

Collection #
P 0825

**LYDIA DODIMEAD LUCHT COLLECTION
CA. 1912–CA. EARLY 1930S**

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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: 1 folder of photographs, 1 folder of ephemera and manuscript material

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1912–ca. early 1930s

PROVENANCE: Gift of Mary Jo Schlomann of Downingtown, Pennsylvania, 2021

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2021.0213

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Lydia Clara Dodimead began working in food service at Turkey Run State Park in Parke County as a teenager and later worked at Clifty Falls State Park in Jefferson County. She was born 31 July 1905 in Marshall, Parke County, Indiana.

Lydia was the only child of five born to David (1847–1920) and Hester Hannah White (1875–1940) Dodimead to live past infancy. David had immigrated from England to Canada in 1870 and to the United States in 1874. He became a U.S. citizen in 1883. He was listed in the 1880 and 1900 censuses as a minister. In 1910 and 1920 he was listed as a house painter.

After her father died when she was fourteen years old, Lydia went to work at Turkey Run State Park for Rowland P. “Paw” Luke (1869–1932), superintendent of the park. She worked there for the remainder of her high school years, learning to cook, bake pies, and serve as hostess in the dining room. Luke’s wife, Odelia “Della” Cade Luke (1870–1955) was in charge of the hotel at the park. Lydia applied to Indiana University’s Training School for Nurses and was accepted in 1924. However, she was unable to complete her training due to prolonged medical treatment following an injury to her finger.

After several years, the Lukes, as well as Lydia, moved from Turkey Run to Clifty Falls State Park. Mrs. Luke was in charge of the Clifty Inn, and Lydia ran the dining room there. Lydia moved into quarters on the grounds of the park and learned to drive so that she could purchase food from local farmers and grocers for the meals that were served family-style to guests of the inn.

In 1931, Lydia married John Edward Lucht (1904–1985). They lived in downtown Madison while Lydia continued to run the dining room at the Clifty Inn. The couple had a son, John, and a daughter, Mary Jo (the donor of this collection).

John and Lydia began managing the Hillside Hotel in Madison and became its owners in 1934. Lydia’s mother moved in with them to help out making beds, cleaning, etc. As a family business, John and Lydia’s children and grandchildren also worked at the hotel. The hotel was destroyed in a fire in 1964. It was rebuilt and stayed in the Lucht family until 1981.

Lydia played the organ for Lytle Mortuary and St. Mary Catholic Church. She served as president of the board of King’s Daughters’ Hospital, was a member of Bethany Circle of King’s Daughters, Business Professional Women, and Daughters of Isabelle. She died on 26 April 1985 in Madison. Her husband died a couple of months later, on 5 July. They were both buried in Grandview Memorial Gardens in Madison.

Sources:

Items in the collection

Ancestry <https://www.ancestrylibrary.com>. Accessed 16 February 2022:

Find a Grave

Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899–2011

Indiana, U.S., Marriages, 1810–2001

United States Federal Census, 1880, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930, 1940

Parke County Families. “Dodimead – White Families” <http://ingenweb.org/inparke/Families/DodimeadWhite/DodimeadWhite.htm> Accessed 17 February 2022.

Roundabout Madison. “Hillside Inn Fire Remembered: Lucht family members, area residents recall 1964 fire” <http://roundaboutmadison.com/InsidePages/ArchivedArticles/2018/0118HillsideInnCover.html> Accessed 17 February 2022.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of photographs and a few other items pertaining to the life of Lydia Clara Dodimead Lucht. The bulk of the collection is composed of photographs taken at Turkey Run State Park and Clifty Falls State Park, where Lydia worked in food service from approximately 1919 through the early 1930s. The photos show Lydia and her co-workers; park superintendent Rowland P. Luke; the swinging bridge and the inn at Turkey Run; a large barn that housed employees at Clifty Falls; the lobby and dining room of the Clifty Inn; building exteriors, and the Ohio River. There are also two photographs from ca. 1912 and 1913 of Lydia and her fellow Marshall School students – one photo taken at the school and the other at a school picnic held at Turkey Run State Park. Other items include a brief description of Lydia’s early life written by her daughter, a 1920 child’s season ticket issued to Lydia for the Rockville Chautauqua, and a 1924 letter to Lydia accepting her application to the Indiana University Training School for Nurses. The letter is of interest because it provides a very detailed list of articles of clothing and other items that students were expected to bring with them to the school.

The photographs are glued to pages – many on both sides – that were from a scrapbook kept by Lydia. The pages were removed from Lydia’s album before arriving to the Indiana Historical Society. These loose pages have been numbered in the lower right-hand corner by the collection processor.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Photographs

CONTENTS

Page 1: Marshall School (Marshall, Parke County) [ca. 1912], shows teacher and students posed outside brick building. Two students are identified: marked with an X is Lydia Clara Dodimead; next to her in a checkered dress is her cousin, Mary Frances White.

Page 2: Marshall School picnic at Turkey Run State Park, 31 July 1913 [which happened to be Lydia's eighth birthday] – group photo of children and adults with tables of food and tents in background. Two children are identified, each marked with an X: the one on the left is Lydia Clara Dodimead, the one on the right is her cousin, Mary Frances White.

Page 3: Turkey Run State Park, 1923. Three photos of Lydia and her [friends/co-workers?].

Page 4: Turkey Run State Park employees: three photos [1920s].

Page 5: Turkey Run State Park – three photos: Old Turkey Run Inn, swinging bridge, Mrs. Luke and Mrs. Thorpe [1920s]

Page 6: Turkey Run State Park – four photos: waitresses, 1920; group of women; Olive, Beulah, Alice and Lydia; Olive and Lydia [1920s]

Page 7: Rowland P. Luke (spelled here as Roland P. Luke), superintendent of Turkey Run and Clifty Falls State Parks [ca. 1920s]

Page 8: Clifty Falls State Park – four photos [three are possibly of Lydia], one is identified as being of Frances and Lydia [ca. 1920s]

Page 9: Clifty Falls State Park – four photos of unidentified women [Lydia might be in each of them] [ca. 1920s]

CONTAINER

Photographs, Folder 1 of 2

Photographs, Folder 1 of 2

Photographs, Folder 1 of 2

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Photographs, Folder 1 of 2

Page 10: Three photos, likely of Lydia; one may be of Lydia and her mother by a car [ca. early 1930s]	Photographs, Folder 1 of 2
Page 11: View looking down to the Ohio River, n.d.	Photographs, Folder 1 of 2
Page 12: Clifty Falls State Park – three photos: a large barn that served as living quarters for employees, including Lydia before her marriage; lobby of the Clifty Inn; dining room of the Clifty Inn, n.d.	Photographs, Folder 1 of 2
Page 13: Clifty Falls State Park – three photos: “Old Hill Road,” “Hill Road,” [Lydia?] by water pump by the large barn, n.d.	Photographs, Folder 1 of 2
Page 14: Clifty Falls State Park – two photos: exterior view of the Old Clifty Inn overlooking the Ohio River, lobby of the inn, n.d.	Photographs, Folder 1 of 2
Page 15: Clifty Falls State Park – two photos: original Clifty House exterior; people seated outdoors, overlooking the Ohio River, n.d.	Photographs, Folder 1 of 2
Page 16: Clifty Falls State Park – three photos: group portraits of waitresses at Clifty Inn, n.d.	Photographs, Folder 1 of 2

Series 2: Biographical Note, Correspondence, and Ephemera

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Biographical note written by Mary Jo Lucht Schlomann about her mother, Lydia, n.d.	Photographs, Folder 2 of 2
Child’s season ticket to the Rockville Chautauqua, issued to Lydia Dodimead, for \$1.25. Event held in Beechwood Park, Rockville, Indiana, in August 1920.	Photographs, Folder 2 of 2
Form letter addressed to Lydia Dodimead on 12 January 1924 notifying her of the acceptance of her application to the Indiana University Training School for Nurses at Robert W. Long Hospital in Indianapolis. It includes a detailed list of what she should bring with her, and is signed by Ethel P. Clarke, director of the Training School.	Photographs, Folder 2 of 2