

Collection #  
P 0574

## WILLIAMS FAMILY CARDS AND RECEIPTS, CA. 1890-1920S

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

Processed by

Maire Gurevitz  
November 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](http://www.indianahistory.org)

## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 4 manuscript folders, 1 box of postcards and small greeting cards, 1 PAB album of postcards and greeting cards

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1890-1920s

PROVENANCE: Dr. Hugh L. Williams, Indianapolis, IN

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2002.0799X

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The Williams Family was an old pioneer family in Green Township, Morgan County, Indiana, the original ancestor, Lewis Williams having settled there sometime in the 1820s. Lewis Williams married Mary "Polly" Culton in 1826, and the couple had seven children, one of whom was William Williams, born in 1832. William worked as a farmer and married Ruth Greer on March 10, 1859. The couple had eight children together, one of whom they named Lewis after his grandfather. This is the Lewis Williams (1872-1960) who appears as a correspondent in this postcard collection. Lewis grew up on the Williams farm in Green Township and was educated in the local schools, and upon his high school graduation, he became a teacher. Over the years he taught at Green Township, Johnson County and Martinsville city schools. He also spent some time furthering knowledge of his profession at the Indiana State Normal School in Terre Haute, Indiana, incidentally, during the time when much of the correspondence in this collection takes place. In 1917, Lewis Williams was elected as the County Superintendent of Schools for Morgan County. Lewis was married to Ada Drake (1878-1945), another correspondent in this collection and the daughter of Emma Byers (1854-1882) and Benjamin B. Drake (1847-1920) who were also residents of Green Township, Morgan County. Ada and Lewis married on August 29, 1900 and they had three children, Paul, Emma Ruth, and Hugh. All of the children attended Martinsville schools. Paul (May 25, 1904- October 26, 1985) went on to attend Indiana University, Class of 1927, and then earned his medical degree at City Hospital (now Eskenazi) in Indianapolis and eventually worked in psychiatry. He was married to Lois Truax and they had one daughter, Emma Lee. They eventually settled in Monticello, Indiana. Emma Ruth (November 19, 1908-August 27, 1992) worked for a while at Martinsville High School and then married Uhl Howard Friend in 1932. The couple had one child, Susan, and Emma Ruth also settled in Monticello, Indiana where she worked for a number of years as a laboratory technician. Hugh Williams (1920-2005) also attended Indiana University, but was drafted into the U.S. Navy during World War II. After he came home, he continued his medical training at Marion County General (now Eskenazi) and became an orthopedic surgeon. He was noted for his work with local universities, hockey players at the Indianapolis Coliseum, the Velodrome, and the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

Sources:

*Martinsville Morgan County Gazette*, *Martinsville Republican*, and *Martinsville Democrat* via Newspaperarchive.com

Ancestry.com

"Paul Drake Williams, M.D." in Charles Roll's *Indiana One Hundred and Fifty Years of American Development*, Vol. 3, Lewis Publishing Company, 1931

"Hugh L. Williams" *Indy Star Obituaries* via legacy.com, accessed 16 Nov. 2016

Materials in the collection.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

This collection contains postcards (used and unused), greeting cards, receipts and a few manuscripts. Many of the cards are generic ones associated with birthdays and holidays such as Christmas, Easter, St. Patrick's Day, Valentine's Day and Thanksgiving. However, there are some scenery cards, many from around the Martinsville area, which is where the Williams family resided. These cards have illustrations of such places as the Colonial Sanitarium, Christian Church, Blue Bluffs, Hill House Sanitarium, Martinsville Sanitarium, Barnard Sanitarium, Shady Brook, and Porter's Cave, amongst others. In addition, there some cards featuring other towns like Terre Haute, Lafayette, Trafalgar, Franklin and Greensburg. The correspondence on the postcards reveals small facets of the Williams family's daily life when Paul and Emma Ruth were children. Lewis wrote cards to Paul to make sure he was behaving, going to school, playing nice with his cousin Lawrence, and helping out on the farm. Ada received notes from friends inviting her to social engagements or reporting on family news, as well as notes from her dressmaker figuring out times to come in for fittings. Paul and Emma Ruth received greetings from family members and school friends, reporting on travels, school activities, and Easter egg hunts.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

Correspondence, Ada Williams, n.d.

Correspondence, Paul Williams, n.d.

Notes on English Literature, n.d.

Unused Embellished Birthday Card, n.d.

Unused Postcards Featuring Film Stars, n.d.

Unused Postcards Featuring Scenery from Royal Gorge Colorado, n.d.

Unused Postcards Featuring Scenery from San Antonio Texas, Seattle Washington, California and Kentucky, n.d.

Receipts, Benjamin Drake, 1890-1920

Program, Johnson County Christian Endeavor Union Convention at Bluff Creek, 7 Sept. 1892

Album of Greeting Cards and Postcards Received by Benjamin Drake, ca. 1908-1911

Correspondence, Ada Williams, 1908-1913

Correspondence, Paul Williams, 1908-1913

Unused Postcards Featuring Scenery from Martinsville Indiana, Trafalgar Indiana, Valparaiso University and the Redpath Chautauqua, ca. 1910s

Miscellaneous Small Greeting Cards, ca. 1910s

### CONTAINER

Postcards

Box 1, Folder 1

Postcards

Box 1, Folder 2

Folder 1 of 5

Postcards

Box 1, Folder 3

Postcards

Box 1, Folder 4

Postcards

Box 1, Folder 5

Postcards

Box 1, Folder 6

Folder 2 of 5

Folder 3 of 5

PAB Album Storage

Postcards

Box 1, Folder 7

Postcards

Box 1, Folder 8

Postcards,

Box 1, Folder 9

Postcards,

Box 1, Folder 10

Miscellaneous Unused Postcards, ca. 1910s	Postcards, Box 1, Folder 11
Correspondence, Lewis Williams, ca. 1910-1918	Postcards, Box 1, Folder 12
Unused Cards Featuring Biographies and Records of Boxers, ca. 1910-1920s	Postcards, Box 1, Folder 13
Unused Cards Advertising the Crabbs, Reynolds, and Taylor Company, Crawfordsville, 1913	Postcards, Box 1, Folder 14
Correspondence, Emma Ruth Williams, ca. 1914	Postcards, Box 1, Folder 15
Correspondence, Ada Williams, 1914-1917	Postcards, Box 1, Folder 16
Correspondence, Paul Williams, 1914-1917	Postcards, Box 1, Folder 17
Correspondence, Ada Williams, 1915	Folder 4 of 5
Pamphlet, <i>Harold Bell Wright: A Biography Intimate and Authoritative</i> , 1916	Folder 5 of 5
Correspondence, Lawrence Drake, 1916-1917	Postcards, Box 1, Folder 18