

Collection #  
M 0032

## CHESTER E. BUNDY PAPERS, 1850-1969

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## COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 4 bound volumes, 2 oversized folders, 1 partial microfilm reel; 1 folder b & w photographs; 1 folder color photographs; 2 artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: 1850-1969

PROVENANCE: Letters on microfilm loaned by Betty Garber, Converse, Indiana, 1972. Other materials donated by Ms. Garber, 1972

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1972.0011  
1972.0012  
1972.0013

NOTES:

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Chester Edmond Bundy was born June 4, 1893 in Miami County, Indiana to William and Margaret (Lamb) Bundy. He graduated from Amboy High School in 1911 and attended Earlham College in Richmond for three years: 1913, 1914, and 1915. His draft card listed his occupation as farming and beekeeping, but he claimed exemption from the draft as a member of the (Amboy) Friends Church. After the war, he went to France with the American Friends Service Committee and was assigned to a bicycle shop at Grange le Comté, about 18 miles west of Verdun, where he repaired and loaned out bicycles. He stayed in France after the work with the AFSC mission was over, driving trucks and helping to liquidate its property, donating much of it to war-affected areas across Europe. He returned to Miami County in June of 1920, and resumed farming. On Christmas Day, 1926, he married Velva Smith of Andrews, Indiana. The two had one daughter, Vonda. Chester was interested in genealogy, and produced family trees for both the paternal and maternal (Lamb) sides of his family. He was also an accomplished woodworker, and kept detailed records of his projects. Chester E. Bundy died at Miller's Merry Manor in Huntington on July 20, 1984, at the age of 91.

Sources:

Collection materials

Ancestry.com library edition

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

In addition to his own papers, the collection includes materials that precede Chester Bundy's lifetime, including land deeds of his maternal grandfather, Edmond Lamb, and materials related to the Society of Friends (Quakers) in Indiana. The manuscript portion of the collection is arranged chronologically, beginning with Lamb's tax receipts and one land deed.

The most prominent part of the collection follows, containing materials related to Bundy's service in France with the American Friends Service Committee following World War I. Writing to his parents in Indiana, Bundy goes into great detail about his experiences and his surroundings, often drawing maps, floor plans, and schematics within his letters. In addition to his work in the bicycle shop, Bundy discusses Quaker meetings, speeches attended, trips to various battlefields, traffic, "liberty" trucks, different nationalities around Europe, etc. He also describes railroad tracks, Paris landmarks, and the condition of shelled villages and buildings in France. He kept a diary, also included, detailing each day's events and conversations, which he then used to compose his letters home. He seems to have especially enjoyed his brief stay in a French hospital, where he was treated for a contagious rash on his hands and face. He relates several anecdotes to his family about the pranks pulled by his bunkmates in the hospital.

Also included in the manuscript portion are letters and cards from Bundy's later life back in Indiana, including several from his Aunt Minnie discussing the fate of an old family bible and the failing health of other elderly family members.

The photographic portion of the collection consists of two black and white portraits of Bundy circa 1919 (previously) removed from his overseas travel documents, and photographs (previously) removed from a scrapbook Bundy assembled of classmates and teachers at high school reunions in 1961 and 1964. Also included is a group portrait of the Amboy High School class of 1911 taken at the time of graduation.

Forty-one letters from Bundy to his future wife, Velva Smith are on microfilm. A calendar of these letters is included in this collection guide.

## CONTENTS

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Tax receipts, 1857-1901; Land deed, William Prior to Edmond Lamb, 1864	Box 1, Folder 1
Travel papers; Correspondence, Chester Bundy to family, January-May 1919	Box 1, Folder 2
Travel papers; Correspondence, Chester Bundy to family, July, 1919 - June, 1920; List of American Friends Service Committee members serving overseas, 1917-1925, dated April, 1957	Box 1, Folder 3
Chester Bundy AFSC diary, February 1919-June 1920	Box 1, Folder 4
Correspondence, Mrs. Alfred (Minnie) Vesper to Chester Bundy, 1944 – 1946	Box 1, Folder 5
Bundy family tree; Lamb family tree	Box 1, Folder 6
Amboy Friends Church materials; Amboy High School reunion scrapbook	Box 1, Folder 7
Christmas cards received from family, 1967 – 1969; World Series 1976 publication; Clipping, North Central High School tennis, 1976	Box 1, Folder 8
Items removed from BV97: sales receipts; sales contract and instructions for Regina Model 50 vacuum sweeper, 1941	Box 1, Folder 9
Items removed from BV98: sales receipts; cough and cold remedy	Box 1, Folder 10
Friends Sunday school record book, Russiaville and West Middleton, Howard County, 1880-1882	BV 96
Lists officers, attendance, sex and general age of attendees, and collections totals.	

Record of tools and work done, 1913-1946	BV 97
Lists tools obtained for wood working, iron working, etc. including cost and where purchased, plus projects completed and how much they cost.	
Record of home goods and work done, 1927-1957	BV 98
List of home goods obtained and household expenses by category.	
Personal pocket calendar and address book, 1964-1965	BV 99
Land deeds, James A. Wright to Edmond Lamb, 1850; Micayah Wilson to Edmond Lamb, 1850; Benedict Zimmerman to Edmond Lamb, 1854	OM 0624 Folder 1
French freight ticket, 1919; Map, Sainte Ménehould region of France, 1919	OM 624 Folder 2
Letters, Chester Bundy to Velva Smith, 1923-1927	Microfilm reel F 55
Portraits of Bundy in 1919; Amboy High School class of 1911; Amboy High School teachers and classmates, 50+ years later	M 0032, combination box, visuals
Amboy High School class of 1911 reunions, 1961 and 1964	M 0032, combination box, color photographs

Pinback button reading "Miami County Common School Graduate, 1907, Peru, Indiana"; Small letterpress printer's block of a portrait of Bundy, circa 1950.

Artifacts: 1972.0012

## CALENDAR FOR MICROFILMED LETTERS

Letters of Chester E. Bundy, Converse, Indiana, to Velva Smith, Andrews, Indiana, January 1923 – January 1927

1972.0013

[Processor's note: the two were married December 25, 1926.]

Loaned for filming by Miss Betty Garber, Librarian, Converse, Indiana. Miss Garber gave the Indiana Historical Society Library other material which had belonged to Chester E. Bundy, account books, notebooks, etc.

[No year] 29 Jan.	Weather cancelled Friends' meeting, where writer was to give a talk on missions. Using coke in base burner. News of church at Amboy. Comments on Bok peace award. Encloses a card of peace propaganda.
1923, 14 Oct.	Driving a Maxwell.
1923, 19 Nov.	Gives his birthdate as June 4, 1893. Mentions that he was in Army Service during war.
1924, 27 Apr.	Pastor Fred Smith has resigned, Parvin Bond is filling in. News of Milo Hinckle, a preacher. Smallpox scare. Working on corn tester for root rot. Has part in play at Amboy High School put on by alumni.
1924, 12 May	
1924, 2 June	Got home safely. If a tire had gone down I would have been out of luck as I forgot my pump.

1924, 9 June	Parvin Bond preached at Amboy yesterday.
1924, (?) July	[Page 1 missing] Tent meeting at Amboy under the auspices of the Methodist Church. Daisy Barr is in Fairmount for trial brought by the Klan, for not turning in money for costumes of members.
1924, 1 July	Converse quarantined for diphtheria. Tent meetings dismissed.
1924, 18 Aug.	Mentions peace question. Went to Grant County celebration of George Fox day this afternoon. President Edwards of Earlham spoke.
1924, 22 Sept.	Building a chimney.
1924, 6 Oct.	Recipe for hand lotion. Enclosed broadside "We Must End War."
1924, 4 Nov.	Drawing of location of his home next to railroad.
1924, 5 Nov.	Election. Recalls election of 1912. Returns were projected from a lantern against side of building. Mention that Velva's mother is a minister. Worked on his Dodge car.
1924, 15 Dec.	
1924, 28 Dec.	Shipped 800 lbs. of honey. Encloses Amboy Friends Church schedule for services in upcoming weeks.
1925, 6 Jan.	About Meetings.
1925, 14 Jan.	About Meetings.
1925, 28 Jan.	Going home on icy road. Had to put on chains. Classifying library books.
1925, 9 Mar.	Church and neighborhood news. Professor Haworth of Kokomo talked to the boys. Quotes the speech.
1925, 5 May	Went to musical at Converse. Enclosed program. Commencement turned out to be a



	wedding. Printed program enclosed.
1925, 18 May	Neighborhood and church news.
1925, 3 June	Farmer's risks due to weather. Band concert at Amboy.
1925, 1 July	
1926, 23 June	Friends of Kokomo and Converse exchange concerts.
1926, 27 June	Regarding changes of pastors. Clipping enclosed.
1926, 5 July	
1926, 23 Aug.	Will go to Peace Contests. Clipping enclosed about change of pastors.
1926, 31 Aug.	
1926, 21 Sept.	Neighbor Melton Douglas died. Helped prepare grave, encased in cement. Douglas lived here since 1868. Father and mother moved here in 1889. More about Douglas family. Converse fair. Hundreds of autos stranded in mud and water after cloud burst.
1926, 10 Oct.	Cutting and binding corn. Mentions father's name is Frank [?]. Folks in and near Amboy are paying \$250-\$500 to get electricity.
1926, 17 Oct.	Marriage of Philamon Philips and Louie Alpha Walker.
1926, 2 Nov.	Chautauqua.
1926, 10 Nov.	Planning service, will talk at Velva's church.
1926, 17 Nov.	Summary of talk by Representative [and Earlham alum] Albert R. Hall. Difficulty with gas.
1926, 29 Nov.	Gas comes and goes.
1926, 7 Dec.	The folks will rent a house and leave this

	one for us.
1926, 9 Dec.	
1926, 16 Dec.	
1926, 20 Dec.	Engaged Par. B. of Wabash for the 25 <sup>th</sup> at 12. Expects to always live on a farm. May need milking machine. Describes area in which he lives, two miles from Amboy and 2.5 miles from Converse. Has been appointed librarian (of church).
1927, 27 Jan.	Plans for housekeeping.