



## Henry Meade Williams Local History Department

PO Box 800, Mission St. & 6th Ave, Carmel CA, 93921

831-624-1615 [hml.localhist@gmail.com](mailto:hml.localhist@gmail.com)

---

# B31 - Russell Ball Collection

---

## COLLECTION SUMMARY

- Title: Russell Ball Collection
  - Number: B31
  - Creator: Russell Ball
  - Format/Extent: xPH: 1 folder; Negatives: 1 folder
  - Span Dates: 1930s?
  - Repository: Henry Meade Williams Local History Room
  - Physical Location: Vault: PH; LH Office (2nd shelf near reading room door)
  - Donor: John K. Ball
  - Accessions: 2013-005
  - Related Collections: [Gladys Hall papers, 1918-1969, bulk 1930-1941](#)
- 

## BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Russell E. Ball (1891-1942) was in Carmel for a time while his mother, Mary Richardson Ball, lived in Carmel around the 1930s until her death in 1941. He was a well-known photographer in New York City and Hollywood, being a favorite of Rudolph Valentino and Mary Pickford. He was married to Gladys Hall (1891-1977), who was an interviewer and writer in New York and Hollywood. Her work is held at the Margaret Herrick Library of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Russell's work was exhibited at the Museum of Modern Art from December 5, 1980, to February 28, 1981, as part of the exhibition Hollywood Portrait Photographers 1921-1941. The two had a son, John K. Ball. Russell Ball died on June 12, 1942, of a heart attack and was buried at West Laurel Hill Cemetery in Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.

---

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of 3 B&W photographs, 31 B&W negatives, and 2 photo envelopes of family photos and various scenes in Carmel and Point Lobos, and family pictures at Palos Verdes taken by Russell Ball possibly in the 1930s. Photos/negatives are likely of a young John K. Ball, his mother, Gladys Hall, and his grandparents, taken by his father, Russell Ball.

---

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

**Access:** Materials are open for research.



## Henry Meade Williams Local History Department

PO Box 800, Mission St. & 6th Ave, Carmel CA, 93921

831-624-1615 [hml.localhist@gmail.com](mailto:hml.localhist@gmail.com)

---

**Copyright Information:** The Henry Meade Local History Room, Harrison Memorial Library does not hold copyright to these items. Permission to publish must be obtained from the copyright holder by the user.

**Preferred Citation:** Russell Ball Collection, Henry Meade Williams Local History Room, Harrison Memorial Library, Carmel, CA

### Arrangement Notes:

**Updates:** Inventoried by Michael Martinus 7/22/25.

---

## INVENTORY

### Photographs

- xBox A-J
  - 3 photos of Point Lobos and unidentified house

### Negatives

- Folder 1
  - Richter's Photo Service Envelope (Carmel) (Dec. 8, 1996)
    - Point Lobos
    - Coastline
    - Coastline
    - 2 women & 1 child, coast
    - 2 women & 1 child, beach
    - 2 women & 1 child, beach
    - Woman & child, beach
    - Street Scene
    - House in forest
    - Salinas Rodeo
    - Woman + child, beach
    - Woman + child, beach
    - Woman + child
    - Child, beach
    - Child + wheelbarrow



## Henry Meade Williams Local History Department

PO Box 800, Mission St. & 6th Ave, Carmel CA, 93921

831-624-1615 [hml.localhist@gmail.com](mailto:hml.localhist@gmail.com)

---

- Woman + child, house
- Whale skeleton, Point Lobos
- 2 children, beach
- Child, beach
- Woman + child, garden
- Coastline cows
- Coastline
- Point Lobos?
- Woman + child, beach
- Agfa Plenachrome Envelope (Palos Verdes) (April 1, XXXX)
  - 7 negatives of Ball Family at Palos Verdes (possibly a young John and his grandparents)

---

### SUBJECTS

#### Topic

- Beaches
- Family photos

#### Person

- Ball, John K.
- Ball, Mary Richardson
- Ball, Russell E.
- Hall, Gladys

#### Organization

- Salinas Rodeo (Salinas, Calif.)

#### Geographic Coverage

- Point Lobos (Carmel, Calif.)
- Point Lobos State Natural Reserve (Carmel, Calif.)
- Rancho Palos Verdes (Calif.)

#### Genre

- Photographs