

Guide to

PC 132

**CLIFTON & MORENCI COLLECTION, PHOTOS & DOCUMENTS
(1892-1930)**

1984.114

6 BOXES

**Prepared by Jerry Veatch
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Historical Note

The communities of Clifton/Morenci, Az., were established as mining towns in the late 19th century, and Clifton became incorporated in 1909. Clifton is the seat of Greenlee County and near the alleged birthplace of famous Apache warrior, Geronimo. In its early days, Clifton was proclaimed the “town tougher than Tombstone.” The entire Clifton/Morenci area was found to be extremely rich in copper ore, and Morenci boasts the largest open pit copper mine in the U.S.

Located in a valley near a river and surrounded by steep cliffs (hence, the name “Clifton”), the community has been subjected to severe flooding in its history, resulting in loss of life and property. The worst flood happened in December, 1906 and the last severe flood occurred in 1916.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists chiefly of some 300 photos, many of which are family posed portraits. There are also several documents and miscellaneous certificate items in Box 1, Folder 7A, and Box 4, 28A. The families mentioned in these folders are Burtch, Carr, Hunter and Boles. The Burtch family appears to be the principal subject of this collection, with the “patriarch” being Dr. Burtch, a surgeon, who graduated from a Chicago Medical School. Other names mentioned in this collection are Herman, Powers, Lapham, Gukeshirer, Scott, Fox, Van Osdol, Stark and Wood, presumably all related to the Burtch family.

There are several photos of Clifton, depicting the mining operations, street scenes, homes and buildings. Clifton had a history of floods, and there are many photos of flood waters and debris, possibly from the devastating flood of 1906. There are numerous home interior photos containing people and furniture and a few candid shots of large groups in picnic settings. Several photos of cowboys on horse back are included, in addition to interesting old automobiles. This writer was impressed by the ultra-conservative wearing apparel of the females in that era!

CONTAINER LIST FOR PC 132
Clifton & Morenci Collection

BOX 1

- | | | |
|--------|---|--|
| FOLDER | 1 | Old autos, Clifton/Morenci Hotel
Mine operation, buildings
Railroad bridge over river
Mexican family on porch
Group of men with rifles |
| | 2 | Portrait, unidentified female
Flood debris
Horse & buggy on desert trail
Old autos, Clifton/Morenci Hotel
Building next to river
Homes in flood water
Flooded train tracks
River bed in town
Mining processing buildings |
| | 3 | Aerial view, Solomonville, Az.
Mining operation, Clifton
Home, snowy hillside
Man, woman on mule and donkey, workers
Group near "Happy Jack Cabin"
Group near mine entrance |
| | 4 | Town along river
Cowboys on horseback, chuckwagon
Town along river
Bath House, Mineral Springs, Clifton
Trail riders, Grand Canyon
Child playing in water |
| | 5 | Mining plant
Muddy street, buggy, buildings
Old autos, Clifton/Morenci Hotel
Portraits of man & dog, young woman, young |

- Man, and a woman
 Collage of building photos, autographed
 Chase creek, Metcalf, Az.
 Two men with bicycle
- 6 Nursing class, St. Joseph Hospital
 Flooding, buildings
 Flood debris, workers
 Flooding, homes
 Flooding, washed out bridge
 Flooding, street, buildings
- 7 Men watching flood waters in streets
 Flood street scene
 Two men in ore bucket, 1894
 House, bicycle on porch
 Greenlee County courthouse, 1913
 Portrait of woman
- 7A Several documents relating to the Hunters,
 Burtchs, and Carrs. Include auto papers,
 school records, family register and portraits.
- 8 Woman, children and maid on porch
 Portraits of a woman, 5 females, taken in Michigan
 And a woman & child, Michigan
- 9 Women in stage production, Michigan
 Portrait of older woman
 Group of Asian soldiers/workers(?)
 Women in stage production
 Portrait of woman
- Box 2
- Folder 10 Portraits of a small child, a large group (family?), a
 young boy (J.D. Burtch), an older man (Sam
 Stewart), and a small child
- 11 Portraits of Harriet Herman & mother, 1901, six

- adults, two children, a woman & child, four young women, a young man in Ill., a woman in Iowa
Room interior, fireplace, chair, Table, lamp, mirror
- 12 Room interior, table, lamp, chair
Portrait, young boy
Man in suit, top hat
Group, seated at picnic table
Man, graduation(Med. School?), Chicago
Portrait, child, Miriam Van Osdol
Portrait, Pearl Scott, Calif., 1892
- 13 Portraits of a man in suit, a young girl,
Washington, a young woman, Harriet Lapham, Ill.,
a young woman, Ill., Harriet Lapham, Ill., a man in
suit, Bessie Powers,
- 14 Three men in night shirts, dancing?
Portrait, young woman, Mamie Morrison?
Two young women, stage show, Iowa
Portrait, young man
Young man at table, stage production
Portrait, Bessie Powers, Washington
- 15 Group of nine adults
Portraits of a young man, John Wood, a small girl,
Beanna Stark Wood, and Maimie and Alfred
Stewart
- 16 Home interior, furniture items
Portraits of a young man, Julie Burtch Cass and
George, a man and three children, a young woman,
and a man in suit
- 17 Portraits of a young man, a young woman,
James Downing Burtch, and a Family portrait of
Wood & Burtch
- 18 Portraits of a small girl, a baby (Robert
Gukeshirer?), a young man and boy(J.D. Burtch),

a young girl, and hree children on porch

Box 3

- | | | |
|--------|----|---|
| Folder | 19 | Room interior, rocking chair, couch
Boy with bicycle
Men in auto
Portrait, young woman
Room interior, fireplace
Rush Medical College, Chicago
Portrait, older man and child |
| | 20 | Group tent camping
Tent in woods
Group camping
Adults playing in water |
| | 21 | Portraits of a young woman, Mary E. Scott, three
Children, a young woman under a tree, Phoebe and
Ethelyn Burtch, 1896 |
| | 22 | Portrait, Phoebe & Ethelyn Burtch
Portrait of young couple
Portrait of small girl
Viola Fox & Jean(child), seashore
Woman, child on steps
Woman in lounge chair
Portrait, Robert & Miriam Van Osdol
Portrait, Downing daughters |
| | 23 | Portrait of young girl
Two men, seated around d basket
Group of men around cadaver?
Portrait, three young women
Five children in yard
Two men shaking hands, on walk
Office sign of Dr. Burtch, Surgeon
Portrait, Ethelyn Burtch
Grandpa, Grandma, aunt Ethel |

- 24 Starksville, Co. train station
Room interior, adults & children
Older man & woman, walking, wooden
Walks, 1900
James in baby buggy
Two children in chairs
James Downing Burtch in stroller
Room interior, adults and cat
- 25 Wedding(?) J.A. & Ethel Van Osdol, 1900
J.A. & Ethel
Baby, in high chair
Room interior, table, flowers
Building with trees
Five cowboys on horses
Room interior with adults
Women standing in water and boat
- 26 Room interior, two women, Clifton
Woman(mother) on horseback
Margaret Stark, horse & buggy
Three men seated (stage production?)
Six people, boarding house, Chicago
Frank Van Osdol, Margaret Stark“cuddling”
Railroad tracks and station
- 27 Couple, seated
Grandma Burtch, mounting mule
Room interior, bookcase, fireplace
Young women
Margaret & Dora Stark
Portrait, James Downing Burtch
Portrait, Ethelyn L Burtch
Pearle Grove, another woman, Ill. 1894

Box 4

Folder	28	Portrait of young woman Group photo of Asians/Caucasians at dinner Man seated at table Man by car Two photos, men in bed! Group of women in buggy Woman and dog Four photos, parade with horses, floats Four adults at table Building by train tracks Buggy by buildings Two women in buggy
	28A	Assortment of documents, certificates, stories, poems and photos of Clifton/Morenci.
	29	Man by auto Group on horses by buggy Small child in large jug Booklet of Clifton aerial photos Autos and horses, parked Old autos, parked
	30	Old auto, missing wheel Old building Water in street Flood debris Flooding in street Women walking in street Street and old house Destroyed building
	31	Flood damage Flood debris Flood damaged wall Buildings below mountain

- 32 Flood debris
 House, raised foundation
 Flooded street
 Washed out railroad cars
 Flood damaged house
 Horses, standing by flood damage
 Railroad switch
 Street after flood
- 33 Two men on porch railing
 Lady and child
 Flood damaged building
 Two men, flood debris
 Railroad car
 Flood damaged house
 People by flood damaged house
- 34 Homes against mountain
 Flood debris
 Street scene
 Buildings
 Man standing by building
 Two people by store
 River and mountains
 Two women on porch
 Young boys on porch
 Large group by building
 Buggy horse race, fairgrounds?
 Portrait of woman & child
- 35 Portrait, woman & baby
 Portrait, Phebe Burtch, Miriam Van Osdol,
 Ethelyn Van Osdol
 Woman(Ethelyn Osdol) & child
 Two children on young woman's lap
 Portrait, woman & child
 Two women, children in yard

- 36 Group in room
 House
 Street scene
 Man with bee hives?
 Railroad scene
 Building and woman on porch with bike
 Cat asleep
 Men seated at table
 Group of men
 Man with skeleton!
 Men(students?) with cadaver
 Two men, skeleton
 Horse lying down
 Men by building
 Interior room scene
 Bridge
 River?
 Two men and women, buildings
 Building (Millinery)
 Man with cat, woman standing
- 37 Four adults in room
 Home exterior
 Street scene
 Man with bee hives
 Railroad tracks
 Woman on Porch
- 38 Cat on chair
 Men (students?) working with cadaver
 Man with skeleton
 Five men in room
- 39 Men with skeleton
 Horse lying down
 Men around table...river bank
 Room interior
 Railroad station....river bank

40 Bridge...river bank
River bank
Two men, women...buildings
Millinery store
Building, tall smoke stack
Man with cat...woman standing

Box 5

Folder 1 Foot bridge over river
2 “ “
3 Mine buildings along river
4 Mine buildings, Clifton
5 People on porch
6 Large group, banquet hall
7 Elevated (Aerial?) photo, Clifton
8 Street scene
9 Homes along river
10 Employees, Phelps Dodge Corp., 1928
11 Yucca cactus
12 Elevated (aerial?) photo of Clifton
13 Large group, next to stone building
14 Two women on porch
15 “ “

Box 6

Folder 16 Four people on porch
17 Home with chicken wire fence
18 School children
19 “ “
20 Children in school room
21 Adult group in costume
22 Clifton baseball team
23 Morenci baseball team
24 Office area, one woman, two men
25 Clifton football team
26 Group of men, dog

27	“	“
28	Young men, partying	
29	Portrait, man with hat	
30	Portrait, J.D. Burtch, K. Cutler Wood	