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Lanier Collection (MSS 488)

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BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Deana June Linville was the daughter of Charles and Lena (Harris) Linville. Her father operated a mercantile establishment that sold coal in Acorn, Pulaski County, Kentucky; the family also operated a coal mine. Later, the family lived in Somerset and attended the Church of God, which is mentioned frequently in the letters. The Linvilles also had a son, Donald Gene, who married in 1954. He attended Bowling Green Business University (1955-1956), but later received his Bachelor's degree from Eastern Kentucky University. He later lived in Sellersville, Indiana. Deana married Thomas Franklin Lanier on 19 April 1954 in Ashland City, Tennessee. The elder Linvilles gave operating control of their store to their son Donald and his new wife Nellie in 1954. In the late 1960s and early 1970s the Linvilles began purchasing houses in Somerset and converting them to rental properties. Lena’s letters are filled with projects related to those properties.

Charlie began taking classes at Eastern Kentucky University to get a teaching certificate in 1965; he began teaching in Junction City in 1967, and Lena began working in the Somerset hospital in 1967. Charles and Lena both died in 1987 and are buried in the Somerset Cemetery.

After their marriage, Deana June and Thomas Lanier lived at 1270 Kentucky Street in Bowling Green, where they were attending the Bowling Green Business University. They had a daughter, Stephanie, in the fall of 1954 and a son, Thomas, Jr., in 1967. The Laniers moved to Greensboro, North Carolina by January 1968, where Thomas, Sr. eventually became president of Covington Diesel. Thomas was born on 2 March 1933 in Harnett County, North Carolina, the son of Seaton Gail Lanier, Sr. and Lizzie Stephens Lanier. He was a graduate of Campbell University (North Carolina) and Bowling Green Business University. He retired from Covington Diesel in the mid-1990s and began a new career as marketing and sales consultant for Vitality Communications, Inc. He served as a volunteer in various leadership capacities at Campbell University and in a number of professional and charitable organizations. He also served on the board of BB&T Bank. Deana June worked for twenty-one years as a legal secretary. She was heavily involved in charitable work in Greensboro, and the couple was heavily involved at Parkway Baptist Church. Thomas and Deana June died in 2002 and 2003 respectively and were buried in Greensboro’s Forest Lawn Cemetery.
Byrd Lanier (1777-1819) and Collins Lanier (1765-1841) were sons of Thomas Lanier (1731?-1797) and Mary Lanier, and were born in the vicinity of Greensville, Brunswick County, Virginia. Both brothers migrated to Warren County, Kentucky. Byrd died in 1819 (burial location unknown) and Collins served as the administrator of his estate. Byrd’s wife was Susan Cain, and they had three daughters: Cilia (Celia) Munford Lanier, Susan Perry Lanier and Patsey (Lanier) Patrick. Collins died in Simpson County in 1841 (burial location unknown); his wife was Lucy Berryman.

COLLECTION NOTE

Box 1, Folder 2 consists chiefly of letters written by Charles Linville to Lena Harris. These courtship letters are filled with plans about what the couple will do once they have saved the money to marry. They married on 25 March 1929 in Somerset, Kentucky, consequently some of the letters are send to Lena Linville. During most of the correspondence, Charles is working for Kroger’s in Cincinnati, while Lena is at home in Acorn, Pulaski County, Kentucky. In some of the letters, Charles is writing from Detroit, Michigan. They document some of the Appalachian diaspora of the mid-twentieth century. The folder includes one letter written by Floyd Harris, Lena’s brother, from the penitentiary at LaGrange, Kentucky.

Folder 3 includes letters written by Lena Harris Linville to her daughter Deana June Linville while she is attending the University of Kentucky. She writes about family matters, domestic and farm chores, fishing expeditions, and reminds her daughter to not stay out late, not get wet from fear of polio, not go out with boys alone, etc.

Folder 4 includes two letters and a Christmas card from her grandmothers.

Folders 5-11 continues the letters sent from Lena Harris Linville to her daughter Deana June Linville, who has transferred from the University of Kentucky to Bowling Green Business University in Bowling Green. However the subject matter remains the same. At some point in these letters, Lena’s letters are addressed to Somerset rather than Acorn. After Deana marries in 1954, her mother’s letters ask about household affairs such as cooking. Later letters concern family affairs, particularly in Folder 11 which mention the divorce of Deana’s brother, Donald.

Box 2 continues the letters written by Lena (Harris) Linville to her daughter June. In Folder 1, Lena talks about her husband entering school at Eastern Kentucky University in 1965 in order to get a teaching certificate; he began teaching at Junction City, Kentucky in 1967. Lena, herself, began working at the Somerset hospital in 1967 and she talks about how satisfying the work was. Also in 1967 a son, Tom, Jr., was born to June and Thomas in Bowling Green. She continues to write frequent asides to her granddaughter Stephanie. Folder 6 contains chiefly thank you notes to Deana from her father Charlie; it also contains three 1936 receipts from Sue Bennett College in London, Kentucky. Folder 7 includes letters written by Donald Gene Linville to his sister June. The remainder of Box 2 and the first four folders of Box 3 consist of letters written, almost exclusively to June from individuals other than family members. They are filled with the gossip of Somerset, religious happenings, concerns about courtship and other teen matters. A signal exception is Folder 9 which contains letters written to June by Eleanore Eissengarthen, a pen pal from Germany. They discuss topics typical of female teens, but they also include information about post-World War II Germany and the effects of shortages and the lack of money.
Box 3, Folders 1-4 continue letters received by June (Linville) Lanier from various
individuals between 1943 and 1970, but the letters in Folder 4 are undated. Many of the letters,
almost exclusively from female correspondents, continue the themes discussed in the earlier
letters in Box 3: courtship, boys, infatuations with celebrities, church attendance, school, social
events, children, clothing, etc. Folder 5 includes a paper written by June on Insurance, possibly
as an assignment at the Bowling Green Business University. Folder 6 contains a few pieces of
alphabetical correspondence of Stephanie Lanier as a child. One letter was written to her by her
grandmother, Lena Linville; also included is a letter from June to her parents while a college
student at Appalachia State University in Boone, North Carolina. Folder 7 contains genealogical
material about the Linville family, although the pages regarding the children of Charles & Lena is
not included. Folder 8 includes photocopies of news clippings and political material from Lena’s
father, J. Frank Harris. Folder 9 includes newspaper clippings about sports teams and current
events in Somerset, as well as two postcards of interest: one announcing the prices of
permanents at the Somerset Beauty Service in 1943 and one inviting people to the student
revival being held at Bowling Green’s First Baptist Church in 1952. Folder 9 also includes a
photocopy of a letter from President Jimmy Carter to Thomas Lanier asking him to participate in
a seminar on foreign trade and export development in 1979 and an invitation to the dedication of
the Acorn Church of God Chapel Cemetery in Pulaski County. Folder 10 holds photocopies of
photographs and biographical information about Thomas Franklin Lanier and June Linville
Lanier.

Box 4 contains some very early documents from Warren County, Kentucky, including in
Folder 1, correspondence, documents, and other records, 1800-1820 of Byrd Lanier. It consists
chiefly of receipts, land records, and promissory notes. Folder 2 contains many of the same
types of documents, but they relate specifically to Lanier’s estate which was handled by his
brother Collins Lanier. One item of interest is a document for hiring out of a slave and the
compensation for it in 1820. Folder 3 includes similar documents that were generated by Collins
Lanier. Of significance is a 1787 reference letter written for Collins by Nicholas Sebrell Philom.
Folder 4 contains correspondence, receipts and financial papers of William Lewis. Receipts and
accounts for William F. Matlock, Woodburn, Kentucky, can be found in Folder 5 along with a
newsy letter from his friend G.B. Sloss who is writing from Bastrop, Texas and makes the
remark that: “I do believe Texas was never made for white man to inhabit, and particularly me.”
This folder also includes a letter from his brother James F. Matlock who was writing from
Marysville, California in 1850. He mentions a dry winter, mining, scarcity of women, his health
and his work on a ranch. Folder 6 includes some Warren County, Kentucky land documents; a
subscription school contract with James Moore of Warren County to operate a school, 1815; a
slave bill of sale from Warren County, 1819; a receipt for tobacco sold in New Orleans including
drayage, cooperage, storage and commission, 1827; and various other receipts and bills/notes.
Folder 7 contains correspondence, receipts related to the White family, chiefly letters written by
Mattie H. Pistole, Post Oak, Texas to Lucy White, Woodburn, Kentucky, 1887-1888. This folder
also contains a courtship poem written by G.W. White “To the divine Miss Roa Laner [Lanier].”
Folder 8 includes two holographic poems about the Beauchamp/Sharp Tragedy titled
“Beauchamp Lamentation”; a printed broadside announcing the publication of a newspaper
“Spirit of the Times” in Bowling Green, Kentucky; an anti-Prohibition printed broadside from
Fayetteville, Tennessee; a postcard from R.S. Brown of Louisville announcing his real estate
services to people “going to Texas or the West!”; a printed broadside for Doctor Benjamin
Godfrey’s Cordial; and a copy of the poem “Nelly Gray.” Folder 9 contains a typical eighteenth
century ciphering book that was created by Collins Lanier in 1787-1788, which is coverless and heavily stained.

**SHELF LIST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 1</th>
<th>Lanier Collection</th>
<th>1928-1965</th>
<th>253 items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Inventory and data</td>
<td>2002-2003</td>
<td>6 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Letters (pre and post marriage) chiefly to Lena (Harris) Linville from her husband Charles Linville</td>
<td>1928-1938</td>
<td>13 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville from mother</td>
<td>1951</td>
<td>33 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Letters and greeting card to Deana June Linville from grandmothers</td>
<td>1951-1952</td>
<td>3 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville from mother</td>
<td>1952</td>
<td>49 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville from mother</td>
<td>1953</td>
<td>43 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville from mother</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td>47 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and her husband Tony Lanier</td>
<td>1954</td>
<td>16 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and her husband Tony Lanier from mother</td>
<td>1955</td>
<td>25 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and Tony Lanier from mother</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>9 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from mother</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>9 items</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BOX 2</th>
<th>Lanier Collection</th>
<th>1946-1981</th>
<th>205 items</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from mother</td>
<td>1966-1967</td>
<td>26 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from mother</td>
<td>1968-1970</td>
<td>16 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Year(s)</td>
<td>Items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from mother</td>
<td>1971</td>
<td>17 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from mother</td>
<td>1972-1974</td>
<td>15 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Updated and partial letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from mother</td>
<td>1973</td>
<td>8 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Letters to Deana Linville Lanier and family from father</td>
<td>1958-1971</td>
<td>9 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from brother Don and family</td>
<td>1968-1971</td>
<td>7 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Rubye Moore Cain</td>
<td>1954-1981</td>
<td>7 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Maria Eleanore Eissengarthen</td>
<td>1948-1976</td>
<td>23 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Norma June Sears Etherton</td>
<td>1950-1952</td>
<td>7 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 11</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Bobbie Jo Gilliland</td>
<td>1948-1955</td>
<td>27 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 12</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier and family from Helen Harris</td>
<td>1956</td>
<td>11 items</td>
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<td>Folder 13</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Shirley Linville</td>
<td>1946-1951</td>
<td>7 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 14</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Lois Whitaker</td>
<td>1951-1952</td>
<td>7 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 15</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Marcella Whitaker</td>
<td>1945-1947</td>
<td>6 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 16</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from Delana Wilson</td>
<td>1946-1950</td>
<td>12 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>BOX 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lanier Collection</strong></td>
<td><strong>1943-1982</strong></td>
<td><strong>142 items</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from various individuals</td>
<td>1943-1949</td>
<td>37 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from various individuals</td>
<td>1950-1952</td>
<td>39 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from various individuals</td>
<td>1953-1970</td>
<td>21 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Letters to Deana June Linville Lanier from various individuals</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>10 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Class paper titled “Insurance” written by Deana June Linville Lanier</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>2 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Letters to parents from Stephanie Lanier and letter to Stephanie from grandmother Lanier</td>
<td>1965-1973</td>
<td>4 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 7</td>
<td>Linville family genealogy</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>5 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 8</td>
<td>Harris, J. Frank miscellaneous items</td>
<td>1949-1982</td>
<td>5 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 9</td>
<td>News clippings</td>
<td>1954-1966</td>
<td>17 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 10</td>
<td>Photos of Deana and Thomas Lanier</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>2 items</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>BOX 4</strong></th>
<th><strong>Lanier Collection</strong></th>
<th><strong>1787-1888</strong></th>
<th><strong>166 items</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Folder 1</td>
<td>Ephemera</td>
<td>n.d.</td>
<td>41 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 2</td>
<td>Correspondence, receipts, etc. related to White family of Kentucky</td>
<td>1820-1888</td>
<td>16 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 3</td>
<td>Miscellaneous documents</td>
<td>1789-1853</td>
<td>44 items</td>
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<tr>
<td>Folder 4</td>
<td>Correspondence, receipts, and accounts, etc. for William F. Matlock</td>
<td>1846-1888</td>
<td>8 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 5</td>
<td>Correspondence, documents and other records related to Byrd Lanier</td>
<td>1800-1820</td>
<td>16 items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Folder 6</td>
<td>Legal papers, etc. related to Byrd Lanier’s estate</td>
<td>1820-1822</td>
<td>25 items</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Folder 7  Correspondence, legal and financial papers of 1795-1835  8 items
Collins Lanier

Folder 8  Correspondence, receipts and other financial 1815-1820  7 items
papers of William Lewis

Folder 9  Collins Lanier ciphering book 1787-1788  1 item

BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

MSS  LANIER Family Collection  1787-1982
488

Collection consists chiefly of letters written to Deanna June (Linville) Lanier by friends and her family, particularly her mother Lena (Harris) Linville. Includes some interesting pen pal letters with a German child, 1948 to 1950. Includes genealogical material about the Lanier and Linville families. Also includes early Warren County, Kentucky material from brothers, Byrd Lanier and Collins Lanier, including a little correspondence, bills and notes, receipts, and property records.

4 boxes. 46 folders. 766 items. Originals.
2004.99.1

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Western Kentucky State College – Students       B1,F5-8
Whiskey – Receipts       B4,F1,6
Whitaker, Charlene       B3,F1
Whitaker, Lois       B2,F14
Whitaker, Marcella       B2,F15
White family – Relating to       B4,F7
White, G. W.       B4,F7
White, Lucy – Letters to       B4,F7

Whills – Greensville, Virginia       B4,F6
Wilson, Delana       B2,F16
Wilson, Fern       B3,F1

**SEE and SEE ALSO**

Bowling Green College of Commerce
See:
  Bowling Green Business University

Etherton, Norma Jean (Sears)
See:
  Sears, Norma Jean

Holt, Bobbie Jo (Gilliland)
See:
  Gilliland, Bobbie Jo
King, Pee Wee, 1914-2000
   See:
      Kuczynski, Julius Frank Anthony, 1914-2000

Lanier, Deana June (Linville), 1935-2003
   See also:
      Linville, Deana June, 1935-2003

Pistole, Mattie H., 1865-1937
   See:
      Pistole, Mattie (Harris), 1865-1937

Sledge/Jeffrey  03/24/2014