

**Yates Postcard Collection
Finding Aid
Bedford Historical Society**

Repository Identifier

mbdhi

Local Identifier

2018.003

Name and Location of Repository

Bedford Historical Society
2 Mudge Way
Bedford, MA 01730

Title

Lee Yates Postcard Collection

Date

circa 1900 - 1968

Extent

1 box, .5 linear feet

Name of Creator

Alethea Yates

Historical Note

The Alethea Yates Postcard Collection features both images of Bedford from the early-to-mid-20th century and traces the evolution of the postcard as a communication tool. These postcards were collected by Alethea Yates for publication in her book *Postcard History Series: Bedford* (2013).

The town of Bedford boasts many historical, culturally significant, and simply interesting features. The postcards in the collection capture the scenery, the storied histories of homes, businesses, religious and cultural organizations, and institutions of national importance.

Postcards are a communication tool that could be considered the text message for past generations. Cheap to mail and featuring photos or illustrations, postcards offer senders the opportunity to show off where they are or where they have been, share small bits of information, and/or simply say “hello” to friends and family. According to the Smithsonian Institution Archives, eras of the postcard’s evolution include:

- Pre-postcard period: 1848-1870
- Pioneer period: 1870-1898
- Private mailing card period: 1898-1901
- Post card period: 1901-1907
- Divided back period: 1907-1915
- White border period: 1915-1930
- Linen period: 1930-1945
- Photochrom period: 1945-present

Scope and Content

This postcard collection includes approximately 280 postcards featuring photographs and images of Bedford scenery, businesses, homes, organizations, the iconic Bedford Flag, and notable people affiliated with the town. The cards in the collection date from circa 1900 to 1968 and represent a variety of postcard periods, including the private mailing card, undivided back, divided back, white border, linen, and photochrom periods of the postcard’s evolution. A small selection of the postcards were published by The Bedford Print Shop. The collection includes a mixture of mint condition and posted postcards, so additional features of interest include period postmarks and postage stamps; addressees and their locations; and the content of the messages themselves.

System of Arrangement

The postcards are processed to the item level, have been assigned a unique identifying number, and are housed in individual sleeves in one box. The postcards are arranged alphabetically by subject and organized by size.

Conditions Governing Access

The postcard collection is open for research purposes by appointment. Please contact the Bedford Historical Society for more information at info@bedfordmahistory.org or 781-275-7276

Physical Access

No restrictions.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply.

Languages and Scripts of the Material

English

Immediate Source of Acquisition

2018.003

Accruals

The Historical Society may add materials to the Postcard Collection in the future.

Existence and Location of Originals

Bedford Historical Society

Related Materials

- Additional postcards may be found in the archives of the Bedford Historical Society filed by subject categories.
- Yates, Alethea A. *Postcard History Series: Bedford*. Arcadia: Charleston, SC, 2013.

Description

DACS-compliant Finding Aid created in November 2018 by Ashley Barrington.

Bibliography

- Smithsonian Institution Archives. (n.d.). Postcard history. Retrieved from <https://siarchives.si.edu/history/featured-topics/postcard/postcard-history>
- Ward, A. (Host). (2018, June 18). *Deltiology with Donna Braden*. [Audio Podcast]. Retrieved from <https://www.alieward.com/ologies/2018/6/18/36-deltiology-with-donna-braden>
- Yates, Alethea A. *Postcard History Series: Bedford*. Arcadia: Charleston, SC, 2013.

Box List

Box 1

- Bedford Flag
- Bedford Springs: Fawn Lake
- Bedford Springs: General
- Bedford Springs: Sweetwater Hotel
- Businesses: Arrowhead Motor Inn
- Businesses: Bedford Motel
- Businesses: Bedford House [Grange Hall]
- Businesses: Bedford Travelodge
- Businesses: Domine Manse
- Businesses: Fitch Tavern [Jenks Place]
- Businesses: Pollard Tavern
- Businesses: Skelton General Store/H.M. Mudge Dry Goods
- Businesses: Murphy's Coffee Pot
- Businesses: Y-D Restaurant
- Businesses: Oakland Boat and Canoe Livery
- Businesses: Kaye Instruments
- Businesses: The Center
- Businesses: EG&G Incorporated [Edgerton, Germehausen & Grier, Inc.]
- Cemeteries and Memorials: Old Burying Ground
- Cemeteries and Memorials: WWI Memorial
- Churches/Religious organizations: First Church of Christ, Congregational [First Church]
- Churches/Religious organizations: First Parish Church, Unitarian
- Churches/Religious organizations: St. Michael's, Catholic
- Churches/Religious organizations: St. Theresa's Convent, Marist [Little Theresa's Convent]
- Churches/Religious organizations: Maryknoll Novitiate, Marist
- Churches/Religious organizations: Maryvale Seminary, Marist
- Events and Activities: Old Home Week
- Fountain/Water Trough
- Hanscom Airport [Laurence G. Hanscom Airport]
- Homes: Prescott Dairy [18 North Road]
- Homes: Bellevue Cottage
- Homes: Kenrick House
- Homes: Lane, Job House
- Homes: Stearns House
- Homes: Twin Elms
- Ice House/Snow Scenes
- Lexington Park
- Liberty Pole
- Llewysac Lodge
- People: General

- People: Carlisle, Miss Alexandra
- Radio
- Railroad Station/Budd Car
- Schools: High School
- Schools: Junior High School
- Schools: Union School
- Telegraph
- Town Hall, Old
- Uhlan, race horse
- Veterans Administration Hospital [Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital]
- Views: Aerial
- Views: Street
- Waterways: Bridges, Rivers, Mill Pond
- Wilson Park/Old Oak
- Non-Bedford