio from Ramona Martin (July 1910).

Folder 2 of 2

Six unused postcards of Michigan City: three real photo postcards of the collapse of the Franklin Street Bridge over Trail Creek after being struck on 24 June 1910 by the *S.S. United States* excursion ship that traveled between Chicago and Michigan City (photos by Alfred E. Smith); Hermitage; lighthouse and pier in winter; crowds of people headed toward Washington Park.

Three postcards of **Monticello**, White County: one of a dam at flood time sent to Joy Carson from Merle Carson (1896–1978) [her cousin, son of Finley Carson’s brother John Albert Carson], in which he mentions that he saw her father in Monticello (1909); one of the public school building addressed to Jennie Carson (Joy’s mother) from Ella [probably Ella Burchby Carson (1862–1941), wife of Finley Carson’s brother Thomas; Finley’s brother Perry also had a wife named Ella, but they lived in Peoria, Illinois]; one of North Illinois Street sent to Joy Carson from her cousin Eva, thanking her for a book (1910).

Folder 2 of 2

One postcard of a high school building in **New Castle**, Henry County, sent to Joy Carson from her cousin Leland [George Leland Friday (1894–1965), son of Finley Carson’s sister, Clara Carson Friday], who was there to visit a friend (1911).

Folder 2 of 2

Two postcards of **South Bend**: one of the YMCA building, sent to Joy Carson from Norman A. Leist [Norman Albert Leist (1892–1960) of Michigan City], who mentions that [his sister] Lilah [born 1894] asked him to send Joy a card from South Bend (1909); one of St. Joseph Hospital sent to Joy Carson (1909).

Folder 2 of 2

One real photo postcard from **Star City**, Pulaski County, showing a man in a horse-drawn carriage by a two-story house, addressed to F.C. Carson [Finley Cassius Carson] from Oscar Cromer, reminding Mr. Carson of an upcoming convention (1910).

Folder 2 of 2

One postcard of New Methodist Church in **Tipton** sent to Joy Carson from “Harry” who suggests playing croquet with her (1910).

Folder 2 of 2

Two postcards to Joy Carson from Bernice [probably her cousin, Bernice Carson, daughter of Finley Carson’s brother Thomas] in **West Lafayette**: one of a high school building “where I spend $\frac{3}{4}$ of my time” wrote Bernice (1909); and one with an illustration of a woman engaged in a sporting activity, in which she asks Joy, “How’s the Peoria trip coming?” (1911).

Folder 2 of 2

One postcard of the auditorium at **Winona Lake**, Kosciusko County, from “Anna”[?] (1910).

Folder 2 of 2

