

Collection #
M 1536

**CLINE FAMILY
WORLD WAR II LETTERS, 1944-1946**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	One half-sized manuscript box, four photographs in one folder
COLLECTION DATES:	1944-1946
PROVENANCE:	Douglas Cline, Tucson, Ariz.
RESTRICTIONS:	None
COPYRIGHT:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.
ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	Back home again: Indiana in the Farm Security Administration photographs, 1935-1943 (F527 .B33 1987); Douglas E. Clanin WWII Oral History Collection, 1944-2002 (M0783)
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2018.0347
NOTES:	

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lester G. Cline (1887-1960) and Gladys E. Nickerson (1896-1987) were married around 1916 and farmed (wheat and oats) near Cloverdale in Putnam County, Indiana. Later they moved to a farm near Poland in Clay County. They had five children, three of whom served in World War Two.

Their first born, Wilma P. (1917-1999) served as a nurse in France and achieved the rank of Captain. In 1962 she married John Boger. Second-born Virginia B. [Ginny] (1919-2020) worked as a waitress and in 1940 married Forrest Bullerdick. She later worked for the telephone company. With her husband, she owned a shop called Kandle Korner for 18 years. Russell P. (1920-1996) was a Technical Sergeant (Technician Third Grade) in the army during the war. Afterwards he also worked for the telephone company. He married Evelyn J. Neese in 1943.

Donald C. (1925-2008) enlisted 17 May 1944 and trained at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri. Letters to Donald are addressed Co. A of the 276th Infantry. But by February of 1945 they were being redirected to the 5th General Hospital, which was located in Northern Ireland. After the war, Donald lived in Terre Haute and Indianapolis. In 1952 he married his first wife, Margaret Oppelt. Donald, Russell, and Wilma all eventually retired to Arizona. Finally, the youngest sibling Vera L. (1927-1984) married Ray [elsewhere Roy] W. Neese, the brother of Russell's wife, in 1946.

Sources:

"Cline, Donald C." [Tucson] *Arizona Daily Star*, 20 May 2008

Findagrave.com (family obituaries)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of letters received by Donald C. Cline while in the army. Most were written by his mother, Gladys, and give updates on the family, homestead and neighborhood around Poland, Indiana. His father Lester, sisters Virginia and Vera, friend Del Blackstone (San Bernardino, Cal.), and “Edna Billie” penned the balance of the letters.

Mrs. Blackstone initially wrote to Donald Cline to ask him what he could discover about the particulars of the death of her son, Gene Blackstone on 20 Feb. 1945. Donald and Gene had trained together in Arkansas and Gene had mentioned Donald to his family while home on furlough. Afterwards, Mrs. Blackstone kept in touch with Donald and his mother, Gladys.

Three photographs were removed from a letter dated 26 February 1946 and one from an Easter card, 1946. They depict Virginia Cline Bullerdick, her children Jerry and Eleanor, [Holbert] Nickerson, Fred Williamson, Roy Neese, Forrest Bullerdick, and Keith Nickerson. Handwriting on verso of each identify individuals; one claims that Holbert was “killed on D-Day,” but according to the army, the soldier in question was killed 12 August 1945.

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Letters, 16 Oct. 1944 – 24 Oct. 1944

Letters, 6 Feb. 1945 – 17 Sept. 1945

Letters, 25 Sept. 1945 – 2 Dec. 1945

Letters, 15 Jan. 1946 – 24 Feb. 1946

Letters, 26 Feb. 1946 – 16 March 1946

Letters, 8 April 1946 – 22 Oct. 1946

Del Blackstone letters, 16 March 1945 – 18 March 1946

Nickerson/Cline/Bullerdick family members

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Photographs,
Folder 1 of 1