



State of Tennessee  
Department of State  
**Tennessee State Library and Archives**  
403 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0312

**LYLE B. McLEVAIN PAPERS,  
1942-1985**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Lyle B. McLevain Papers, 1942-1985, were a gift from Lyle B. McLevain of Nashville, Tennessee and his daughter. The collection consists of 228 items, most of which are photographs. The collection is housed in four manuscript boxes and is arranged in alphabetical order by document type. There are no restrictions on this collection.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Lyle B. McLevain Papers, 1942-1985, consist of 228 items, most of which are photographs. The collection contains a World War II chevron, which is believed to have belonged to McLevain. The collection also includes seven letters. Three of the letters are from Madam Juliette, a French civilian whom McLevain befriended during the war. The letters concern family and community news. A photograph of Madam Juliette is included in the collection. There are two letters in the collection that are written in French, and are dated October 1945 and December 1947. The collection also includes a letter from Helmuth B. Feucht of Hohwald, Germany, dated May 31, 1946. In his letter, Feucht thanks McLevain for all his help while in captivity and refers to McLevain as his "former mess sergeant." Feucht updates McLevain on what occurred after he left, the horrible conditions of Germany after the war, the occupation of foreign troops, and his desire to come to the United States. At the end of this letter there is another paragraph written in German from an unidentified author.

Also included is another interesting letter from Jacques Gizard of France. Gizard was a young French civilian who met McLevain during the war and later corresponded with him after his return home. Gizard was young when they first met, but when he turned sixteen he learned how to read and write English and was anxious to make contact with McLevain. Gizard writes about how his family is doing at present and his memories of meeting McLevain. A photograph of him is included in the collection.

Additionally, the collection contains Lyle B. McLevain's death certificate as well as "A Happy New Year (1946)" greeting card, signed by Cadre personnel, CCEPW #23 Cage 1 [?] Lagerfuhrer. There is also an acrylic painting on canvas of Metz, France. There is some additional writing on the back in French. The collection also includes four pamphlets. The first is entitled "You're Staging for the States at Camp Philip Morris," undated. This pamphlet discusses the story of Le Havre port, passes, entertainment, clubs, mess, and a map of and information on Camp Philip Morris. The second pamphlet is entitled "Casino de Paris," undated. This pamphlet includes headshots of the entertainers as well as information on shows. The third pamphlet is entitled "Folies Bergere," undated. This pamphlet details information on cocktails, shows, and a list of characters. The last pamphlet has no title or date but features pictures of army life.

The collection also contains several postcards of various buildings and monuments in France. Two of these postcards are Christmas postcards and are dated 1944 and 1947. The rest of the postcards are unused. The first eleven black and white postcards are of soldiers and were enclosed in an envelope that is labeled "Le combat des peuples Europeens contre le balchevisme. La Legion des volontaires francais." There are French captions on the back of each postcard describing the picture. Two postcards are of Le Chateau de Tous-Vents in Bolbec, France, as well as the Eiffel Tower and the Merveilles. The other postcards show pictures of towns and significant buildings in France. In addition, there is a wood carving made by a German POW, and two photo albums of French scenery and civilians.

The collection also contains numerous photographs in which McLevain's time in France as a soldier is well-documented, from the German POW camp in which he was a guard to the French civilians and countryside as well as fellow American soldiers, German soldiers, and his time of furlough. There are also several photographs of his wife,

Bess Perry McLevain. One of the pictures of her is the same photograph that McLevain carried with him throughout the war. The photographs also include thirteen negatives, six of which are unidentified.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

Lyle Bourland McLevain was born on August 2, 1911 to Thomas and Minnie Downey McLevain in Kentucky. He was a guard at a German POW camp near Bolbec, France, during World War II. After returning from the war he resided in Clarksville, Tennessee with his wife, Bess Perry McLevain. McLevain died on June 27, 1985 and is buried at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Nashville, Tennessee.

# CONTAINER LIST

## **Box 1**

1. Chevron--WWII, n.d.
2. Correspondence, 1945-1949
3. Death certificate--McLevain, Lyle B., 1985
4. Greeting card, 1946
5. Painting, n.d.
6. Pamphlets, n.d.
7. Photographs--French civilians, n.d.
8. Photographs--German soldiers, n.d.
9. Photographs--Gizard, Jacques "Jack," 1966
10. Photographs--Madam Juliette, n.d.
11. Photographs--Madam Leroux and family, n.d.
12. Photographs--McLevain, Bess Perry, 1942-1944, n.d.
13. Photographs--McLevain, Lyle B., 1945, n.d.
14. Photographs--Negatives, n.d.
15. Photographs--Unidentified, n.d.
16. Postcards--France, 1944-1947
17. Receipt, 1946

## **Box 2**

1. Wood carving---German POW, n.d.

## **Box 3**

1. Photo album, n.d.
2. Photo album, n.d.