

Collection #
P 0275

**OTTO PING COLLECTION
CA. 1900–1975, 2006 (BULK 1900–1940)**

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Processed by

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12 September 2006

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

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| VOLUME OF COLLECTION: | 1 box photographs, 1 OVA box photographs, 1 folder color photographs, 1 box manuscripts material, 1 artifact |
| COLLECTION DATES: | Ca. 1900–1975, 2006 (Bulk 1900–1940) |
| PROVENANCE: | Multiple sources, including: Bryce & Wilma Ping (1990, 1992); B. Irene Ping Sluss (1994); measuring scale from Robert E. Hollowell (1994) |

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 0000.0581, 1989.0675X, 1990.0185, 1991.0600, 1992.0500, 1993.0015, 1995.0133, 1995.0134

NOTES: See: *Otto Ping: Photographer of Brown County, Indiana, 1900-1940* by W. Douglas Hartley, Indianapolis, Ind.: Indiana Historical Society, 1994. General Collection: [TR653 .H37 1994](#)

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Otto Ping was born 3 April 1883 in a log cabin in Brown County, Indiana, to Emaline Henderson and Logan Ping. He and his seven brothers and sisters, two half-brothers, and two-half-sisters grew up in Christiansburg, near Nashville and Pikes Peak, Indiana. The eight full-siblings, in age order from oldest to youngest were: Freeman, Mary Ann, Charles Wesley, Lewis Franklin, Otto, Walker, Carrie Ethel, and Earl. Otto's half-siblings were John Thomas (killed at age ten by being kicked in the head while playing with other boys), Christina, Permelia, and William Logan.

Otto bought his first camera in 1900 at the age of seventeen. He ordered a folding box camera known as the "Monarch" through the mail from Sears and Roebuck for \$12.95. Few people in the area owned a camera at that time, and Otto soon discovered that people would pay him to take their pictures. He traveled throughout Brown County photographing the people who lived there, their homes, children, pets, work animals, workplaces, and gatherings. He photographed friends, neighbors, relatives, and strangers. He was paid about a dollar for taking, developing, printing, and delivering a photograph.

Otto met the David Ewers family, who were loggers, on his photographic excursions. The family lived in tents and moved around to various wooded areas. Otto fell in love with their daughter Clara (b. May 1892), and followed the Ewers family around. Otto and Clara married in Brown County on 19 June 1910, and moved in with his parents in Christiansburg. Their daughter, Bernice Irene, was born in 1911; their son, Bryce, was born in 1922.

In 1912, the house burned to the ground, destroying Otto's cameras. This put an end to his photography work for about the next three years. After the fire, Otto, Clara, and baby Irene moved to South Dakota to work on the farm of Otto's brother Freeman. In the fall, Clara and Irene returned to Indiana, while Otto went to shuck corn in Illinois, returning to Brown County later in the year.

Otto had bought another camera and resumed taking pictures – mostly portraits. On 3 August 1915, he bought his last camera for \$7.35. He used it and the other camera for the next twenty-five years.

Photography was just one of Otto's many occupations. He worked mostly as a farmer, growing and canning vegetables for sale, and raising chickens and selling their eggs. He and Clara organized a Home Products Association, offered canning demonstrations, and sold canning equipment. He sold canned goods not only to individuals, but also

to local grocery stores. At one time he ran a canning plant in the village of Pikes Peak, Indiana.

Otto Ping's photographs were discovered in the early 1960s by W. Douglas Hartley, an art professor at Illinois State University, who was in Brown County to research another subject. Otto's photographs and glass-plate negatives had been stored in his attic since about 1940. He had been a self-taught photographer, isolated and naive in the arts, and untainted by influence of other photographers. His photography was pragmatic, and he and his family were unaware of the cultural and historical importance of his work. Hartley called Otto's photographs "an incomparable visual record of a specific period in the life of a small segment of Indiana."

Otto stopped taking photographs around 1940. By the 1930s, cameras had become more affordable and widely available, so that many families then had their own cameras and took their own snapshots. Other work occupied Otto for most of the next thirty-five years until his death in October 1975 at the age of ninety-two.

Sources:

Items in collection.

Hartley, W. Douglas. *Otto Ping: Photographer of Brown County, Indiana, 1900-1940*. Indianapolis, Ind.: Indiana Historical Society, 1994. General Collection: [TR653 .H37 1994](#)

Ping, Bryce D. Personal correspondence, 11 January 1993.

Social Security Death Index (<http://ssdi.rootsweb.com>). Accessed 12 September 2006.

Weaver, Bill. "Otto Ping" from *Our Brown County* (<http://www.ourbrowncounty.com/0106s2.htm>). Accessed 12 September 2006.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists primarily of black-and-white photographic images taken by Otto Ping from 1900 to 1940. These images are in the form of original prints, as well as later prints made from Ping's glass plate negatives. In some cases it is apparent from the prints that the negatives had suffered some damage. For some items, there is a note in brackets [] following the description; these notes were found with records pertaining to the collection.

This collection also contains a small number of photographs of Otto Ping and his family from around 1960 to 1970 (some color), Ping's measuring scale, and a few articles of ephemera. The collection is arranged into series as described below.

Series 1, Original Prints: This series is composed of thirty-six photographs, most of which are of residents of Brown County, Indiana, taken from 1900 to the 1920s. Most were taken in outdoor settings, some by houses, churches, schools, or sawmills. Some are of small groups and some are of quite large gatherings. Some people are identified by name. There is one photo of the log jail in Nashville, Ind.

Series 2, New Prints Made from Glass Plate Negatives: This series consists of about eighty-seven prints, most of which are portraits. There are portraits of individuals, couples, families, and larger groups; of babies, children, and adults. Many were taken in outdoor settings with a hanging quilt, a house, or trees in the background. A few people are identified; most are not. There are a couple of postmortem portraits. Animals appear in some photos. There are two photos of members of the Home Products Association by their display in 1927. There are some scenes showing men constructing a dam. These prints were made by IHS around 1991 from Otto Ping's glass plate negatives.

Series 3, Later Photographs of Otto Ping and Family: This series contains a small black-and-white portrait of Otto and Clara Ping on their 50th wedding anniversary, a picture of a house, color photos of Otto Ping with his camera, a few color photos of Otto and Clara Ping posed with other unidentified people (presumably family members), and some copy prints of older photographs. Most of the photos in this series were taken in the 1960s to ca. 1970.

Series 4, Artifacts and Ephemera: This series includes of Otto Ping’s measuring scale (for photographic chemicals) and a 1975 letter regarding the scale; an account book, two diaries, and a letter from 1905–1909; and some canning labels and an order card for Ping’s canned vegetable business.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Original Prints

Please note: In the items listed below, “OP” stands for “original print” (rather than Otto Ping). Some prints listed at the end of this series are unnumbered.

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

OP-1: Cronson **Shultz** and Earl **Ping** in horse-drawn buggy (postcard, ca. 1915).

Photographs,
1, Folder 1 Box

OP-2: Christiansburg School, teacher Harley **Carmichael** with 25 students: Bessie **Carmichael**, Mildred **L[?]itner**, Elsie **Pruitt**, Bill **Pruitt**, Ray **Pruitt**, Blanche **Roush**, Jessie **Roush**, Grace **Roush**, Mary **Roush**, Earnest **Moore**, Flossie **Moore**, Hovey **Moore**, Lester **Moore**, Orvil **Moore**, Lowell **Moore**, Glen **Setser**, Loyd **Nickerson**, Moe (or Mac?) **Nickerson**, Nora **Schwab**, Glethel **Seal**, Goldie **Wilson**, Babe **Wilson**, Mary **Pruitt**, Clyde **Craig**, and Net (Nettie?) **Pruitt** (ca. 1910) (copy neg. # C6304).

Photographs,
1, Folder 2 Box

OP-3: **Ewers** family at the saw mill, including David Ewers, George Ewers, Sara Ewers, Clara Ewers, Stella Ewers, and [?], a dog, and a doll (1906) (copy neg. # C6066 and C6303).

Photographs,
1, Folder 2 Box

OP-4: Otto **Ping** and Clara **Ewers** (age 14) standing by horse-drawn carriage on their second date, summer 1906 (copy neg. # C7894; detail of Otto only, # C7942). (See also: another photo from their second date among the unnumbered pictures in this series.)

Photographs,
1, Folder 2 Box

OP-5: Stella and George **Ewers** near shoals, working in timbers, with two horses, a tent, and a small building (1906) (copy neg. # C8632).

Photographs,
1, Folder 2 Box

OP-6: unused number.

OP-7: Vernon **Foman(?) (Foreman?)** and an

Photographs, Box

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| unidentified man on Weed Patch Hill (postcard, ca. 1915) (copy neg. # C6246). | 1, Folder 1 | |
| OP-8: Rex Grove [possibly Becks Grove?] Church, house, wagons, horses, and people (ca. 1900) (copy neg. # C6302). | Photographs, 1, Folder 1 | Box |
| OP-9: Twenty-seven young men and women in and around a horse-drawn wagon decorated with star-spangled bunting, taken on Weed Patch Hill (ca. 1914) (copy neg. # C6301). | Photographs, 1, Folder 1 | Box |
| OP-10: Group portrait of Ping and Stuckey families, outdoors. Names listed on back: Carrie Ping, Grandma Ping, Earl Ping, Gol[?] Ping, Kieth (sic) Ping, Oma(?) Ping, Otto Ping, Clara Ping, Irene Ping, Bryce Ping, Freeman Ping, Logan Ping, Lawrence Stuckey, Mary Stuckey, Lenore Stuckey, Iolus Stuckey, and Walker Ping (ca. late 1920s). | Photographs, 1, Folder 2 | Box |
| OP-11: Pikes Peak U.B. Church, shows new stone building with steeple (ca. 1906) (copy neg. # C8227). | Photographs, 1, Folder 3 | Box |
| OP-12: "Jackie Harden at Stone Head" shows an elderly couple standing in front of fenced-in two-story house (ca. 1905) (copy neg. # C6305). | Photographs, 1, Folder 3 | Box |
| OP-13: "Etta Henderson , Otha(?) Henderson and Molly Henderson at the spring where they got water to drink Unkle (sic) Joe Ben Henderson 's place taken 1905 near Leesville" shows a man and two young women on a stone ledge with snow on the ground. The man appears to be aiming a rifle, and the women appear to be aiming pistols. | Photographs, 1, Folder 1 | Box |
| OP-14: "Pikes Peak" shows five men and boys (one sitting in a cart pulled by two of the others) on dirt road with houses along it (taken 1900) (copy neg. # C6283). | Photographs, 1, Folder 3 | Box |
| OP-15: Medora Public School, shows large brick building with unposed people out front (ca. 1900). | Photographs, 1, Folder 3 | Box |
| OP-16: "David Bowman 's Birthday Dinner" shows more than 90 people gathered around tables outdoors with a log building in the background (1905) | Photographs, 1, Folder 3 | Box |
| OP-17: "Boys from near Leesville, Ind., 1905" shows five young men with a bicycle outside a brick building (1905) (copy neg. # C6306). | Photographs, 1, Folder 3 | Box |
| OP-18: James Barker family on Becks Grove Ridge, shows family of eight posed outdoors. Note | OVA Box 1, Folder 1 | |

on back: "One little boy was dead before I got the picture finished" (ca. 1908) (copy neg. # C6280). (1910 census includes wife Martha; daughters Maude, Dollie, Lois, and Lizzie; and son Jesse.) (See #197 in Series 2, a photo of the deceased boy, Kenneth Barker.)

OP-19: Birthday dinner for Mr. **Mabe** at his home at Stone Head, shows 85+ people by tables under trees (ca. 1900) (copy neg. # C5243).

OVA Box 1, Folder 2

OP-20: "Billy **Mabe**'s reunion" shows 50+ people by two-story house with fence (ca. 1900) (copy neg. # C6300).

OVA Box 1, Folder 3

OP-21: Unidentified group of twenty-four men, most in Indian costumes, posed outdoors (ca. 1925) (copy neg. # C6299).

OVA Box 1, Folder 4

OP-22: Man, 2 women, and child sitting on boulders at Pikes Peak, Ind. Written on back: "Just a Rustic Spot in Old Brown County" (ca. 1900) (copy neg. # C6065).

OVA Box 1, Folder 5

OP-23: People, horses and buggies at old distillery at Clifty Caves (1905) (copy neg. # C6064).

OVA Box 1, Folder 6

OP-24: Approx. 80 people gathered at **Henderson** Cemetery east of Gnaw Bone on Road 46. Written on back: "Aunt [?] & Uncle Bert" (ca. 1910) (copy neg. # C8927).

OVA Box 1, Folder 7

OP-25: "Threshing Grain" shows gathering of people with barn in the background. Written on back: "[Owned?] by Logan **Ping** / Where Lawrence **Artis** owns / Barn was built in 1895" (ca. 1900).

OVA Box 1, Folder 8

OP-26: Becks Grove Christian Church with a crowd of people standing out front behind a fence (ca. 1905).

OVA Box 1, Folder 9

OP-27: Becks Grove Saw Mill with men and women posed by it. Written on back: "Saw mill using steam engine" (ca. 1900) (copy neg. # C6298).

OVA Box 1, Folder 10

OP-28: "Old Brown County Jail" shows the log jail in Nashville, Ind. (ca. 1900) (copy neg. # C6297).

OVA Box 1, Folder 11

OP-29: Unidentified large group of people beside a house with a fenced-in yard (ca. 1900).

OVA Box 1, Folder 12

OP-30: Summer school class at Houston, Ind., shows teacher Lennie **Brown** (indicated with a mark over his head) with eighteen others outside the school building (ca. 1902).

OVA Box 1, Folder 13

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| Gathering of about 57 men, women, and children by tables set with food under a large tree with a barn in the background. | OVA Box 1, Folder 14 | |
| Brass band: twelve unidentified men with brass instruments and drums standing outside a building (stamped on back: "Otto Ping, New Bellsville, Ind.", n.d.) (copy neg. # C8226). | Photographs, 1, Folder 4 | Box |
| Ping family gathered around a stove: Emaline, Walker, Carrie, Earl, William, Logan, and Frank (ca. 1900) (copy neg. # C6167). | Photographs, 1, Folder 4 | Box |
| Second date of Otto and Clara, 6 August 1906: taken on Weed Patch Hill, shows Clara Ewers , Mildred L[?], John Clark , Emma Wilson , Ben Skinner , and Otto Ping by a roller and a barn (copy neg. # C6165). (See also OP-4 in this series.) | Photographs, 1, Folder 4 | Box |
| Picnic "taken on Weed Patch Hill now state park" shows people gathered around a picnic table outside a house, including: Walker Ping , Earl Ping , Jessie Ping , Carrie Ping , Clara Ping , Irene Ping , Grandma Ping , Cranston Shultz , Margaret Shultz , and Florence Shultz (ca. 1913-14) (copy neg. # C6168). | Photographs, 1, Folder 4 | Box |
| Outdoor group portrait "taken at the creek this side New Bellsville," with names written on back: Irene Ping Sluss , Clara Ping , James Hendricks , Estella Ewers , Gladys Ralphy , Blanche Hendricks , George Ewers , Clint Moore , Lon Clark , Mabel Moore Taylor , Goldie Wilson , Mabel Moore Malher , [one] of the Deaver girls, Flora Williams , and "could be Joe Wilson " (ca. 1912) (copy neg. #C6166). | Photographs, 1, Folder 4 | Box |
| Unidentified group of 100+ people gathered under trees (n.d.) (copy neg. # C6164). | Photographs, 1, Folder 4 | Box |

Series 2: New Prints Made from Glass Plate Negatives

| CONTENTS | CONTAINER | |
|--|--------------------------|-----|
| #2: Portrait of baby with patchwork quilt background. | Photographs, 1, Folder 5 | Box |
| #6: Portrait of toddler wearing jacket tied with a bow. | Photographs, 1, Folder 5 | Box |
| #9: Light-haired barefoot toddler with leaves in the background. | Photographs, 1, Folder 5 | Box |
| #10: Two men in hats and coats; look like they could be related. | Photographs, 1, Folder 5 | Box |

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| #12: Toddler in light-colored dress with ruffle, with each hand holding on to arms of chair. | Photographs, 1, Folder 5 | Box |
| #16: Young dark-hair woman with her body turned toward her left and her face toward the camera. | Photographs, 1, Folder 5 | Box |
| #18: Three people seated: woman in light-colored dress; man in dark hat, coat, and bow tie; and woman in skirt and light-colored blouse. | Photographs, 1, Folder 5 | Box |
| #19: Three young children: boy in jacket and knee pants; girl in dress seated on a stool; younger boy in jacket and knee pants. | Photographs, 1, Folder 5 | Box |
| #22: Woman in dark dress wearing glasses, with dark-haired mustachioed man in suit. (Same couple as in #49 in this series.) | Photographs, 1, Folder 5 | Box |
| #24: Young couple with young boy: seated dark-haired man wearing suspenders and bow tie; standing fair-haired boy in knee pants and light-colored shirt, holding toy horse; seated dark-haired woman in light-colored dress; quilt hanging in background (2 prints). | Photographs, 1, Folder 5 | Box |
| #25: Old shoe with unusual latching device for a fastener (in his book on Otto Ping, W. Douglas Hartley speculates that this may have been an invention by Ping [page 38]). | Photographs, 1, Folder 5 | Box |
| #27: Baby wearing dress of light-colored eyelet-decorated cloth. | Photographs, 1, Folder 6 | Box |
| #28: Two seated women wearing skirts and light-colored blouses. | Photographs, 1, Folder 6 | Box |
| #29: Portrait of three: seated man wearing tall boots, a jacket, and a dark hat; seated woman holding a mandolin; young smiling woman standing behind the other two. | Photographs, 1, Folder 6 | Box |
| #31: Three women: standing dark-haired woman wearing light-colored dress with pin-tucked ruffled bodice and necklace; seated dark-haired woman wearing a light printed dress and holding a flower in her right hand; standing woman wearing a dress with lace on the bodice and a bow tied at the side of her neck. | Photographs, 1, Folder 6 | Box |
| #32: Large house with barn, blurry chickens in the foreground. [Oscar Richardson 's place near Unionville.] | Photographs, 1, Folder 6 | Box |
| #35: Close-up portrait of man wearing vest, coat, | Photographs, | Box |

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| bow tie, and dark hat. | 1, Folder 6 | |
| #36: Portrait of couple: seated man wearing suit with vest, tie, and spats; woman standing on grass with her right hand on his shoulder, wearing dress with belt, with her hair tied back with a large light-colored bow. | Photographs, 1, Folder 6 | Box |
| #43: Close-up portrait of dark-haired woman with flower and dark ribbon in her hair, a locket pinned to her dress, and a lace-trimmed ruffle on the bodice of her dress. | Photographs, 1, Folder 6 | Box |
| #44: Close-up portrait of woman with flowers in her hair, wearing a dress with a lace-trimmed ruffle on the bodice, with a dark flower pinned to the dress, elbow-length sleeves, a necklace, a bracelet, and a ring, with her arms folded at her waist, and holding what appears to be a folded fan in her right hand. | Photographs, 1, Folder 6 | Box |
| #46: A baby with lots of dark hair, wearing a very long white gown, being held up by a woman in a dotted blouse who is off to the edge of the picture. | Photographs, 1, Folder 6 | Box |
| #49: Dark-haired mustachioed man in suit, with woman in dark dress wearing glasses. (Same couple as in #22 in this series.) | Photographs, 1, Folder 6 | Box |
| #56: Mustachioed man in light-colored hat wearing suspenders seated in a large three-wheeled vehicle next to a large light-colored horse and a dark foal. | Photographs, 1, Folder 6 | Box |
| #57: Two young men seated in a horse-drawn carriage on a dirt road; a log fence is behind them along the road, and there appears to be a lake in the background. | Photographs, 1, Folder 7 | Box |
| #58: Young fair-haired boy wearing a hat, knee pants, jacket, and a bow tied at his neck, standing in front of a hanging patterned cloth or rug. | Photographs, 1, Folder 7 | Box |
| #60: Two older boys in coats and dark hats, with the same patterned cloth or rug hanging in the background as described in #58 above. | Photographs, 1, Folder 7 | Box |
| #61: Three men wearing suits and hats, seated on a wooden fence with trees in the background. | Photographs, 1, Folder 7 | Box |
| #69: Portrait of a couple: seated mustachioed man wearing suit and bow tie; standing woman wearing glasses, a light floral-printed blouse with a dark bow at the neck, and a dark skirt; a striped rug is on the floor. | Photographs, 1, Folder 7 | Box |
| #71: Young couple seated on a rock ledge by water: | Photographs, | Box |

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| dark-haired man wearing suit and bow tie is holding a fishing pole or long stick; dark-haired woman is wearing a white blouse with a dark bow at the neck and a dark skirt; trees are in the background. | 1, Folder 7 | |
| #72: Young boy wearing knee pants and a belted jacket tied with a bow at the collar is standing on a rug on the grass, with a patchwork quilt hanging behind him; he has his left hand resting on the edge of what appears to be a wooden and upholstered lounging couch. | Photographs, 1, Folder 7 | Box |
| #75: Two women standing, holding hands: an elderly woman wearing glasses and a long dark printed smock dress with ruffle at yoke and hem; a woman wearing glasses and a dark blouse and skirt, holding a handkerchief in her left hand. | Photographs, 1, Folder 7 | Box |
| #78: Nearly-bald toddler wearing dress with dark bow at neck, standing on small rag rug. | Photographs, 1, Folder 8 | Box |
| #79: Person wearing hat on horseback beside a wooden structure with some slats out of place; wooden fence on horizon in background. [Birthplace of Otto Ping .] | Photographs, 1, Folder 8 | Box |
| #80: Two men with three older children with baskets in a wooded area; large barn in background. [Gathering hickory nuts.] | Photographs, 1, Folder 8 | Box |
| #87: Portrait of a couple: dark-haired mustachioed man in suit with vest and tie; woman in white blouse with dark decoration at the neck and dark skirt. | Photographs, 1, Folder 8 | Box |
| #96: Blurred photo of baby in lacy gown, propped up on a chair covered with cloth or a rug seen in other photos. | Photographs, 1, Folder 8 | Box |
| #98: Baby in eyelet-decorated long gown propped up on a chair covered with cloth or a rug seen in other photos. | Photographs, 1, Folder 8 | Box |
| #101: Baby and little girl: baby in eyelet-decorated gown propped up in a chair; little girl with long hair standing beside the baby with one hand resting on the chair, wearing a dress with decorative trim and a large bow in her hair. | Photographs, 1, Folder 9 | Box |
| #104: Portrait of three children, standing on what appears to be a wooden porch with a blanket hanging behind them: older girl with dark bow in her dark hair, wearing a light dress; little girl in the middle with a light-colored bow in her hair, wearing a light dress and holding a hat in her right hand; boy | Photographs, 1, Folder 9 | Box |

of an age between the two girls, wearing a dark coat and knee pants.

#106 and #107: Two different poses of same young girl seated, wearing dress with lace trim, small potted trees and flowers in background.

Photographs,
1, Folder 9 Box

#108: Man and about seven cows, snow on the ground, fenced fields and trees in background.

Photographs,
1, Folder 9 Box

#109: Building that could be a school, with 13 people standing outside, including some young children. [Poplar Grove School.]

Photographs,
1, Folder 9 Box

#111: Four women (one could be a teenager) standing near water with trees in the background. Print made from an apparently damaged negative.

Photographs,
1, Folder 9 Box

#112: Peonies growing out of the ground with a fence in the background.

Photographs,
1, Folder 9 Box

#113: Two young men, both wearing suspenders, sitting on grass next to a house with vines and leaves growing around it; each is holding small flowers in his left hand.

Photographs,
1, Folder 9 Box

#114: Two men or boys in woods by water in winter.

Photographs,
1, Folder 9 Box

#117: A man and woman wearing hats, seated in a horse-drawn carriage, with wooden fence and trees in background.

Photographs,
1, Folder 9 Box

#118: Portrait of seated older couple: man with long beard wearing vest and coat sitting in a chair; woman in dark dress with hands folded in her lap sitting in wicker chair.

Photographs,
1, Folder 9 Box

#119: Young man and dog in the woods; print apparently made from damaged negative. [Earl or Otto **Ping** near where Bob **Henderson** lives.]

Photographs,
1, Folder 9 Box

#126: Portrait of five: seated elderly woman in dark dress holding eyeglasses in her hands; seated old woman in dark dress holding baby wearing long white gown; standing woman wearing dark dress; seated dark-haired man wearing coat and dotted shirt; printed cloth is hanging in the background (copy neg. # C7896).

Photographs,
1, Folder 10 Box

#127: Portrait of nine: back row, seated: dark-haired woman in light-colored dress; dark man in light shirt with arms folded; man wearing suspenders and bow tie; dark-haired woman in light dress with brooch near neck; front row: little boy

Photographs,
1, Folder 10 Box

standing, wearing knee pants and plaid tie; seated mustachioed man wearing suspenders and holding a book; seated fair-haired toddler in light dress with lace slip; seated dark-haired older woman in dark dress; fair-haired little boy standing, wearing knee pants and light shirt; quilt hanging in the background. [Lawrence and Mary **Stuckey**.]

#128: Portrait of twelve: four men in suits and one young woman standing in back row; four young children, one older woman, and two other women in front row. Background is a patchwork quilt hanging on a wooden structure with a sign for Arm & Hammer Soda on it. Same group of people as in photo #176.

Photographs,
1, Folder 10

Box

#129: Portrait of seven: two men and one woman standing in back row; in front row are an older man seated, a boy and girl standing, and an older woman seated. Background appears to be the side of a house with bushes.

Photographs,
1, Folder 10

Box

#131: Portrait of a young woman wearing a dark hat with a large light feather on it, a coat with a large fur collar and fur trim down the front, with her hands inside a fur muff and a knitted or crocheted light-colored bag hanging from her left wrist. She appears to be kneeling on something and appears to be barefoot. The background is cloth hanging on the side of a house and some bushes. [Carrie **Ping**.]

Photographs,
1, Folder 10

Box

#132: Portrait of two children: a girl wearing a light-colored dress made of eyelet material and ribbons with a large ribbon in her hair stands beside a toddler (probably a boy) with short blond hair also wearing a dress of eyelet material and ribbons. Dark cloth hangs in the background and what appears to be a large Easter egg sits in the grass in the foreground. Same children as in photo #133.

Photographs,
1, Folder 10

Box

#133: Portrait of same two children described above in photo #132, but without the Easter egg.

Photographs,
1, Folder 10

Box

#141: Portrait of thirteen: two young women and four men stand in the back row; in front row are a boy and girl standing, an older man and woman seated, and another man and woman seated, with the man holding a fair-haired toddler on his lap. The photo was taken outdoors against two hanging quilts; someone's hand can be seen in a gap between the two quilts.

Photographs,
1, Folder 10

Box

#142: Portrait of five: two older women standing in back row; three older bearded men sitting in front

Photographs,
1, Folder 10

Box

row, all of them holding their hats on their laps. These people were identified in 2006 by Scott Scrogam of Brown County, Indiana, as relatives of his with three variations in spelling of the last name: **Schrougham, Scrougham, and Scrogham**. He identifies the woman on the left as Mary Gardner; the men are identified, from left to right, as: Andrew Jackson Scrougham (1835-1915), James Madison Scrogam [b. 1843], and Thomas Jackson Scrogam (1844-1911). Scott Scrogam states in a letter to IHS received August 2006, that the three men were children of Daniel Thomas Scrogam, Jr., and Parmelia Marie **Pinckett**[?] Scrogam. This print appears to have been made from a damaged negative.

#144: Portrait of nine: four men in suits stand in the back row along the side of a house; seated in the front row are an older mustachioed man, a girl in a light-colored dress, an older woman in a dark dress, and a woman holding a baby in her lap.

Photographs,
1, Folder 10 Box

#147: Portrait of fourteen: seven men stand in the back row in front of a wooden wall; in front of the men are six women seated; a young boy stands in front of one of the seated women.

Photographs,
1, Folder 10 Box

#163: Portrait of older couple: seated man with beard, wearing striped shirt, vest, and coat, with his hands on his lap; standing woman wearing glasses, a printed blouse, and dark skirt, with her right hand on the man's left shoulder. A printed cloth hangs behind them. This print was apparently made from a glass negative that has a piece broken off on the left side.

Photographs,
1, Folder 11 Box

#164: Portrait of a man with pets: a bearded older man wearing a dark hat sits in a chair on a wooden porch of a wooden house. A cane is tucked under his right arm, and a spotted cat sits nearby on the porch, another cat is curled up by his feet, and a dog is in the background. Two long-handled hatchets on the porch lean against an open screen door.
[Valentine **Penrose**.]

Photographs,
1, Folder 11 Box

#165: Distant view of men building a tall wall; wires are visible above. See also #166.
[Construction of dam in Brown County State Park; print owned by Bryce Ping states photograph by Jack Bond of Nashville, Ind., and that photo was copied when remodeling dam.]

Photographs,
1, Folder 11 Box

#166: Bird's eye view of men building a tall wall; trees in background. See also #165.

Photographs,
1, Folder 11 Box

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|--|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <p>#167: Men standing in field with haystacks; house, barns, and trees in background. [This was the home of Walker Ping.]</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 11</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#176: Portrait of twelve: four men in suits and one young woman standing in back row; four young children, one older woman, and two other women in front row. Background is a patchwork quilt hanging on a wooden structure with a sign for Arm & Hammer Soda on it. Same group of people as in photo #128.</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 12</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#179: Portrait of family of five: Woman in lace-trimmed dress and mustachioed man in suit sitting in chairs outside of a house, a baby sits on the woman's lap, a toddler sits on the man's lap, and a young child stands between the woman and man.</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 12</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#186: Portrait of five: a woman in a simple light-colored dress, a man wearing suspenders, and an older woman wearing glasses and a light dress with a collar stand in the back row; an old bearded man wearing overalls and an old woman wearing glasses and a long dark printed dress sit in chairs in the front row. A house is in the background. [Lizzie Hurlkey's family.]</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 12</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#188: Portrait of nine with snow on the ground: seven men in suits and one woman in a dark calf-length dress, dark coat, and hat stand behind a seated older man with a mustache dressed in a suit and holding his hat in his hands. A house is in the background. [John Shepherd and family.]</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 12</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#189: Portrait of man and horse: side view of a horse with head turned toward camera showing white marking on its face; the man is wearing a striped shirt, tie, vest, and dark hat, and is standing by the horse holding the rein. A wooden fence and trees are in the background.</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 12</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#190: Portrait of two women on horseback: two women in white blouses and darker skirts atop two dark horses, with wooden fence and trees in background.</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 12</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#191: Portrait of family of four: adolescent girl with short hair wearing a knee-length plaid dress stands beside a man in a suit who is sitting; a young boy stands on the other side of the man; a woman in a calf-length dress stands behind the boy. They are in front of a house with a porch. [Irene, Otto, Bryce, and Clara Ping.]</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 12</p> | <p>Box</p> |

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|--|--------------------------------------|------------|
| <p>#193 and #194: Home Products Association display: three HPA members wearing aprons, from left to right: Mildred Lackey, Gladys Clark, and Irene Ping stand behind a table that holds a pressure cooker and other equipment, what appears to be a large bowl of potatoes, and a stack of canned fruits and vegetables. A tree and bushes are in the background (ca. 1927).</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 12</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#196: Body of a deceased older woman lying on a bier with flowers beside it, just outside of a house.</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 12</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#197: Body of a deceased boy, Kenneth Barker (b. 1903), lying on a bed covered with a patchwork quilt, with another quilt hanging behind the bed (ca. 1908) (2 prints). (See OP-18 in Series 1, for Barker family portrait, including Kenneth, shortly before he died.)</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 12</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#198: Group of sixteen standing by the side of a large house, lined up in one row: two boys, four men, and ten women.</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 12</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#199: Portrait of seven: mustachioed man in suit and woman in blouse and skirt standing in back row; in front row are a standing boy in suit with watch chain, a seated older bearded man holding a cane, a seated older woman in dark blouse and an apron over her skirt, a young barefoot boy wearing a coat and pants just below his knees, and another boy wearing striped pants and a coat. Background is a hanging striped cloth.</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 12</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#201: Peddler with product wagon and horses in the snow: man in dark coat and hat stands with left foot resting atop his sample case beside a Watkins Remedies wagon pulled by two dark horses (copy neg. # C6487).</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 13</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#203: Family of three seated in horse-drawn carriage: man in dark suit and hat holds the horse's reins; beside him sits a woman in a light-colored dress and hat; on her lap sits a young fair-haired boy wearing a sailor dress; wooden fence and trees in background.</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 13</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#204: Dark photo of man in coat and hat seated in a carriage pulled by two horses standing in the snow with bare trees in the background.</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 13</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#205: Seven men standing at a sawmill; a dog stands in a wheelbarrow among the men.</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 13</p> | <p>Box</p> |
| <p>#206: Six men standing at a sawmill; on the left end is a ladder near a platform holding several barrels;</p> | <p>Photographs, 1, Folder 13</p> | <p>Box</p> |

trees in the background.

#207: Twenty-two men and boys standing by a pile of large stones with wheelbarrows and a steam engine used to power a stone crushing device; wooden fence and trees in background.

Photographs,
1, Folder 13 Box

#220: Portrait of a girl and dog: young girl with her hair in long banana curls tied with bows, wearing a light-colored dress with eyelet and lace trim, light stockings, and dark shoes, stands beside a dog on a tattered striped rug on the grass.

Photographs,
1, Folder 13 Box

#223: Group of 115+ men, women, and children gathered under tall trees. [Grandpa **Ping**'s birthday, 1906.]

Photographs,
1, Folder 13 Box

Series 3: Later Photographs of Otto Ping and Family

CONTENTS

Black-and-white portrait of Clara and Otto Ping on their 50th wedding anniversary, 19 June 1960.

CONTAINER

Photographs,
1, Folder 14 Box

Black-and-white photo of a house in the snow (presumably the Ping home).

Photographs,
1, Folder 14 Box

Color copy photo of a black-and-white photo of Irene Ping Sluss on her wedding day, presumably with her husband, Eldon F. Sluss (photo taken by Otto Ping).

Color Photographs, Folder
1

Color copy photo of two black-and-white photographs of Otto and Clara Ping taken in 1906.

Color Photographs, Folder
1

Two color photos of Otto Ping wearing a plaid shirt and blue jeans, with his camera outside near a house, with bare trees in the background (slightly different views) (ca. 1960s). (both color negs available)

Color Photographs, Folder
1

Color snapshot of Otto Ping in white shirt and bow tie standing by his camera (ca. 1970); and color copy photo of the same image, but with a significant difference in how the colors were printed in the two prints.

Color Photographs, Folder
1

New 5"x5" color print of snapshot described above – Otto Ping with his camera, ca. 1970 (print made in 2006 by IHS photographer).

Color Photographs, Folder
1

New 5"x5" color print of Clara and Otto Ping seated outdoors, with two younger women each holding a baby, standing behind them, ca. 1970 (print made in

Color Photographs, Folder
1

2006 by IHS photographer).

New 5"x5" color print of Clara and Otto Ping seated outdoors, with eighteen other people standing behind and around them, ca. 1970 (print made in 2006 by IHS photographer).

Color Photographs, Folder 1

New 5"x5" color print of Clara and Otto ping seated outdoors, with a baby on Clara's lap and fifteen other people standing behind and around them, ca. 1970 (print made in 2006 by IHS photographer).

Color Photographs, Folder 1

Series 4: Artifacts and Ephemera

CONTENTS

Account book: small black book with alphabetical tabs, handwritten names, some addresses, and amounts paid (n.d., but folded letter to Otto Ping from Philip Hitch inserted in the back of the book is dated 1905).

Short letter to Otto Ping in New Bellsville, Ind., from Philip Hitch in Columbus, Ind., regarding a photo order of a portrait of a female (11 November 1905). Notes written on the back in other handwriting. Removed from account book described above, where it had been folded and inserted in the back.

Two-page photocopied accounting list, with names and photo order information (August 1905).

Diary, 1908: small black book containing very brief daily entries written by Otto Ping regarding his activities, the weather, etc. Notations in the front of the book indicate that on 1 January 1908 he lived in Columbus, Ind., was 5'10" tall, weighed 151 pounds, his hat size was 7 1/8, his collar size was 15 1/2, and shoe size was 8.

Diary, 1909: small book with damaged cover, containing very brief entries written by Otto Ping almost daily beginning 26 February, regarding his activities, the weather, etc.

Photographic ephemera: brochure for Cyko photographic paper (ca. 1913); photographic envelope with "1 Pr Each for TR Johnston" written on it; board with names, addresses (Helmsburg, Evansville, Terre Haute, Cannelton, Bloomington), and photo orders written on both sides of it.

Cardboard box lid with "Photographic Dry Plates /

CONTAINER

Manuscript Collections, Box 1, Folder 1

Manuscript Collections, Box 1, Folder 1

Manuscript Collections, Box 1, Folder 5

Manuscript Collections, Box 1, Folder 2

Manuscript Collections, Box 1, Folder 2

Manuscript Collections, Box 1, Folder 3

Manuscript Collections,

Manufactured by the / Hammer Dry Plate Company, / St. Louis, Mo.” printed on the top; on the inside of the lid is a handwritten list of names with a few brief photo descriptions.

Box 1, Folder 4

Otto Ping’s measuring scale: wooden case containing post, hanging hook, scales with cups, and four weights (ca. 1900–1905). See letter described below.

Artifacts: 1995.0133

Letter regarding measuring scale described above: letter dated 18 September 1975 from Irene Ping (Mrs. Eldon) Sluss and Bryce Ping, indicating that their father, Otto Ping, used the measuring scales for weighing out powders for developing his photographs. The letter, addressed to Robert D. Burke, also says: “...thanks for letting our parents stay on the farm, it was home for us all for so many years and if you ever get down around Seymour they are in The Lutheran Community Home....”

Manuscript Collections,
Box 1, Folder 5

Perforated postal card printed with canned vegetable order form on one side, ordering instructions with references to two customers on another side, and addressed to Otto Ping, Route No. 6, Columbus, Indiana, with a space to put a one-cent postage stamp.

Manuscript Collections,
Box 1, Folder 6

Labels for canned vegetables: five labels for Tower Brand green beans, grown and packed in Brown County, Indiana, with Otto Ping’s name and address in Columbus, Ind., on the labels. One label for Tower Brand tomatoes, “Hand Packed in Brown Co.” “Packed by O. Ping, Columbus, Ind.” [which is in Bartholomew County] (this label has been photographed; neg. # KC230). One label for Sugar Corn (The Simpson & Doeller Co., Baltimore). One label with no words, showing a picture of tomatoes and a picture of a building by a river.

Manuscript Collections,
Box 1, Folder 6

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 0275).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.