

Collection #  
P 0127

**KERZ FAMILY  
PHOTOGRAPHS, 1895–CA. 1910**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 box of OVA size photographs

COLLECTION DATES: 1895–ca. 1910

PROVENANCE: Elvira Kerz, via her niece Mrs. Fred Hill, Indianapolis, date unknown

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 0000.0601

NOTES:

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Nickolas Kerz (1845–1907) immigrated from Germany in 1869. He settled in Indianapolis and married another German immigrant, Philippina Bernd (1852–1919) in November 1874. The couple had seven children; Katie, Phillip, Annie, Sadie, the twins Lillie and Tillie, and the youngest Elvira.

According to the Indianapolis City Directories, Kerz had several jobs and eventually opened a grocery store on the west side of Indianapolis at 502 Patterson Street. Named the Nick Kerz Company, it was a family operation and when Mr. Kerz died in 1907 all of the children except the youngest worked at the store and continued to operate it for forty years after his death.

The youngest daughter and donor of this collection, Elvira graduated from Shortridge High School, took business courses and in 1913 began working at the Indiana State "Legislature and Administrative Bureau" as a typist. She retired after 42 years in February 1958 as the Research Administrator of the Indiana State Legislative Reference Bureau. At that time she had the longest tenure for a female serving in Indiana's government and had served under twelve governors.

One daughter, Annie, married a Paul Ulrich in January 1905. The 1930 and 1940 census records show them living at 3519 Winthrop with their children. It must have been a close family as the other Kerz daughters remained single and lived at the same address.

School 4, Mary E. Cable School was on the north east corner of West Michigan and North Blackford Ave.

School 7, Thomas Jefferson School was on the north side of East Bates Street.

Some of the people identified in the photographs were found in city directories:

Irma E. Foerster: a music teacher located at 813 West New York Street, 1904

Cora M. Halsey: a teacher boarding on Huron Street in 1902, later living at 2118 N. New Jersey, and teaching at Shortridge High School in 1912.

Nina E. Schmidt: in 1905 was a stenographer boarding at 1015 N. Alabama, by 1916 she was a secretary at the Board of Park Commissioners.

Gertrude Schulmeyer: in 1918 a clerk at Columbia Grocery, renting at 1507 N. Alabama.

Nina Schmidt: in 1900 was a telephone operator living at 1009 N. Alabama.

Sources:

Ancestry.com

*Indianapolis Star*, "They Achieve," January 5, 1947, page 63

*Indianapolis Star*, "Miss Kerz Retires After 42-Year Career With Legislative Bureau,"  
Feb. 4, 1958, page 17

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection is comprised of photographs of Kerz family and friends, and school groups.

Folder 1: Contains group photographs with images of the twins Lillie and Tillie Kerz. They appear in the 1895 kindergarten class at School 7; three copies of Irma Foerster's music class picnic; and what looks like Lillie and Tillie's 8th grade graduation picture with the teacher and every student listed on the verso.

Folder 2: There are two eighth grade group photographs at School 4. The twins are not in these images and it is assumed that other Kerz children are in these groups. No names are written on these photos.

Folder 3: Contains a variety of images, a family group in "Uncle Dan's Yard," a portrait of a young woman named Anna Craig, and four photographs and one postcard mounted on a board with people in swim suits in Atlantic City.

The last photograph in this folder shows a group of people at a picnic in Turner Park. Most likely this was German park in Indianapolis frequented by members of the Kerz family. Most of the individuals are named on the verso. The ones without last names are assumed to be adult Kerz daughters and son-in-law Paul Ulrich, as those with only first names listed match Kerz and Ulrich family members. The processor transcribed the names in the Contents section of the collection guide.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

[two lists with student names, Lillie and Tillie are on the list]

"No. 7 Kindergarten, Indpls. [???'95"  
[School No. 7, kindergarten class with twins Lillie and Tillie Kerz seated in the second row, they are dressed alike wearing capes and knitted caps]

"Irma Foerster's Music Class Picnic"  
[group of children and women at a park, twins Lilley and Tillie Kerz dressed alike are in the middle of the group, other Kerz children may be in the group. ca. 1900, 2 views, 3 photos]

[class photo, school unknown, names of students are written on verso, the teacher was Cora Halsey, Lillie and Tillie Kerz are in the third row, fourth from the left and second from the right, ca. 1903]

"No. 4 Graduation Class"  
[School No. 4, 8th grade group with teachers]

"8 A Class of Jan. 1910"  
[students and teachers, School No. 4]

"In Uncle Dan's Yard"  
[family group of adults and children seated outside]

"Anna Craig"  
[portrait of young woman wearing a frilly hat]

"Atlantic City 1910"  
[men and women in swimsuits at the beach, 4 photos and one postcard]

### CONTAINER

OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 1

OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 1

OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 1

OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 1

OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 2

OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 2

OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 3

OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 3

OVA Photographs:  
Box 1, Folder 3

"Sunday at Turner Park"

Nina Schmidt

Anne [Annie Kerz Ulrich]

Lena Zabel Peters

Gertrude Schulmeyer

Paul [Ulrich]

Elizabeth Schmidt Lehman

Kate [Kathryn Kerz]

Sade [Sadie Kerz]

[one man and nine women at a picnic table,  
names written on verso, ca. 1910]

OVA Photographs:

Box 1, Folder 3