

Collection #  
SC 3199

***THE EARLY LIFE OF  
FLORENCE MCCLURE HARLAN MEANS  
ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW, 1892–1914***

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 manuscript folder  
1 photograph folder

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1892–1914

PROVENANCE: Jane Harlan-Simmons, Bloomington, Indiana, 2013

RESTRICTIONS: None

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RELATED  
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2013.0421

NOTES:

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Florence McClure was born in Mount Pleasant, Iowa on August 12, 1892. Her parents, Charles Arthur McClure and Margaret Marshall McClure moved to Missouri after Florence was born. There they farmed land owned by an uncle. Florence had five siblings, Elmer, Clarence, Clara who died in Missouri, George, and Marvin.

While in Missouri, Mrs. McClure became ill with tuberculosis and the family returned to Iowa in hopes of getting her to Colorado for treatment, but she died in January 1901. After her mother's death her father worked on the railroad and Florence and her brothers lived with various neighbors and relatives.

Her father learned of a newly formed orphanage in Indianapolis run by the Pentecostal Bands of the World and decided to send Florence, then ten, to the orphanage in August 1902. Eventually her father brought Florence's four brothers to the orphanage where they could all be together.

The orphanage was originally located on the outskirts of east Indianapolis near the Washington Street car line. The orphanage later moved to several acres of land in Plainfield, Indiana. Florence stayed at the orphanage for five and a half years before she and her brothers returned to their father who was now farming in Mississippi with relatives. There she kept house for her father, uncles and brothers while they farmed.

Realizing there was no future for her on the farm she was able to return to Iowa where cousins helped her enter nurse's training at a local hospital. She completed her nurse's training in 1913. Soon after she met Oliver Dwight Harlan; the couple married in 1914 and had four children.

Sources:

Material in the collection

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists of a printed oral history interview and one photograph. The interview is titled, "*The Early Life of Florence McClure Harlan Means: dictated to her daughter-in-law Lillian Kolsrud Harlan.* Hand published by her granddaughter Anne Harlan, 2004."

In it Florence describes her early life from birth in 1892 to her marriage and birth of her first child in 1914. Included with the oral history is a photograph of Florence and her four brothers at the Indiana orphanage where they lived after her mother's death.

The interview also includes an older image of Florence at the front and names of Harlan and McClure relatives at the back.

## CONTENTS

### CONTENTS

*"The Early Life of Florence McClure Harlan Means: dictated to her daughter-in-law Lillian Kolsrud Harlan. Hand published by her granddaughter Anne Harlan, 2004."*

Orphanage children with matron and assistant outside headquarters of the Pentecostal Church, Indianapolis, Indiana with McClure children; Clarence, Elmer, Florence, George, and Marvin, ca. 1902

### CONTAINER

Folder 1

Photographs:  
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