

Collection #  
P 0790

**WALTER P. ADAMS FAMILY PHOTOGRAPHS  
CA. 1906–1921**

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF COLLECTION:** 1 photograph folder, 3 OVB photograph folders

**COLLECTION DATES:** Ca. 1906–1921

**PROVENANCE:** Gift from Howard and Maude Adams, Indianapolis, 1990

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:**

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 1990.0585

**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL / HISTORICAL SKETCH

Walter Pleasant Adams was born 24 February 1884 in Beanblossom, Indiana, to Andrew Walter Adams and Lorena Alice Anderson Adams. He married Jessie Lindsey (1885–1948) and they had a daughter, Pauline Belle (1902–1989), followed by four sons: Noble Holland (1905–1984), Thomas Wayne (1907–1992), Marion Curtis (1911–1989), and Howard Andrew (1914–2004).

There are records that state the date of Walter and Jessie's marriage as the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> of January 1904. However, the 1910 census states that they had been married to each other for eight years at that time, indicating that they were married by 1902. Their first child, Pauline, was born 22 October 1902 in Brown County. Their eldest son, Noble, was born in Bloomington, Indiana; the three younger sons were all born in Indianapolis.

At the time of the 1910 census, the Adams family lived at 3201 E. 25<sup>th</sup> Street in Indianapolis, and Walter's occupation is listed as machinist in an automobile factory. The family was still at that address when the 1916 Indianapolis city directory was published, which listed Walter as a clerk for the Interstate Car Company, a manufacturer of railway cars. Walter managed the company's baseball team. In 1920 the family lived at 1401 N. Ewing Street in Indianapolis, and Walter was an inspector for Interstate Car Company. By 1930 he was working as a carpenter.

After Jessie's death, Walter married Ershel Wayman Turner (1892–1965) on 8 October 1949. He died in Beanblossom on 12 April 1951. He was buried in East Hill Cemetery in Morgantown, Indiana, beside his first wife, Jessie.

Pauline Belle Adams attended Indianapolis Public School #51. She was working as a stenographer in a law office at the time of the 1920 census. The 1930 census lists a Pauline Adams from Indiana living in Chicago and working as a clerk for a utilities company, which may or may not be the right Pauline Adams. Likewise, the 1940 census lists a Pauline Adams from Indiana living in Miami, Florida, and working at home as a seamstress. Written on the back of one of the photographs in this collection is: "Pauline Adams – Mrs. Robert Grey – Paul Houser – married names." There is a marriage record for Pauline Belle Adams, daughter of Walter P. Adams, dated 19 August 1942. It appears that this marriage may have taken place in Brown County, Indiana, but does not name a spouse. However, Pauline's last name became Houser, as it appears on her gravestone in East Hill Cemetery in Morgantown, Indiana. She died 29 October 1989 in Bonita Springs, Florida.

Indianapolis Public School #51, the James Russell Lowell School, was built in 1900 where Olney Street, Glen Drive, and Gale Street meet in the Brightwood neighborhood. In 1913 an addition was built perpendicular to the original building, facing Roosevelt Avenue to the south.

Nearby, the Interstate Car Company, located at Sherman Drive and Massachusetts Avenue, manufactured railway cars.

Sources:

Items in the collection

Ancestry <ancestrylibrary.com>. Accessed 18 June 2019:

Find a Grave

Indiana Death Certificates, 1899–2011

Indiana Marriages, 1810–2001

U.S. City Directories, 1822–1995

United States Federal Census, 1900–1940

U.S. World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942

U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947

Historic Indianapolis. “HI Mailbag: Martindale–Brightwood Families,” 10 November 2015 <https://historicindianapolis.com/hi-mailbag-martindale-brightwood-families/>. Accessed 18 June 2019.

Interstate Castings. “Company History” <http://www.iscastings.com/history.html>. Accessed 18 June 2019.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection consists of four photographs from the family of Walter P. Adams that were taken when the family lived in Indianapolis. Two include his daughter Pauline: one as a young child photographed with a policeman who brought her home after she had run away or gotten lost; the other taken about a dozen years later with her class at Indianapolis Public School #51. The other two photographs include Walter P. Adams along with members of the baseball team he managed for his employer, the Interstate Car Company.

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### CONTENTS

Mounted photograph of “Pauline Adams & Policeman who brought her home” (photo by Keeter), [Indianapolis, ca. 1906]. [Notes taken at the time this collection was acquired indicate that Pauline ran away or got lost frequently.]

Group photo of students at Indianapolis Public School #51, the James Russell Lowell School [ca. 1918]. Pauline Adams is identified as the second from right in the top row. No others are identified.

Two mounted photographs of the Interstate Car Company’s baseball team managed by Walter P. Adams. Team members are identified on the backs of the mounts. In addition to Walter Adams, they are: Ben Fultz (pitcher), Whitie Darnell (first base), Pete Horning (right field), Irwin Logsdon (center field), Ben Leslie (pitcher), George Mullis, Harry Oliver, “Smitty” Smith, Rufus Wallsmith [or Reese Wallsmith] (catcher), Monk Adams (second base), Gene Montgomery or Eugene Montgomery [“Montie” Montgomery] (pitcher), Cotton Lepper [or Cotton Leffert?] (catcher), Dutch Wallsmith [possibly Godfrey Wallsmith] (third base), Russell Williams (shortstop). (Photos by Holland Studio of Indianapolis, 1921.)

### CONTAINER

Photographs, Folder 1 of 1

OVB Photographs,  
Folder 1 of 3

OVB Photographs,  
Folders 2 and 3