

Collection #
P 0541

MARIE WILLIAMS OWENS POSTCARD COLLECTION 1904–1945

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	84 postcards and 1 souvenir booklet
COLLECTION DATES:	1904–1945
PROVENANCE:	Anonymous gift received February 2005
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2005.0170
NOTES:	

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Leonard Grant Williams and Anna Lowry married in Gallia County, Ohio, on 24 December 1889. Their daughter, Marie E. Williams, was born 28 December 1890 in Indiana. Marie had a sister, Ruth Hazel (18 February 1894 – December 1978) and a brother Harry Martin (born ca. 1906). In the 1900 census it appears that the family lived at 517 E. Adams Street in Muncie, Indiana. A postcard in the collection was mailed to Marie in 1904 at 517 E. Charles Street, and the family is listed at that address in the census records of 1910, 1920, and 1930. The two addresses appear to be a block away from each other.

In 1920 Marie was teaching in a public school. Marie evidently collected postcards, and one of her interests was postcards of Presbyterian churches. Around 1922, Marie married Thomas Roger Owens, a physician. Their children included Margaret (b. ca. 1924), Jane (b. ca. 1928), and Ruth (b. ca. 1930). Marie Williams Owens died in November 1975 in Peoria, Illinois.

In 1920 Ruth worked for an eye doctor. Ruth married David Alton Paden Jr. on 15 March 1927 in Muncie.

Leonard's parents, Thomas P. Williams and Frances A. Westlake, married 23 December 1862 in Gallia County, Ohio. The family lived in Gallipolis, Ohio. Thomas P. Williams was a brick mason; as an adult, Leonard worked as a brick contractor. Frances Westlake (born ca. 1846) had two brothers: Charles Westlake (born ca. 1849) and Thomas L. Westlake (born 1864). Their parents were Elon Westlake and Sarah Evans. Elon Westlake was also a brick mason.

Lucille Arnold worked as a housekeeper for Thomas L. Westlake during the 1940s. His wife, Luella, died in 1936.

Suze Botkin (Susan K. Botkin) was the wife of veterinarian Farran L. Botkin, and a Charles Street neighbor of the Williams family.

Sources:

Items in the collection.

Indiana Selected Marriages, 1780–1992 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 25 September 2014.

Ohio Marriages, 1803–1900 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 25 September 2014.

U.S. Census, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 25 September 2014.

U.S. City Directories, 1821–1989 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 25 September 2014.

U.S. Find A Grave Index, 1600s–Current (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 25 September 2014.

U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 25 September 2014.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of 84 postcards and one souvenir booklet; all except one show various Indiana locations. Ten are real photo postcards. Most of the postcards were addressed to members of the Leonard Grant Williams family at 517 E. Charles Street in Muncie, Indiana, and were mailed between 1904 and 1945. The majority were sent to Leonard's daughter, Marie Williams. Most of the postcards contain some correspondence from friends or family members.

Forty-eight postcards and the souvenir booklet were mailed to Marie Williams (later Mrs. T.R. Owens). Thirteen postcards were sent to Marie's younger sister, Ruth, and one postcard was addressed to Marie and Ruth jointly. Six postcards were mailed to Marie's mother; four postcards were sent to Marie's younger brother, Harry; and two postcards were addressed to Marie's father. Three postcards were sent to Mr. T.L. Westlake (including one to Tom Westlake and Mrs. Lucille Arnold). One postcard was sent to Mrs. F.L. Botkin and six postcards were not used.

The 84 postcards include the following Indiana locations: nine each of Lafayette and Marion; six of Crawfordsville; five each of Logansport, Fort Wayne, and Terre Haute; three each of Elwood and Muncie; two each of Franklin, French Lick, Kendallville, Nashville, and Portland; and one each of Alexandria, Anderson, Angola, Bringham, Brook, Clear Lake, Connersville, Culver, Dunkirk, Greencastle, Greensburg, Hartford City, Henryville, Huntington, Lake James, Madison, Mitchell, New Castle, Rockville, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Santa Claus, Shelbyville, Silver Lake, Tippecanoe Lake, Union City, Vincennes, Wawasee, and Winona Lake. In addition, there is a souvenir booklet of Angola, Indiana. There is also a real photo postcard of the Dells of the Evergreen River at the Menominee Indian Reservation in Wisconsin.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Postcards to Marie Williams (Owens)

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
October 1904: Emma H. writes about the history of St. Francis Xavier Church in Vincennes, which is depicted on the postcard.	Box 1, Folder 1
October 1905: Evelyn sends a postcard of the public library in Elwood, Ind., and writes, "Something like ours isn't it?"	Box 1, Folder 1
October 1906: Mildred O'Meara sends a message from St. Ann's Chapel in St. Mary-of-the-Woods.	Box 1, Folder 1
1907: Reservoir Park in Fort Wayne; tree growing from courthouse in Greensburg; real photo postcard of Crooked Lake, Angola; Fred M. sends a card of Elwood Cemetery; Ruth sends a card of First M.E. Church in Elwood; Angola souvenir booklet sent by [E.R.O.?]; Eugene [?] sent a card of an unidentified church in Fort Wayne on his way to Chicago.	Box 1, Folder 1
1908: Bruce, who lives in Crawfordsville, sent a real photo postcard of State Street in Kendallville (postmarked in Portland) and writes, "Had good concert in Portland." Bruce writes again, on a card of St. Gabriel's Catholic Church in Connersville, "Nice hotel & fine Opera House. Worked to a packed church at Richmond last night." Rose Polytechnic Institute in Terre Haute. Lois sends a card of Franklin College. M.L.S.R. sends a card of the Mechanical Building at Purdue University. Ralph M. sends a card of the Library of Gen. Lew Wallace in Crawfordsville and writes that he is homesick, "But the fellows are treating me dandy." Lois sends a card of the high school in Shelbyville. M.L.S.R. sends a card of the Physics Building at Purdue University.	Box 1, Folder 1

1909: Lois (L.M.W.) sends a card of the library of Franklin College. Josephine G. sends a card of the First Presbyterian Church in Anderson. L.G.W. [possibly Leonard Grant Williams] sends a card of a Presbyterian Church in New Castle. Blacks Landing at Tippecanoe Lake. [J.T. Bower?] sends a card of the Lake James Station and Supply Store. Bill sends a card of the Vigo County Court House. Emily sends a card of Beulah Park in Alexandria. Lois sends a card of the high school in Portland. Mrs. Orrick sends a card of the high school in Silver Lake. Shelton G. Silverburg sends four cards from Lafayette: the Purdue University campus; the fountain at Purdue University, asking Marie, "How do you like MHS?" [Muncie High School?]; the high school in Lafayette; and the Lafayette Monument and Artesian Well.

Box 1, Folder 1

1910: [W.J.L.?] sends a card of Collett Park in Terre Haute and refers to Marie as a "pretty girl." Mrs. Hagerman addresses a card of the First Presbyterian Church in Mitchell to Marie and her sister Ruth. R.H. sends a card of the Lecture Hall at Concordia College in Fort Wayne. Nellie G. Gessell sends a card of the Normal School in Terre Haute, apologizing for not being able to attend the first annual reunion of Muncie High School's class of 1909. Roger sends a card of George Ade's country home in Brook. Eugene [U. or N.?] sends a card of boys fishing near cottages in Clear Lake. S.G.S. [Shelton G. Silverburg] sends a real photo postcard of the lake at Beech Grove Cemetery in Muncie to Marie in Gallipolis, Ohio, saying, "I want you to come home." Uncle Charles sends a card of a Presbyterian Church in Hartford City, saying, "I since heard you were collecting Presbyterian churches...." [Marion?] sends a card of a Presbyterian Church in Marion.

Box 1, Folder 1

1911: [Bill?] sends a card of the Wabash River and bridges in Lafayette. Anthony Hotel in Fort Wayne. [L.W.?] sends a card of the Marion Normal College in Marion. Hazel sends a card of the State Normal Library in Terre Haute.

Box 1, Folder 1

1912: Lila [?] and Stella send a card of Meridian Street in Portland to Marie and her sister Ruth. J.H.H. sends a card of a Methodist Episcopal Church in Bringhurst to Marie in care of Drs. Botkin on Mulberry Street in Muncie.

Box 1, Folder 1

1913: South School Building in Dunkirk.

Box 1, Folder 1

1918 [?]: Bruce sends a real photo postcard of Williams Street in Kendallville.

Box 1, Folder 1

No year: S.G.S. [Shelton G. Silverburg] sends a card of the fountain at Purdue University. [Note: S.G.S. signs his name with "1911" but that appears to be the year he graduates, not necessarily the year that the card is written.]

Box 1, Folder 1

[Ca. 1925–1927]: [Hiatt?] sends a real photo postcard of the Parke County Court House in Rockville to Marie as "Mrs. T.R. Owens."

Box 1, Folder 1

Series 2: Postcards to Ruth Williams

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

1912: A friend sends a card of 3rd Street in Marion. Vera Martin sends a card of the Big Four Depot in Crawfordsville and writes that she had a grand time in that town. Mary R. Jarvis sends a card of the First Christian Church in Marion and writes, "There was 7 Marion people went home on the Flyer. I have to give the report of the Convention this evening."

Box 1, Folder 2

1913: Ruth Simmons sends a card of Palmer House, Lake Maxinkuckee, in Culver and writes, "I'm now at Laura Thornburg's." Mary sends a card of the YMCA building in Marion.

Box 1, Folder 2

1919: Ethel Metzger, secretary of Delta Theta Tau sorority, sends a card of St. Elizabeth Hospital in Lafayette and writes, "Dear Deltas: We are very sorry that none of our girls can come to your picnic but it is quite a distance for us."

Box 1, Folder 2

1922: Mary Q [?] sends a card of the General Electric plant in Fort Wayne and writes about a concert the previous night and that she did some window shopping while Robb was busy.

Box 1, Folder 2

August 29, no year: "Mary-go-round" sends a card of the Crawford Hotel in Crawfordsville. She provides Buck's address and writes that "he is the one that sends the Journals, not Orphie. I've been making signs for an Ice-cream Social the C.E.'s are going to give next Sat. night.... We had a buyer for the store today & he may take it. May see you soon." She also signs the card with A.S.K. [sorority letters?]

Box 1, Folder 2

August 30, no year, postmarked 12:30A: Mary sends a card of the Wilson School in Crawfordsville. She writes, "I don't think you were a bit nice to go away. It's awfully lonesome without you.... Did you take the pictures down? You better hurry. Been busy at the store today. Buck was in about 10 mins. ago." A.S.K. [sorority letters?] is written at the top.

Box 1, Folder 2

August 30, no year, postmarked 9PM: Mary sends a card of Center Hall at Wabash College in Crawfordsville. A.S.K. is written at the top. She writes, "I was going to the show tonight but Buck went back on me so I have to work."

Box 1, Folder 2

September 4, no year: Card of a building with caption "Supreme Tribe Ben Hur, Crawfordsville." The card is not signed but seems to be written by the same Mary as above. She writes, "We finally sold & you will see me soon.... Your letter was just what I needed.... Perfectly crazy to see the pictures.... Buck just left."

Box 1, Folder 2

September 14, year not readable: Ruth Wood sends a card of the Brown County Court House in Nashville. She writes, "The country down here is wonderful! We are way up on top of a huge hill. We go horseback riding and hiking, have marshmallow roasts, and altogether a general good time."

Box 1, Folder 2

No date: Mildred writes on a black-and-white card of the high school in Logansport, "Wish you would color these up for me when the spirit moves you and I will remember you in my will."

Box 1, Folder 2

Series 3: Postcards to Anna Lowry (Mrs. L.G.) Williams

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

June 1910: L.G. Williams sends his wife a card of Main Street in Union City giving her an address in that town for the Warren School House.

Box 1, Folder 3

1911: Myrtle sends a card of West College, DePauw University, in Greencastle.

Box 1, Folder 3

January 1914: Marie Williams sends her mother a card of the Soldiers' Home in Marion. She writes, "Edna Abbott is coming over tomorrow afternoon. Glad we'll be busy going to the meetings. Didn't arrive in time for afternoon meeting."

Box 1, Folder 3

1916, three cards of Logansport from Ella [Westlake]: In August, a card of the Cicott Street bridge. In September, a card of the Masonic Temple. In October, a card of the Administration Building at Longcliff.

Box 1, Folder 3

Series 4: Postcards to Harry Martin Williams

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

1910: William Taft Lesh sends a card (written by an adult, "dictated" by WTL) of the tree spring at Winona Lake, inviting Harry to come up and play with him. It also says, "I go to 'Chicago Kindergarten College' mornings."

Box 1, Folder 4

1913: Marie Williams sends her brother a card to an address in Gallipolis, Ohio, of a Christian Church in Marion. She writes, "Here is where I went to S.S. [Sunday service?] this morning.... You should have seen Fred, Mitchell, Mrs. Allison, & Pitzer [?] when they saw me.... I am going out to dinner tomorrow with Mitchell."

Box 1, Folder 4

1914: Marie Williams sends her brother a card of the Grant County Court House in Marion. She writes, "Our train was just one hour late.... Take good care of Mamma."

Box 1, Folder 4

September 14, year not readable: Ruth W. [Wood] sends a real photo card of the Old Log Jail in Nashville. She writes, "I have acquired quite a hobby of horseback riding.... We'll be home sometime Sunday night."

Box 1, Folder 4

Series 5: Postcards to Leonard Grant Williams

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

September 1911: H. Jones sends to LGW at the Merchants Hotel in Redkey a real photo postcard of the Pennsylvania Railroad depot in Henryville.

Box 1, Folder 5

October 1916: Uncle Charlie [Westlake] sends a card of the Cicott Street bridge in Logansport and writes to "Lennie & Family" that "Your Aunt Ella and I will be at Muncie sometime Wednesday this week for a short visit. I wrote your mother [Frances Westlake Williams] to be there when I came so that we could have a longer visit that [sic] if I went to G. [Gallipolis, Ohio?]."

Box 1, Folder 5

Series 6: Postcards to T.L. Westlake, Lucille Arnold, and Mrs. F.L. Botkin

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

August 1944: Ruth sends a real photo postcard of Lake Wawasee to T.L. Westlake in Muncie. She writes: "David, Dave & I are here with Marie for a few days – going home today."

Box 1, Folder 6

1945: Fred sends a card of Clifty Falls State Park in Madison, Ind., from Houston, Texas, to T.L. Westlake and writes about a fundraiser for the Shriners Hospital there. Evelyn sends a card with multiple views of the Veterans Administration facility in Marion, addressed to Mrs. Lucille Arnold & Tom Westlake. She writes, "Hi, Mom, I will be home tonight. Marie and I are going to the Dance at 6:30."

Box 1, Folder 6

October 1909: Hattie sends a card of the Muncie Public Library, postmarked from Winchester, Ind., to Mrs. F.L. [Farran L.] Botkin at 511 E. Charles Street in Muncie. She writes, "Dear Aunt Suze, Am still getting better.... Don't know when I will be able to come but soon I hope."

Box 1, Folder 6

Series 7: Unused Postcards

CONTENTS

French Lick: (1) French Lick Springs Hotel; (2) Garden at French Lick Springs Hotel.

Huntington: high school.

Muncie: multiple black-and-white river views.

Santa Claus: real photo postcard of the original 1856 post office.

Menominee Indiana Reservation, Wisconsin: real photo postcard of the dells of Evergreen River.

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 7

CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0541).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.