

Finding Aid

Title: Nelson Wells' Glenville State College Historical Collection 1872-1999

Description: This collection holds the original manuscript of the Glenville State College history book, Lighthouse on the Hill, and materials used in its development. It also has several artifacts relating to the early beginnings of the school and an assortment of memorabilia regarding the institution. The collection also holds many personal items owned by Nelson Wells in his activities as a local historian and professor.

Donors

-Collection given by Nelson Wells estate on April 22, 2008, with Addition provided by Sue Ann Stalnaker during the Summer of 2022.

A&M Box Number

-GSC20141023A – GSC20141023D

& Archival Cabinet 1/Shelf 3

Number of Boxes

-4 and 1 Shelf

Inclusive Dates

-Pre-1872-1999

Bulk Dates

-1920 to 1997

Source

-GSC Archives

Dates

-Pre-1900-1999

Size

-4 boxes, 20 inches (1.8 linear feet)

Index Names

-Nelson Wells, Bertha Olsen, Charles Holt

Index Terms

-Glenville Normal School, Glenville State Teacher's College, Glenville State College, Independent Literary Society, Cosmian Literary Society

Biographical Note

Nelson L. Wells was born on February 20, 1911, in Glenville, West Virginia. He was the son of Noah and Clara Craddock Wells. Although he moved to Florida and graduated from Fort Pierce High School, Wells returned to Glenville and enrolled in class in 1930. Upon graduating from Glenville State Teachers College in 1934, Wells attended West Virginia University and received his master's degree. He also did post-graduate work toward his doctorate at North Western University and Peabody Institute of Nashville, Tennessee. Wells began his teaching career at Sand Fork High School and remained there until he began his service to Glenville State College as a supervising teacher in the summer training school of 1948

Wells made significant contributions to Glenville, the town, and the college. He taught courses in social studies, geography, and education. He helped establish a nine-week term for student teachers and was a student teacher advisor. Wells also helped start the Boy Scouts of America in Gilmer County and was a member of the Historical Society of Gilmer County.

He retired from Glenville State College in 1973 and was honored as a professor emeritus from Glenville State College. Wells was also a member of the Retired Teachers Association on local and state levels. In 1979, Professor Wells received the Alumni Service Award in recognition for his service to the Alumni Association and the college.

Even after his retirement, Wells still showed interest in the history of Glenville State College. Wells worked actively to preserve and collect historical records and artifacts of Glenville State College. Seven years before his death, Wells co-authored the book Lighthouse on the Hill with Charles Holt. This book recorded the history of Glenville State College from 1872-1997

Historical Note

Glenville State Teachers College was authorized to begin granting four-year Bachelor of Arts degrees in education in May of 1930. The name officially changed from Glenville State Normal School to Glenville State Teachers College to reflect its new status. Nelson Wells was one of the first people who graduated from this new four-year program. For the first time, Glenville was an official college.

By 1943, Glenville State Teachers College had attained national accreditation and the next 20 years brought about significant growth. The campus attained many new structures, including, Science Hall in 1943, the Health and Physical Education Building in 1952, and the Pioneer Center "aka Heflin Center", "aka Mollohan Campus Community Center in 1964.

Box Contents: #GSC20141023A

- File Folder 1: Lighthouse on the Hill manuscript- Introduction-Chapter 1
- File Folder 2: Lighthouse on the Hill manuscript- Chapter 2
- File Folder 3: Lighthouse on the Hill manuscript- Chapter 3
- File Folder 4: Lighthouse on the Hill manuscript- Chapter 4
- File Folder 5: Lighthouse on the Hill manuscript- Chapter 5
- File Folder 6: Lighthouse on the Hill manuscript- Chapter 6
- File Folder 7: Lighthouse on the Hill manuscript- Original Contents
- File Folder 8: Lighthouse on the Hill manuscript- Notes
- File Folder 9: Founders Information- Glenville Normal School

Box Contents #GSC20141023B

- File Folder 1: Original Commencement Programs
 - Schedule for 30th Commencement
 - Cover Page for 29th Commencement
 - Schedule for 35th Commencement
- File Folder 2: Oral History
 - Deed of Gift for William Simmons
- File Folder 3: GSC Receipt of Transcript of Credits
 - Receipt of transcript of credits from Glenville State College Registrar's Office
- File Folder 4: W.P.A. Writers Project (1940)
 - Essay "Gilmer: The Birth of a County" by Nelson Wells
- File Folder 5: Alma Mater (1872-1972)
 - Sheet music for Glenville State Teacher's College Alma Mater by Fred H. Barnett
 - Program from 1972 Spring Alumni Banquet at Glenville State College
- File Folder 6: Correspondence
 - Handwritten letter addressed to Nelson Wells from Thomas Hendrick dated January 22, 1961
 - Small ad for Front Porch Coffee House & Bed and Breakfast from Dorothy Goodrich dated March 4, 1996
- File Folder 7: Bertha E. Olsen (In Memoriam)

- Funeral bulletin for Bertha E. Olsen born April 30, 1907, died October 9, 1991, services held November 17, 1991

-File Folder 8: Simmons Inauguration Information

- Schedule of Dr. William K. Simmons' inauguration as President of Glenville State College

-File Folder 9: Literary Society

- 10th anniversary program of the Cosmian Literary Society June 16th, 1894
- 20th anniversary program of the Independent Literary Society June 8, 1907
- 21st anniversary program of the Cosmian Literary Society June 8, 1904
- Poem entitled "Sit With Me Before You Preach To Me" for Education 407 to Mr. Wells by M. O'Dessa Geary
- Poem written on the 100th anniversary of the founding of Glenville State College by Carl A. Kerr

-File Folder 10: Independent Literary Society

- Independent Literary Society ribbon from Glenville State Normal School
 - Date on back: 6-20-1901
 - Initials on back: I.O.W.

-File Folder 11: Glenville Normal Bulletin 1909-1910

- Glenville State Normal School bulletin and course catalog for the 1909-1910 school year
 - Blanche Jarrel written on front cover

-File Folder 12: Glenville Normal Bulletin 1910-1911

- Glenville State Normal School bulletin and course catalog for the 1910-1911 school year

-File Folder 13: Glenville Normal Bulletin 1912-1913

- Glenville State Normal School bulletin and course catalog for the 1912-1913 school year

-File Folder 14: Glenville Normal Bulletin 1915-1916

- Glenville State Normal School bulletin and course catalog for the 1915-1916 school year
- Copy of cover page of Glenville Normal Bulletin from February 1914 Volume 3 Number 5
- Copy of cover page of Glenville Normal Bulletin from May 1916 Volume 5 Number 8

-File Folder 15: Directory and Educational Handbook 1928-1929

- Directory and Educational Handbook of the Public Schools of Gilmer County West Virginia for the school year 1928-1929
- Issued by the Gilmer County School System under Superintendent Walter L. Moore

-File Folder 16: 1978 Presentation of Glenville State College

- Copies of the April 26, 1978, presentation “A Look at the History of Glenville State College”

-File Folder 17: Certificate of Incorporation (Glenville/Weston Telephone Company)

- Certificate of Incorporation from the Glenville and Weston Telephone Company dated June 20, 1863, when it was sent
 - Handwritten date in upper left corner reads October 3, 1887
- Shares in company signed to S.B. Brown, Verana Maple, W.T. Wiant, N.M. Bennett, and J.S. Brannon
 - Found in Deed Book 17 Page 467

-File Folder 18: GSC Template

- Tin stencil featuring the letters G.N.S. for the Glenville Normal School

-File Folder 19: 1935 Alumni Directory (Glenville State)

- 1935 Alumni Directory for Glenville State Teacher’s College
 - Volume 1 Number 1

-File Folder 20: Anna Laura Amick Elementary Diploma/ High School Report Card

- Elementary school diploma for Anna Laura Amick dated April 15, 1933, under County Superintendent Carl McGinnis, Board of Education President Homer Wiant, and State Superintendent W.M. Trent
- Report card for Anna Laura Amick from Sandfork High School for the 1933-1934 school year under Principal Harold W. Nicholson

-File Folder 21: Alumni Day Program

- Program from Alumni Day at Glenville State College on June 23, 1984

-File Folder 22: Modern Photographs

- 3x5 photograph of Nelson Wells at Friendsheep Farm
- 3x5 photograph of Carl Kerr, Frances Schmetzer, Annie, Nelson Wells, Diane Gooding, Espy Miller, & Rosalee Miller from Friendsheep Farm

-File Folder 23: Mid-Century Photographs

- 8x6 photograph of Nelson Wells in his office at Glenville State College
- 5x8 photograph close of Nelson Wells in his office at Glenville State College
- 9x7 photograph of a United States Soldier in dress uniform beside an American Jeep
- 4x2 photograph of a boy scout troop in marching formation as their supervisors watch over them
- 3x4 photograph of 2 United States soldiers behind the wheel of an American Jeep

- 5x4 photograph of Nelson Wells by Blue Bird Studios in Philadelphia, PA.
- 2x4 photograph of 2 trees in a clearing during the autumn months.

-File Folder 24: Pre 1930s photographs

- 4x5 photograph of small school children 9-10 years of age
- Paper framed photograph of a well-dressed young man
- Very worn photograph of a class of students on picture day
- Very worn photograph of five well-dressed men in a parlor
- 6x5 framed class or club photograph
- 9x7 photograph of the Glenville State Normal School Concert Band 1911-1912
- 8x7 photograph of the Glenville Normal School class of 1896-97
- 3x5 postcard featuring a photograph of Kanawha Hall on the campus of Glenville Normal School
- 4x5 photograph of Richard Hamill 5-6 years old
- 8x7 photograph of the Glenville Normal School class of 1893-94
- 4x2 photograph of young school children on a field trip
- 4x2 photograph of a winter landscape
- 3x5 postcard of a class of young school children in front of the American Flag
 - Belonged to Alma Messenger
- 5x7 framed photograph of Miss George's Model School students
- 5x7 framed photograph of school children exiting a building in 2 single file lines
- 5x7 framed photograph of the 1st Kanawchen Staff at Glenville Normal School 1910-1911

-File Folder 25: Newspapers

- Glenville Mercury from January 23, 1940
- Glenville Mercury from April 30, 1940
- Glenville Mercury from May 7, 1940
- Glenville Mercury from October 10, 1939
- Glenville Mercury from September 26, 1939
 - The name Rose Marie Taylor is written above the headlines
- Glenville Mercury from June 4, 1935
- Civic Leader from the Teacher's Edition of the American Observer from January 31, 1966, Volume 35 Number 17
- Glenville Democrat from June 25, 1964
- Glenville Democrat from September 30, 1971
- Parkersburg News article entitled "Glenville State: A 106-year History" from March 19, 1978
- Glenville Democrat/Pathfinder article featuring the musical history of Glenville State College from February 21, 1980
- Parkersburg news article on the founding of Glenville State College from February 19, 1978

- Magazine article on Centennial Display at Glenville State College
- Glenville Mercury announcing Nelson Wells' retirement on April 16, 1973
- Alumni Association Newsletter honoring O.K. Wilfong and Nelson Wells from spring 1979
 - Belonged to Susan Craddock Purse
- Alumni Association Newsletter chronicling the history of Glenville State College from Spring 1977
- Second copy of Glenville Mercury announcing Nelson Wells' retirement on April 6, 1973

Box Contents #GSC20141023C

Folder 1: Letters Addressed to Nelson or Documents About Nelson

- A Written Letter Addressed to Nelson Wells That Contains Sheet Music for The Magic Flute by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
- A Letter Addressed to Ms. Gooding Thanking Her for Taking Care of Nelson Wells in His Final Days
- Letter Addressed to Star and Nelson sent by Espy and Lee Miller
- Portrait of Nelson Wells after Retirement Delivered in 2007 from Olan Mills Portrait
- Margaret Hickerson Emery Letter Regarding Research of The Bumpass Family
- Letter Addressed to Mrs. And Mr. Nelson Wells
- Boy Scouts, School Boy Patrol, & 4-H Club Pictures with Nelson Wells in a Picture
- Letter Addressed to Nelson from Thelma
- Bicentennial Biographies First Since 1883 Article by Nelson Wells
- Musical Echoes of the American Past by Nelson Wells

Folder 2: Documents Pertaining to the Wells Family

- Handwritten Documents Regarding Members of The Wells Family Including Parents & Death Dates
- Wells Family Listing with Birth & Death Dates
- Pennsylvania Militia with William Wells & John Ankrom underlined
- Genealogical History of Harrison County Submitted by Noah L. Wells
- Noah L. Wells Biography
- Genealogical History of Harrison County and Northern West Virginia Submitted by Noah L. Wells
- Bumpass & Wells Family History

Folder 3: Documents Pertaining to the Amick Family

- Certification of Incorporation in State of West Virginia on June 20, 1863
- Early History of West Virginia
- Echoes of the Small Time American Past Newspaper Clipping from the Glenville Democrat/Pathfinder on March 10, 1977

- Ledger of N.J. Amick from the Years 1947-48
- Empty Letter Addressed to Miss Starling Amick of Sand Fork, WV

Folder 4: Documents Pertaining to the Craddock Family

- Newspaper Clipping of Hugh N. Craddock born November 17, 1824
- A Handwritten Letter from Washington, DC Addressed to Mr. Bantz Craddock on November 11, 1940
- Letter from The Shoreham Addressed to Bantz Craddock on October 24, 1940
- Hugh N. Craddock Biography
- Handwritten Draft for the Hugh N. Craddock Biography
- Statement from Hugh N. Craddock
- A Bicentennial Biographical Sketch of Joe Nelson Craddock
- Office of Central Hotel, S.P. Craddock, Prop.

Folder 5: Documents Pertaining to the Bennett Family

- Biography of Margaret Ratly
- Genealogy of the Family of William Bennett Sr.
- My Dear "Hum" by Professor H. L. Clark
- Brookvue Farm by Mr. Humboldt Clark on May 16, 1950
- Handwritten Transcript of Bennett Family Genealogy
- Bennett Family Marriages and Deaths
- The William Bennett Family Genealogy
- Birth Dates and Marriages of Early Bennett Family Member List
- Surveying Map of Glenville with Train Tracks

Folder 6: Pictures Found in a Folder Specially Made for Nelson

- Unmarked Picture of a Biplane
- A Picture of People Pushing the Biplane for Lift-Off
- Unmarked Picture of an Entrance to a Home
- A Picture of Woodburn Hall at WVU.
- "Star At Home" Picture Printed on September 14, 1943
- Picture of Christina "O'Dell" Nutter at the Age of 104. Great-Grandmother of N.J. Amick
- Winter Holiday Postcard from The Miller Family
- Unmarked Photo of a Long Ship
- A Portrait of Laura and N. J. Amick
- Picture of an Old Lady in front of a House
- A Family Picture of the Amick Family
- Small Picture of an Old Lady Dressed Formally
- Cardboard Portrait of Laura and N. J. Amick
- Picture of a Town from a Hilltop Perspective

Folder 7: Handwritten Biographies

- Handwritten Information on Eva Wells Reed
- Handwritten Submission to Bicentennial Biography for Winifred Craddock Ewing
- Handwritten Biography of Noah Johnson Amick (Finalized)
- Handwritten Biography of Noah Johnson Amick (Draft)
- Handwritten Biography of Roscoe A. Darnall (Draft)
- Handwritten Biography of Roscoe A. Darnall (Finalized)

Folder 8: Flyers of Gilmer Fuel Company, Inc.

- Flyer of Gilmer Fuel Company, Inc. (x21)

Folder 9: Research Conducted by Nelson Wells

- Sunday Gazette State Magazine Published on September 12, 1971
- Searching For Your Ancestor
- Excerpt of Chapter 3 of *Natural Setting*. Supplement to the Report by William J. Berry on June 5, 1940
- Chapter Three of *Natural Setting* Part I-A
- News of Glenville: Two GSC Alumni Honored on May 11, 1979
- Checklist of Guides & Sources: *Happenstance Often Plays a Part*
- Interstate Highway in Gilmer County Opens
- A Passage Dedicated to Senator Preston Pen

Folder 10: William G. Bennett Lodge

- William G. Bennett Lodge Letter Written on September 30, 1947

Folder 11: The Old Bailey House

- “The Old Bailey House” Excerpts by Robert L. Borchert

Folder 12: Trains & Boats

- Several Bank Notes with Roscoe Darnall’s Signature
- Memo Slip with Article Plans to Promote Railroad
- The Glenville Democrat Article Titled *Pioneering Riverman Ran Paddlewheelers Here for 32 Years* (April 20, 1972)
- The Glenville Democrat Article Titled Pioneer Riverman (April 20, 1972)
- The Glenville Democrat Article Titled “Coal & Coke” -Gilmer’s Last Railroad Passenger Line (September 20, 1973)
- Early Transportation on the Little Kanawha River
- The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company
- Tickets Ledger
- Two B&O Trains to Chug Along Elk for Last Time Newspaper Clipping (June 30, 1951)
- Gassaway, Without Rail Service, Abandons Old Train-time Customs (July 1, 1951)

- Gilmer Freight Agency Downgrade Approved (November 5, 1970)
- The Last Whistle Paper
- Handwritten Letter About Gilmer County Railroad (June 30, 1951)

Folder 13: Presentation on April 26, 1978

- A Look at History of Glenville State College (2x)

Folder 14: A History of The Gilmer County Recreation Center

- A History of The Gilmer County Recreation Center Research Paper

Folder 15: Marked Post Cards & Pictures

- Post Card for Starling Amick in Sand Fork (1923)
- Post Card for Thomas Jackson Keith in Gilmer (1947)
- Alva & Nina of Gilmer County
- Post Card for Uncle Roscoe and Aunt Myrtle
- Darnall “Starnall” Gilmer County
- Nina & Aunt Myrtle
- Metzie Kiffer (Uncle Roscoe & Aunt Myrtle)
- Aunt Myrtle at “Starnall” Gilmer County
- Picture of Ness Margaret Holt
- Picture of Glenville Flood
- Alva James & Eldridge Neff at Store in Glenville County (early 1900’s)
- Metzie and her little nephews in Nicholas County
- Starlivi & Remetris Picture
- Aunt Myrtle & Aunt Mary of “Starnall”
- Post Card of Fayette Bridge written to Miss Laura Starling (1908)
- Starling Amick (1914) Baby Picture
- Post Card Addressed to Miss Laura Amick
- Post Card Addressed to Miss Laura Starling
- Post Card to Mr. N. Boyler & Sons of Gilmer County
- River Street during Glenville Flood
- Post Card for Lillie
- Picture of Flood made by Taylor Publishing Company
- Sailing Ship Post Card Addressed to Jack
- Post Card for Metzie Kiffer from Mr. Noah J. Amick
- Picture of Glenville Flood by Taylor Publishing Company
- Presentation Projector Slides

Box Contents #GSC20141023D

Folder 16: Unmarked Post Cards & Pictures

- 3rd & Wooster Street (March 29, 1913)
- UPC with a Woman in front of a Large House
- Post Card of a Young Couple
- Unidentified Woman with Baby
- UPC of a Family Picture
- UPC of a Mother Holding a Baby on a Boat (x2)
- UPC of a Woman in front of a House
- UPC of a Woman in front of a Forest
- UPC of a Little Girl in Formal Dressing (x2)
- UPC with a Faded Image of Three Women
- UPC of a Family Picture
- UPC of a Mother & Child
- UPC with Couple in front of a House
- UPC with Mother & Daughter Family Portrait
- UPC of a Baby in a Mini Crib Indoors
- UPC of a Baby in a Mini Crib Outdoors (2x)
- UPC of a Woman crouched down in an Open Field
- UPC of a Woman standing in an Open Field
- UPC of Starches & Goff Family Portrait in Glenville County
- Picture of Several Houses by a River with a Dam
- Picture of Several Houses by a River with a Dam (Elevated View)
- UPC of a Family Portrait
- UPC of sharply dressed Women by a Podium

FF 17: Miscellaneous Family Portraits:

- Stand-Up Metal Disc Family Portrait with Well Dressed Man
- Family Picture
- Family Picture
- Faded Picture of a Young Man
- Picture of a Baby in a Cradle
- Faded Picture of a well-dressed man
- Portrait of a Well-Dressed Man
- Alex Foreman Picture in Grafton, WV
- Photo of Lieutenant Bobby Kerr from 1898
- J.H. Blome Photograph Chicago Gallery
- E.J.M Ferrin Glenville, WV
- Picture of Grandchildren
- Woman sitting in front of a cabin
- Faded Picture from Amity, PA (1942)
- Stewart & Wise from Mannington, WV
- Dewey from Spencer, WV

- Cor 9th and Walnut Str., Rocky Ford
- Foreman from Buckhannon, WV
- Family Picture from Swing Brothers, Clarksburg
- Lucher Train Station
- Family Christmas Dinner
- Casket with Chairs Surrounding It

Folder 18: Sand Fork Pictures

- Eight Pictures of Mining Operations in Sand Fork

Folder 19: Collection Organizer's Notes

- Family History that Leads to Nelson Wells
- UPC List
- Marked Picture List with Additional Information

Accompanying Items

-Scrapbook

- Political Science Scrap Book Table of Contents
 - A. Constitution
 - B. Citizenship
 - Naturalization of Aliens
 - Civil Rights
 - Suffrage and Elections
 - Extension of Suffrage
 - Elections: National and Local
 - National Party System
 - History and Functions
 - Organizations and Methods
 - National Executive
 - The President
 - Presidential powers and duties
 - The Cabinet (in general)
 - The Cabinet
 - Departments separately
 - Independent Services
 - Permanent
 - Emergency
 - The Congress
 - Senate
 - Its organization
 - Its foundation

- The House of Representatives
 - Its organization
 - Its functions
 - General Powers of Congress
 - Federal Taxation and Revenue
 - National Expenditures and Debt
 - Currency, Banking, Credit
 - Commerce- Regulatory
 - Industry
 - Agriculture
 - Labor
 - National Defense
 - National Defense and Possessions
 - Miscellaneous
 - National Judiciary
 - Supreme Court
 - Lower Federal Court
- International Headquarters General Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star Washington, D.C.
- Masonic Textbook: For Use of the Lodges in West Virginia
- Constitution and Laws: Grand Chapter of West Virginia Order of the Eastern Star
- New Ritual of the Order Eastern Star.
- “Out of the Wilderness A Light” A History of Central School for Missionaries’ Children
- John Locke “*An Essay Concerning Human Understanding*”
- Business Ledger
- Ceremonial Mace of Glenville State College (March 15, 2000)
- West Virginia Permanent School Register
- Rectangular Tin Photo of a Man and Woman
- Oval Picture of a Baby