

Collection #  
P 0534

**WEIDNER FAMILY COLLECTION  
CA. 1890–1924, 1960**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 97 black-and-white and cyanotype photos in an album; notebook of family history information

COLLECTION DATES: Photographs: ca. 1890–1924; notebook: 1960

PROVENANCE: Gift from Paul Weidner of New York, NY, in April 2003

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2003.0361

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Paul Russell Weidner (6 July 1896–27 July 1961), who assembled the materials in this collection, was the son of Albert and Lydia Maxson Weidner.

Albert Weidner was born 14 August 1865 in Tippecanoe County, Indiana, to Joseph S. and Sarah A. Rothenberger Weidner. He married Lydia Eldridge Maxson on 16 October 1895 in Frankfort in Clinton County. They had two sons born there -- Paul and Edward (15 August 1897–17 January 1899). Albert was a clothing merchant in Frankfort before moving in 1910 to Mulberry in the same county to operate a general merchandise store there with his brother Oswell. He was a member of the Trinity Reformed Church in Mulberry and a member of the Knights of Pythias and the Woodmen of the World. He died 12 December 1940.

Joseph S. Weidner (b. 20 November 1837) was the son of Joseph Weidner and his wife Elizabeth. He was born in Berks County, Pennsylvania and moved to Tippecanoe County, Indiana, in November 1859. He married Sarah A. (Saraanna) Rothenberg (b. 16 May 1845) in Dayton, Indiana, on 20 February 1864. She was the daughter of George and Lydia Walter Rothenberger and was also born in Berks County, Pennsylvania.

Lydia Eldridge Maxson (6 February 1865–17 September 1925) and her eight siblings were born to John Thomas Maxson (10 December 1833 in Ohio–14 October 1882) and Deborah Malanda Eldridge (26 December 1831 in Richmond, Ind.–18 September 1914). Lydia was born near Brookston in White County. She was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church and a charter member of the Mulberry chapter of Eastern Star.

Deborah Malanda Eldridge and her six siblings were born to William Malanda (8 July 1800–2 August 1846) and Ann Eldridge (6 May 1807–10 October 1853). William Malanda Eldridge was the son of Job (b. 23 June 1774) and Tacy (29 April 1774–3 October 1814) Eldridge of Chester County, Pennsylvania. William and Ann married there on 13 February 1827. They moved to Indiana around the early 1830s, first to Richmond, then to Logansport, and then to Brookston.

Paul Russell Weidner served in the army in World War I in France. He earned a bachelor's degree at Miami University in Ohio in 1921 and a master's degree from Harvard University in 1922, and was also a graduate student at Ohio State University from 1939-1940. He was a professor of English who taught at Miami University from 1920-1923 and at the College of Charleston in South Carolina from 1923-1961. He married Joanna Collins Powers (b. 29 June 1904) on 22 December 1928 in Charleston. They had two children: Anne (christened Joanna Vaughan) Weidner and Paul Russell Weidner, Jr., both born in Charleston. Paul Jr. is the donor of this collection that his father assembled. Paul Sr. died in Charleston and was buried in Holy Cross Cemetery in James Island, South Carolina.

Sources:

Items in the collection.

Record for the Paul Weidner Papers at the College of Charleston (<http://archives.library.cofc.edu/inventories/mss0074.html>). Accessed 28 April 2014.

South Carolina Death Records (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 28 April 2014.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of an album containing 97 photographs and a typed commentary about the photographs by Paul Weidner Sr., and a notebook of family history data for the Eldridge, Maxson, and Weidner families that was assembled by him.

**Series 1** is comprised of the photograph album. It includes images of the Weidner family, their relatives, friends, homes, schools, businesses, and scenes in Clinton County, Indiana. The photos were taken primarily in the towns of Mulberry and Frankfort. The relatives include members of the Maxson, Eldridge, and Rothenberger families. The photographs were taken ca. 1890–1924 and are mostly black-and-white with a few cyanotypes. A small number of photographs were taken outside of Clinton County: in Tippecanoe and Porter counties in Indiana, Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis, Missouri, and Canada. In the back of the album there is the manuscript of comments regarding individual photographs.

**Series 2** is composed of the notebook, assembled in 1960, of family history information pertaining to the Eldridge, Maxson, and Weidner families who lived in Pennsylvania and Ohio before moving to Indiana. Some family members also lived in Missouri. Included is brief information about Eldridge ancestors in England. Some of the information presented is a transcript of notes by Lydia Maxson Weidner made before 1925. Lists of extended family members with birth, marriage, and death information are included. There are obituaries for Lydia Maxson Weidner, Albert Weidner, and Oswell Weidner. One typed page is in German. There is a telegram and a few newspaper clippings inserted. There is some information about schools attended and baptisms. There are some pages of handwritten notes, a typed family tree, and a hand-drawn family tree.

## SERIES CONTENTS

### Series 1: Family Photograph Album

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#1 -- The Weidner family standing outside their house in Mulberry, Clinton County, ca. 1890. Left to Right, in back: Oswell (1872–1951), Emma (1869–ca. 1930), Sarah, Albert, Charles (1867–1958), Joseph. In front: Madison (1880–1917), Calvin (1867–ca. 1920).

#2 -- "The old Second Ward school building at Frankfort" (Clinton County), ca. 1896. Photo by Albert Weidner. Paul Weidner Sr. attended this school his first three years of school. [photo is faded]

#3 -- Mr. Hockman in the clothing store Coulter and Hockman in Frankfort, ca. 1899. Photo by Albert Weidner. [photo is faded]

#4 -- Cyanotype self-portrait of Albert Weidner holding his son Paul in the living room of Deborah Eldridge Maxson (Paul's mother's mother), [ca. 1899].

#5 -- Albert and Paul Weidner in Deborah Maxson's side yard, [ca. 1896–97]. [photo is faded]

#6 -- Lydia and Paul Weidner in Deborah Maxson's side yard, [ca. 1896–97]. [photo is faded]

#7 -- Cyanotype of the house where Paul Weidner Sr. was born, on the east side of South Jackson Street near Armstrong in Frankfort. [ca. 1900]

#8 -- Lydia's brother, William Oliver Maxson (b. 1 August 1869) with dog. "Taken probably before 1900." [photo is faded]

#9 -- William Maxson holding his nephew, Paul Weidner, ca. 1897. [photo is faded]

#10 -- Deborah Maxson tending her flowers in her yard in Frankfort [ca. 1900].

#### CONTAINER

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- #11 -- Deborah Maxson in her living room holding two young children [likely Paul and his brother Edward, ca. 1898]. Album Storage, PAB
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- #65 -- [Albert Weidner?] by lake near Valparaiso University, summer 1914. Album Storage, PAB
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- #69 -- The Weidner family's house as seen from the back, 1914 or 1915. Across the street is the Weidner Institute, a Lutheran junior college ("...its name was in no way derived from the Weidner family in Mulberry.") [The Weidner Institute opened in 1905 and became a junior college until it closed in 1927, per [http://prezi.com/eozwhfysiyyv\\_/mulberry-indiana/](http://prezi.com/eozwhfysiyyv_/mulberry-indiana/)]
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#93 -- [Albert and Lydia Weidner] standing in front of the house where they last lived, ca. 1923–1924.	Album Storage, PAB
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## **Series 2: Weidner, Maxson, and Eldridge Family History Information**

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Notebook containing 30 pages of transcripts and information from records of the related Weidner, Maxson, and Eldridge families.

### **CONTAINER**

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## 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 0534).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.