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0596: C. Clifford Caverlee Collection, 1895-1981

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Finding Aid
for the
C. Clifford Caverlee Collection, 1890-1981

Accession Number: 1994.0596



Jack L. Dickinson
Special Collections Department
James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia
2008

James E. Morrow Library
Marshall University

C. CLIFFORD CAVERLEE COLLECTION,
1890-1981

Accession Number: 1994.0596

Accessioned by: Cora Teel

Location: Special Collections Department, Morrow Library, Room 217

Date: 1890-1981, bulk of content 1905-1980

Extent: 3.5 cu ft

System of Arrangement: Notebooks in original order imposed by the creator of the collection,
Mr. C. Clifford Caverlee.

On-Line Access and Digitization: From May to September of 2008, the scenic postcards and a small selection of the holiday and greeting postcards were digitized. As of the time of the writing of this document, the digitized cards can be found at https://marshall.pastperfectonline.com/search?utf8=%E2%9C%93&search_criteria=1994%2F08.0596&searchButton=Search. The 318 scenes that were digitized represent 124 West Virginia towns and villages, and an additional 12 holiday and greeting postcards were also digitized.

This collection was a gift from Mrs. Harriett Caverlee, widow of Mr. Caverlee in 1994.

SCOPE AND CONTENT OF THE COLLECTION

The collection consists of two boxes containing 12 three-ring notebooks, a third box containing file folders of postmarks and envelopes from states other than West Virginia, also two scrapbooks containing other postmarked envelopes. The bulk of the collection consists of 12 three-ring notebooks containing postmarks and postcards of West Virginia towns and post offices. These notebooks are organized by West Virginia county. Many of the postmarks are on the complete, original envelope, but many have been cut off the envelopes. The postcards fall into three classes: plain blank postcards with just a postmark, holiday or greeting postcards, and the scenic views of West Virginia, which are the majority of the postcards. Many of the postcard scenes and postmarks are from post offices that no longer exist.

Carl Clifford Caverlee
1909 – 1988

C. Clifford Caverlee was born June 11, 1909 at McKeesport, Pa., the son of Carl Benton Caverlee and Margaret Cartmill Caverlee. By the time of the 1920 census, the family had moved to Huntington, W.Va. where Carl Benton found employment as a coach carpenter. In the 1930 census, the family was living on 9th Avenue in Huntington, and Carl Benton was a carpenter for

the railroad, probably the Chesapeake & Ohio (C&O.) Later that year, C. Clifford entered Marshall College (now Marshall University) and received an A. B. degree in 1932. By that time, C. Clifford had chosen his path to the ministry. He then attended the Southern Baptist Seminary and the American Baptist Seminary in Louisville, Ky., where he received his Master's Degree in Theology in 1935. He later married Henrietta Sadler, and they had one son, Clifford Robert Caverlee. C. Clifford became a prominent Baptist minister in W.Va. By the mid -1950's he was the executive secretary of the W.Va. State Baptist Convention, a position he held for several years. By 1965 he had spent several years as the head of evangelism for the Baptist Convention. Around 1970, Caverlee became interested in the postal history of W.Va. and began collecting postmarks and postcards. According to an article in the *Charleston Gazette* of Aug. 4, 1980, his collection at that time consisted of over 1,750 different postmarks from cities and towns of the Mountain State. At that point, he began to concentrate his collecting activities on post offices that had closed prior to that date. His favorite postal story related in that article was when several citizens in Lincoln County wanted a post office for their little town, so they sent their petition to the Postal Service with the words across the top: "We want a post office." The result was that their post office was granted, and named "Wewanta." The article related that he scoured antique stores and flea markets looking for the old postcards. The 1970's and early 80's appear to be the height of his collecting, as many of the postmarks he obtained from the small-town post offices bear dates in that range. Several of the postcards he acquired bear postmark dates back to the 1890's. Part of his vast collection consists of zip code directories and post office lists for W.Va., which he used to complete his collection. For the last several years of his life, the family resided at 1275 Huntington Ave. C. Clifford Caverlee passed away on Aug. 23, 1988, at Cabell Huntington Hospital. He was entombed at Ridgelawn Park Abbey of Devotion in Huntington. In November of 1994, his widow, Henrietta, donated his collection to Marshall University Special Collections.

NOTEBOOK LIST

(Boxes 1 & 2)

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Notebook 1 | Misc. introductory material and newspaper clippings Some first day covers and postmarked material from other states West Virginia centennial and anniversary postmarks Mixed West Virginia postcards |
| Notebook 2 | West Virginia counties B & C |
| Notebook 3 | West Virginia counties D through H |
| Notebook 4 | West Virginia counties I through L |
| Notebook 5 | McDowell and Marion Counties |
| Notebook 6 | West Virginia counties M |
| Notebook 7 | West Virginia counties N through P |
| Notebook 8 | West Virginia counties R through T |

- Notebook 9 West Virginia counties T through Z
- Notebook 10 West Virginia counties B (additional)
- Notebook 11 West Virginia counties D and F
- Notebook 12 West Virginia counties J

Box 3

FOLDER LIST

- Folder 1 Caverlee, C. Clifford (1909-1988) biographical material
- Folder 2 Caverlee "Counties D-H" contains 2 original letters, 1 dated 1886, 1- 1889.
- Folder 3 Post Office listings and Blue Book listings
- Folder 4 Purchase receipts and business records
- Folder 5 Alabama – Arizona postmarked envelopes
- Folder 6 California – Connecticut postmarked envelopes
- Folder 7 Delaware – Florida postmarked envelopes
- Folder 8 Illinois – Iowa postmarked envelopes
- Folder 9 Kansas – Kentucky postmarked envelopes
- Folder 10 Maine – Massachusetts postmarked envelopes
- Folder 11 Michigan – Missouri postmarked envelopes
- Folder 12 Nebraska – New Mexico postmarked envelopes
- Folder 13 New York postmarked envelopes
- Folder 14 North Carolina – North Dakota postmarked envelopes
- Folder 15 Ohio postmarked envelopes
- Folder 16 Oklahoma – Oregon postmarked envelopes
- Folder 17 Pennsylvania postmarked envelopes
- Folder 18 Rhode Island – Utah postmarked envelopes
- Folder 19 Wisconsin – Wyoming postmarked envelopes (except West Virginia)

- Folder 20 Virginia – Washington, D.C. postmarked envelopes
- Folder 21 Military and International postmarks (Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Holland, and South Africa)
- Folder 22 Miscellaneous postmarks
- Folder 23 Bamboo – Dunbar, W.Va. postmarked envelopes
- Folder 24 Charleston, W.Va. postmarked envelopes
- Folder 25 Eleanor – Kingwood, W.Va. postmarks and postmarked envelopes (except Huntington)
- Folder 26 Huntington, W.Va. postmarks and postmarked envelopes
- Folder 27 Liberty – Winfield, W.Va. postmarked envelopes (except Parkersburg)
- Folder 28 Parkersburg, W.Va. postmarked envelopes
- Folder 29 Miscellaneous W.Va. postmarks and postmarked envelopes

West Virginia Towns
Caverlee Postcard Collection
Digitized images

| <u>Towns</u> | <u># Views</u> |
|--------------------|----------------|
| Alderson | 2 |
| Amos | 1 |
| Anawalt | 1 |
| Antioch | 1 |
| Athens | 1 |
| Aurora | 2 |
| Avis | 1 |
| Babcock State Park | 1 |
| Barger Springs | 1 |
| Bartow | 1 |
| Beckley | 1 |
| Bedington | 1 |
| Belington | 1 |
| Berkeley Springs | 1 |
| Bethany | 1 |
| Bluefield | 6 |
| Boomer | 1 |
| Bramwell | 1 |

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Brooke County tree | 1 |
| Buckhannon | 4 |
| Cameron | 1 |
| Charles Town | 7 |
| Charleston | 12 |
| Chester | 2 |
| Clarksburg | 8 |
| Clothier | 1 |
| Cowen | 1 |
| Downs Station | 1 |
| Dunlevie | 1 |
| East Bank | 1 |
| East Rainelle | 1 |
| Edgewater | 1 |
| Elkins | 12 |
| Elm Grove | 1 |
| Fairmont | 9 |
| Fayette Bridge | 1 |
| Franklin | 1 |
| Gary | 1 |
| Gauley Bridge | 3 |
| Gauley Junction | 1 |
| Glen Alum | 1 |
| Grafton | 3 |
| Great Cacapon | 1 |
| Hamlin | 1 |
| Harman | 1 |
| Harpers Ferry | 8 |
| Harrisville | 1 |
| Hawks Nest State Park | 1 |
| Hinton | 6 |
| Hopemont | 1 |
| Horton | 1 |
| Hundred | 1 |
| Huntington | 43 |
| Jackonsburg | 1 |
| Kanawha Falls | 4 |
| Kenova | 2 |
| Keyser | 2 |
| Kingwood | 1 |
| Landgraff | 1 |
| Lewisburg | 1 |
| Little Falls | 1 |

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Logan | 3 |
| Mannington | 5 |
| Marlinton | 3 |
| Martinsburg | 8 |
| Matoaka | 1 |
| McComas | 1 |
| McMechen Dam | 1 |
| Mill Creek | 1 |
| Montgomery | 1 |
| Mora | 1 |
| Morgantown | 7 |
| Moundsville | 3 |
| Mt. Hope | 1 |
| Mullens | 2 |
| New Creek | 1 |
| New Cumberland | 1 |
| New Martinsville | 3 |
| Newburg | 1 |
| Nuttall | 1 |
| Oak Hill | 1 |
| Parkersburg | 15 |
| Pence Springs | 2 |
| Pennsboro | 1 |
| Petersburg | 1 |
| Philippi | 5 |
| Piedmont | 2 |
| Point Pleasant | 5 |
| Princeton | 1 |
| Ravenswood | 2 |
| Renick | 1 |
| Richwood | 2 |
| Ripley | 1 |
| Romney | 1 |
| Ronceverte | 2 |
| Rowlesburg | 1 |
| Salem | 2 |
| Samp | 1 |
| Scarbro | 1 |
| Shenandoah Junction | 1 |
| Shepherdstown | 2 |
| Shinnston | 1 |
| Spencer | 1 |
| St. Marys | 1 |

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Sweet Springs | 1 |
| Terra Alta | 1 |
| Thurmond | 1 |
| Tunnelton | 1 |
| Vincen | 1 |
| Walton | 1 |
| Wappocomo | 1 |
| Wardensville | 1 |
| Wayne | 1 |
| Webster Springs | 5 |
| Weirton | 1 |
| Welch | 3 |
| West Union | 1 |
| Weston | 4 |
| Wheeling | 10 |
| Williamson | 5 |
| Williamstown | 1 |
| Winfield | 1 |
| Winona | 1 |
| Winterburn | 1 |
| TOTAL: | 318 |