

Indiana Farm Security Photographs



Paul Carter

Paul Schermerhorn Carter was born Sept. 14, 1903 in Williamstown, Massachusetts. His father was a clergyman of some note. He had five brothers and a sister. He was living in New York City with his wife Edith in 1930, and listed his profession as Day Manager, with a film company. They apparently divorced and had no children. He joined the staff of the Historical Section in late 1935. His brother, John Franklin Carter, was the Head of the Information Division and Roy Stryker's supervisor in the Resettlement Administration. He took photographs in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, New York, Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Indiana. He covered the 1936 flood in Massachusetts in March and April. The flood of 1936 in Massachusetts resulted in over \$200,000,000 dollars in damage. Heavy winter snowfall, sustained spring rains and ice dams combined to cause the great flood. It resulted in ten deaths and 50,000 were homeless across Massachusetts. The Connecticut River crested in Springfield, Massachusetts on March 21. He visited Minnesota in July 1936 and covered two early New Deal projects in the state, the Beltrami Island Settler Relocation Project and Austin Acres, a project to provide suburban housing for workers in a town where the Hormel meat packing plant was the major industry. In September 1936 he traveled to the Newport News Homesteads, capturing images of the homesteaders and the conditions of blacks in the surrounding area. He was in ill health and lacked the energy for trips. This shows just how physically grueling it must have been for the photographers on the road as well. Roy Stryker convinced him that the life of a government photographer was not for him. He left the Resettlement Administration to open a camera store near Dartmouth College in New Hampshire in 1936. He died July 19, 1938 in Hanover, New Hampshire.

Paul Carter Bibliography

Carter, John Franklin. *The Rectory Family*. New York: Coward-McCann, 1937.

Paul Carter Websites

The Carters of Yorkshire: As they relate to "The Rectory Family" and beyond
<http://www.cartertools.com/cartyork.html>