

Guide to the Edith Giles Barcus Family Papers

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**University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections
and Archives.**

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

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Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Barcus, J. Clyde (James Clyde), 1889-1966
Creator:	Barcus, Edith Giles, 1895-1984
Creator:	Giles, Edwin Scofield, 1871-1950
Title:	Edith Giles Barcus Family Papers
ID:	MS-00206
Date [bulk]:	1910 to 1950
Date [inclusive]:	1848 to 1979
Physical Description:	2.57 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
Physical Description:	2.17 Linear Feet
Abstract:	The Edith Giles Barcus Family Papers document the lives and work of three related individuals who lived in Goldfield, Nevada: noted mining engineer Edwin S. Giles who settled in Goldfield in 1907, his daughter Edith Giles who was raised in Goldfield, and Clyde Barcus, also a mining engineer, who came to Goldfield in 1923 and married Edith Giles soon thereafter. The papers date from 1848 to 1979 and document the business and personal lives of two generations of the Giles-Barcus family in Goldfield and Las Vegas, Nevada. The collection includes: property, commercial, financial, and mining records; mining and engineering reports; notes on minerals; correspondence; and photographs of the family, Goldfield, and travel shots of the western United States.

Preferred Citation

Edith Giles Barcus Family Papers, 1848-1979. MS-00206. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Biographical Note

Mining engineer Edwin Scofield Giles, father of Edith Giles Barcus, lived and worked around Goldfield, Nevada from his arrival in 1907 until his death at his home in Goldfield on March 9, 1950.

Edwin Giles was born in Eastchester, New York on August 27, 1871. After an adventurous youth that included many trips to South America, Giles came for the second time to Colorado Springs, Colorado

in January 1893, where he married Edith Corliss. Giles worked as a mining engineer in Cripple Creek, Colorado and occasionally as a newspaper correspondent as well, reporting on events in Cripple Creek. Mrs. Giles gave birth to twins, Edith Corliss Giles and Richard Scofield Giles on July 19, 1895 at Bear Creek Canyon, Rosamont Park, Colorado Springs. Richard Scofield Giles died in Colorado Springs on July 2, 1896.

After working in Colorado for several years, Edwin Giles followed the mining boom to Nevada. Leaving from Los Angeles, he and his family endured two weeks in a covered wagon over desert trails as they moved to Goldfield where he and his wife and daughter arrived in 1907. There he worked as a mining engineer for a number of different enterprises. By 1909, he was actively developing the Pioneer Mining Camp which grew up around the mine of the same name.

Edwin and Edith Giles were involved in the Goldfield community. Ed Giles was eventually elected to the position of Town Surveyor and had financial and managerial interests in virtually every mining property in the area. Edith Corliss Giles, their daughter, was active in mining too. At age 12 or 13, she made claim to a mining property in the Mayflower District. After she was widowed in 1929, the younger Edith Giles (then Edith Cadogan) married Clyde Barcus. The elder Edith Corliss Giles died on September 7, 1946. Edwin "Dad" Giles remained a colorful character in and around Goldfield until his death in 1950. He was an inveterate poet and essayist, and had traveled to Argentina to help survey roads. He was involved in a variety of adventures, such as escaping from the great Goldfield fire in 1923 by sliding down a fire hose. He also reportedly shoveled through six miles of snow to reach an aged miner who had been isolated by a blizzard.

J. Clyde Barcus was born December 27, 1889 in Huntington, Cable County, West Virginia. He attended Pikesville Collegiate Institute in Kentucky, where he studied for a degree in mining engineering. His studies were temporarily suspended, however, when Clyde followed his father Clyde Sr., who operated a coal mine at the time, to Goldfield, Nevada after the gold rush of 1906. Their hoped-for mine never came to be, and Clyde Sr. returned to Kentucky to continue his mining operation, but the young Barcus found himself entranced by the West and by Nevada in particular. After a brief homecoming to Pikesville to complete his mining degree, Barcus returned to Goldfield, where he was active in mining and metallurgy. His work also took him around the globe at various times, from Australia and Canada to the Gold Coast of Africa in 1923, where he supervised the building of a mill for Crown Willamette Mining Co. After this, Clyde Barcus returned to Reno, Nevada, where he continued to work in mining until World War Two. During World War Two Barcus was employed by the Manhattan Project, which developed the first atomic bomb. In the early 1950s Clyde and Edith Barcus lived in Goldfield, where they operated the "Odd Shop," a jewelry, glass, and souvenir shop. In 1952 the couple moved to Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Scope and Contents Note

The Edith Giles Barcus Family Papers document the lives and work of three related individuals who lived in Goldfield, Nevada: noted mining engineer Edwin S. Giles who settled in Goldfield in 1907, his daughter Edith Giles who was raised in Goldfield, and Clyde Barcus, also a mining engineer, who came to Goldfield

in 1923 and married Edith Giles soon thereafter. The papers date from 1848 to 1979 and document the business and personal lives of two generations of the Giles-Barcus family in Goldfield and Las Vegas, Nevada.

The J. Clyde Barcus materials are comprised of the business and personal records of Goldfield, Nevada mining engineer Clyde Barcus. Papers include legal, financial, professional, and personal records and correspondence. The papers in this series mainly concern mining in northern Nevada, from the 1930s through the 1960s, in the following locations: the Galena Mines, the Palmetto Mining District, the Montezuma Mines in Silver Peak, Nevada, the McNamara mines, Goldfield, and the Goldpoint Mining District. The Edith Giles Barcus materials are comprised of personal papers of Goldfield, Nevada native Edith Giles Barcus and include records and correspondence from Edith's first marriage to John Cadogan; personal correspondence, letters, and postcards mainly from the 1920s through the 1960s; and newspaper clippings.

The papers of Edwin Giles are comprised of reports, notes, correspondence, and meeting minutes from Giles's career in mining in the following Nevada locations: Tonopah, Diamond Valley, Goldfield, the McNamara Mine, Esmeralda County, Nye County, and Clark County mainly from the 1910s through the 1940s. This series also includes original poetry and prose written by Giles, financial records, legal records, certificates, and newspaper clippings. Photographs in the collection date from 1880 to 1950 and depict general views of Goldfield, Reno, and other Nevada and California desert and mountain locations, while others are family snapshots. Also included are postcards from the western United States, Nevada, and California cities and rural outdoor locations, many with writing on the verso.

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Arrangement

Materials are arranged by topic.

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Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

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Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1980 by Edith Giles Barcus; accession number T-138.

Processing Note

Material was processed by Matthew Simon in 1996 and Dana Miller in 2007. In 2014, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Hannah Robinson revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. Subsequently Hannah Robinson entered the data into ArchivesSpace.

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Related Materials

Separation Note

Approximately 250 photographs, mainly of family members and mining towns, were removed from manuscripts to Edith Giles Barcus Photograph Collection, PC-00117. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

C. A. Earle Rinker Papers, 1880-1960. MS-00514. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Edith Giles Barcus Family Photograph Collection, 1878-1954. PH-00117. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Edith Giles Barcus Oral History, 1977 March 17. OH-00162. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Goldfield, Nevada Collection, 1903-1924. MS-00010. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

UNLV University Libraries Collection on Goldfield, Nevada, 1906-2009. MS-00011. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

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Names and Subjects

- Goldfield (Nev.) – Social life and customs
- Gold mines and mining
- Business enterprises -- Nevada -- Las Vegas
- Frontier and pioneer life – Nevada – Goldfield
- Mining -- Esmeralda County (Nev.)
- Photographs