



## Collection Summary

### Title

Fannie Mae Turner Collection

### Date

1920s to 2008

### Extent

5 archival boxes

### Name and Location of Repository

Midwest Genealogy Center, Independence (Mo.)

Reference code: MGC 1175-FMTC

Processed by: Jolene Clark, 2019; finding aid created by Jolene Clark, 2019

### Name of Creator

Fannie Mae (Twombly) Turner

### Biographical History

Fannie Mae Twombly was born in Arcadia, Kansas in 1918. She was the daughter of Emma and Archie Twombly. She had two siblings, Archie and Ruth, and one half-sister, Billie Mae, from her mother's second marriage to Walter Hughes. Her father remarried to a woman named Nellie. Her mother, Emma "Etta" Foulk, was the daughter of John Foulk and Lydia Moore who lived in Arcadia, Kansas. Her father, Archie Twombly, was the son of Nathaniel "Nat" Twombly and Martha Starns who settled in Crawford County, Kansas in the town of Dearing in the early 1900s.

Buford H. Turner was born in Kansas in 1911 and was the son of James B. Turner and Ida Troy. James B. Turner was the son of Micajah Wilson Turner and Priscilla Elizabeth Fields. The Turner family came to Bourbon County Kansas from Missouri in the late 1800s.

Fannie Mae married Buford on November 11, 1933 and together they had one son, Jimmie Arthur Turner. The family lived in Independence, Missouri. Fannie Mae desired to be an artist at a young age. Her husband built an art studio for her and encouraged her to paint. She attended the Kansas City Art Institute and over her lifetime received many honors for her work including portraits, scenes and still lifes. Fannie Mae remained active in her art into her 90s. She passed away at the age of 99 in Independence, Missouri on August 7, 2017.



## Scope and Content

This collection mainly contains correspondence received by Fannie Mae from her family and friends. The correspondence begins when she is a teenager in the 1930s and continues throughout her life. She had lifelong correspondence with many family members, many which lived to be in their 90s. Other items in the collection include notecards and greeting cards that Fannie created. The cards were used by friends to write to Fannie Mae. Over the years Fannie Mae saved invitations to weddings, baby showers, anniversary parties, and class reunions. She kept birth announcements and funeral notices as well. A sampling of the numerous cards that was originally donated represent the types cards mailed to Fannie Mae and Buford. They include some cards given to Fannie Mae as a child in the 1920s as well as to her son, Jimmie, in the 1940s

The letters not only provide important genealogical information about the family, but include information about the communities in Kansas and Missouri in which the families lived. The letters provide insight into the time in which the individuals lived. Fannie was born in 1918, a year where war and influenza, impacted the country. A 1918 Club was later started for anyone born in that year. Fannie's correspondence from a friend includes information about that club in the area. The family corresponded through the Depression. Fannie received several "Prosperity Club" chain letters in 1935. This first chain letter encouraged recipients to copy send a dime, copy the letter and send it to five of their friends. The chain letters that year almost shut down post offices across the country. During World War II, Fannie received letters from family and friends serving in the military. One letter kept by Fannie was a letter from a family in her hometown notifying them that their son was missing and presumed dead. Later in life, Fannie received post cards from her family and friends as they traveled throughout the country and the world. As older generations passed away, younger generations of children and grandchildren continued sending letters to Fannie Mae.

## Collection Inventory

### System of Arrangement

These records are arranged in 3 series.

#### Box 1

##### Series 1, Buford's family Correspondence

###### Subseries 1, Letters from mother-in-law

Folder 1, 1930s letters from Ida (Troy) Turner

Folder 2, 1940s letters from Ida (Troy) Turner

Folder 3, 1950s letters from Ida (Troy) Turner

###### Subseries 2, Correspondence between Fannie Mae and Buford

Folder 1, From Fannie Mae to Buford

Folder 2, From Buford to Fannie May

###### Subseries 3, Other relatives

Folder 1, Mike Turner (grandson)

Folder 2, Jimmie Turner (son)

Folder 3, Other Turner relatives

##### Series 2, Fannie's family Correspondence

###### Subseries 1, Letters from father

Folder 1, Letters from Archie and Nellie Twombly

###### Subseries 2, Letters from mother

Folder 1, undated letters from Emma (Foulk) Twombly Hughes

Folder 2, 1930s letters from Emma (Foulk) Twombly Hughes

Folder 3, 1940-1942 letters from Emma (Foulk) Twombly Hughes

Folder 4, 1943-1950 letters from Emma (Foulk) Twombly Hughes

#### Box 2

##### Subseries 3, Letters from grandparents

Folder 1, undated letters from Martha (Starns) Twombly

Folder 2, 1930s letters from Martha (Starns) Twombly

Folder 3, 1940-1942 letters from Martha (Starns) Twombly

Folder 4, 1943-1947 letters from Martha (Starns) Twombly

Folder 5, 1948-1949 letters from Martha (Starns) Twombly

Folder 6, 1950s-1960s letters from Martha (Starns) and Nat Twombly

Folder 7, 1970s letters from Lydia (Moore) Foulk

#### Box 3

##### Subseries 4, Letters from brother

Folder 1, 1934-1944 letters from Archie Twombly

Folder 2, 1945-1994 letters from Archie and Betty Twombly

##### Subseries 5, Letters from sister

Folder 1, undated letters from Ruth Twombly

Folder 2, 1930s letters from Ruth Twombly

Folder 3, 1940s letters from Ruth Twombly

Folder 4, 1950s letters from Ruth Twombly

Folder 5, 1980s letters from Ruth (Twombly) Evans

Folder 6, 1990s letters from Ruth (Twombly) Evans



Folder 7, Letters from Billie Mae (Hughes) Peck

Box 4

Subseries 6, Other relatives

Folder 1, Vida (Fouk) Cullman (aunt)

Folder 2, Violet (Fouk) Wilson (aunt) and Barbara Wilson

Folder 3, Wanda Lee (Fouk) Tullis (aunt)

Folder 4, Dennis Twombly (nephew)

Folder 5, Bob Twombly

Series 3, Other Correspondence

Subseries 1, Letters from friends

Folder 1, Louise and Ralph Barnett

Folder 2, Lillian (Adkins) Netz

Subseries 2, Letters from various friends by date

Folder 1, undated

Folder 2, 1930s

Folder 3, 1940s

Folder 4, 1950s

Folder 5, 1960s

Folder 6, 1970s

Box 6

Folder 7, 1980s

Folder 8, 1990s

Folder 9, 2000s

Subseries 3, Miscellaneous

Folder 1, Miscellaneous correspondence

Folder 2, Announcements, invitations, anniversaries, reunions, funerals

Folder 3, Cards designed by Fannie Mae

Folder 4, Valentine cards

Folder 5, Christmas cards

Folder 6, Easter cards

Folder 7, Birthday cards

Folder 8, Mother's and Father's Day cards

Folder 9, Anniversary, thank you, get well, and sympathy cards

## Rights and Access

### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research use by appointment.

### Physical Access

Most records within this collection are housed within file folders.

### Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the Midwest Genealogy Center.

### Languages and Scripts of the Material

Materials in the collection are entirely in English.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was donated by Andrea Hughes.

### Accruals

No further accruals are expected for this collection.

### Existence and Location of Originals

Originals owned by the Midwest Genealogy Center.

### Notes

The following sources were consulted during the preparation of the biographical history:

- Ancestry.com. *United States Federal Census* [database on-line]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc.
- *Find A Grave*. Find A Grave.
- Mortaljourney. "Send a Dime Chain Letter (1930's)." *Mortal Journey*, 29 Dec. 2010, [www.mortaljourney.com/2010/11/1930-trends/the-prosperity-or-send-a-dime-chain-letter-fad](http://www.mortaljourney.com/2010/11/1930-trends/the-prosperity-or-send-a-dime-chain-letter-fad).
- Patrick, Nikki. "NO PLACE LIKE HOME." *Morning Sun*, Morning Sun, 7 Nov. 2008, [www.morningsun.net/x1720643989/NO-PLACE-LIKE-HOME](http://www.morningsun.net/x1720643989/NO-PLACE-LIKE-HOME).