



Special Collections and University Archives

**Manuscript Group 200
James Stewart Collection**

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Last Modified March 26, 2025**

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James Stewart Collection; Manuscript Group 200
Indiana University of Pennsylvania; Special Collections and University Archives
1 Box; 1 Linear Foot

Biographical Note

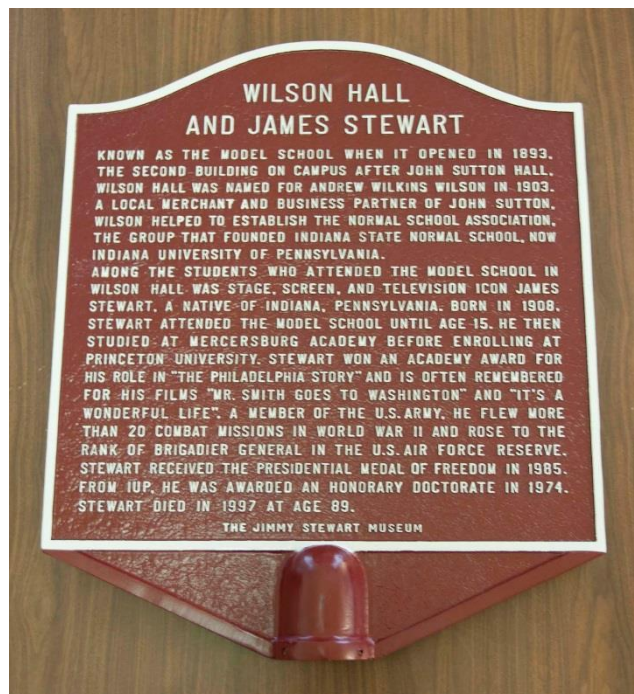


A native of Indiana, Pennsylvania, Academy Award winning actor James “Jimmy” Maitland Stewart (May 20, 1908-July 2, 1997) was the oldest child and only son of Alexander “Alec” Maitland Stewart (May 19, 1871-December 28, 1961) and his wife Elizabeth “Bessie” Ruth Jackson Stewart (March 16, 1875-August 2, 1953). James Stewart was born at his parents’ house at 975 Philadelphia Street in Indiana. His father owned the local hardware store, [J.M. Stewart & Co.](#), which was founded in 1848. James Stewart’s great-great-great grandfather was Fergus Moorhead who first arrived in Indiana County from Franklin County, Pennsylvania in 1772. For more information about the Moorhead family go to [Manuscript Group 130: Logan Moorhead Collection](#), or visit the [Historical and Genealogical Society of Indiana County](#). The Stewarts moved to 104 North 7th Street in Indiana when James

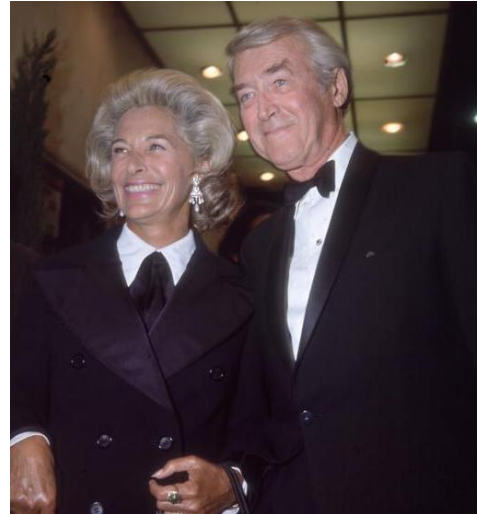
Stewart was five years old, and they lived there until 1961.

James Stewart’s first formal education began at the Model School in Wilson Hall at Indiana State Normal School, which later became Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). Stewart attended school in Wilson Hall from [first grade in 1915-1916](#) to [ninth grade in 1923-1924](#). He then attended Mercersburg Academy from 1924 to 1928. Stewart enrolled at his father’s alma mater Princeton University, where he performed in theater productions. Stewart graduated from Princeton in 1932 with a degree in Economics.

For more information about the film career and biography of American actor Jimmy Stewart, visit the [Jimmy Stewart filmography](#). Perhaps his best known movies were “Mr. Smith Goes to



Washington” (1939), “The Philadelphia Story” (1940). When Stewart won the Academy Award for Best Actor in 1940, he sent his Oscar to his father who displayed it in his hardware store on Philadelphia Street in Indiana, Pennsylvania. During World War Two, Stewart served in the U.S. Army Air Corps and flew more than 20 combat missions over Nazi Germany. Returning to Hollywood after the war, James Stewart went onto star in “It’s a Wonderful Life” (1946), “Harvey” 1950, “Rear Window” (1954), and “Vertigo” (1958). James M. Stewart married Gloria Hatrick McLean (March 10, 1918-February 16, 1994) on August 9, 1949, and they had two children. On the occasion of Jimmy Stewart’s 87th birthday in 1995, the [Jimmy Stewart Museum](#) was dedicated.



Scope and Content Note

This collection contains documents, publications, video, and links to resources throughout the IUP Special Collections & University Archives including [IUP Publications](#) listing James Stewart as a student at the Model School and Campus Training School in Wilson Hall and other [Manuscript Group Collections](#) associated with James Stewart, and external sources such as the [Jimmy Stewart Museum](#).

Series List

Series 1: Documents and Video

Series 2: Electronic Records

Provenance

This collection was created in 2015.

Restrictions

None, this collection is open for research. Property rights reside with Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and the IUP Special Collections and University Archives. Literary rights are retained by the creators of the records and their heirs. For permissions to reproduce or publish, please contact the [Special Collections Librarian and University Archivist](#).

Processor

The collection was organized and the finding aid was updated by Harrison Wick on March 26, 2025.

Content List

Series 1: Documents and Video

Box 1 (4 folders)

1. Jimmy Stewart: Biographical Information

2. 50th Anniversary Scrapbook of *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946), Festival, December 1996
3. Videos (transferred to MP4)
 - a. *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946) VHS Tape
 - b. The Jimmy Stewart Museum (12 minutes) VHS Tape
 - c. Jimmy Stewart Museum (2005) 10th Anniversary
 - d. A Tribute to Jimmy Stewart (2008) DVD
 - e. Jimmy Stewart Museum guided tour (no date) DVC Pro Video Tape
4. Correspondence related to Jimmy Stewart and the *It's a Wonderful Life* Festival in Indiana, Pennsylvania
 - a. Thank you (2025) from Carol Moss Loop, daughter of actress Virginia Patton Moss who played Ruth Dakin Bailey in *It's a Wonderful Life* (1946), Carol Moss Loop attended the *It's a Wonderful Life* Festival in December 2024

Series 2: Electronic Records

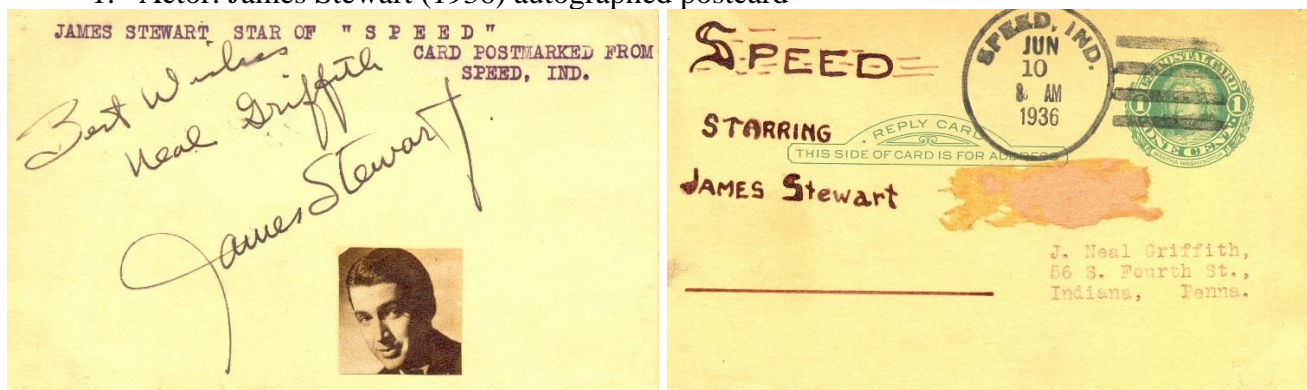
I. Indiana State Normal School: Model School, 1915-1916 to 1923-1924 (IUP Publications)

1. [Model School Registry: First Grade, 1915-1916](#)
2. [Model School Registry: Second Grade, 1916-1917](#)
3. [Model School Registry: Third Grade, 1917-1918](#)
4. [Model School Registry: Fourth Grade, 1918-1919](#)
5. [Model School Registry: Fifth Grade, 1919-1920](#)
6. [Model School Registry: Sixth Grade, 1920-1921](#)
7. [Model School Registry: Junior High School – First Year \(Seventh Grade\), 1921-1922](#)
8. [Campus Training School Registry: Junior High School, Eighth Grade, 1922-1923](#)
9. [Campus Training School Registry: Junior High School, Ninth Grade, 1923-1924](#)

II. [Manuscript Group Collections](#) associated with James Stewart

[Manuscript Group 35: J. Neal Griffith Collection](#) (Box 3):

1. Actor: James Stewart (1936) autographed postcard



[Manuscript Group 172: Nancy and Steven Zellman Collection](#) (Box 1 Folder 3):

1. *Indiana Gazette*, "It's a Wonderful Life: Happy Birthday, Jimmy Stewart! Indiana welcomes home its favorite son," May 19, 1983
2. *Indiana Gazette*, "Celebration awaits Stewart," May 19, 1983
3. *Indiana Gazette*, "Jimmy's party was a dazzler," "Super welcome for star," "Indiana old friend to actor," May 21, 1983
4. *Indiana Gazette*, "Indiana bids adieu to Jimmy," May 23, 1983

Manuscript Group 174: Thomas Anderson Collection (Box 1 Folder 6):

1. Centennial Convocation of Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), September 13, 1974 with signed print of Honorary Degree Recipient and Academy Award winning actor James Stewart

III. External Sources about James Stewart

The Jimmy Stewart Museum

1. Speech written and read by James Stewart at the Centennial Convocation of Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), September 13, 1974





Watercolor of John Sutton Hall at Indiana State Normal School (ISNS) in Indiana, Pennsylvania, as it appeared in 1916 when James Stewart was 8 years old and in second grade in Wilson Hall

Source: [Annual catalogue of the Indiana State Normal School of Pennsylvania](#) (1916-1917)