Collection #
P 0928

PARKER E. AND CLARA BATEMAN BUGBY FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1880–CA. 1890

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 photograph folder
COLLECTION DATES:	Ca. 1880–ca. 1890
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NOTES:	

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Parker E. Bugby was an engineer for the Big Four Railroad. By 1868 he had become an engineer with the Bellefontaine Railway, which after a merger, became the Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati & Indianapolis Railway. After further mergers, Bugby's employer became the Cleveland, Cincinnati, Chicago & St. Louis Railway, also known as the Big Four. Bugby was killed when the Big Four's passenger train engine number 25 derailed six miles southwest of Anderson, Indiana, on the evening of 21 August 1906. He and his wife, Clara Bateman Bugby, had three daughters.

Parker Elisha Bugby was born in New York in 1841 to Lyman and Mary A. "Polly" Chadwick Bugby. By 1850 the family had moved to Michigan, and by 1860 they lived in Indianapolis. Parker had two younger sisters, Lucy and Marietta.

On 8 February 1872, Parker married Clara "Carrie" Eliza Bateman in Logan County, Ohio. They had three daughters: Grace Emerald (1874–1947), Cora (1875–1952), and Alice (born in 1882). For some time in the 1870s–1880s, Parker's mother Polly lived with the family. By the mid-1890s, Carrie's nephew, Howard William Bateman, came to live with the family. At some point, Polly moved to St. Augustine, Florida, where her daughter, Marietta lived. Polly died there on 21 September 1900. This likely explains why this collection came to the Indiana Historical Society from the St. Augustine Historical Society.

Clara "Carrie" Bateman Bugby was born in Ohio in December 1851 to William and Phoebe Rhoades Bateman. Her siblings included older sister Anna and younger siblings Elizabeth, Harry, George, Marietta, and Belle. It is unclear where Carrie lived in the years following Parker's death, but she died on 10 March 1932 in Union County, Ohio, where her daughter Alice lived at the time.

Grace Emerald Bugby was born on 6 May 1874. On 3 October 1894 she married Ernest Evan Sherman. At the time of the 1900 census, they were living in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and had a son named Willis Parker Sherman (1895–1956). At the time of the 1910 census, Grace was living in Seattle, Washington, with another husband, Herbert Bartholomew, their daughter Helen Eldora (Huntting) (1904–1983), her son Willis, and her cousin, Howard Bateman. On 24 October 1917, Grace married Charles H. Williams (1859–1928) in Seattle. At the time of her death in Seattle on 20 July 1947, Grace was married to John James Agutter (1875–1945).

Cora L. Bugby was born in December 1875. In June 1899, she married William Barton Applegate (1875–1943). They made their home in Chicago, Illinois, and had four children: Gladys, Robert, George, and Eleanor. Around 1940, Cora and William moved to Broward County, Florida. In the 1950 census, Howard Bateman is listed in the household of his widowed cousin Cora. At the time of Cora's death on 4 September 1952, her obituary stated that both Howard and Cora's sister Alice, were living in Oakland Park in Broward County. Cora was a member of the Methodist Church, the Woman's Club, and the Shuffleboard Club.

The train derailment that killed Parker Bugby occurred at Taft, a block station six miles southwest of Anderson, around 7:30 p.m. on 21 August 1906. The train was due to arrive in Indianapolis at 8:15 p.m. The train was sidetracked to let the Southwestern Limited mail train pass. In attempting to run back on the main line, Bugby failed to see the block signal and the engine derailed, hurling down a six-foot embankment. Both Bugby and the 22-year-

old fireman, Harry Guy, were crushed and badly burned. The passenger cars remained on the track. The passengers were transferred to another train headed for Indianapolis. Parker Bugby was the oldest engineer in service on the Cleveland division of the Big Four Railway. He was known as an exceptionally careful and reliable engine driver and had been employed with the Cleveland division for nearly forty years. Until a few years before this accident, he had pulled the Southwestern Limited and the Knickerbocker special, but as he approached sixty years of age, he chose to drive shorter runs. He was 64 at the time of his death, and this was the first serious accident of his career.

Parker Bugby was a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, and Memorial Presbyterian Church. He and his wife, Carrie, were both buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.

Sources:

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 17 July 2026):

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Obituary for Cora B. Applegate. *Fort Lauderdale News* (Florida), 5 September 1952, p. 6.

"Sherman–Bugby" [wedding announcement]. *The Indianapolis Journal,* 4 October 1894, p. 3.

"Two Killed in Wreck: Big Four Train Derailed – Engineer and Fireman Buried Under Engine, but Passengers Escape." *Indianapolis Morning Star,* 22 August 1906, p. 1.

"Veteran Engineer and Young Fireman Killed: Two Indianapolis Men Meet Instant Death – In Wreck Near Anderson." *The Indianapolis News,* 22 August 1906, p. 7.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of four cabinet cards, at least two of which are from the Parker E. and Clara "Carrie" Bateman Bugby family of Indianapolis. One portrait is of Parker Elisha Bugby, who worked for decades as an engineer for the Big Four Railway. Another portrait is of his wife, Carrie, and their two eldest daughters, Cora and Grace. There is another portrait of a young child identified as "Marrie Wenner." It is not known how or whether she was related to the Bugby family. The fourth cabinet card has an illustration of the Indiana State Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument on the front and a typeset history of the monument on the back.

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Cabinet card portrait of Parker E. Bugby (photo by Marceau of Indianapolis, [ca. 1890?]).	Folder 1 of 1
Cabinet card portrait of Cora, Carrie, and Grace Bugby (photo by Fowler's Gallery of Photography, Indianapolis [ca. 1880]).	Folder 1 of 1
Cabinet card portrait of a young child. "Marrie Wenner" is written below the photo (photo by Staples' Ground Floor Gallery, Indianapolis [ca. 1885–1889]). It is not known how or if this child was related to the Bugby family.	Folder 1 of 1
Cabinet card with illustration of The Indiana State Soldiers' and Sailors' Monument on the front and a typeset history of the monument on the back (copyright by Geo. J. Langsdale, 1888) (card produced by W. F. Staples of Indianapolis).	Folder 1 of 1