

Collection #  
P 0517

**METZGER FAMILY  
PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1880S–1940S**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 box of photographs, 1 artifact

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1880s–1940s

PROVENANCE: Mary Jo Metzger Elpers, Reno, Nevada, February, 2013

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2013.0036

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Members of the Metzger family figuring in the collection are: Catharina Wilhelmina Elbracht Metzger; Gertrude Catherine Metzger; Harry Alexander Metzger; Jennie Feeney Metzger and Harry Augustine Metzger.

**Catharina Wilhelmina Elbracht Metzger** (1829–1913), known as Wilhelmina, was born in Brockhagen, Westphalia, Germany, and came to the United States in 1850. After a short stay in Cincinnati, the family moved to Indianapolis. Wilhelmina married Alexander Metzger in 1851 and they had nine children. They were involved in the German–English Independent School of Indianapolis and the German Evangelical Lutheran Church.

**Harry Alexander Metzger** (1857–1938) was the son of Wilhelmina and Charles Metzger. He and his brothers ran the Metzger Agency, an investment business, which had been started by their father. Harry married Jennie Feeney on 28 May 1884, and had three children that survived to adulthood. In 1900 Harry Alexander left his family and moved to Chicago with Adabelle Hunt, but he lost most of his money in the Chicago Grain Market and relocated to California where he died.

**Jennie Feeney Metzger** (1856–1912) was born in Albany, New York. Her family moved to Paris, Kentucky around 1859. Jennie's father died during the Civil War and her mother remarried. She and her brother, George, moved to Indianapolis where they lived with their maternal grandmother, Anna Lyons. Jennie and Harry Metzger had five children. She was devastated after her marriage to Harry ended and died of a heart attack.

**Gertrude Catherine Metzger** (1887–1965) was the daughter of Harry and Jennie and was born in Indianapolis and attended a Catholic girls high school in Cincinnati, Ohio. Gertrude never married and worked as a secretary.

**Harry Augustine Metzger** (1894–1962) was the son of Harry and Jennie. He attended the University of Notre Dame. He worked in the beer distribution business.

**Emma Metzger Spellmire** (1873–1948) was the daughter of Alexander and Wilhelmina Metzger. She married Joseph H. Spellmire.

**Joseph H. Spellmire** (1872–1942) was born in Cincinnati but moved to Indianapolis where he became president of the Indiana Investment Company and was a director of Fletcher Trust Company. In 1937 Joseph and Emma Spellmire moved to California.

Sources:

Information in collection.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection contains family photographs and portraits of the Metzger family. Portraits include those of Catharina Wilhelmina Metzger, Henry Alexander Metzger, Jennie Fenney Metzger, Gertrude Metzger, and Emma and Joseph Spellmire.

There also are pages from two photograph albums. Henry August Metzger's album contains snapshots from his college days at the University of Notre Dame in the early 1910s including those of the football and track teams. Knute Rockne was a classmate and is visible in two of the photographs. Gertrude Metzger's album contains family snapshots from early 1900s.

Also in the collection is an empty beer bottle with cap from the Jacob Metzger Company.

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Catharina Wilhelmina Metzger Portrait

Harry Alexander Metzger Portrait

Jennie Fenney Metzger Portrait

Harry Augustine Metzger Photo Album, ca. 1910s

Gertrude Metzger Portrait

Gertrude Metzger Photo Album, ca. 1900s

Emma and Joseph Spellmire

Alexander Metzger Descendants, ca. 1940s

Joseph Metzger Company Bottle

### CONTAINER

Photographs:  
Box , 1 Folder 1

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 2

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 3

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 4

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 5

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 6

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 7

Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 8

Artifacts: 2013.0036

## CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:  
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0517).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.