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"Upon a Quiet Landscape: The Photographs of
Frank Sadorus" Prints, 1982

Collection 193

Champaign County Historical Archives

Compiled by: Marie Liang, August 2025

Creator/Corporate Name: Bial, Raymond

Physical Description: 1 box (0.5 linear ft.)

Language: English

Provenance:

The "Upon a Quiet Landscape: The Photographs of Frank Sadorus" Prints were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

Access:

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

Harmful Language in Archives:

The Champaign County Historical Archives at The Urbana Free Library is committed to developing inclusive collections that capture the diverse history of our communities. However, some language used in our collections and collection descriptions may be outdated or harmful. Please refer to our statement on [Harmful Language in Archives](#) to learn how we are addressing language concerns in our collections.

Biographical Note:

Frank A. Sadorus (1880-1934), an amateur photographer from Sadorus, Illinois, in east central Illinois, produced about 350 glass plate negatives between 1908 and 1912. The great-grandson of Henry Sadorus, the first European settler in Champaign County, his images documented family life, farming, and the surrounding countryside. After his death, the collection lay forgotten for nearly two generations until rediscovered by his nephew, Marion Sadorus, who rescued the plates and prints from an abandoned house and attic. Though little known in his lifetime, Frank Sadorus's work offers a rare and vivid record of rural Illinois in the early twentieth century.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains photographic prints and captions from the book *Upon a Quiet Landscape: The Photographs of Frank Sadorus*, edited by Raymond Bial and Frederick A. Schlipf. The prints were created and displayed in 1982 as part of a project by the Champaign County Historical Archives and Raymond Bial to make prints of all surviving glass plate negatives of rural and village life in Champaign County, Illinois. The selection of 65 plates from Sadorus's total output of 350 was undertaken to show the diversity of Frank Sadorus's enthusiasms, which, according to Bial, were Frank's "parents and brothers and sister, work on the farm, the change of seasons, family excursions, carefully composed still lifes, and good-natured fooling around." The book was published in 1983. The term plate and a corresponding number identify the photographs.

Arrangement: The collection is arranged by material type.



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Subject Terms:

Sadorus (III.)

Photographs

Name Terms:

Bial, Raymond

Champaign County Historical Archives

Lynch, Tim

Sadorus, Allan

Sadorus, Elmer

Sadorus, Frank

Sadorus, G. W. B.

Sadorus, Henry

Sadorus, Lloyd

Sadorus, Marion

Sadorus, Marvilla

Sadorus, Mary

Sadorus, Pearl

Sadorus, Phoebe

Sadorus, Warren

Schliph, Frederick A.

Container List

Box 1

Folder 1: Photographic Plates 1-30

Folder 2: Photographic Plates 31-65

Folder 3: Captions 1-30

Folder 4: Captions 31-65