

Joseph L. Skvarenina Image Collection

Repository

Hancock County Public Library
900 West McKenzie Road
Greenfield, IN 46140
Phone: 317-462-5141 ext. 240
Email: reference@hcplibrary.org
Website: <http://www.hcplibrary.org>

Creator

Joseph L. Skvarenina

Title

Joseph L. Skvarenina Image Collection

Extent

2 cubic feet

Language

Materials are in English

Abstract

Joseph Skvarenina served as the Hancock County Historian from 1992-2025. He was involved in various history and service related organizations across the county. His research interest primarily consisted of local history matters, this includes: businesses, churches, local philanthropic organizations, schools, war veterans, the civil rights movement and minority events, recording oral histories, and the World Wars. This collection consists of negatives and prints he has collected.

Access Restrictions

Advance notice is required to view images. The Library does not possess the means to duplicate or digitize images from negatives.

Biographical Note

Joseph Skvarenina received his Bachelor of Science in Education and History and Master of Education degrees from Kent State University. He was employed at the American Cancer Society, the Christian Advocate, Lutheran High School, the National Benevolent Association, Habitat for Humanity, Center for Leadership Development, the Indiana-Kentucky Synod Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Ivy Tech Community College. Mr. Skvarenina wrote a weekly history article for the Greenfield Daily Reporter newspaper, published several books and articles, contributed to the Hancock County Historical Society's "Log Chain" newsletter, and served as Hancock County Historian from 1992 until his death in 2025.

While living in Hancock County, Skvarenina was heavily involved with local history organizations as both a member and officer. They include:

Freetown Village, board member
Greenfield Historic Landmarks, founding member
Hancock County Historical Society, president
Historic Cemetery Commission, member
Indiana National Road Association, board member
Riley Old Home Society, vice president
Shirley Historical Society, board member

For his service to his community, Skvarenina was awarded the key to the City of Greenfield by Mayor Keith J. McClarnon and was recognized by the Indiana General Assembly. He was also awarded the “Distinguished Hoosier” award by Indiana Governor Frank O’Bannon and the 2015 Hubert Hawkins History Award by the Indiana Historical Society.

Joseph Lee Skvarenina died on September 16, 2025 at the age of 77.

Arrangement

The collection is organized into three series: Building and Grounds, Groups, and Individuals.

Scope and Content Note

The collection was given to the library in segments, much without description beyond the content submitted. No discernable original order was noted by either librarian. Therefore the collection was divided into three series of significant breadth. They are as follows.

The *Buildings and Grounds* series contains images of properties. The subject of this series are buildings, grounds, or properties and their exterior or interior and/or events directly related to said property. Examples include but are not limited to: events such as building dedications, anniversaries, demolition, or time capsules; aerials; architectural drawings or sketches; or general photographs of the property. Person(s) may be in the image but as stated images that are classified as “buildings and grounds” the focus should be of the property.

The *Groups* series contains images of persons and/or things. The subject of this series are images with multiple individuals. Examples include but are not limited to: two or more people posing; classroom photos; events like parades, home life, or class reunions; and church groups. Identified buildings and grounds may be in the image but as stated images that are classified as “groups” the focus should be of multiple persons.

The *Individuals* series contains images of a singular person. Examples include but are not limited to: portraits, singular sports action shots, or other posed photographs. Identified buildings and grounds may be in the image but as stated images that are classified as “individuals” should focus on a singular person.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Hancock County Public Library’s online catalog. Materials about related topics, person, or places can be found by searching the catalog using these terms.

Names:
Skvarenina, Joseph.

Subject Term:
Photograph collections

Geographic Term:
Hancock County (Ind.) – Buildings, structures, etc.
Hancock County (Ind.) – Genealogy
Hancock County (Ind.) – History
Greenfield (Ind.) – Commerce.
Greenfield (Ind.) – Buildings, structures, etc.

Separated Material

Removed multiple duplications of materials, photocopies, and some items not related to Hancock County. A great number of these photographs contained no known person, places, or relation to Hancock County. Each image was evaluated and discarded or kept as best seen fit by library staff.

Added Material

Occasionally materials related to local history and genealogy have been integrated into this collection that were donated by other individuals. It is the Library's opinion that this is the best way to preserve, record, and make available these materials at the library. These materials have been noted as outside materials whenever possible.

Administrative Information

Usage Restrictions:

Legal ownership, physical custody, and some intellectual property rights of these materials have been transferred to the Hancock County Public Library. Upon the death of Joseph L. Skvarenina, all of his copyrights shall be transferred to the Library. For more information, please contact the Library Director.

Given the copyright potential for some of the images, the Library will not license images from this collection for personal, public, or private use. When possible, the Library will make available copies of images to an individual.

Preferred Citation:

[Item], Joseph L. Skvarenina Image Collection, Hancock County Public Library, Greenfield, Indiana.

Provenance:

Gift of Joseph L. Skvarenina, 10 February 2011.

Appraisal:

The entirety of the collection was not kept in the original order as provided by Mr. Skvarenina. Most materials have been organized by series and image subject.

Processing Information:

Processed by Cindi Faunce and Paul McNeil.

Completed in 2016

Last updated on 2025-12-22

Folder List

Box 1

Series:

Buildings and Grounds

A. A. Gappen Sporting Goods

Bowman Acres housing neighborhood, 1968-03-19

Bricker Cities Service, 1958

Cemeteries

Charlottesville School

Churches

Commercial Buildings

County Highway, 1964-10-28

Fontaine Home, 1962-08-03

Frazier-Gant Block

Greenfield City Hall

Greenfield High School

Greenfield Rifle Club, c. 1940

Hancock County Bank

Photos of lockboxes and unknown employee, 1967-11-20

Hancock County Courthouse

Hancock County War Memorial Building

Hospital Chapel, 1964-03-22

Houses

Indianapolis Motor Speedway

Jail

CD

Jane Ross Reeves Octagon House

Jim Gorman Grocery

Grand Opening, 1957-07-19

Lincoln Park Elementary School

Little Orphant Annie's (Mary Alice Gray) Home

Longfellow School

Main Street Pictures

Various pictures of buildings on Main Street, needs further processing

Masonic Lodge, New Palestine

Mount Comfort Methodist Episcopal Church

Mount Comfort School
School buses and drivers, 1925

New Palestine High School
Aerials, 1968-07-29
Construction, 1967-07-20

New Pilgrim Holiness Church, 1967-08-03

Park Shelter
Lions Club, 1962-06-06
Location unknown but believed to be Riley Park shelter

Pasco funeral home, dead body, 1958-02-17

Pennsylvania Railroad

Phillips 66 gas station

Post Office, Greenfield

Public Library, Greenfield

Ralph Hocket Buick, 1963-04-15

Ralph Hocket Buick groundbreaking, 1968-04-25

Ranch Store grand opening, 1967-07-24

Record Store grand opening

Riley's Old Swimmin' Hole

Riley, James Whitcomb Home

Riley, James Whitcomb Memorial Park

Riley, James Whitcomb School

Riley, James Whitcomb Sign Shop
Not a contemporary image

Saint Michael's Catholic Church

Stringtown Nazarene Church, 1967-09-15

“The Shambles” Log Cabin

Trinity Park Methodist Church, 1967-11-22

Union 76 gas station

Vernie Baldwin House
Located on North Street
Baldwin was library director for about fifty years

Water Tower, 1962-05-05

White House Restaurant grand opening, 1964-08-07
Also known as Riley House Restaurant

William Mitchell's Printing House

Series:

Groups

Alley Family

American Legion

J. Dorsey Band, 1967-09-29

American Legion

Member Portraits

American Legion Drum Corp, Greenfield

Article Images

Mixed images used by Skvarenina in newspaper articles
Most are copies

Automobile Wrecks
Evelyn Chapman, 1967-11-20

Boyd's Grove
Braddock, Curry, Feln?, Lowery, Smith
Group shot, all female

Brandywine School
Class photo rejects, 1957-04-29

Branigan, Governor Roger D. visits courthouse, 1966

Byers, Edgar Family, c. 1900

Byers, Maurice Family, 1943 and n.d.

Campgrounds

Cancer Society
At Mayor Barry S. Hurley's office, 1968

Chautauqua Program, c. 1905

Civil Defense Group, 1957-1958

Class of 1957
Unknown class reunion at Riley Park, 1968-09-01

Cleveland School
Commandry at Trinity Park for Walter Worland, 1967-06-25

Democratic Party

Dillinger, Audrey Family
Sister to John Dillinger

Dobbins Family
Dobbins Chloe, c. 1907, 1910
Includes Bitner, Sweet, Thomas, Barker

Dobbins, Zola and Ivy Eidson

Driffill Family

Eagles Lodge
Includes individual portraits, need to separate

East Greenfield School

Eli Lilly

Elks

Evangelical United Brethren Church
Bible School, 1962-06-08

Fontaine Family, 1962-08-03

Frontier Days

Frost, Olga and Students
School unknown

German Cornet Band, New Palestine

Gilson Family
Gilson, Barbara, 1947

Girls Athletic Association

Gray, Mary Alice
Also known as "Little Orphant Annie"

Greenfield Banking Company
Greenfield Boys Club, 1942 and n.d.
Greenfield Fire Department
 Composite, 1964
Greenfield High School Class of 1947 reunion
Greenfield High School Football, 1899
Greenfield High School
 Students and staff, 1947
Greenfield High School
 Junior-Senior class plays, 1945-1947
Hancock County Community Sanitation
Hancock County Fair
Hancock County Historical Society
Interurban
Jackson Family, c. 1910
 Chloe Dobbins and Ben Jackson pictured
Jackson, U.S.
 Attorney General
Lewis (Judge)
 Proclamation signing, 1968
Lincoln School
Lions Club
 Shively Benefit, 1960
Little 500, 1956
Longfellow School
Lowder, Jess and Grace
 Maiden name Walls
 Jess in WWI era uniform
Maxwell School
Maxwell High School
May Day
Mayor's Office, 1968-03-13
"Memories of WWII"
 Images used in book
Mental Health Group
 At Gas Company for Ku Klux Klan
 At Lawson's
Miller and Arville Family
Miller Family
Miller, Homer (Hank) and Arville Family
Miller, Homer (Hank) and Mildred Family
Miller, Home (Hank) collection
 Scrapbooks and photographs, need sorted
Miller, Mark and Homer (Hank) Family
Miscellaneous Family Photos
 Reprints and copies

Mohawk Nazarene Church
Moose Lodge
Mount Comfort High School Class of 1946
 Reunion, 1987
 Class photos
Mount Comfort School
Nigh Family
Old Man's Club, c. 1910
Parades
 Prints and CD
Pasco Family, 1968-08-10
Postcards
 Images Skvarenina used for books
 CD
Power Plants
 Mayor visits, 1968
Psi Iota Xi Sorority
 Chas and family, 1967-05-06
Public Library
Quayle, Dan and Genevieve Roberts

Box 2

Railroads
Ralph Hockett Buick, 1963-04-15
Republican Party
Riley, James Whitcomb Postcards
Riley School
Riley's Old Adelphian Band
Shirley First Grade, 1962-05-09
Skvarenina, Joseph
Stansbury Family
 Stansbury family linked to Driffills by Edith Driffill daughter of Troy Stansbury
Strawboard on Strawboard Hill, located south of the park, undated ca1900
Sugar Creek Township Fire Department / Philadelphia Fire Department
Thomas Family
Tintype, woman with two infants
Truman, Harry visits Greenfield
United Brethren Church, 1967-09-17
Unknown Individuals
 From a box of largely Mt. Comfort related materials
Unknown Individuals
 From same album, 1949
Unknown Class Photos
Unknown Groups
Van Essen Family Singers

Washington School
White, Ella 100th Birthday
Whitesides Family
Whitesides, Mildred
 Senior trip to Chicago, 1946
 Includes Jim Heiney and Barb Stum
Whitesides and Miller Family
Willow Branch Church, 1958-10-26
Wilson, John
Wilson, John Collection

Series:

Individuals

Beckenholdt, Martha
Bitner, Maxine
Bowen, Governor Otis R.
 At graduation commencement, related to Mark Miller
Bundy, Steven Lee
Campbell, Donna Coleman
Cummings, Bob
 Elks' portrait
Dean, Tony
Dobbins, Andy
 Uncle to Chloe Dobbins
Eastes
 Baby pictures
Easton, Chief of Police Perry
First Female Office Holder
Fuller, Bertha
Fuller, Charles
Gilson, Barbara
Hardin, Mike
 Elks' portrait
Hardwick, Lowell
Hensley, Rose
Hockett, Ralph
 At Ralph Hockett Buick, 1963-04-15
Hoss, John
 Elks' portrait
Howard, E.B.
 With sign for Dental Practice, with two unknown men
Hunt, Larry
 Elks' portrait
Irving, C.C. "Skunk"
 Llama farm, 1988
Jackson, Dick

Elks' portrait
Jones, Terry
Elks' portrait
Kennedy, John Fitzgerald
Copy negative of portrait, 1963-12-10
Lowder
Deceased at Pasco's funeral home, 1958-06-28
Mattsey, Al
Miller, Homer (Hank)
Miller, Jack
Mount Lebanon United Methodist Church Founder
Offutt, Judge Sam, 1959-02-25
Pasco, Algernon H.
Pasco, Charles G.
Pasco, John L.
Pickett, Dick
Pope, Gordon
Elks' portrait
Riley, James Whitcomb
Copyright Coburn Co.
With unknown man
Robertson, Richard
Elks' portrait
Settles, Joe
Elks' portrait
Tanner
Elks' portrait
Thompson, Gladys
Tintypes, Unknown individuals
Unknown Individual
Multiple images
Unknown Individual
From Drifill and Stansbury photo collection
Unknown Females
From Mount Comfort related materials
Unknown Males
From Mount Comfort related materials
Wheeler, Gertrude
Class Photos in or in front of Riley School c. 1910s
Working at Indiana Knitwear, c. 1960s
Wheeler, William Ladd
White, Ella
100th Birthday party
Whitesides, Mildred Louise
Whitesides, Mildred Louise or Unknown Individual
Whitesides, Nile Wilson

Whitesides, Oliver

Wilson, Evelyn Gilson

Worland, Walter P.

Wulk, Robert

Elks' portrait