

McLean County Museum of History

Elizabeth Stevenson “Buffie” Ives Collection

Processed by
Carol Straka
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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 Box
COLLECTION DATES:	1897-1996
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	

Brief History

Born in Bloomington in 1897, Elizabeth Stevenson “Buffie” Ives was the first of two children born to Lewis Green and Helen Davis Stevenson. She successively attended Washington School in Bloomington, University High in Normal, Lake Shore Drive School for Girls in Chicago, Miss Wright’s School at Bryn Mawr, Pa, Union Theological Seminary in New York, and private study with psychologist Carl Jung in Switzerland. The family travelled repeatedly in the US and Europe during her childhood.

As a young woman, she engaged in a brief acting career. While on vacation in Switzerland in 1926, she met Ernst L. Ives (1887-1972), a member of the American embassy at Constantinople, Turkey, and a Norfolk, VA, native. The couple wed in Naples, Italy, Feb 5, 1927.

Ernest’s diplomatic career led them to live in Turkey, South Africa, Germany, France, and Northern Ireland. After Ernest’s retirement from the diplomatic service in 1939, the couple split their time between Southern Pines, Moore County, N.C. and the Stevenson Bloomington family home on Washington Street.

Son Timothy (1928-2004) was born in Chicago and grew up in a variety of international cities.

Active in historic preservation, Buffie was a key driver in the purchase and restoration of the Matthew T. Scott home in Chenoa, IL. Her grandparents, Letitia Green and Adlai E Stevenson I were married there and her father Lewis was born in that house. Buffie also became an active leader in historic preservation work in North Carolina. She was also an organizer and captain for the first Red Cross Motor Corps in Moore County, NC, during World War II.

The Stevenson family’s political engagement included her great grandfather, Jesse Fell, founder of Normal and prominent support of Abraham Lincoln. Grandfather Adlai E Stevenson I became a congressman from Illinois and U.S. Vice President under Grover Cleveland. Father Lewis G. Stevenson served as Illinois Secretary of State from 1914-16. Buffie actively participated in her brother Adlai E. Stevenson II’s campaign for Illinois governor (1948) plus his US presidential campaigns in 1952 and 1956. She served as the Executive Mansion hostess for his gubernatorial years (1949-1953).

In addition, Buffie was involved in many civic and arts organizations such as music and arts associations, Illinois State Historical Society, McLean County Historical Society, Daughters of the American Revolution, League of Women Voters, and American Association for the United Nations, McLean County. She and husband Ernest founded and supported the outdoor drama *Forever This Land* as performed at New Salem State Park in 1951-52.

She joined her husband in archeology exploits overseas, wrote two books about her brother Adlai, and explored genealogy.

Buffie died in 1994 at age 96 and is buried at Evergreen Memorial Cemetery in Bloomington.

Scope

The collection includes assorted biographies, reminiscences, newspaper articles, correspondence, oral history interviews and more for Buffie and her family.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Biographical

Unless otherwise indicated, items are typed and original or copies.

- 1.1 "First Lady of Illinois: Elizabeth Stevenson Ives and Her Letters" by Leonard Schlup, published in *Manuscripts*, Vol. XLVIII No. 1. Winter 1996, pp 23-32.
- 1.2 Biography, August 1952, 3 pp. 2 copies.
- 1.3 Biography, undated. 2 pp.
- 1.4 Biographical Sketch, undated. 4 copies.
- 1.5 Biography, August 1955. 4 pp.
- 1.6 Biography from Office of Women's Activities of Democratic National Committee, undated. 2 pp.
- 1.7 Biography, August 1956. 4pp.
- 1.8 Biography, July 1960. 2 pp. 2 copies.
- 1.9 Interests in Bloomington, May 1965.
- 1.10 Memberships, Oct 1965. 2 copies.
- 1.11 Biography, undated. 2 pp. 3 copies.
- 1.12 Biographical sketch, undated. 2 copies.
- 1.13 Biography, Jun 1967. 3 pp including list of interests, stamped Jun 1967.
- 1.14 Princeton Alumni Weekly class notes, Nov 1969. With attached note dated May 1970.
- 1.15 Biography, Jan 15, 1973. 2 pp. 3 copies.
- 1.16 Biography, Jan 19, 1973. 5 pp including list of interests, memberships, Princeton Alumni Weekly class notes.
- 1.17 Biography, Sep 1975. 2 pp.
- 1.18 Biography, Sep 1992. 4pp.

Folder 2: Newspaper Clippings

- 2.1 "Mrs. Stevenson Dies Suddenly," obit for mother Helen Davis Stevenson, *Pantagraph*, Nov 17, 1935. 4 copies.
- 2.2 "Helen Davis Stevenson," obit, Nov 17, 1935. Unidentified newspaper. 4 copies.
Items 2.3 – 2.12 from "1953 trip to Europe"
- 2.3 "Sister to Join Adlai's Party," *Pantagraph*, Jun 4, 1953.
- 2.4 Typescript addressed to "Dear K" and about experiences in Spain, Jun 4, 1953. 5pp.
- 2.5 "Elizabeth Ives Mails at Gibraltar First Travelog in Series on European Trip Written for Home Paper," *The Pilot* (Southern Pines, NC), Jun 12.
- 2.6 "Elizabeth Ives Enjoys Beauty and Hospitality of Italian Cities," *The Pilot*, undated.
- 2.7 "Mrs. Ives Describes Trip to Spanish Cities," *Pantagraph*, Jun 25.
- 2.8 "Prime Minister Host to Iveses," *Pantagraph*, July 15, 1953.
- 2.9 "Mrs. Ives Misses Brother by 4 Hours," *Pantagraph*, July 8.
- 2.10 "Mrs. Ives Joins Adlai in Paris," *Pantagraph*, July 31, 1953.

- 2.11 "Adlai Stevenson, Party to Arrive in Chicago Aug. 20 by Plane," Aug 1953.
- 2.12 "Scottish, English Scenes, People Described in Letter by Mrs. Ives," *The Pilot*, Aug 15, 1953.
- 2.13 "Elizabeth Stevenson Ives looks back on 90 years," *Pantagraph*, Oct 11, 1987. 4 copies.
- 2.14 Elizabeth Stevenson Ives obituary, *Pantagraph*, Jun 28, 1994.
- 2.15 "Stevenson family member dead at 96," *Pantagraph*, Jun 28, 1994. 2 copies.
- 2.16 "Elizabeth 'Buffie' Stevenson Ives, 96," obit in *Chicago Tribune*, Jun 29, 1994.
- 2.17 "'Buffie' Ives nurtured history, literature," *Fayetteville Observer-Times*, Jul 17, 1994.
- 2.18 "Services Honor Mrs. Ives," *The Pilot* (Southern Pines, NC), Oct 13, 1994.

Folder 3: Buffie's Writings

- 3.1 "Summer Digging (1934). 7 pp plus labeled photo of centaur mosaic. Algerian archaeology.
- 3.2 Untitled reminiscences about visiting Kabylia [Algeria], undated. 5 pp.
- 3.3 "Cat Story." Undated. Written by Ernest Ives and involving Buffie and a cat at a dinner with "the Sheik of all Sheiks."
- 3.4 Untitled reminisces of Charlevoix, July 1967. 5 pp. Mimeograph copy.
- 3.5 "Up in a Villa," undated. 9 pp.
- 3.6 Untitled reminisces of cabinet dinner at Truman's White House in Dec 1952, undated. 14 pp.
Following items are in a binder titled "Pieces by Eliz. Stevenson Ives."
- 3.7 "Sketch for Adlai E. Stevenson Memorial Room I.S.U. October 1971." 4pp.
- 3.8 "First Lessons in Campaigning '48," Sep 1971.
- 3.9 "Prairie Roots," undated, 2 pp.
- 3.10 "Talk to Mecklenburg Historical Society about 1950 in Charlotte N.C." 5 pp.
- 3.11 "Northern Ireland." July 1953. 8 pp.
- 3.12 "Adlai's Impatience at Waste in Mansion," Dec 1952. Transcript of note made by Eliz. Stevenson Ives. 6pp. including 2 pp of "Articles Bought for the Mansion by Eliz. Stevenson Ives."
- 3.13 "Re Cabinet Dinner in Washington, D.C. Dec 1952. 14pp.
- 3.14 "Letter to Adlai Re Statesville Tour," Apr 1946. 6 pp.
- 3.15 "Re South Africa 1932." 9 pp.
- 3.16 "Translation to Interview given by Mrs. Ernest L. Ives to the 'Ekstrabladet' May 2, 1930. 5pp.

Folder 4: Historic Preservation

- 4.1 Letter from McLean County Historical Society nominating Elizabeth Ives for National Trust Honor Awards Program, Jan 26, 1983. Cover letter, plus 5 pages.
- 4.2 Ten slides of preserved historic homes in which Buffie was a driving force, undated.

Folder 5: Martin Book Correspondence

- 5.1 Photocopy of letter from Doubleday & Company to Mrs. Ives about Martin book, Mar 25, 1974. 2pp.
- 5.2 Photocopy of handwritten letter from Walter Johnson on University of Hawaii Dept of History letterhead requesting a copy of Buffie's eventual compilation of Martin biography mistakes, etc. May 14, 1976.

- 5.3 Photocopy of hand printed letter from “Pussey” on personal matters and Martin’s book, Jun 7, 1967.
- 5.4 Photocopy of TS “Adlai Stevenson of Illinois by John Bartlow Martin Corrections and Comments by Elizabeth Stevenson Ives (Mrs. Ernest L.)”, August 1976. 57 pp plus page of notes.
- 5.5 Photocopy of TS “Quotes from letter of Mrs. Sylvia Gutherland, of Ontario, CA, to Mrs. Ives, Aug 11, 1976. 2 pp.
- 5.6 Photocopy of handwritten letter to Tim (Ives) from Don Newberg at WGBF, Evansville, IN, offering correction to Martin book, Sep 2, 1976.
- 5.7 Photocopy of typed letter to editor of *Chicago Daily News* from Sylvia Sutherland of Ontario, CA, about Martin’s book, Sep 12, 1976.
- 5.8 Photocopy of handwritten letter from J. Edward Day to Buffie about Martin book, Sep 13, 1976.

Folder 6: Miscellaneous Correspondence

- 6.1 Typed letter (or transcript?) from Lewis [Stevenson] at Bloomington to Helen on personal matters, 1908. 2 pp.
- 6.2 Photocopy of typed letter from Julia G. Scott in DC to Mrs. Caroline Kimball in Bloomington sending delayed thanks for beautiful year books, Dec 14, 1909. 2 pp.
- 6.3 Photocopy of handwritten letter from Letitia Green Stevenson, of NSDAR to Caroline F Kimball with Report of the Letitia Green Stevenson Chapter of DAR and to the Board of Directors about the chapter’s name, Jan 8, 1910. 4pp.
- 6.4 Handwritten note from Letitia Green Stevenson about returning a genealogy book. Also includes note from Julia Scott Vrooman leaving this to Buffie, Oct 18, 1946.
- 6.5 Carbon of ELI’s (Ernest Ives) typed memo on proposal for “School of Domestic Affairs,” Jul 30 1955.
- 6.6 Handwritten note from Helen Stiles of NYC enclosing two “booklets” with words of Adlai E Stevenson II, Nov 9, [1965?]
- 6.7 Mass mailing from United Nations Assn of the United States of America to members enclosing Adlai II’s stamen made in San Francisco on June 26 at 20th anniversary of signing of UN charter, Jul 14, 1965. 3 sheets & envelope.
- 6.8 Letter from Copenhagen Engravers of Washington, DC, to Mrs. Ives returning the one plate they had on file for Mr. Stevenson, Dec 21, 1965. Plus calling card plate in small envelope.
- 6.9 Carbon copy of typed letter to genealogist Mrs. Stanley Partridge from Mrs. Wilbur Morgan, secretary to Mrs. E. L. Ives offering corrections and enhancements to genealogy chart, May 13, 1966. 3 pp.
- 6.10 Card: invitation to McLean County Chapter UNA-USA and Mrs. Ives to United Nations Day Tea at the Ives home, Oct 24, 1969.
- 6.11 Form letter from Ernest L. Ives at Southern Pines, NC, about quail and duck shooting, undated. 2 copies.
- 6.12 Letter from Carol Evans at University of Hawaii Dept of History to Mrs. Ives returning photos that Little Brown opted not to use in Vol II, Mar 6, 1972.
- 6.13 Typed letter from Buffie’s secretary Florence Morgan at Bloomington to Ralph & Kate Lee about Buffie’s activities, surviving Ernest’s death, etc. Mar 8, 1972. Plus envelope.
- 6.14 Letter form Chalmers at Davidson, NC, to Buffie about recent visit, Mar 20, 1988.

- 6.15 Letter from Director of University Museums at Illinois State University to Mrs. Ives thanking her for participating in videotaping for use with Stevenson Memorial Room, Oct 14, 1986.
- 6.16 Carbon copy of typed letter from Buffie to "Porter" noting corrections, May 23, 1989. 2 pp plus photocopy.
- 6.17 Letter from The Bookshop Inc. in Chapel Hill, NC to Buffie about order of book on St. Mark's Parish, Culpepper County, Sep 18, 1989.
- 6.18 Half page typed carbon copy of note titled "Mary Pulley" and about James Speed, apparently for genealogy work, undated.
- 6.19 Three printed invitations from McLean County Democratic Women's' Organization for National Democratic Women's Day to be held at Ives home on East Washington, Sep 18 [1957.] Plus 2 envelopes.
- 6.20 Photocopy of three captioned photos with question about same, undated. Perhaps note written by Adrienne Osborne Ives?
- 6.21 Typed letter to Barbara [Dunbar?] of from Jeanne about Stevenson and Merwin families, undated.
- 6.22 Typed letter from Don Munson of WJBC to Tim [Ives} about Buffie's motherly pride displayed in interview with Greg Koos on Oct 10, 1987.
- 6.23 Four cancelled envelopes to Mrs. Ives.

Folder 7: Greeting Cards and Stationery

- 7.1 Four printed Christmas cards form Ernest and Elizabeth Ives featuring photos of their homes in Bloomington and Southern Pines, NC, and quote from brother Adlai, undated. Plus 2 envelopes.
- 7.2 Printed sympathy acknowledgements from Elizabeth and Ernest Ives, undated.
- 7.3 Unused blue note sized stationer with 1316 East Washington St address, undated.
- 7.4 Unused white envelopes with 1316 East Washington St return address, undated.
- 7.5 Unused postcards with 1316 E Washington St return address, undated.

Folder 8: Illinois State Historical Library Inventory

- 8.1 Letter from Illinois State Historical Library to McLean County Historical Society attaching 33-page container list for Eliz. Ives family papers, Dec 1996.

Folder 9: Tax and Household Maintenance Receipts

- 9.1 Three receipts for painting, plumbing, etc. work at 1316 E Washington, 1936-37.
- 9.2 Packet of receipts for real estate and personal property taxes paid by various family members, 1938-48

Folder 10: Miscellaneous

- 10.1 "Course of Entertainments" program for Illinois State Normal University season for 1913-14.
- 10.2 "Souvenir of California," a booklet of verses written by Grace Jewett Austin of Bloomington from the 1937 journey of Elizabeth and Grace.
- 10.3 Two U S Passports for Elizabeth Ives issued 1958 and 1970.
- 10.4 Social Security Account card plus brochure for same, undated.

- 10.5 Airline tickets for Tim Ives from Milan to London, 15 Jul 1965 – time of his uncle Adlai’s funeral in US.
- 10.6 Democratic campaign brochure including candidates Adlai E Stevenson III for State Treasurer and Timothy R. Ives for State Senator, 1966.
- 10.7 Flier for “Aunt Buffy’s Birthday Rally for Adlai Stevenson, III” at 1316 E Washington, Oct 10, 1970.
- 10.8 Christmas card from Simon family (Paul, Jeanne, Sheila, Martin Simon) with family photo, 1972. Includes quote from Adlai E Stevenson about his 1952 defeat.
- 10.9 End of life wishes for Elizabeth S Ives, Jan 22, 1975.
- 10.10 Resume for Timothy R. Ives, January 1976. 2 pp.
- 10.11 Booklet “A History of the Practice of Medicine in McLean County, Illinois, 1930-1980” by A. Edward Livingston, M.D. with inscription to Buffy Sep 19, 1989. 21 pp.
- 10.12 City of Bloomington proclamation on Elizabeth Ives’ 90th birthday, Jul 13, 1987.
- 10.13 Carbon copy of typed note about Mrs. Ives being presented at royal courts in Europe, etc. undated.
- 10.14 Two carbon copies of poem about welfare destroying individual economic incentive, unsigned and undated.
- 10.15 Photocopy of details of Buffie’s memorial service at Bloomington Unitarian Church, Jun 29, 1994. 7 pp.
- 10.16 Memorial service info from Beck Memorial Home, Jun 1994.
- 10.17 Card: M/M Ernest L Ives at Home reception for Adlai E. Stevenson, undated.
- 10.18 Stray handwritten note about the Willis family of Virginia, undated.
- 10.19 Tag for House plan of 1316 E Washington, undated.

Folder 11: Childhood Scrapbook

- 11.1 Buffie’s 1903 “scrap book” containing her art work and notes.

Folder 12: Christian Art

- 12.1 Buffie’s 1914-1915 book of writings and photo illustrations for University School for Girls in Chicago.

Folder 13: Adlai E. Stevenson II Miscellaneous

- 13.1 “Not for Publication” photocopy of text of address by Gov. Stevenson before Gridiron Club dinner in D.C., Dec 13, 1952. Cover campaign, election results, etc. 5pp.
- 13.2 Life membership card to McLean County Historical Society for Ambassador Adlai Stevenson, 1962. Plus Society constitution and bylaws.
- 13.3 Carbon copy of typed letter from Adlai E. Stevenson II in New Delhi, India, to his sons discussing travel plans for both father and sons, May 7, 1953. 2pp.
- 13.4 Carbon copy set of eight letters to Buffy/and or Ernest from brother Adlai in Ankara, Cairo, Malaya, Hong Kong, onboard Pres. Wilson and Chicago. 1953. Plus one letter to Buffie from “Barry” who accompanied Adlai on at least part of the trip.
- 13.5 Program for dedication of Adlai E Stevenson Elementary School in Chicago, Jun 10, 1955.
- 13.6 Postcard for Stevenson/Kefauver ticket with endorsement of Porter Hardy Jr. Postmarked Norfolk, VA. [1956]

- 13.7 Photocopy of sequence of funeral events in Washington DC. From Dept of State, July 15, 1965.
- 13.8 Letter from Ralph G Newman, Chair of Illinois Commission, New York World's Fair, to Tim Ives inviting Tim to attend Adlai's tribute, Aug 21, 1965.
- 13.9 Printed invitation from Governor Otto Kerner to memorial Adlai E Stevenson tribute ceremonies at New York World's Fair, Aug 26, 1965.
- 13.10 Booklets: "Adlai and You and I" a sermon by Richard Paul Graebel, minister of First Presbyterian Church in Springfield, IL, Sep 5 1965. 2 copies.

Folder 14: Ernest Ives

- 14.1 "From Pillar to Post," Ernest L. Ives Tells of Some Agreeable Experiences While En Route from Paris to Alexandria, His New Assignment, *American Consular Bulletin* (March 1924): 83-84; 104-105.
- 14.2 "Rais Hammida," by Ernest L. Ives, Consul General, Algiers, *The American Foreign Service Journal* (August 1935): 436-439; 469-470.
- 14.3 "An Adventurer Turns Diplomat," Ernest L. Ives, Consul General, Algiers, *The American Foreign Service Journal* (November 1936): 601-605; 628-633.
- 14.4 "Our First Language Student," Ernest L. Ives, Consul General, *The American Foreign Service Journal* (June 1937): 333; 360-362.
- 14.5 "Ernest L. Ives" biography, Jun 13, 1967.
- 14.6 Carbon copy of poem "to Sir Ernest of Paint Hill" about Buffie, by Edmund H. Harding of Washington, NC, on Valentine Day 1965.

Folder 15: Luster Interview

- 15.1 Interview transcript with index, April 19, 1969. 158 pp. Buffie was interviewed about her brother Adlai.

Folder 16: Columbia University Interviews

- 16.1 Transcript of oral history interview with Mrs. Ives about brother Adlai, May 3, 1966. 54 pp including index.
- 16.2 Transcript of oral history interview with Ernest Ives about his own life and also interactions with brother-in-law Adlai Stevenson, May 28, 1967. 37 pp with index.
- 16.3 Order form and permission to cite or quote instructions, Feb 2010. 2 pp.

Folder 17: Interview about Family Home

- 17.1 Transcript of oral history interview with Mrs. Ives about rooms, contents, etc. of 1316 E Washington St home, Oct 10, 1987. 23 pp.

Loose Items:

- *A Threefold Cord* by Lila Ives. Typed, in bound red book, 308 pp. Undated. Staff added 1961 obit for Lila, sister to Ernest Ives.
- *The Baby's Biography* – Buffie's baby book, 1897.
- Elizabeth D. Stevenson English History notebook, University High School, c. 1913.
- Deck of roughly 150 typed recipe cards compiled by Mrs. E.L. Ives, undated.
- *Journeys* by Edmund S. Muskie, Doubleday, 1972. Inscribed by author to Ernest Ives.

- Photo album, 1920s, Middle East.
- *Turbulent Era, Vol II*, by Joseph C. Crew. Houghton Mifflin, 1952. Includes handwritten note by Ives of text that was typed & pasted into the book. Multiple references to the Ives in index.
- Ledger from Dr. Joseph E. Read, covering 1853-1859. Read was Ernest Ives' maternal grandfather & lived in North Carolina. Brief info about Joseph Read and his dau. Sarah Agnes Read Ives was printed by staff & inserted in 2022.