

Collection #
P0235

WAVERLEY COMPANY PHOTOGRAPHS, 1908–1916

[Collection Information](#)

[Historical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

[Cataloging Information](#)

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box of photographs
COLLECTION DATES:	1908–1916
PROVENANCE:	Dwight Shipley, Grove City, Ohio

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: Waverley Company Catalogs in Printed Collections

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1969.0812

NOTES:

HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Waverley Company produced electric cars in Indianapolis from 1898 to 1916. Originally a bicycle company, it was consolidated with the American Electric Vehicle Company in 1898. The bicycle company had been part of the "bicycle trust" created by Albert Pope and the electric cars would be produced through his company as he became interested in automobiles as well.

In 1904, as part of a company wide name change, the Waverley automobiles were renamed Pope-Waverley automobiles. The move coincided with other name changes within the Pope Company like the Pope-Hartford, Pope-Toledo, and Pope-Tribune. The Pope-Waverley Company continued to manufacture electric automobiles until 1908, when the company was struck with a financial crisis. The Pope Company sold off the Waverley department in Indianapolis to several local businessmen in September 1908. The company continued to run as the Waverley Company from 1909 until the company's closing around 1916.

Waverley automobiles were known for their luxury and beauty. The company promoted their luxury and even used British names for its vehicles. Another aspect that was promoted was how quiet the vehicles were, even using the "silent Waverley electrics" as their ad campaign. Some of the more popular models sold by Waverley were: the Silent Waverley Runabout, Stanhope, Surrey, Surrey, Coupe, and the Brougham. Perhaps the Waverley Company's most famous customers in Indiana were General Lew Wallace, who bought a Model 20a Surrey in 1902, and Madam C.J. Walker.

Sources:

Bodenhamer, David J., and Robert G. Barrows. *The Encyclopedia of Indianapolis*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1994.

Indiana Historic Preservation Commission. *Indianapolis-Marion County Automobile Industry, 1890-1940: Historic Context Study & Property-Type Analysis*. The Commission. Indianapolis, IN. 1990.

International Motor Car Company: Waverley Department. *Waverley Electric Vehicles*. The Company: Levy. Indianapolis, IN. 1905.

Kimes, Beverly Rae. *Standard Catalog of American Cars 1805-1942*. Krause Publications. Iola, WI. 1985

Waverley Company. *The Silent Waverley Electrics*. Waverley Company. Indianapolis, IN. 1912.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Waverley collection contains 56 black and white photographs of electric automobiles made by the Waverley Automobile Company of Indianapolis, Indiana. A large bulk of the images appears to come from a salesman sample album. The images contained in the collection feature photographs of Waverley trucks, wagons, cars, and interior/exterior designs ranging from 1908 to around 1916.

The collection itself contains images of trucks, delivery wagons, automobiles, details of the chassis, and interior and exterior of Waverley vehicles. There are two copy photographs from the Silent Waverley Electric Year Book 1913 and one schematic drawing of a rear axel assembly. Three photographs show Waverley vehicles parked outside of the Waverley Company building. The collection was accessioned with four catalog pamphlets from 1910, 1912, 1914, and 1916. Those pamphlets can be found in the Printed Collections.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Trucks and delivery vehicles

CONTAINER

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Trucks and delivery vehicles

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 2

Automobiles

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 3

Vehicle interior views

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 4

Vehicles in front of Waverley General Offices

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 5

Chassis views and copy photographs

Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 6

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, P0235).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.