

Collection #
P 0554

**PERTUCH FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS
CA. 1880–1884, 1913**

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Processed by

Barbara Quigley
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 photographs folder

COLLECTION
DATES: ca. 1880–1884, 1913

PROVENANCE: Gift from Roger B. Cosbey of Fort Wayne, Indiana, December
2014

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NUMBER: 2014.0282

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Richard Pertuch (pronounced per-too) was born 24 October 1855 in Saxony, Germany. He immigrated to the United States from Scotland in 1871. He worked as a clerk for various companies in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for a few years in the mid-1870s, and while there he became a U.S. citizen in 1876. He became a gymnastics instructor and was involved with the Turners (German-American gymnastics clubs). Early in his career he worked in Evansville and Indianapolis in Indiana, but more than forty years of his half-century as a gymnastics instructor were spent at the Philadelphia Turngemeinde in Pennsylvania.

Correspondence from Richard's descendants states that he left his small town in Germany with some other boys to avoid compulsory military service. They went to the seaport of Hamburg, where his mother followed him to try to convince him to return home. He was determined to leave for America, so she gave her blessing. However, the other boys changed their mind, so Richard left alone. The family states that he worked as a cowboy in Texas and then on a plantation in the South for a Colonel Putman, later traveling or working on steamboats, and that eventually he attended a school in Milwaukee for gymnastics instruction.

He was then assigned to Evansville, Indiana, where he married Ella Lohse on 31 August 1879. Ella was born in January 1855 in Ohio. Her parents were German immigrants -- her father from Darmstadt and her mother from Baden.

By June of 1880 Richard and Ella had moved to 73 Lockerbie Street in Indianapolis. Their daughter Eda was born at home on 24 August 1880. Two more daughters were born in Indianapolis: Emma (11 March 1882) and Ella B. (29 July 1885).

The family moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1887, where three more children were born: Walter Albert Richard (2 August 1888–January 1976), Hannah C. (called "Hansie") in November 1890, and Richard (1894–25 July 1896).

Eda worked as a dressmaker at the time of the 1900 and 1910 censuses. She married Adolf Rosenheimer in Philadelphia in 1917. He worked as an insurance broker. She died in December 1987 in the Masonic Home in Pennsylvania, at the age of 107.

Emma also worked as a dressmaker in 1900. In 1905 she married Rudolph Leander Fuerle (26 September 1875–22 June 1950) in Philadelphia. He worked as an instrument maker at an arsenal. They had three children: Rudolph R. (1906–1991), Ella (b. ca. 1908), and Emma (b. ca. 1916). Emma (nee Pertuch) died 15 November 1966 in Philadelphia.

Ella B. worked as a masseuse in a hospital at the time of the 1910 census. In 1916 she married one of her father's students, John Henry Nussle (2 April 1886–November 1973). They had two daughters, Winifred, born 1 May 1917 (the mother of the donor of this collection), and her sister Ella Henrietta (b. 1919). By 1923 the family had moved to

Lynbrook, Nassau County, New York. Later in their lives, Ella B. and her husband, called "Henry," moved to Utica, Oneida County, New York. Ella B. died in July 1979.

Walter became the librarian for the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia and served there many years. In 1922 he married Marie M. Hedwig Oppel (15 November 1895–20 July 1961). They had a daughter, Barbara Maria (20 August 1923–10 March 2004), who married Thure L. Reenstierna; she died in Burlington, Vermont.

Hannah married Howard W. Deitz in Philadelphia in 1918. They had a daughter, Virginia R., born ca. 1921.

Richard served as director of the National Turners' Festival the week of 18 June 1900 in Philadelphia. In June 1905, the North American Gymnastic Union Instructors' Association met in Indianapolis, where Richard was elected treasurer of the organization. He presented a paper titled "What Musical Education Should Physical Directors Possess?" when the organization met in 1906 in Newark, New Jersey. Richard took gymnastic teams to Turnfests in Leipzig and Cologne in Germany, the last time when he was 72. He lectured about physical education and received prizes for his photographs.

Richard died 14 November 1935 and his wife, Ella, in 1939, both in Philadelphia.

Sources:

Personal correspondence from the donor of this collection, December 2014.

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of photographs of members of the Richard Pertuch family, the Lockerbie Street house where they lived, and a souvenir booklet from the Lockerbie Street Fair. There are five black-and-white mounted photographs (and one modern copy of one of the five) that show Richard Pertuch, his wife Ella Lohse Pertuch, and their two eldest children, daughters Eda and Emma. Also there is one photograph of Richard with a group of his students, who are not identified. Other unidentified people appear in some of the other photographs. There are two additional original photographs of their Lockerbie Street house attached to pages of the souvenir booklet. The photographs were taken in Indianapolis, ca. 1880 to 1884. There is also a copy of an article written by Richard Pertuch about his experience with photography, which was published in 1913.

The collection is arranged into two series:

Series 1, Photographs.

Series 2, Printed Material (the souvenir booklet and the article written by Pertuch).

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Photographs

CONTENTS

Richard Pertuch and twelve unidentified young females standing outside a building. Richard is identified on the front of the photo as "Papa." The females are apparently his students at the "[Turn__?_____] Klassischen Schule." Written on back: "Grandfather Pertuch, first ladies class in Gym about 1879 or 1880. Indianapolis – Indiana."

"The house Eda was born in. Lockerbie Str. / Indianapolis Indiana." [73 Lockerbie Street, ca. 1880]

Ella Lohse Pertuch, seven unidentified women, and baby Eda Pertuch in Garfield Park, Indianapolis. Eda's face is overexposed in the photo, revealing no details. Note on front of photo indicates that a woman other than her mother is holding Eda. [ca. 1880–1881] Original plus one copy photo made by IHS.

Ella Lohse Pertuch, Eda Pertuch, and Emma Pertuch with three unidentified women and one unidentified man. All are in boats except the man who standing at the edge of the water. Broad Ripple, Indianapolis. [ca. 1884]

Richard Pertuch, Ella Lohse Pertuch, Eda Pertuch, and Emma Pertuch by the White River at Emmerich's Grove. Identified on front of photo as "Papa, Mama, Eda & Emma." [ca. 1884]

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Series 2: Printed Material

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Lockerbie Street Fair souvenir booklet. Made of dark brown paper. The cover title is "Lockerbie Street Fair / A Souvenir." Four photos are attached to pages inside booklet. First page has a black-and-white printed photo of Lockerbie Street. Second page has a black-and-white printed photo of James Whitcomb Riley. The third and fourth pages are printed with the words of Riley's poem, "Lockerbie Street." The fifth and sixth pages have original photos of different views of the house where Eda Pertuch was born [73 Lockerbie Street]. [ca. early 1880s]

Photocopy of article written by Richard M. Pertuch titled "The Camera as a Friend" that was published in *Photo-Era: The American Journal of Photography*, vol. 31, no. 1, July 1913, pages 12–15. Pertuch wrote about how he became interested in and learned about photography, and his experience with it.

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