

Collection #
P 0194

**JOHN C. RUGENSTEIN
PHOTOGRAPHS, CA. 1880S–CA. 1930, N.D.**

[Collection Information](#)

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[Series Contents](#)

Processed by

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April 2016

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 half size box of photographs
1 OVA photograph box
2 OVB photograph boxes
1 Cirkut photograph

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1880s–ca. 1930

PROVENANCE: John C. Rugenstein, Indianapolis, date unknown, and 1963

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 0000.1250, 1963.0058, 1963.0075

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

John C. Rugenstein was a collector specializing in memorabilia relating to Wendell Willkie and Kin Hubbard. His parents, Charles and Dora Rugenstein, emigrated from Germany in the spring of 1883 and settled in Indianapolis where John was born, January 9, 1889.

According to census and marriage records John married Florina Elizabeth Charlotte Meyer on June 1, 1910 and the couple had two children. John attended school no farther than the 8th grade but by the 1920s was a credit manager for the *Indianapolis News* and Vice President of the Indianapolis Association of Credit Men.

By the 1940s John was retired and the couple lived on Brill Street on the south side of Indianapolis. It was during these later years that he became a collector and contributed various historic items to the Indiana Historical Society Library.

One noted company photograph in the collection, the McCray Company, was founded in Kendallville, Indiana by Elmer E. McCray. He and his father built a cold storage room in 1882 and received a patent for their invention. McCray specialized in Wooden Ice Display Cases. The company continues today in the refrigeration business as Howard-McCray.

Sources:

Ancestry.com

www.howardmccray.com/aboutUs.html

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of various photographs collected by John C. Rugenstein and donated to the Indiana Historical Society Library. The processor wrote a brief description for each image and arranged them into the following series:

Series 1: Indiana Businesses; grocers, shopkeepers, deliverymen, and automobiles

Series 2: Indiana People and Places; noted Indiana opera singer and actress Grace Van Studdiford (1873–1927), Indianapolis policeman Charles Hillman directing traffic, parades and people on the Circle, choral groups, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Series 3: Unidentified People and Places; there are family scenes, businessmen, store interiors, and a church altar

Series 4: Non-Indiana People and Places; photographs from Ohio, Colorado, and Georgia.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Indiana Businesses, 1889–ca. 1900, n.d.

CONTENTS

J.B. Coffman, 1735 Hoyt Ave.
[two men with horse drawn wagon with oil and gasoline for sale, cabinet card]

"O.F. McGinnis" stamped on verso
[men seated in front of cigar store]

"Melrose Meat Market"
[man standing in front of store]

"Robert Keller store at corner of S. East and Coburn Streets, Jan. 10, 1889"
[written on verso by Rugenstein]

McCray Co. Kendallville, Ind.
[store interior with three men and one woman with an ice display case]

H. Louis Vollrath Grocery and Meat Market,
Morris St. Liquor House
[125 W. Morris Street, Indianapolis,
two views of store exterior]

Gibson Automobile Co., Indianapolis
[man seated in automobile in front of the building]

Century Biscuit Co. Indianapolis
[three men with a delivery truck]

White Star Laundry Co. 1701-1705 E. Michigan St.,
[ca. 1900]

Dr. G.W. Willeford Office
L.A. Crim's Music Room
L.A. Crim's Drug Store
[Hyatt House building with storefronts, possibly in Washington, Indiana, Daviess, County, ca. 1900]

CONTAINER

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

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OVA Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

OVA Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 2

Series 2: Indiana People and Places, ca. 1890–ca.1930, n.d.

CONTENTS

Grace Van Studdiford (1873–1927)
[autographed portrait of Indiana opera singer and actress, processor included bio in folder with photo, ca. 1890]

[German Haus choral group on stage, men in white sailor uniforms, Harry A. Porter standing at front of choir, the director of group activities. On stage with choir is Grace Van Studdiford, ca. 1890, taken from note on verso]

[Turnverein Parade on Monument Circle, ca. 1905]
photo by Charles F. Bretzman

[six motorized bicycles on Monument Circle, ca. 1910]

[Indianapolis policeman Charles Hillman standing beside a traffic signal on Virginia Avenue]
June 7, 1918, Bass number: 63392-F

[1920s automobile in front of English's Opera House]

Caption: "A. A. C. of W. Indianapolis, June 6-10, 1920"

Description:

[Associated Advertising Clubs of the World convention group, men and women on Monument Circle wearing "We Expect You in Atlanta" badges]

Size: 15x51 inches

Photographer: Moorefield

[Harvest Festival, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, n.d.]

[orchestra on stage at the Cadle Tabernacle, ca. 1930]

"Office of the Night Editor, No. 6"

"Office of the Telegraph Editor, No. 14"

[two men seated at desks in offices]

CONTAINER

OVA Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 3

OVB Photographs:
Box 2, Folder 2

OVA Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 4

OVA Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 5

OVB Photographs:
Box 1

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 2

Panoramic Photographs:
Hanging Storage: Folder 1

Scanned Image Number:
PAN0759

OVA Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 6

OVB Photographs:
Box 2, Folder 1

OVA Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 8

Series 3: Unidentified People and Places, ca. 1900

CONTENTS

[two women and two young girls standing on a porch, ca. 1900]

[three photos of two wood frame houses next to each other, both with picket fences, women and children in front yards. One house has an address of 28, the other house address is obscured by trees]

[two men seated in an early automobile]

[family standing in front of house, father, mother, three children, dog, grandparents are seated in chairs]

[wood frame house with picket fence, woman and girl with doll standing in front]

[family scene in a parlor, man and woman seated, woman and boy at the piano, baby in walker]

[dry goods store interior with men and women standing and sitting in the center aisle]

[meat market interior, man standing behind the counter, "Oysters" sign on glass case]

[meat market exterior view, 467 is the address, no name or street, man and two girls standing in front]

[interior view of a business with three men, possibly a bank]

[interior view of church altar]

[five business men in an office, ca. 1900]

[three men in a drug store]

CONTAINER

Photographs:
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OVA Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 7

OVA Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 9

Series 3: Non Indiana People and Places, ca. 1880s–1927, n.d.

CONTENTS

"Chattanooga, Colo. July 1883" [written on verso]
[men with mules and wagons lined up in the street]

"The Flood of 1884, published by J. Landy,
...Cincinnati and vicinity..."
[businesses of Koehler, M. Kreidler, and T.
MacNamara & Co. George Baker, photo mounted on
card, with people in boats in the street]

Riddle Coach & Hearse Co. Ravenna, Ohio
[cabinet card and photo of carriages]

[eight wheeled steam engine, No. 152 with three cars,
ca. 1880s]

"The President's Special Train for Louisville, Ky. The
delegates to Miami National Convention of Real Estators.
Taken on Railway Station Steps in Savannah, Ga. Jan. 9th
1927" [written on verso]

[interior of a drug store]
photograph taken by J.L. Spohn, Cincinnati, Ohio

CONTAINER

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 4

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 4

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 4

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 4

OVB Photographs:
Box 2, Folder 1

OVA Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 10