

2020

WVRHC Newsletter, Fall/Winter 2020

West Virginia & Regional History Center

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West Virginia and Regional History Center

NEWSLETTER

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West Virginia University Libraries

2020

Frank C. Gaylord Archives Document Life and Work of a Great American Sculptor



Frank C. Gaylord poses with one of his Korean War soldiers, ca. 1994

In a state with a reverence for military service like West Virginia, one might expect that it would be well known that a native son was the creator of one of the most evocative military tributes on display in our nation's capital. Oddly, enough that is not the case.

Though tens of thousands if not millions of West Virginians have seen the striking cohort of 19 oversize metallic soldiers that patrol the National Mall's Korean War Veterans Memorial, it is unlikely that more than a handful have been aware that the platoon's creator was none other than Clarksburg native Frank C. Gaylord (1925-2018).

The West Virginia and Regional History Center is pleased to announce the acquisition of a treasure trove of archival resources documenting the life and work of this great American sculptor who is so little known in his home state. Particularly rich in photographic documentation of Gaylord's lifelong output, the collection was recently donated to the History Center by the artist's daughter and son-in-law, Leanne and John Triano of Vermont, where Gaylord spent most of his career.

Born in 1925, Gaylord discovered his penchant for sculpture early in life. He was reportedly just three years of age when he began fashioning animal figures from clay. The joy he found in the art of sculpture would remain with him for the rest of his life.

An alumnus of Clarksburg's Washington Irving High School, Gaylord's career plans were interrupted when he was drafted several weeks after graduation in 1943. Assigned to the 17th Airborne Infantry Division of the U.S. Army, he spent the balance of World War II serving as a paratrooper in Europe, Africa and the Middle East. His service earned him a Bronze Star for Valor and injuries severe enough to keep him laid up in a military hospital for several months.

West Virginia and Regional History Center NEWSLETTER

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"I Got It!" by Frank Gaylord, Toldeo, OH

When the war ended, he enrolled in the School of Art at the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie-Mellon) in Pittsburgh on the GI Bill. Andy Warhol was a fellow student. After two years of study, he transferred to Temple University where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1950.

The following year, he moved to Barre, Vermont where he became an apprentice stonecutter at the E. J. Bachlender Company. He honed his skills carving gravestones, markers and other projects as assigned. He spent summer vacations back home in Clarksburg during this period, painting portraits to supplement his income.

Gaylord eventually struck out on his own and in time became a well-known figure in his field. Among the many commissions that came his way were monuments celebrating historical figures including President Calvin

Coolidge, Boston Pops conductor Arthur Fiedler, Vermont's first governor Thomas Crittenden, Connecticut governor Ella Grasso, Pennsylvania's founding father William Penn and playwright William Shakespeare. Other notable works include sculptural tributes to the American pioneer family and Little League baseball.

"The Column," as Gaylord's Korean War Memorial platoon is collectively known, is without question the sculptor's most ambitious work as well as the most riveting. It was likely also the most aggravating project of his career. Located near the Lincoln Memorial on the west end of the National Mall, the memorial was many years in the making. When it was authorized by Congress in 1986, four years after completion of the controversial Vietnam War Memorial, a battle over its design ensued that pitted veterans, politicians, historians, artists and many other groups and individuals against each other. Some advocated a modern, minimalist approach, similar in spirit to the Vietnam Memorial -- a place of quiet reflection. On the opposite end were those favoring traditional realism and rousing action celebrating military heroism. In the end, uneasy compromises were reached resulting in a memorial composed of disparate if not conflicting elements.

Frank Gaylord's Column is without question the memorial's commanding feature. Nineteen soldiers, representing an ethnic cross-section of America and all branches of the military (14 Army, 3 Marine, 1 Navy and 1 Air Force), patrol, in realistic formation, an area of ground interspersed with juniper bushes and polished granite slabs representing the landscape and rice paddies of Korea. Larger-than-life at just over seven feet in height, the figures are cast in stainless steel imbuing them with a ghostly



Governor Ella Grasso by Frank Gaylord, Hartford, CT



A soldier hovers above its permanent home near the Lincoln Memorial on the National Mall



Installation of "The Column," National Mall

aura. The figures are clad in ponchos that billow in the cold Korean wind. Rather than idealized, their rough-hewn faces convey the essence of battle-hardened combatants, weary but alert in their awareness that they are in harm's way. Their appearance is meant "to confront visitors with

the reality of actual war," in Gaylord's words.

"They are people who got up in the morning and went into attack. They know what it's like." Several bear the faces of real-life soldiers with whom Gaylord served during World War II.



Frank C. Gaylord, "The Column," Korean War Memorial, National Mall



Gaylord vs the Post Office! When the U.S. Postal Service reproduced this photo of "The Column" on a postage stamp in 2002, without Gaylord's permission, he sued for copyright infringement. After a lengthy legal battle, the sculptor was ultimately awarded the sum \$684,845 in damages.

Principal among the several other elements that complete the Korean War Veterans Memorial are: a 30-foot in diameter Pool of Remembrance surrounded by linden trees and hibiscus, Korea's national flower; a United Nations Wall honoring the 22 countries that contributed to the war effort; and an imposing Mural Wall, 164 feet in length, containing more than 2,400 photographic images sandblasted onto a highly polished black granite surface. In proper lighting conditions, reflections of Gaylord's 19 soldiers can be seen on the Mural Wall. When viewed together, the 19 statues and 19 reflections comprise 38 figures, a nod to the 38 months duration of the war and the 38th parallel border between North and South Korea.

When the Korean War Memorial was dedicated by President Bill Clinton and President Kim Young-sam of South Korea on July 27, 1995, the 42nd anniversary of the armistice that ended the war, it met with reviews that were as varied as the opinions of those who had contested its design. Critics and citizens continue to have diverse reactions to this day. There can be little doubt, however, as to the effectiveness of its central element -- Frank Gaylord's The Column -- in conveying the disquieting, haunting, reality of war and the hardships endured by those who fought in Korea. The Column is an American masterpiece in which all West Virginians can take special pride.

A Note on the Coronavirus Pandemic and "COVID Stories" Project

Like organizations across the nation and around the globe, the Regional History Center has been deeply impacted by the ongoing Coronavirus Disease epidemic. Most significant is the fact that, in adherence to university regulations, the Center has been closed to non-campus visitors since March 15, 2020. It is anticipated that this policy will remain in effect during the spring 2021 semester. Despite severe limitations (most of the staff is working from home) the Center continues to endeavor to provide reference assistance to all users via electronic means of communication, correspondence and telephone. While only a few minutes can be devoted to each request, we look forward to doing our best to serve all users under these trying circumstances.

To document this extraordinary time in history, this summer the Center created a webpage seeking the submission of personal observations and experiences relating to COVID-19 from members of the WVU community. The page can be accessed at the following address: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu/news-events/wvu-community-covid-19-stories>

While the initiative is designed to record the pandemic's impact on WVU, the Center would welcome "COVID Stories" from anyone interested in telling their tale from across the state. If you have a story to share, we would love to hear from you!

Introducing Dr. Miriam Cady

The West Virginia and Regional History Center is pleased to announce the arrival of a new staff member, Dr. Miriam Cady. Miriam joins the Center in the capacity of Instruction and Public Services Coordinator. Her position is a new one designed to promote utilization of the Center's rich holdings for educational purposes. She will endeavor to build collaborative relationships with educators at all levels, within the university and beyond, in bringing primary resource materials into the classroom and in developing public programming drawing upon the Center's collections. She will also oversee the Center's research and reference services.



Dr. Miriam Cady

A native of Philadelphia, Miriam comes to the Regional History Center with impressive credentials. In addition to a master's degree in Library and Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh, she holds BA and MA degrees in art history and material culture from Smith College and the University of Sheffield, respectively, and a PhD in art history from the University of Leicester. Her doctoral research focused on the conservation of British country house ruins. Prior to joining the Center, Dr. Cady was employed by the Philadelphia Museum of Art where served as the Reference Archivist. She held earlier positions at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries, the Historic Ford Estates in Dearborn, Michigan, and the Betsy Ross House in Philadelphia.

Please join us in giving Miriam a warm welcome!

Selected Recent Acquisitions

Curtis H. Barnette Collection, Lawyer, Businessman, Philanthropist, and Chairman Emeritus of Bethlehem Steel Corporation. 1905-2013, 55 ft., Gift in 2013. A&M 3974.

Papers of Curtis H. "Hank" Barnette documenting his long career in business, law, and trade. As a businessman and lawyer, he has chaired and served on the board of many notable companies, including the Bethlehem Steel Corporation (where he was named Chairman Emeritus),



Curtis H. "Hank" and Joanne Barnette, 2019

MetLife, the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company, and Owens-Corning. Barnette has also served as counsel for national and regional organizations, including the Council of the Administrative Conference of the United States, the President's Trade Advisory Committee for Trade Policy, and the Independent Review Commission on Doping Control by the U.S. Track and Field, U.S. Olympic Committee. The collection includes speeches and writings, publications, papers, awards, and recordings, among other material.

J. Davitt McAteer Papers Regarding Mine Safety. ca. 1860-2000, 177 ft. ½ in., Gift in 2017. A&M 4219.

Papers of J. Davitt McAteer documenting his advocacy for mining safety. A lawyer and expert on mine safety and health issues, he served as an Assistant Secretary of Labor for the Mine Safety and Health Administration from 1993 to 2000. McAteer was also appointed lead independent investigator into the Upper Big Branch Mine Disaster by Governor Manchin in 2010. The collection includes accident investigation reports,

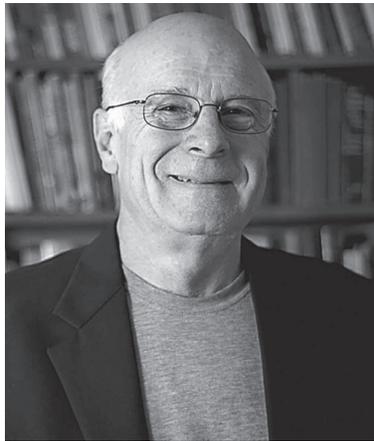


J. Davitt McAteer

conference files, correspondence, health and safety manuals, mine disaster historical files, press clippings, publications, and reports, among other material.

Marc Harshmann, Poet Laureate of West Virginia, Papers. ca. 1975-2010, 8 ft., Gift in 2018. A&M 4379.

Professional and personal papers of Marc Harshman, Appalachian author and poet laureate of West Virginia. He holds degrees from Bethany College, Yale University and the University of Pittsburgh, and became the West Virginia Poet Laureate in 2012. He has published over 14 children's books, the first of which was published in 1989, and several poetry collections and chapbooks. Harshman's most recent poetry collection, *Believe What You Can*, won the 2017 Weatherford Award from the Appalachian Studies Association. This collection largely contains papers regarding Marc Harshman's professional career as an author, storyteller, and teacher. There are some family papers as well. Formats include journals, manuscripts, letters, programs, and others. Papers related to his activities as a poet include drafts, correspondence with publishers, galleys, and other material.



*West Virginia Poet Laureate
Marc Harshman*

Ann Magnuson, Performance Artist, Papers. ca. 1973-2019, 1 ft. 10 in., Gift in 2019. A&M 4387.

Publications and sound recordings documenting the career of Ann Magnuson, an actress, performance artist, and nightclub performer who grew up in Charleston, West Virginia. She worked as a DJ and performer at Club 57 in New York, a gathering place for artists such as Keith Haring and Kenny Scharf. The collection includes ephemera announcing her performance events or recordings, such as



Ann Magnuson

"Ann Magnuson Does Bowie," "Dream Girl," and "Dueling Harps," publications, including a commemorative "Club 57" calendar, and sound recordings.

James A. Haught, Journalist, Papers. ca. 1943-2018, 12 ft. 6 in., Gift in 2019. A&M 4420.

Papers of James A. Haught, a longtime journalist and editor for the *Charleston Gazette* and native of West Virginia. These papers include editorials, background research, both traditional and email correspondence, manuscripts, and completed works. Correspondents include newspaper and magazine editors, as well as book publishers in connection with his writing projects.

Isabel L. Jones, World War II Code Girl, Oral History. 2019, 9 digital files, Gift in 2019. A&M 4433.

Sound recording of oral history interview conducted by historian Barbara Howe with Isabel L. Jones, a code breaker, or "code girl", who worked on deciphering German and Japanese codes for the United States of America (USA) during World War II (ca. 1942-1945). The work performed by the code girls is documented in the book *Code Girls: The Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II* by Liza Mundy. In addition to the sound recording, there is also a seven page document providing background information on people and places mentioned in the interview, a photograph of Jones, a note by Liz Mundy, and four other documents.

Admiral Thomas J. Lopez Papers. 1973-2014, 15 ft. 7 ¼ in., Gift in 2019. A&M 4439.

Papers of Admiral Thomas J. Lopez of the United States Navy. During his 40-year naval career, Admiral Lopez served as the Commander in Chief, U.S. Naval Forces, Europe and Commander in Chief, Allied Forces, Southern Europe and the Former Commander of NATO Peace Implementation Forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Senior Military Assistant to the Secretary of Defense from 1990-1992, Commander of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in 1992-1993, and Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Resources, Warfare Requirements and Assessments. This collection includes biographical and historical information,



Admiral Thomas J. Lopez

speeches, correspondence, media, artifacts, and awards and framed items.

Glen Hiner, Jr., Papers. ca. 1910-2016, 9 ft. 10 in., Gift in 2017 & 2019. A&M 4443.

Papers of Glen H. Hiner, Jr., Senior Vice President and Group Executive of General Electric Plastics (1983-1991) and CEO of Owens-Corning Fiberglas Corporation (1992-2002). He received the highest honor of the Society of the Plastics Industry, the Dan Fox Lifetime Achievement Award, in 1994. Hiner has also served as a member of the board of directors for both The Prudential Insurance Company of America and The Dana Corporation and as the chairman of the board of trustees for the Toledo Symphony. This collection includes personal and business papers, family papers, correspondence, books and publications, media, photographs, artifacts and awards, and oversize material.



Glen Hiner

Meredith Sue Willis, Author, Papers. ca. 1979-2010, 2 ft. 6 in., Gift in 2019. A&M 4448.

Papers and manuscripts of Meredith Sue Willis, an author from Clarksburg, West Virginia. Willis is known for her West Virginia Library Association Award and PEN Syndicated Fiction Award-winning fiction based in West Virginia (notably *Higher Ground* [1981], *Only Great Changes* [1985], and *Trespassers* [1997]) and her non-fiction writing guides, which have been praised in national and local periodicals, including *The New York Times Book Review* and *The San Francisco Chronicle*. Willis has won several major awards including literary fellowships from the New Jersey State Council on the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. This collection includes manuscripts, drafts, and other material.



Meredith Sue Willis

Charles Peters, Editor and Author, Papers. ca. 1980-2016. 114 ft. 6 ½ in., Gift in 2019. A&M 4449.

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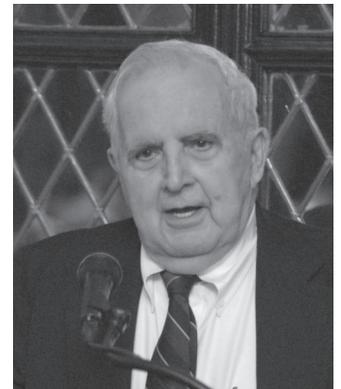
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Professional correspondence, writings, and other papers of Charles Peters, creator and publisher of *The Washington Monthly*, a political magazine and website that launched the careers of several Pulitzer Prize-winning and MacArthur Genius Grant-winning authors and editors. Peters was the first Director of Evaluation for the Peace Corps and the organizer of President John F. Kennedy's campaign in West Virginia. This collection includes correspondence, research, writings, newspaper clippings, articles, manuscripts, proofs, copies, books, publications, reports, audiovisual material, and oversize framed items.



Charles Peters

West Virginia Streetcar Photograph Collection. ca. 1920-1960, 4 in., Acquired in 2019. A&M 4450.

Photographs of trolleys and streetcars in West Virginia, including ones located in Wheeling, Charleston, Parkersburg, Bluefield, and Princeton. There are 76 items.

William Wright, Sailor, Photographs of USS West Virginia. 1944-1945, ¼ in., Acquired in 2019. A&M 4453.

Photographs of William Wright and other members of the crew of the USS West Virginia. Also includes photographs taken of the ship itself. All photographs in this collection are reproductions. Wright was a Radio Technician 2nd Class. He served on the ship from 1944 until 1945 and saw action at Leyte Gulf, Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.

Travis Stimeling, Music Professor, West Virginia Song Writer Oral Histories. 2014-2016, 1 ft. ½ in., 65 digital files, Gift in 2019. A&M 4470

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*Korean War Memorial model
Frank C. Gaylord Archives,
West Virginia and Regional
History Center*

Oral history interviews with West Virginia song writers, including sound recordings of the interviews and the corresponding transcripts. Travis Stimeling was the interviewer. This material was the basis for Stimeling's book *Songwriting in Contemporary West Virginia* published by the West Virginia University Press in 2018. The interviewees are songwriters who have lived and/or worked in West Virginia for a significant portion of their lives, and who have local, regional, national, and international audiences. Song writers interviewed in this collection include: Julie Adams, Andrew Adkins, Maria Allison, Colleen Anderson, Mike Arcuri, Adam Booth, Roger Bryant, Todd Burge, Shirley Stewart Burns, Lionel Cartwright, Clinton Collins, Dan Cunningham, Larry Groce, Chris Haddox, Doug and Shelley Harper, Scott Holstein, Dina Hornbaker, John Lilly, Chelsea McBee, Elaine Purkey, Michael Pushkin, Roger Rabalais, Jim Savarino, Steve Smith, Ron Sowell, Mark Spangler, Pam Spring-Connie Price, Patrick Stanley, and Taryn Thomas.

**West Virginia University,
President David C. Hardesty,
Jr., Papers. 1834-2019, 68.5 ft.,
Gift in 2016-2019. A&M 5114.**

Papers of President David C. Hardesty, Jr. of West Virginia University. Before becoming President of West Virginia University, Hardesty was a lawyer and partner of Bowles, Rice, McDavid, Graff & Love (1973-1994) and West



President David C. Hardesty

Virginia Tax Commissioner (1977-1980), among various other positions. While serving as president, Hardesty was a member of the National Security Higher Education Advisory Board; Chairman of the National 4-H Council; a director and officer in the Big East Conference; and a member of the Bowl Championship Series Presidential Oversight Committee. He was a founding director of the Blanchette Rockefeller Neurosciences Institute. After finishing his 12-year term as West Virginia University President, Hardesty was a Professor of Law at the West Virginia University College of Law (2007-2018).

**West Virginia University, President E. Gordon Gee,
Speeches and Other Material. 1982-2013, 5 ft., Gift in
2019. A&M 5246.**

Copies of speeches given by Dr. Gee during his various terms as president of West Virginia University (1981-



*E. Gordon Gee during his first term as
WVU president, ca. 1984*

1985; 2014-present), the University of Colorado (1985-1990), Ohio State University (1990-1998; 2007-2013), Brown University (1998-2000), and as Chancellor of Vanderbilt University (2000-2007). This collection also includes news articles spawned from Gee's speeches, pre-event briefings, and correspondence related to Gee's speeches.