

Collection #
P 0540

ETHEL GILDART POSTCARD COLLECTION 1907–1910

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Processed by

Barbara Quigley
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 13 postcards

COLLECTION
DATES: 1907–1910

PROVENANCE: Gift of Richard G. Fowler of Norman, Oklahoma, 22
November 1988

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 1989.0058

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ethel A. Gildart was born 18 November 1881 in Michigan to William B. and Henrietta Sawyer Gildart. She was a high school teacher in Noble County, Indiana, during the years 1907–1910. At the time of the 1900 census she lived with her parents, five brothers, and older sister in Stockbridge, Michigan. At age 18, she was already teaching at a school.

Ethel was a teacher at the high school in Ligonier, Indiana, in 1907. By 1910 the Gildart family had moved to West Porter Street in Albion, Michigan. Ethel was listed there with the family at the time of that year's census in April, and her occupation was listed as teacher in public schools. A newspaper article reported that Ethel arrived in Kendallville, Indiana, on 2 September 1910 to begin teaching there.

Ethel married Rafus Fowler (1875–1943) on 28 August 1915 in Albion, Michigan. They had a son, Richard Gildart Fowler (the donor of this collection), born on 13 June 1916 in Michigan. Ethel divorced Rafus for non-support on 21 June 1920. Richard died 8 October 1992.

The 1920 and 1930 censuses show Ethel and her son Richard living with her mother in Albion, Michigan, and that Ethel was still a public school teacher. By the time of the 1940 census, Ethel was living in Jackson, Michigan, and still teaching.

Sometime after the 1940 census, Ethel married Alvin N. Cody (1868–1956). Ethel died 15 July 1967 in Norman, Oklahoma, and is buried in Riverside Cemetery in Albion, Michigan.

Sources:

"City News." In *Kendallville Daily News*, 3 September 1910 (<http://newspaperarchive.com/us/indiana/kendallville/kendallville-daily-news/1910/09-03/>). Accessed 28 August 2014.

"Ethel Gildart Cody." Find A Grave (<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=10128490>). Accessed 28 August 2014.

Michigan Divorce Records, 1897–1952 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 28 August 2014.

"Richard Gildart Fowler." Find A Grave (<http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=32124862&ref=acom>). Accessed 28 August 2014.

Social Security Death Index (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 28 August 2014.

U.S. Census, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 28 August 2014.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of 13 postcards dating from 1907 to 1910. Five of these are real photo postcards of people; the other eight are mass-produced postcards of scenes in the Indiana towns of Ligonier, Kendallville, and Albion that were written by Ethel Gildart while working as a teacher in Indiana and mailed to her parents and sister in Michigan.

The collection is arranged as follows:

Series 1, Real Photo Postcards: Photographs included in this series are of Ethel Gildart with three other Ligonier schoolteachers (1907); Ed Bowery of Ligonier (1907); a Kendallville baseball team with most players identified (1908); a large group (probably a school group) in Kendallville with many identified (1908); and a boy in a canoe in Clear Lake, Steuben County, Indiana (1909). Only the postcard from Clear Lake was actually mailed.

Series 2, Postcards of Noble County, Indiana, from Ethel Gildart: This series consists of eight postcards that Ethel Gildart wrote to her family in Michigan. Four were written in 1907 from Ligonier and a fifth from Ligonier has no year, but was postmarked in February, possibly 1908. These cards show the high school building, railroad depot and Mier Carriage Works, Main Street, Water Works and North Side School Building, and Cavin Street. She writes of her teaching, of a lay off ending, and asks her mother to send her postage stamps. Two postcards written by Ethel to her family are of Kendallville scenes: multi-view card of churches (1908) and the high school (1909). The latter is sent to her father and tells that her mother has arrived. Another postcard is of the Court House in Albion in Noble County, Indiana, sent to her mother in Albion, Michigan (1910).

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Real Photo Postcards

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Portrait of four teachers. Written on back: The Royal Four, Ligonier school teachers. 1) Myers [?]; 2) Wickliffe [?]; 3) Ethel Gildart; 4) Win Culver / 1907.	Folder 1
Portrait of two men. One is identified as Ed Bowery of Ligonier / 1907.	Folder 1
Portrait of a baseball team, Kendallville, Indiana, 1908. Most players are identified: Earl Kern , Kent Nelson , Charles Kollman , Sam Hornsby [?], George Helwig , Harold Shauck , Herbert Lisle , Dan Mertz , Owen Woodworth or Woodruff .	Folder 1
Large group in Kendallville, Indiana, 1908. Probably a school group; most appear to have been born in the 1890s. [Several are listed as 1915 graduates of Kendallville High School here: http://gen.nobleco.lib.in.us/Schools/Kvillegrads.htm] Many are identified: Lura Herin , Winnifred Hogmer , Minnie [?] Bickel , Lois Shore , George Keen , Leona Swartz [?], Nora Homeir [?], Helen Shell , Mable King , Selma Wert , Donald Isbell , Robert Loomis , Cleo Groh , Donald Deibele , Doris Misselhorn , Herman Strauss , Marshall Diggins , Lindor Ullin , Sherman Drake , Ralph Kollman , Zita Teders , Vera Marsh .	Folder 1
Photo of a boy in a canoe, Clear Lake, Steuben County, Indiana. This card was mailed in October 1909 to Ethel Gildart's sister, Lulu M. Gildart, in Albion, Michigan, from Mrs. S Lorp.	Folder 1

Series 2: Postcards of Noble County, Indiana, from Ethel Gildart

CONTENTS

CONTAINER

High School Building, Ligonier, 1907. Sept. 8: Ethel writes to her father that she teaches in three different rooms in the building shown and that the school has one other building.

Folder 2

Railroad Depot and Mier Carriage Works, Ligonier, 1907. Sept. 19: Ethel writes to her mother, "See this is quite a city."

Folder 2

Main Street North from Sixth Street, Ligonier, 1907. Sept. 23: Ethel writes to her sister, Lulu Gildart.

Folder 2

Water Works and North Side School Building, Ligonier, 1907. Oct. [date unreadable]: Ethel writes to her mother, "You may send that money in stamps. I can't even write a letter for two whole weeks if you don't."

Folder 2

Cavin Street in winter, Ligonier, n.d. [1908?]. Feb. 28: Ethel writes to her mother, "No more lay off. We work again Monday."

Folder 2

Postcard showing seven Kendallville churches, 1908. [Oct. 6?]: Ethel writes to her mother.

Folder 2

High School Building, Kendallville, 1909. Oct. 1: Ethel writes to her father, "Mother came here last night. We are going to Van Wert tomorrow (Friday). Am glad to have her here."

Folder 2

Court House, Albion, Ind., 1910. April 30: Ethel writes to her mother in Albion, Michigan, "From Albion to Albion."

Folder 2

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 0540).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.