



Center *for* The Study of The History of Nursing

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA - SCHOOL OF NURSING - NURSING EDUCATION BUILDING - PHILADELPHIA, PA 19104-6096 - (215) 898-4502

Brennan, Mary C.

Papers, 1903-1992

Extent:

3.7 linear feet

Provenance:

Donor

Access:

This collection is unrestricted

Citation:

Mary C. Brennan Papers, Center for the Study of the History of Nursing, School of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania

Sponsorship:

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Biographical or Historical Sketch. Mary C. Brennan was born in 1903 and grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She attended the Germantown Dispensary and Hospital Nursing School, graduating in 1923. She worked as a private duty nurse from 1923 to 1936 and again from 1940 to 1941. Between the years 1936 and 1939 she worked as a ship's nurse on 10 cruises which traveled to Europe, South America, and the Caribbean. In 1941 she joined the army nurses corp and was transferred west to Hawaii and then to Guam. While in the army she helped to set up field hospitals, which were then packed up and sent to battle areas. In 1946 her tour of duty with the army ended and she returned to Philadelphia, where she attended the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and received a BS in Education in 1947. She then went to work at Cornell University from 1947-1950. She assisted with a World Study Tour for nursing students in 1949 and the following year she received a MA degree from Columbia University. In 1950 she became the director of nursing at Roger Williams General Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island. While there she became active in the Rhode Island State Nurses Association. In 1960 she became the director of nursing at Sewickley Valley Hospital in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. While there she became involved with the Pennsylvania League for Nursing and in 1960 she became president of the organization. During this time she was also involved with the National League for Nursing. In 1967 she retired from Sewickley Valley Hospital but still remained active in the professional organizations. In 1969 she returned to Philadelphia where she still resides.

Summary. Mary C Brennan's papers consists of 3.7 linear feet and includes files of personal, professional, and organizational materials as well as photographs. This collection is strong in information during her time with the Pennsylvania League for Nursing, personal correspondence, and photographs especially those from the World War II era.

Series Description. This collection has been arranged into seven series:

- Series I. Personal, 1903-1992
- Series II. Professional Experience, 1923-1967
- Series III. Professional Associations, 1948-1986
- Series IV. Photographs, 1920-1992
- Series V. Diplomas, 1947-1970
- Series VI. Scrapbooks, 1955 & 1967
- Series VII. Awards, 1981-1983

Series I. Personal, 1903-1992. This series contains correspondence and general files regarding her life outside her profession.

Series II. Professional Experience, 1923-1967. This series contains general files with information on her career from her first job in 1923 to her retirement in 1967.

Series III. Professional Associations, 1948-1986. This series contains information on her involvement with the Rhode Island State Nurses Association, the Pennsylvania League for Nursing, and the National League for Nursing.

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Series IV. Photographs, 1920-1992. This series contains photographs, which either include her or were collected by her. There are several photographs from the World War II era and some negatives from her retirement party.

Series V. Diplomas, 1947-1970. This series contains some of the diplomas she received from her education.

Series VI. Scrapbooks, 1955 & 1967. This series contains two scrap books put together by other people and given to her.

Series VII. Awards, 1981-1983. This series contains two plaques she received from the College Debates on Energy.

Series I. Personal, 1903-

1992 Box 1

- f.1 Biographical Information, 1903-1992
- f.2 News Clips, 1942-1988
- f.3 Identification, 1937-1976
- f.4 General Correspondence, undated
- f.5 General Correspondence, 1940-1989
- f.6 Correspondence from Honolulu, 1940-1964
- f.7 Letters regarding departure from Roger Williams General Hospital (RWGH), 1959
- f.8 Memorabilia, 1920-1988
- f.9 Catholic Girls High School, 1920
- Course Work
- f.10 Nursing Course Syllabus, 1920
- f.11 Requirements for Nursing Degree, 1920-1923
- f.12 Nutrition Examination, 1921
- f.13 Anatomy Course Outline, 1939
- f.14 Fall Course Essay, 1946
- f.15 English 1C Assignments, Spring, 1946
- f.16 Espanol 5C, 1946-1947
- f.17 Hematology Course Outline, Spring, 1946
- f.18 Summer Course Essay, 1946
- f.19 Education in America Paper, Winter, 1947
- f.20 Expectations of a Nurse, 1947
- f.21 Education Course 291S Paper, Winter, 1950
- f.22 Paper for MA Requirement, 1950
- f.23 University of Pennsylvania Graduation Program, 1947
- f.24 Professional Certificates, 1947-1983

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Series I. Personal, 1903-1992 cont.

- f.25 Citations, 1952-1984
- f.26 Evaluation of the Institution Program, Duquesne University, 1950
- f.27 Penn Alumni Club, 1956-1959
- f.28 trip to Mexico with Associated University of Pennsylvania Clubs, Nov. 1954

Box 2

- f.29 Hollis L Caswell, Inauguration as President of Columbia University Teacher's College, 1955
- f.30 Articles by Brennan, 1954-1958
- f.31 Graduation Speeches, 1967-1969
- f.32 Notes on Use of Word and Nursing Secretary, April, 1961
- f.33 Pennsylvania College Energy Debates, 1981-1987
- f. 34 Mediterranean/ Black Sea Cruise Vacation, Oct-Nov, 1959
- f.35 Cunard World Cruise Vacation, Feb-April, 1960
- f.36 Post Cards of Various Tourist Sites

Series II. Professional Experience 1923-1967

- f.1 Germantown Dispensary - 1923
- f.2 Ship's Nurse on Grace Cruise Line, 1935
- f.3 Ship's Nurse on Holland-American Cruise Line, 1936-1939
Army
- f.4 Army Correspondence, 1941 - 1947

Box 3

- f.5 Misc. Army Documents, 1941-1945
- f.6 Transportation Documents, 1943-1945
- f.7 Administrative Nurse Handbook 1944
- f.8 Army Awards & Certificates, 1940-1945
- f.9 Uncle Sam Productions, 1944-1945
Columbia University
- f.10 Columbia University 1947 - 1950
- f.11 Columbia World Studies Tour, 1947
- f.12 Roger Williams Hospital 1953 - 1960
- f.13 Sewickley Valley Hospital 1960 - 1967
- f.14 Retirement from Sewickley, 1967

Series III. Professional Associations, 1948-1986

- f.1 Nursing Statistics from Various Sources, 1948-1967
- f.2 International Council on Nursing, 1949

Box 4

- f.3 General Health Care Organizations
General Health Care Organizations, 1949-1969

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Series III. Professional Associations, 1948-1986 cont.

General Health Care Organizations

- f.4 General Health Care Pamphlets & Brochures, 1968-1986
- f.5 Rhode Island State Nurses Association (RISNA), 1955
- f.6 Western PA Association of Women Deans, Counselors & Personnel,
April, 1964
- f.7 American Nurses Association
- f.8 Pennsylvania Nurses' Association
- f.9 Helen Fairchild American Legion Post 412, 1966-1983
Governor's Health Care Conferences
- f.10 Governor's Health Care Conferences - National
- f.11 Governor's Health Care Conferences - Regional
- National League for Nursing (NLN)
- f.12 NLN - General, 1963-1969
- f.13 Descriptions of NLN, 1970
- f. 14 NLN Correspondence, 1964-1969
- f.15 NLN Structure, Positions & By-Laws, 1965-1969
- f.16 NLN Structure Revisions, 1966-1970
- f.17 NLN Policy Statements, 1968-1986

Box 5

- f.18 NLN Publications, 1954-1983
- f.19 NLN Nursing Education, 1963-1983
- f.20 NLN Committee on Resolutions, 1963-1970
- f.21 NLN Committee of the Assembly of Constituent Leagues, 1968-1972
- f.22 NLN Council on Community Planning for Nurses, 1968-1969
- f.23 NLN Division of Community Services, 1968-1969
- f.24 NLN Mid-Atlantic Regional Assembly, 1968-1970
- f.25 NLN News, 1974-1979
- f.26 NLN Biennial Conventions, 1983-1985
- f.27 NLN Booklet: *Essentials of Good Nursing*, 1942
Pennsylvania League for Nursing (PLN)
- f.28 Descriptions of PLN
- f.29 PLN - General
- f.30 PLN Structure, Positions & By-Laws, 1967-1983
- f.31 PLN - Policy Statements

Box 6

- f.32 PLN - News, 1969-1986
Correspondence
- f.33 Correspondence - General, 1963-1985
- f.34 Correspondence - Legislation, 1968
- f.35 PLN Board of Directors, 1974-1980
- f.36 PLN Certificates, 1977-1982

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Series III. Professional Associations, 1948-1986 cont. Committees

- f.37 Committees-General, 1966-1974
- f.38 PLN Committee on Nominations, 1968
- f.39 PLN Committee on Membership, 1968-1973
- f.40 PLN Committee on Finance, 1968-1974
- f.41 PLN Committee on Continuing Education, 1967-1968
- f.42 PLN Biennial Reports, 1964-1970
- f.43 PLN Annual Meeting Agendas, 1970-1986
- f.44 PLN Annual Reports, 1976-1986

Series IV. Photographs, 1920-1992

Box 7

- Photographs of Mary Brennan (MB) (in folder 1)
- p.1 MB with Girl's High Seniors of the Basketball Team, 1920
- p.2 MB holding a baby, 1924
- p.3 MB wearing sombrero, 1917
As Nurse Aboard the S.S. Rotterdam
- p.4 MB among the staff of the S.S. Rotterdam, 1937
- p.5 Misty DeJong and MB going ashore, 1937
- p.6 MB and Misty DeJong with passengers aboard the S.S. Rotterdam, 1937
- p.7 MB and Misty DeJong, 1937
- p.8 MB off duty, 1937
- P.9 MB looking at the S.S. Rotterdam, 1937
- World War II Photographs
- p.10-11 MB with other nurses outside quarters for Mitchell Field, 1942
- p.12 MB with other nurses outside Con's on day of leaving, 1942
- p.13 Edith carving Mitchell Field on tree in Berkeley, 1942
- p.14 Old St Mary's Church in Chinatown, San Francisco, 1942
- p.15 Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, 1942
- p.16 MB with Group resting on hill in Berkeley, 1942
- p.17-19 MB with group on bicycling trip in San Francisco, 1942
- p.20 Powell St Cable Car after being turned, 1942
- p.21 MB with other army nurses, 1942
- p.22 MB and others in group salute, 1942
- p.23 MB at Air Evacuation Hanger, 1942
- p.24 Jo, Edith, Margaret, and Ruth, 1942
- p.25-29 MB with Edith, Ruth, Margaret, and Mary, 1942
- p.30-31 MB and other nurses with Mr MC Leon, 1942
- p.32-36 MB and others at Mission Delores, 1942
- p.37-40 MB and other nurses in Hawaii, 1942
- p.41-42 MB with people from 147th General Hospital, 1942
- p.43-44 MB in Oohu, Hawaii, 1942

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Series VI. Photographs, 1920-1992 cont.

Photographs of Mary Brennan (MB) World War II Photographs

- p.45 MB with army nurses and officers, Hawaii, 1942
- p.46-47 MB and other nurses off duty in Hawaii, 1942
- p.48 MB relaxing under a palm tree, Hawaii, 1942
- p.49 MB with other nurses off duty, Hawaii, 1942
- p.50-55 MB relaxing while off duty, 1942
- p.56 MB by the pool side. Hawaii, 1942
- p.57 MB at a field hospital in Hawaii, 1942
- p.58 MB off duty with other nurses, Hawaii, 1942
- p.59 MB with a dog, Hawaii, 1942
- p.60 MB in a foxhole during field training, Hawaii, 1942
- p.61 MB in full hiking gear during field training, Hawaii, 1942
- p.62 MB and unidentified man, Hawaii, 1942
- p.63 MB and two army officers, Hawaii, 1942
- p.64 MB with two other nurses, Hawaii, 1942
- p.65 MB at officer's club, Hawaii, 1942
- p.66 MB and other nurses at 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1942
- p.67 MB outside a tent at 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1942
- p.68 MB at 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1942
- p.69 MB with others eating in the shade at 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1942
- p.70 Personnel of 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1943
- p.71-72 MB in dress uniform speaking with another officer at 36th Field
Hospital, Hawaii, 1943
- p.73 MB at 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1943
- p.74 Personalized Greeting Card, Hawaii, 1943
- p.75-76 MB at Elizabeth Arden, Hawaii, 1943
- p.77 MB in uniform, Hawaii, 1943
- p.78-79 MB with two dieticians from 147th General Hospital, Hawaii, 1943
- p.80 MB with other nurses in front of 147th General Hospital sign,
Hawaii, 1943
- p.81 MB with some of the medical personnel from 147th General Hospital,
Hawaii, 1943
- p.82 MB leading an exercise group, Hawaii, 1943
- p.83 MB with another nurse from the 147th General Hospital, Hawaii, 1943
- p.84 MB feeding the dogs, Hawaii, 1944
- p.85 MB with other nurses relaxing outside their 147th General Hospital
Quarters, Hawaii, 1944
- p.86 MB with dogs Oohu, Hawaii, 1944
- p.87 MB visiting the residents of 147th General Hospital, Hawaii, 1944
- p.88 MB and other nurses relaxing after returning from field training,
Hawaii, 1944
- p.89 Margaret, MB, Mary, and Kay, Hawaii, 1944

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Series W. Photographs, 1920-1992, cont.

Photographs of Mary Brennan (MB) World War II Photographs

- p.90-92 MB at 147th General Hospital Officer's Club, Hawaii, 1944
- p.93-94 MB and other nurses at a quiz show, 1944
- p.95 MB at her desk, Guam, 1944
- p.96-99 MB with other officers relaxing outside, Guam, 1944
- p.100 MB with other officers at the opening of the Officer's Club, Guam,
1945
- p.101 MB with an officer, Guam, 1945
- p.102-104 MB at Guam Officer's Club, 1945
- p.105 MB at a party with other officers, Guam, 1945
- p.106 MB at New Years Eve party, Guam, 1945/1946
- p.107 MB with other nurses in San Francisco on her way home, 1946
- p.108 MB outside her Philadelphia home, 1946
- p.109 MB and Pauline, a friend at Penn, 1947
- p.110 MB at Stratford on Avon, 1949
- p.111 MP about to board the plane for her World Studies Tour, 1947
- p.112 MB at RWGH annual function, 1954
(in folder 2)
- p.113-117 MB at RISNA dinner, 1955
- p.118 MB during RISNA 50th Anniversary, Oct. 4, 1955
- p.119 MB, 1955
- p.120 MB watching graduating nursing students from RWGH, 1956
- p.121 MB and faculty of RWGH School of Nursing, " Striping Night," 1956
- p.122 MB in Barcelona, Spain, 1959
Mediterranean Cruise
- p.123 MB in South Africa, 1959
- p.124-127 MB at the Acropolis, Greece, 1959
- p.128 MB with other passengers, 1959
- p.129 MB in park outside Odessa next to statue of Lenin and Stalin, 1959
- p.130 MB on a camel in Egypt, 1959
- p.131 MB and Ethyl Jacobs in North Africa, 1959
World Cruise
- p.132 MB in front of the Taj Mahal, India, 1960
- p.133 MB and Mrs Jacobs on World Cruise, 1960
- p.134 MB and Ethyl Jacobs on World Cruise, 1960
- p.135 MB going through a receiving line on World Cruise, 1960
- p.136 MB with other passengers on World Cruise, 1960
- p.137 MB in Oriental costume, 1960
- p.138 MB and Mrs Jacobs in oriental costumes, 1960
- p.139 MB and Mrs Jacobs with Chinese family at dinner as their guests, 1960
- p.140 MB feeding deer in Japan, 1960

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Series W. Photographs, 1920-1992, cont. Photographs of Mary Brennan (MB)

- p.141 MB, 1960
p.142 MB in nurse's uniform, 1960
p.143 MB at unknown function, 1960
p.144 MB at her desk in Sewickley Valley Hospital, 1962
p.145 MB with May Wilcott a Sewickley board member, 1965
p.146 Dr Clarence Miller and MB at Sewickley Valley Hospital, 1966
p.147 MB in nurse's uniform wearing Germantown Hospital School of Nursing
pin and American Red Cross pin, 1968.
p.148 MB, 1968
p.149 MB, 1968
p.150 Seated L-R, Lizanne Graff, MB, and Dorothy Noevello at PLN convention,
1969
p.151 MB, ?, and Elizabeth Zulli, 1969
p.152 MB at PLN meeting in the Hotel Hershey, 1969
p.153 Hospital Assembly at Penn State Work Shop, 1969
p.154 MB at unknown dinner, 1970
p.155 L-R starting with the back row, Nellie, Bill and Gerta Miller, Bernice
Woodring, Jack Meyer, Malcel Yates, James McFranklin, MB and Eilien
Meyer, May 2, 1970
p.156 Mr Lausdale, Mr Buel, ?, MB, ?, Mary Jane Lausdale, 1971
p.157 Nellie and MB, April;, 1971
p.158 MB, March 17, 1992
p.159 MB at Christmas party, date unknown
p.160-162 MN at Helen Fairchild Nurse's American Legion Post 412, date unknown

Box 8

Photographs collected by MB

- f.3 SS Rotterdam, 1937
f.4 36th Field Hospital, 1942-1943
f.5 147th General Hospital, 1943-1944
f.6 Guam, 1944-1945
f.7 Misc. photographs, 1935-1955

Negatives

- f.8 Negative of photograph 122
f.9 MB at her retirement party, 1967
f.10 The retirement party, 1968

Series V. Diplomas, 1947-1970

- p.1 University of Pennsylvania, BS in Education, 1947
p.2 Columbia University, MA, 1950
p.3 American Hospital Association Continuing Education, 1952
p.4 Golden Jubilee Diploma from Girls High, 1970

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Series VI. Scrapbooks, 1955-1967

Box 9

- p.1 Put together by RISNA members for MB, 1955
- p.2 Put together by Miss Johnson for MB's Retirement party,
1967

Series VII. Awards, 1981-1983

- p.1 1981-1982 College Debates on Energy plaque
- p.2 1982-1983 College Debates on Energy plaque

