WEIDNER FAMILY COLLECTION
CA. 1890–1924, 1960

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Cataloging Information

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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.


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

CONTENTS


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].
#11 -- Deborah Maxson in her living room holding two young children [likely Paul and his brother Edward, ca. 1898].

#12 -- Edward and Paul Weidner, ca. 1898. [photo is faded]

#13 -- Edward and Paul Weidner, ca. 1898.

#14 -- Joseph and Sarah Weidner on the rear porch of their home in Mulberry, Ind., n.d. [photo is faded]

#15 -- Cyanotype of Joseph and Sarah Weidner [with their grandson Paul, ca. 1899].

#16 -- Paul Weidner, Edward Weidner in highchair, with their cousin Lucile Weidner (daughter of Oswell and Clara Weidner), [ca. 1898].

#17 -- Cyanotype of Lydia Rothenberger (mother of Sarah Weidner, great-grandmother of Paul Weidner Sr.), n.d.

#18 -- Cyanotype of a man standing in front of the home of Kate Catterlin (a sister of Sarah Weidner) on Washington Avenue in Frankfort, n.d.

#19 -- Eleven people with a large wagon in the woods, taken at the "sugar camp" on the farm of Harrison Rothenberger (a brother of Sarah Weidner), three miles northwest of Frankfort. Includes Manly and Herman Rothenberger, Harrison's youngest sons, ca. 1900.

#20 -- Herman Rothenberger smiling and Manly Rothenberger with his head in the sugar-water bucket, [ca. 1900].

#21 -- Madison Elmer Weidner (b. 17 March 1880), brother of Albert Weidner, on South Main Street in Frankfort [ca. late 1890s or early 1900].

#22 -- Harrison Rothenberger [1848–1931] seated on wagon at his sugar camp with two other men, one of whom may be his father-in-law, Epaminondas Carter [ca. 1900].
#23 -- Madison Weidner at Barner's Woods in Frankfort [ca. 1900].

#24 -- Cyanotype of Madison Weidner, on South Main Street in Frankfort [ca. 1900].

#25 -- Members of the Albert Weidner and Oswell Weidner families, left to right: Albert, Clara, Lucile [b. 1894], Paul, Oswell, and Lydia at the Catterlin home at 18 Washington Avenue in Frankfort, ca. summer 1906.

#26 -- Elizabeth Grover (1867–1925), sister of Lydia Weidner [with Lydia Weidner], ca. 1906.

#27 -- Series of six photos showing Nellie Dow, Lydia Weidner, and Mary Dow [13 Feb 1860–17 Oct 1908] in Malta Bend, Missouri, summer of 1906 or 1907. Mary is Lydia's sister; Nellie is probably Mary's daughter.

#28 -- Three women standing outside the home of the Dow family in Malta Bend, Missouri, n.d.

#29 -- The Weidner family dog, ca. 1907.

#30 -- Paul Weidner in front of the Weidner home on South Clay Street in Frankfort, ca. 1907.

#31 -- Herman and Manly Rothenberger seated on a porch, ca. 1908.

#32 -- Gathered on the porch are Manly Rothenberger (in back), Edith Rothenberger, Carrie Rothenberger Ruch, Lydia Weidner, Harrison Rothenberger, Herman Rothenberger, Carrie's husband, Paul Weidner, Carrie's son, and Inez Rothenberger, ca. 1908.

#33 -- Lydia Weidner on the porch at her South Clay Street home in Frankfort, ca. 1908.

#34 -- Lydia Weidner with two neighbor friends, ca. 1908 or 1909.

#35 -- Paul Weidner with his "first (and only) bicycle," 1909.

#36 -- Lydia Weidner with a broom, outdoors, 1909.
#37 -- Paul Weidner with school friend Reed Sterling, ca. 1909.  
#38 -- Cyanotype of Albert and Lydia Weidner, ca. 1909.  
#39 -- Albert Weidner, ca. 1909. [out of focus]  
#40 -- Lydia Weidner, ca. 1909.  
#41 -- Cyanotype of Bess Grover and Lydia Weidner (sisters), n.d. [out of focus]  
#42 -- Hershel Bryant (friend of Paul Weidner from the days living on Washington Avenue), n.d.  
#43 -- [Lydia Weidner] with dog, n.d.  
#44 -- [Paul Weidner] with dog, n.d.  
#45 -- [Albert Weidner] with dog, n.d.  
#46 -- The Weidner family with friends on a camping trip. They are posed in front of tents and many are holding objects such as tennis racquets, axes, baseball bats, a rake, a fishing rod, etc. In addition to Albert, Lydia, and Paul Weidner are the Thrasher, Ackerley, Johnson, MacMurray, and Norris families on the farm of Uncle Dan Karb, halfway between Frankfort and Mulberry, summer 1908.  
#47 -- Paul Weidner and two other boys by Wildcat Creek near the Karb campsite, ca. 1908. Photo by Albert Weidner.  
#48 -- Lydia Weidner [out of focus] seated outside a tent, summer 1909.  
#49 -- Two women, a man, and three boys standing on a bluff at the edge of the woods, n.d.  
#50 -- Albert Weidner standing by a tree, n.d.  
#51 -- Paul Weidner carrying milk pail, n.d.  
#52 -- Albert Weidner holding a stick, n.d.
#53 -- Three women and two boys [appears to include Lydia and Paul Weidner], "during a picnic with the Ackerleys, at Uncle Dan Karb's," ca. 1908.

#54 -- Lydia Weidner [third from left] with her friends, Mrs. Ackerley, Mrs. Norris, and Mrs. Thrasher, n.d.

#55 -- The Wabash River, near Lafayette, n.d.

#56 -- The Wabash River, near Lafayette, n.d.

#57 -- Rear of the house where the Weidner family lived upon moving to Mulberry, 1910.

#58 -- Paul Weidner and dog, 1910.

#59 -- Paul Weidner writing at the "chair-board" in which he is seated by a bookcase, winter 1911–1912.

#60 -- Lydia Weidner and three of her Frankfort friends: Mrs. Wilcoxen, Mrs. Ackerley, and Mrs. MacMurray, n.d.

#61 -- Albert Weidner reading the newspaper, n.d.

#62 -- Lydia Weidner seated on the steps at the rear of the house in Mulberry, ca. 1910 or 1911.

#63 -- Lydia Weidner and three of her Frankfort friends looking out a window: Mrs. Wilcoxen, Mrs. Ackerley, and Mrs. MacMurray, n.d.

#64 -- [Albert and Lydia Weidner?] by a lake near Valparaiso University, summer 1914.

#65 -- [Albert Weidner?] by lake near Valparaiso University, summer 1914.

#66 -- [Paul and Lydia Weidner?] by lake near Valparaiso University, summer 1914.

#67 -- [Lydia Weidner] in front of the family home on the western edge of Mulberry, 1914 or 1915.

#68 -- The front of the Weidner family's house on the western edge of Mulberry [with Lydia Weidner on the porch], 1914 or 1915.
#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/eozwhfyisiyv_/mulberry-indiana/]

#70 -- Paul Weidner and others in Company D, 22nd Engineers, Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, 1917.

#71 -- Paul Weidner in uniform following his discharge, July 1919. Photo by Lydia Weidner.

#72 -- Paul Weidner in uniform following his discharge, July 1919. Photo by Lydia Weidner.

#73 -- Paul Weidner in uniform following his discharge, July 1919. Photo by Lydia Weidner.

#74 -- Albert Weidner in front of house, 1918.

#75 -- Joseph and Sarah Weidner seated on a porch, 1918.

#76 -- Lydia Weidner in the yard, 1918.

#77 -- Lydia Weidner by porch, 1918.

#78 -- Elizabeth "Bess" Grover and her daughter Merry, taken in Canada, ca. 1918–1919.

#79 -- Group of six. In front, left to right: Oliver Maxson, Jasper Maxson (uncles of Lydia Weidner). In back: Lydia Weidner, two unidentified women, Lena Lily (niece of Jasper Maxson), n.d.

#80 -- Building in Mulberry that housed a bakery owned by Vorhees Bryan, where Paul Weidner worked during his last year of high school, n.d.

#81 -- Exterior of house where Albert and Lydia Weidner lived in 1917–1918.

#82 -- The front of the Weidner family's house on the western edge of Mulberry, ca. 1914–1915 (same house as in pictures #68 and #69).
#83 -- The house where Albert and Lydia Weidner last lived as seen from the side yard, n.d.  

#84 -- The center of the village of Mulberry as seen from the window of the Bryan bakery (shown in #80), n.d.  

#85 -- Six people sitting on a blanket on the ground -- picnic with the Weidners and their friends, the Gables and the Osterdays, late summer 1919.  

#86 -- A street and railroad crossing in Mulberry, n.d.  

#87 -- Albert Weidner and Fred Osterday in Fred's woods near Mulberry, ca. 1918.  

#88 -- [Albert Weidner] in his yard, ca. 1923–1924.  

#89 -- [Paul Weidner] in front of the house where his parents last lived, ca. 1923–1924.  

#90 -- [Albert Weidner?] outside of the house where he last lived, ca. 1923–1924.  

#91 -- [Paul Weidner] standing beside a tent in the yard where his parents last lived, ca. 1923–1924.  

#92 -- [Lydia Weidner] standing beside a tent in the yard where she last lived, ca. 1923–1924.  

#93 -- [Albert and Lydia Weidner] standing in front of the house where they last lived, ca. 1923–1924.  

#94 -- [Lydia Weidner] standing in the yard where she last lived, ca. 1923–1924.  

#95 -- Lydia Weidner standing in the yard where she last lived, ca. 1923–1924. This is believed to be the last photo taken of Lydia Weidner.  

#96 -- Oswell Weidner in front of the store he owned with Albert Weidner in Mulberry, ca. 1910.  

#97 -- Fred Osterday and Albert Weidner unload dirt on a lot owned by Albert Weidner on the western edge of Mulberry, n.d.
Series 2: Weidner, Maxson, and Eldridge Family History Information

CONTENTS

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

CONTAINER

Album Storage, PAB
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.