

Collection #  
P 0527

**ROBERTS-COURTNEY-HODGSON-GAISFORD FAMILY  
PHOTOGRAPHS  
CA. 1870S–1915**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 38 photographs, 1 memorial card, 1 souvenir postcard

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1870s–1915

PROVENANCE: Gift from Mr. Lynn Edwin Jones of Orinda, California, in February 2006

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Eva Courtney Roberts Papers (M 0856)

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2006.0187

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

George Washington Roberts (born 3 March 1834) and Orisa Almira Stetson (sometimes written as Orisa [or various misspellings] Almira Stutson) (born 24 July 1834 in Ohio) married 21 September 1854. They had four children: Mary Louisa (died 23 November 1857, age 2), Alice A. (born December 1857), William J. (born 1862), and Eva Martha (born 30 August 1867 or 1868). The family lived in Williamsburg in Wayne County, Indiana. George lived in Williamsburg his entire life except for when he served in the Civil War in the 69th Indiana Infantry, Company E, from 3 August 1862 until he was discharged as a sergeant on 5 July 1865. At the time of the 1870 census, George worked as a plasterer and his father-in-law, John D. Stetson (born ca. 1788 in Rhode Island or Vermont) lived with the family and worked as a cooper (barrel maker). In 1880 both George and William worked as plasterers. Orisa died 30 October 1894. By 1900, the two older children had left the home; George still worked as a plasterer and his daughter Eva, who still lived with him, was a schoolteacher. George remarried on 6 September 1902 to Mary E. Ball. George died 10 March 1913 and was buried in Mount Zion Cemetery in Williamsburg. (See M 0856, box 1, folder 4, for Roberts and Stetson family history.)

Eva Martha Roberts married Cyrus Betts Courtney on 16 June 1901 in Wayne County. Cyrus was born 20 August 1853, and at the time of the 1860 census he was the second youngest of nine children living with their parents, William and Mahala Courtney, farmers in Manchester, Dearborn County, Indiana. William was born ca. 1815 in Kentucky; Mahala was born March 1820 in Indiana. The Courtney family moved to Randolph County by 1870, where William continued as a farmer. By the time of the 1880 census, Cyrus was the only one still living with the parents and he was working as a farmer also. William died 14 June 1897, so by 1900 the only ones left in the household were Mahala and Cyrus, and he had become a real estate agent. Mahala died 2 May 1912 in Muncie, Indiana. (See M 0856, box 1, folder 3, for Courtney family history.)

Cyrus and Eva Courtney had one child, George William, born 20 November 1905. By 1910 they were living in Winchester in Randolph County, Indiana. For many years, Eva served in various capacities, including Department President of Indiana, in the Woman's Relief Corps, an auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic (see Eva Courtney Roberts Papers, M 0856). Cyrus died 18 February 1934, and Eva died in 1956. They are buried in Fountain Park Cemetery in Winchester. George W. Courtney became an architect and at the time of the 1940 census he was living with his widowed mother. He married Fatima Jameson (1916–2006). George died 7 October 1985 in Santa Clara County, California, and is buried there in Mission City Memorial Park.

William Jasper Roberts married Malinda "May" J. Thornburg (born May 1866) on 10 September 1890 in Randolph County, Indiana. He was working as a teacher and they were living in Williamsburg, Indiana, in 1900. They adopted a daughter, Ruth, who was born ca. 1907 in Indiana. At the time of the 1910 census the family lived in Jay County, Indiana, and had two servants living with them, including Grace Marsh. William and Malinda were both working as teachers by then. By 1920 they had moved to Malheur County, Oregon, and were both public school teachers. Grace Marsh still lived with them as a housekeeper. By 1930 daughter Ruth was no longer in the household. Grace Marsh was still their live-in housekeeper, William and Malinda were still public school teachers, and they had three boarders who also were public school teachers. Malinda J. Roberts died 2 October 1954 in Malheur County, Oregon. (There is a real photo postcard of people outside a building with "Will's school" written on back in M 0856, photograph box 1, folder 3).

Alice Alwilda Roberts married Isaac Hodgson (1860–1924) on 17 December 1884 in Williamsburg, Indiana. Their children were George Anna (sometimes listed as Georgia) (born 24 October 1885 or 1886) and Clarence (born October 1891). They lived in Randolph County, Indiana. The 1910 census lists Georgia as a music teacher. The 1920 census lists the daughter as "A. George" and shows that she is a schoolteacher. The 1930 census shows George Anna Hodgson, a public school teacher, living in Fort Wayne, Indiana, with her widowed mother, Alice A. Hodgson, and three lodgers, two of whom are also listed as public schoolteachers. By 1940 George Anna is still teaching and living with just one of the lodgers. George Anna Hodgson died in April 1967 and is buried in Fountain Park Cemetery in Winchester, Indiana.

Adelia Courtney was the sister of Cyrus B. Courtney. She was born 14 February 1844 and married Benjamin C. Gaisford on 18 February 1868 in Dearborn County, Indiana. Benjamin was born December 1844 in England. Adelia and Benjamin had ten children, most born in Indiana, including: Ulysses (1865–1902), Vida H. (1870–1885), Cecil C. (b. ca. 1872), George Alton (1873–1949), Sarah M. (b. ca. 1875), Cora D. (b. ca. 1877), Arthur D. (1878–1917), and Benjamin "Bennie" Washington (born 12 May 1888 in WaKenney, Kansas). The family lived in Kansas by 1880, and in Puyallup, Washington, by 1892. Adelia died 28 May 1923 in Pierce County, Washington, and is buried there in Sumner Cemetery with her husband, who died 11 August 1924. Their son, Benjamin Washington Gaisford, died 15 December 1943 in Seattle.

Linus P. Taylor, born ca. 1822 in Ohio, was a physician and a neighbor to the Roberts family in Williamsburg, Indiana. He later lived in Toledo, Ohio, and died in 1892. Eva's birth date is written on the back of his portrait in this collection.

There are two postcards sent from Tamora, Nebraska, addressed to Eva Courtney with the greeting of "Dear Auntie" from someone named Martha who apparently worked as a nurse. It has not been determined exactly how Martha was related to Eva.

### Sources:

Items in the collection.

Correspondence from the donor, 30 July 2002.

Eva Roberts Courtney Papers. Held at the Indiana Historical Society. M 0856, Box 1, folders 3 and 4.

California Death Index, 1940–1997 (<http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 14 November 2013.

Find a Grave (<http://www.findagrave.com>). Accessed 14 November 2013.

Indiana Deaths, 1882–1920 (<http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 14 November 2013.

Indiana, Marriage Collection, 1800–1941 (<http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 14 November 2013.

*Portrait and Biographical Record of City of Toledo and Lucas and Wood Counties, Ohio*. Chapman publishing Company, 1895, p. 373 (<http://books.google.com>). Accessed 14 November 2013.

U.S. Census, 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940 (<http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 14 November 2013.

Washington State and Territorial Censuses, 1857–1892 (<http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 14 November 2013.

Washington State Death Records, 1883–1960 (<http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>). Accessed 14 November 2013.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of 38 photographs of the Roberts, Courtney, Hodgson, and Gaisford families and their associates (2 are duplicates), one memorial card for William Courtney (ca. 1815–1897), and one souvenir postcard from the Panama–Pacific Exposition in San Francisco in 1915. Some of the family photographs are real photo postcards that have messages written from one family member to another. The donor of this collection was in contact with George Courtney; it is believed that the items in this collection may have once belonged to him and previously to his mother, Eva Roberts Courtney. The collection is arranged in seven series, as follows:

**Series 1** includes photos of Eva Roberts, her husband Cyrus B. Courtney, and their son George. There is also a portrait of Dr. Linus P. Taylor, a physician who was a neighbor to the Roberts family; Eva's name and birth date is written on the back. There are also two copies of a postcard of a commercial building in Montpelier, Blackford County, Indiana; one is address to C.B. Courtney.

**Series 2** is a real photo postcard with an image of William J. Roberts sent by his daughter Ruth to her cousin George Courtney.

**Series 3** is composed of photos of Alice Roberts Hodgson and her daughter George Anna.

**Series 4** is comprised of photos of various members of the Eva Courtney, Alice Hodgson, and William Roberts families together.

**Series 5** includes photos of Adelia Courtney, her husband Benjamin Gaisford, their son Bennie, and what is likely their house in Puyallup, Washington.

**Series 6** is composed of items believed to relate to the parents of Cyrus and Adelia Courtney. A portrait identified as "Grandmother Courtney" is likely Mahala Courtney, and there is a memorial card for her husband William Courtney.

**Series 7** consists of photographs of or pertaining to various unidentified or partially identified people. At least one might include George Anna Hodgson. There are two postcards written by a Martha in Tamora, Nebraska, who addresses Eva Roberts Courtney as her aunt. Written on the back of one photograph is a reference to "Johnithan Roberts school house" in Richmond, Indiana. There is also a souvenir postcard from the 1915 Panama–Pacific Exposition in San Francisco.

## SERIES CONTENTS

### Series 1: Eva Roberts & Cyrus Courtney Family

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Portrait of Eva Roberts as a child. Matted tintype [1870s].	Box 1, Folder 1
Portrait of Eva Roberts. CDV photo by Chicago Art Gallery, Richmond, Ind. "Eva Martha Roberts Courtney 1880" is written on back [would have been written much later than 1880].	Box 1, Folder 1
Portrait of Eva Roberts (Courtney) as a young woman. Mounted photograph by Eppert & Son [Terre Haute photographers].	Box 1, Folder 1
Portrait of Eva Roberts (Courtney). Cabinet card photo by Stigleman Bros., Richmond, Ind. Written on back: "Eva Roberts" with "Williamsburg Ind." crossed out; "Mrs. Eva Courtney / Department President W.R.C." and "Please do not run on Sunday & cut out sleeves" [likely instructions for printing in newspaper].	Box 1, Folder 1
Portrait of Eva Roberts Courtney as an older woman. Photo by Goodlander Sisters [Muncie photographers].	Box 1, Folder 1
Portrait of Cyrus and Eva Courtney. Mounted photo by Pierce of Winchester, Ind.	Box 1, Folder 1
George Courtney as a baby, at piano [ca. 1906].	Box 1, Folder 1
Portrait of Cyrus, Eva, and George Courtney. Real photo postcard [ca. 1913]. [2 copies]	Box 1, Folder 1
Portrait of Cyrus Courtney as an older man.	Box 1, Folder 1
Brick building with the name "Mayer" on it housing grocery and clothing stores with people standing outside in front of it. Real photo postcard, 2 copies. One copy has "Montpelier [Blackford County] property" written on the back and is addressed to C.B. Courtney, Winchester, Ind., but is not stamped for mailing.	Box 1, Folder 1

Portrait of Dr. Linus P. Taylor. Written on back is Eva Roberts' date of birth.

Box 1, Folder 1

## **Series 2: William J. Roberts Family**

### CONTENTS

### CONTAINER

William J. Roberts seated outside a building with cats and chickens. Real photo postcard mailed to George W. Courtney in Winchester, Ind., from his cousin Ruth M. Roberts, postmarked from Ontario, Oregon, on 6 September 1913. She writes about going to her father's school until hers starts in October.

Box 1, Folder 2

## **Series 3: Alice Roberts & Isaac Hodgson Family**

### CONTENTS

### CONTAINER

Portrait of Alice Roberts (Hodgson), 26 September 1883. CDV photo by Palmiter & Warrant, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Box 1, Folder 3

Woman on a horse, possibly George Anna Hodgson. Real photo postcard mailed to George Courtney in Winchester, Ind. Postmarked from Oregon, date unreadable. Message written by "Geo H."

Box 1, Folder 3

Alice and George Anna Hodgson standing in a garden. Real photo postcard with "Allie / Georgie" written on back. [ca. 1910s]

Box 1, Folder 3

Alice Roberts Hodgson standing on a porch step outside of a house. Real photo postcard with "Allie" written on back. [ca. 1910s]

Box 1, Folder 3

## **Series 4: Courtney, Hodgson, and Roberts Families Together**

### CONTENTS

### CONTAINER

Alice Roberts Hodgson and Eva Roberts Courtney.

Box 1, Folder 4

Cousins Ruth Roberts and George Courtney standing on the porch at 612 W. Washington Street, Winchester, Indiana (the Courtney home) [ca. 1912].

Box 1, Folder 4

Eva Roberts Courtney, son George Courtney, and Ruth Roberts standing on the porch at 612 W. Washington Street, Winchester, Ind. [ca. 1912].

Box 1, Folder 4

Cousins Ruth Roberts and George Courtney by the Courtney home in Winchester, Ind. [ca. 1912].

Box 1, Folder 4

George Anna Hodgson. Real photo postcard sent to George Courtney in Winchester, Ind., from his cousin George Anna, postmarked from Ontario, Oregon, 18 September 1913. She writes: "I have a school so my address is Vale Oregon...." She also refers to their mutual cousin Ruth going to school with her father, Will Roberts, until her mother's school begins. She also writes that "Uncle Ike" [her father, Isaac Hodgson] was irrigating and caused a flood, and that her parents would be leaving soon.

Box 1, Folder 4

Malinda "May" Thornburg Roberts shoveling away flood water. Real photo postcard with writing on the back presumably by George Anna Hodgson, but not addressed to anyone. She writes: "Pa had a runaway with the water one day when he was irrigating & it flooded the yard. So Aunt May is trying to take care of it...." It appears that the Hodgsons were visiting the Roberts family in Oregon in September 1913, and George Anna stayed there to teach (see postcard immediately above).

Box 1, Folder 4

A woman, a girl about six years old, and a man standing outside of a house. The girl is possibly Ruth Roberts, and the adults could be her parents. Real photo postcard with "Afterward" written on back; not addressed to anyone [ca. 1913].

Box 1, Folder 4

Standing as a group outdoors: Eva, Cyrus, and George Courtney; "Georgie" [George Anna Hodgson]; Will, May, and Ruth Roberts. Real photo postcard [ca. 1915].

Box 1, Folder 4

Will Roberts and Eva Roberts Courtney standing outdoors. Real photo postcard [ca. 1915].

Box 1, Folder 4

Three women, two girls, a boy, and a man by a huge boulder.

Box 1, Folder 4



## **Series 5: Adelia Courtney & Benjamin Gaisford Family**

### CONTENTS

Portrait of Adelia Courtney Gaisford. Mounted photo by Gem Studio (Tacoma, Washington photographers) [ca. 1880s].

### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 5

Portrait of Benjamin Gaisford and son Bennie. Mounted photo by E.A. Lynn (Tacoma, Washington) [ca. 1900].

Box 1, Folder 5

Exterior view of a house in Puyallup, Washington, n.d.

Box 1, Folder 5

## **Series 6: William & Mahala Courtney**

### CONTENTS

Portrait with "Grandmother Courtney age 91" written on back, likely Mahala Courtney [ca. 1911]. Mounted oval-cut photograph.

### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 6

Memorial card (cabinet card) for William Courtney, 14 June 1897.

Box 1, Folder 6

## **Series 7: Unidentified or Partially Identified and Other**

### CONTENTS

Three young women and two young men outside of a building. Written on back: "Alma, myself, Miss Mather (a friend), Ernest & Emma's friend stands behind Ernest on the left."

### CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 7

Two young women standing outside a building.

Box 1, Folder 7

Group of nine children and a teacher (might be George Anna Hodgson) standing outside a building. Real photo postcard. Written on back: "A part of my school I have 4 more now."

Box 1, Folder 7

Two men, a boy, and three women sitting outside a log building. Real photo postcard. Written on back: "Johnnithan Roberts school house Richmond, Ind."

Box 1, Folder 7

Two men and three women standing outside a house. Real photo postcard mailed from Tamora, Nebraska, to Eva Courtney in Winchester, Ind., [1902?]. The greeting is "Dear Auntie" and it is signed "Martha."

Box 1, Folder 7

Woman, child, and dog by the porch of a large house identified as Hotel Sutton, Tamora, Nebraska. Written below is "Martha's home." Real photo postcard mailed from Tamora, Nebraska, on 5 November 1909 to Eva Courtney in Winchester, Ind. Greeting is "Dear Aunt" and it is signed "Martha."

Box 1, Folder 7

Postcard with a color illustration of a giant Underwood typewriter at the Panama–Pacific Exposition, San Francisco, California, 1915. No message written and not mailed.

Box 1, Folder 7

## 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 0527).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.