

Collection #  
P 0539

## EDNA MCKELVEY TABER POSTCARD COLLECTION 1907–1927

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: Two folders

COLLECTION  
DATES: 1907–1927

PROVENANCE: Gift of Elizabeth C. King of Indianapolis, July 2004

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2004.0423

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Edna W. McKelvey was born on 10 April 1888 in Ohio. She was the daughter of William J. and Sophia Mathilda McKelvey. Her mother was widowed at a young age. She and her mother and Edna's younger sister lived at 419 Germania Avenue in Columbus, Ohio. Edna apparently worked at the David C. Beggs department store during 1907 and at the Lazarus department store in Columbus during 1910–1911. Edna married Willard George Taber (3 August 1888–24 November 1957) around 1912. He was the son of Lillian Taber (b. December 1859) who was also widowed young. A daughter, Ardis Lillian, was born to Edna and Willard on 26 October 1914 in New Hampshire. At the time of the 1920 census the family was living in Cleveland, Ohio. By 1930, the Taber family lived with Edna's mother in the McKelvey home in Columbus, only the street name had changed from Germania Street to Stewart Avenue due to anti-German sentiment during World War I. Edna Taber died on 30 October 1986 in Columbus, Ohio.

Edna's friend Lutae Secrest was born on 2 December [birth years range from 1885 to 1889 in the records] in Greencastle, Indiana. She was the daughter of Charles and Alice Secrest; her mother was also widowed at a young age. At the time of the 1900 census, Lutae lived with her mother and three older sisters in Deer Creek, Carroll County, Indiana. Lutae married Fred Ober Proctor on 14 March 1911 in Indianapolis. Lutae died in Chicago, Illinois, on 14 August 1930, leaving behind her husband and four children.

### Sources:

Items in the collection.

Columbus, Ohio, Greenlawn Cemetery Index, 1780–2010 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 21 August 2014.

Darbee, Jeffrey T. and Nancy A. Recchie. *Images of America: German Columbus*. Arcadia Publishing, 2005: p. 13 (<http://books.google.com>). Accessed 21 August 2014.

Illinois Deaths and Stillbirths Index, 1916–1947 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 21 August 2014.

Indiana Select Marriages, 1780–1992 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 21 August 2014.

Ohio Deaths, 1908–1932, 1938–2007 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 21 August 2014.

U.S. Census, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 21 August 2014.

U.S. City Directories, 1821–1989 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 21 August 2014.

U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935–2014 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 21 August 2014.

U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918 (<http://www.ancestrylibrary.com/>). Accessed 21 August 2014.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of seventeen postcards, all of which are of Indianapolis sites except one of Greensburg, Indiana. Thirteen of the postcards were written to Edna McKelvey, later known as Mrs. W. G. Taber; eight of these were from her friend Lutae Secrest, later known as Lutae Proctor, and addressed to Edna in care of her employer. One postcard is addressed to Edna's mother and one to her mother-in-law, both from Edna's husband, Willard George Taber. Two postcards were not used.

Scenes of Indianapolis include: College Avenue bridge (1907); 30th Street bridge at Riverside Park (1909); State Fair Coliseum (1910); Court House, General Offices of the Central Union Telephone Co. (2 cards), the Motor Speedway, Benjamin Harrison Monument in University Park, Manual Training High School, Brookside Park (1911 or 1914); Athletic Club, James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children (1925); Indiana World War Memorial (1927); dam on White River in Broad Ripple, the Motor Speedway, and Washington Street looking East from Illinois Street (n.d.). The postcard from Greensburg in Decatur County shows the tree growing from the roof of the Court House (n.d.). The dates are based on postmarks where readable.

The postcards are arranged as follows:

**Series 1, Postcards to Edna McKelvey from Lutae Secrest (Proctor):** This series is composed of eight postcards mailed from 1907 to ca. 1911, addressed to Edna in care of her department store employers in Columbus, Ohio. Lutae writes of people they know in common, of getting married, about moving, and asks Edna to visit. (Some of the postmarks are unclear but appear to be either 1911 or 1914.)

**Series 2, Postcards to Edna McKelvey (Taber) from Others:** This series contains five postcards mailed from 1909 to 1927. The three earliest ones are addressed to 419 Germania Street in Columbus, Ohio. The two later cards are addressed to 419 Stewart Avenue. It appears that the street name was changed around 1917 or 1918 from Germania to Stewart due to anti-German sentiment during World War I.

**Series 3, Postcards to Sophia Mathilda McKelvey and Lillian I. Taber:** There are two postcards in this series. Both are from Willard George Taber. One to his mother-in-law is postmarked 1925; there is no date on the postcard to his mother.

**Series 4, Unused Postcards:** This series includes two Indianapolis postcards.

## **SERIES CONTENTS**

### **Series 1: Postcards to Edna McKelvey from Lutae Secrest (Proctor)**

CONTENTS	CONTAINER
Postcard of College Avenue Bridge mailed in 1907, addressed to Edna c/o the D.C. Beggs department store. Lutae briefly writes of travel.	Folder 1
Postcard of the State Fair Coliseum mailed in 1910, addressed to Edna c/o the Lazarus Co. department store. Lutae writes, "remember me to the girls at the store" and "I sure did hate to leave Col. [Columbus]." She provides her address.	Folder 1
Postcard of the Court House, mailed 19 March 1911, addressed to Edna c/o Lazarus Co. Lutae writes, "here is where we got the official documents....was married Tues Mar. 14 – 6 P.M. staying at home as yet." She signed the card, "Your Pals, Mr. & Mrs. F. O. Proctor."	Folder 1
Postcard of Central Union Telephone Co., mailed 11 April 1911, addressed to Edna c/o Lazarus Co. Lutae provides a new address.	Folder 1
Postcard of a scene during races at the Motor Speedway, mailed in May 1911 to Edna c/o Lazarus Co. Lutae asks Edna to thank her sister for her card and asks Edna to visit.	Folder 1
Postcard of Benjamin Harrison Monument in University Park, mailed in June 1911 to Edna c/o Lazarus Co. Lutae again asks Edna to visit.	Folder 1
Duplicate postcard of Central Union Telephone Co., mailed 14 August, possibly 1911, addressed to Edna c/o Lazarus Co. Lutae writes of her upcoming move to Chicago.	Folder 1

Postcard of Manual Training High School, mailed 27 August, possibly 1911, addressed to Edna c/o Lazarus Co. Lutae writes of getting ready to move and that someone named Kate will be in Columbus next Saturday and will see Edna at the store. Folder 1

### **Series 2: Postcards to Edna McKelvey (Taber) from Others**

CONTENTS CONTAINER

Postcard of 30th Street Bridge, Riverside Park, mailed in August 1909, addressed to Edna at 419 Germania Street in Columbus, from Alma. Folder 2

Postcard of Brookside Park, mailed in August, possibly 1911, addressed to Edna at 419 Germania, from Agnes N. Watkins. Folder 2

Postcard of dam on White River, Broad Ripple, n.d., addressed to Edna at 419 Germania, from her friend Edith. Folder 2

Postcard of "New Athletic Club," mailed in February 1925, addressed to Edna (as Mrs. W.G. Taber) at 419 Stewart Avenue, from her husband (signed "Daddy"). Folder 2

Postcard of Indiana World War Memorial, mailed in August 1927, addressed to Mrs. W.G. Taber at 419 Stewart, from Lura. Folder 2

### **Series 3: Postcards to Sophia Mathilda McKelvey and Lillian I. Taber**

CONTENTS CONTAINER

Postcard of James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children, mailed in February 1925, to Sophia Mathilda McKelvey at 419 Stewart Avenue, from her son-in-law, Willard George Taber. He writes of moving to a different hotel in Indianapolis. Folder 2

Postcard of the maple tree growing from the roof of the Court House in Greensburg, Indiana, n.d., addressed to Mrs. Lillian I. Taber, from her son, Willard George Taber. Folder 2

## **Series 4: Unused Postcards**

### CONTENTS

Indianapolis Motor Speedway during race (colorized black-and-white); Washington Street looking East from Illinois Street.

### CONTAINER

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 0539).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.