

Collection #
P 0889

**SAMUEL M. AND LOTTIE ARMSTRONG VAN CLEAVE
COLLECTION,
CA. 1910S–1920S, 1950S, 1999, N.D.**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Three folders

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1910s–1920s, 1950s, 1999, n.d. (photographs, ca. 1910s–1920s, n.d.; manuscripts, ca. 1950s, 1999, n.d.)

PROVENANCE: Gift from Marion Alma Dorton Denney of Muncie, Indiana, 2001–2002

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBERS: 2002.0186, 2002.0271

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Samuel Marion Van Cleave was a professional photographer, among other occupations, who spent time photographing at Turkey Run in Parke County. It is believed that he was in charge of the campground at Turkey Run before it became a state park in 1916.

Samuel Marion Van Cleave was born on 20 November 1869 in Crawfordsville, Indiana. He was the fifth of seven sons born to Alfred Thomas Van Cleave and Catharine Ann Saylor Van Cleave. His older brothers were William Henry, James, Charles, and George; his younger brothers were Bert and John. Samuel grew up working on a farm in Montgomery County. He attended Central Normal College in nearby Ladoga, Indiana, and then taught school in Montgomery County.

Samuel married Emma Winter in Montgomery County, Indiana, in the summer of 1895. At the time of the 1900 census, they were living in Lebanon, Indiana, where he worked as an advertising agent. Emma died in 1908.

On 29 July 1909, Samuel married Lottie Armstrong in Dayton, Ohio. She often accompanied him in his work as a traveling advertising salesman, as they visited most of the states in the country. In March 1917, they moved to Marion, in Grant County, Indiana, where they lived for twenty-two years. He worked in the automobile business with his brother, George Van Cleave, until 1925. Samuel then ran for Mayor of Marion, but was defeated by James McConnell, who then appointed him as superintendent of the Marion City Water Department. Samuel held that position for more than thirteen years. He was also a notary public and was the first manager of the automobile license department in Grant County. After retiring from the Water Department in 1939, Samuel worked in the real estate business until December 1947.

Lottie Armstrong was born on 24 April 1876 in Crown City, Ohio, to Charles E. and Emily Thompson Armstrong. She was the second eldest of several children. Lottie's older brother was Wilbert, and her younger siblings included Olia, Henry, Franklin, Ernest, Martha "Mattie" (Dorton), James, Carrie (Faul), and Bertha (Hammer). Her father farmed in Gallia County, Ohio, but by 1890 the family moved, by barge down the Ohio River, to the area of Huntington, West Virginia, to farm there. Sometime between 1900 and 1909, the Armstrong family moved to Dayton, Ohio.

After Samuel retired at the end of 1947, he and Lottie moved to Dayton, Ohio, where she could have easier access to needed medical care and be near her siblings. The 1950 census shows Samuel and Lottie living with her brothers Henry, Ernest, and James in Montgomery County, Ohio. Lottie died on 28 November 1952, and Samuel died on 16 December 1954, both in Dayton. They were both buried in Grant Memorial Park cemetery in Marion, Indiana, beside Samuel's brother, George.

George W. Van Cleave was born 21 December 1866. He married Mattie Dell Virts (1868–1913) in 1887. At the time of the 1900 census, George and Mattie and their children Ethel and Leo were living in Crawfordsville, where George worked as a policeman. In 1910 the couple lived with their daughter Ethel and her husband in Frankfort, Clinton County, where George worked as an auctioneer. After Mattie's death, George married Dortha Ethel Curry (1884–1971), who was called by her middle name, in 1914. In 1920, George and Ethel shared a house with his brother Samuel and his wife Lottie in Marion, where George and Samuel

worked together selling automobiles. At the time of the 1930 census, George was again working as an auctioneer. Samuel and Lottie were no longer living with him, but his father-in-law was. George died on 16 October 1930.

Martha Ann “Mattie” Armstrong was born in Ohio, on 17 March 1886. She married Carl John Dorton (1880–1960), sometime between August 1912 and August 1913. Their children included Robert Henry (1913–1986), twins Alene Margaret (Worstell) (1915–1987) and Marion Alma (Denney) (1915–2014), and Delores I (Wolfe) (1922–2001). Carl worked in the metal-forging industry. The family lived in Marion, Indiana, in 1920. By 1930 they had moved to Muncie, and by 1940 to Union Township in Delaware County, Indiana. Mattie died on 19 June 1947 in Delaware County.

Carrie Sarah Armstrong was born on 3 March 1890 in West Virginia. At the time of the 1910 census, she was working as a clerk in a dry goods business in Dayton, Ohio. She married Carl Henry Faul (1889–1968) in October 1913. They had a daughter, Martha Jayne (Moore) (1914–1989). The family lived in Dayton, where Carl worked first as a toolmaker and later for a refrigerator manufacturer. Carrie died on 27 January 1968.

Bertha Armstrong was born on 2 February 1895 in West Virginia. Her first husband, Emerson Glotfelter, was a policeman in Dayton, Ohio; he died of pneumonia at the age of 24 in December 1918. They had a daughter, Mary Emerson Glotfelter (1919–2004). Around 1926, Bertha married Earl Allison Hammer (1891–1955). Their son, Earl A. Hammer, Jr. (1927–1953) was born in Ohio. In 1930 the family lived in West Virginia, where Earl Sr. worked as an airplane inspector. In 1940 they lived in Maryland, where he worked as an aircraft inspector for the U.S. Army Corps. In 1950, Earl Sr. and Bertha lived in Wichita, Kansas, where he was the proprietor of a service garage. It appears that within a few years after that, they had moved to Birmingham, Alabama. Earl Jr. died in Birmingham on 22 September 1953. Earl Sr. died in Birmingham on 4 June 1955, and was buried in Dayton, Ohio. Bertha died on 11 October 1978 in Ohio.

Sources:

Materials in the collection

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 22 August 2024):

- Find a Grave
- Indiana, U.S., Marriage Index, 1800-1941
- Indiana, U.S., Marriages, 1810–2001
- Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899–2017
- Ohio, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1774–1993
- United States Federal Census, 1880–1950
- U.S., Newspapers.com Marriage Index, 1800s–current

Denney, Marion Alma Dorton. Personal communication, 9 December 2001.

“Guard of Honor at Patrolman’s Funeral.” *The Dayton Sunday News* (Ohio), 8 December 1918, Part Two, p. 3.

Indiana Department of Natural Resources. “The Beginning of Indiana State Parks” <https://www.in.gov/dnr/state-parks/cultural-resources-and-history/the-beginning-of-indiana-state-parks/> Accessed 23 July 2024.

Obituary for Carrie S. Faul. *Journal Herald* (Dayton, Ohio), 29 January 1968, p. 20.

Obituary for Earl Allison Hammer [Sr.]. *The Birmingham News* (Alabama), 6 June 1955, p. 28.

Obituary for Samuel M. Van Cleave. *The Dayton Daily News* (Ohio), 17 December 1954, p. 58.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection includes photographs and some manuscript materials pertaining to Samuel Marion Van Cleave, his wife Lottie Armstrong Van Cleave, and some of their relatives. Most of the photographs were taken by Samuel Van Cleave at the site of Turkey Run State Park in Parke County and are in the format of real photo postcards. Some of the photographs were taken at Turkey Run before it became a state park. These photographs show family members and others at campsites as well as scenic areas. A small number of these postcards were sent through the mail; six were sent to Mattie Armstrong Dorton – four from her sister Lottie and two from her sister Bertha. Some were postmarked from Bloomingdale and some from Marshall, both in Parke County near Turkey Run. Additional photographs include formal portraits of Samuel Van Cleave and of his brother George with his second wife, Ethel.

There is also a folder of manuscript materials including some Armstrong and Dorton family history, a short autobiography of Samuel Van Cleave, a short biography of Lottie Armstrong Van Cleave, and several poems written by Samuel Marion Van Cleave.

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CONTENTS

Twenty-five real photo postcards:

- *Samuel and Lottie Van Cleave, each standing on either side of a wooden post
- *three men and a woman [probably Lottie Van Cleave] standing behind a table loaded with containers of blackberries, and behind them is a tent with a sign for S. M. Van Cleave, Photographer [this postcard has writing on the back, presumably by Lottie: "...Sam and I are going tomorrow to pick more..."]
- *Lottie Van Cleave (far left) and four other women seated in chairs outdoors
- *Lottie Van Cleave standing in Sugar Creek at Turkey Run State Park, with another woman in the water
- *Lottie Van Cleave (second from left) with two women and two men on a hanging pedestrian bridge [there is a second postcard of this photo with a different exposure; there is writing on the back of one]
- *Lottie Van Cleave (in the center in back wearing a white collar) with five others, all seated on the ground, two are holding a pennant that says "Turkey Run"
- *Lottie Van Cleave seated in a boat in Sugar Creek at Turkey Run [three postcards with this photo]
- *Covered bridge at Turkey Run State Park
- *People seated in chairs near tents and trees at Turkey Run [this postcard was sent from Lottie Van Cleave to her sister, Mattie Armstrong in Dayton, Ohio, postmarked from Bloomingdale, Ind., 7 August 1912]
- *People outdoors among buildings and trees at Turkey Run [this postcard was sent from Lottie Van Cleave to her sister, Mattie Armstrong in Dayton, Ohio, postmarked from Bloomingdale, Ind., 8 August 1912]
- *Lottie Van Cleave (standing at far right) with a man, woman, and two dogs by large icicles [probably at Turkey Run]

(continued on next page)

CONTAINER

Photographs,
Folder 1

Real photo postcards (*continued*):

*Lottie Van Cleave (at far right) engaged in embroidery, with two other women, one is tatting lace and the other is reading, seated outdoors [this postcard was sent by Lottie to her sister Mattie Dorton in Marion, Ind., postmarked from Marshall, Ind., on 15 August 1913; she wrote that Sam is “busy with the picture business”]

*Samuel and Lottie Van Cleave, Bertha Armstrong Glotfelter Hammer, and Emily Thompson Armstrong by tent with sign for S.M. Van Cleave, Photographer [two different photos of this]

*The faces of George Van Cleave and his wife placed into a drawing that shows him pushing her in a wheelbarrow that has the words “Seeing Detroit” on it [this postcard is addressed to Bertha Armstrong in Dayton, Ohio, written by “Mattie” (someone has written “Van Cleave” after Mattie); the message is dated Nov 13 (19)19 but Mattie Van Cleave died in 1913, so this is confusing; the message indicates that the faces are those of George and his first wife, Mattie]

*Lottie Van Cleave standing in water at Turkey Run State Park (photo by Samuel Van Cleave)

*Four men and two women standing by an automobile [third from right appears to be Lottie Van Cleave] – [this postcard was sent from Lottie to her sister, Mattie Dorton, in Marion, Ind., postmarked from Bloomingdale on 14 June 1915; Lottie wrote of her plans to travel to Marion via Indianapolis]

*Group portrait in front of tent [from Indianapolis Tent & Awning Co.] at Turkey Run: in front is Bertha Armstrong in striped blouse, next to her is “Telsa, a waitress at the Hotel”; back row, second from left is Lottie Van Cleave [this postcard was sent by Bertha to her sister, Mattie Dorton, in Marion, written on 22 July 1915, postmarked from Marshall, Ind.; she wrote that she had just arrived from Montezuma with Dr. White and his wife]

*Lottie Van Cleave seated, holding her embroidery, with Samuel Van Cleave standing behind her, with tent with sign “S.M. Van Cleave, Photographer” in background; another woman is seated by Lottie

(*continued on next page*)

Real photo postcards (*continued*):

*Lottie Van Cleave (at left) and another woman at “Maidens Pool,” the Great Spring, source of Rocky Hollow, Turkey Run

*Arched Canyon, Turkey Run – shows four women and two men at a distance [this postcard was sent by Bertha (Armstrong) to her sister, Mattie Dorton, in Marion, Ind., postmarked from Marshall, Ind., on 7 August 1916; she wrote, “...you ought to see Martha Jane [her sister Carrie Faul’s daughter, Martha Jayne] in the water....”

*Turkey Run [this is not a postcard, but may be one half of a stereograph]

*Armstrong family members seated in chairs by tents with pennants for Turkey Run and Dayton, Ohio – second from left is Carrie Armstrong Faul with her daughter, Martha Jayne Faul; Lottie Van Cleave is behind Martha; Earl Hammer and Bertha Armstrong Glotfelter Hammer; Ernest Armstrong at far right [ca. 1919]

Eight sheets of paper printed with the photographs listed above and a few additional ones, including a woman [appears to be Bertha Armstrong] in a sailor dress seated beneath a tree at Turkey Run, 18 August 1915; Samuel Van Cleave pushing a young child in a wheelbarrow at Turkey Run (17 August 1914); Lottie Van Cleave standing, doing something with her hands [possibly making lace], with tents in the background

Portrait of George Van Cleave and his second wife, Ethel Curry Van Cleave [ca. 1920s]

Portrait of Samuel Marion Van Cleave (photo by Beitler of Marion, Ind., n.d.)

Group portrait of fifteen people at Turkey Run (before it was a state park) with tents and trees in the background; at far right are Lottie and Samuel Van Cleave

Photographs,
Folder 1

Photographs,
Folder 1

Photographs,
Folder 2

Photographs,
Folder 2

Photographs,
Folder 2

Four people seated on the ground – Lottie and Samuel Van Cleave are in the middle [note accompanying this photo states that it is believed this was at Turkey Run, ca. 1910]

Photographs,
Folder 2

Two pages of charts providing genealogical information on: the family of Charles and Emily Armstrong, compiled by Mary Emerson Glotfelter Graham and Alma Dorton Denney; and the family of Carl and Martha Dorton, compiled by Alma Dorton Denney. Both compiled on 9 July 1999.

Photographs,
Folder 3

Four-page typed autobiography of Samuel Marion Van Cleave, written ca. early 1950s

Photographs,
Folder 3

One-page typed biography of Lottie Armstrong Van Cleave; on reverse side is a poem written by her husband, Samuel Van Cleave, in January 1953, titled “In Sacred Memory of Lottie”

Photographs,
Folder 3

Ten typed pages of poems written by Samuel Marion Van Cleave, 1953–1954:

Photographs,
Folder 3

“Your Boy”

“The Gloom and Glory of Spring”

“As We Think of Mother”

“The Nurses of ‘Station A’ Miami Valley Hospital”

“Why I Love my Flower Garden”

“Youth and Old Age”

“Your Boy and Your Girl”

“Summer, Autumn and Winter (A Reverie)”

“Time for Valentines”

“The Moral of Looking Back”

One typed page with the poem “My New Years Prayer” (author unknown)

Photographs,
Folder 3