



## Mary C. Brennan papers, 1903-1992 PU-N.MC 15

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English

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University of Pennsylvania: Barbara Bates Center for the Study of The History of Nursing
<b>Creator:</b>	Brennan, Mary
<b>Title:</b>	Mary C. Brennan papers
<b>ID:</b>	PU-N.MC 15
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1903-1992
<b>Physical Description:</b>	3.7 Linear Feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .
<b>Abstract:</b>	This collection includes the personal and professional files of Mary Brennan, a Pennsylvania nurse active during the World War II era.

### Preferred Citation

Mary C. Brennan papers, Barbara Bates Center for The Study of The History of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania

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## Biographical / Historical

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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 Nurse 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.

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## Scope and Contents

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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.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

University of Pennsylvania: Barbara Bates Center for the Study of The History of Nursing

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## Controlled Access Headings

- United States. Army Nurse Corps.
- Nursing
- Nurse
- Military nursing
- Personal papers
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Medical care
- National League for Nursing
- Brennan, Mary
- Pennsylvania League for Nursing

## Collection Inventory

### Personal, 1903-1992

#### Scope and Contents

This series contains correspondence and general files regarding her life outside her profession.

Title/Description	Instances	
Biographical Information, 1903-1992	box 1	folder 1
News Clips, 1942-1988	box 1	folder 2
Identification, 1937-1976	box 1	folder 3
General Correspondence, undated	box 1	folder 4
General Correspondence, 1940-1989	box 1	folder 5
Correspondence from Honolulu, 1940-1964	box 1	folder 6
Letters regarding departure from Roger Williams General Hospital (RWGH), 1959	box 1	folder 7
Memorabilia, 1920-1988	box 1	folder 8

### Course Work

Title/Description	Instances	
Catholic Girls High School, 1920	box 1	folder 9
Nursing Course Syllabus, 1920		

	box 1	folder 10
Requirements for Nursing Degree, 1920-1923	box 1	folder 11
Nutrition Examination, 1921	box 1	folder 12
Anatomy Course Outline, 1939	box 1	folder 13
Fall Course Essay, 1946	box 1	folder 14
English 1C Assignments, Spring, 1946	box 1	folder 15
Espanol 5C, 1946-1947	box 1	folder 16
Hematology Course Outline, Spring, 1946	box 1	folder 17
Summer Course Essay, 1946	box 1	folder 18
Education in America Paper, Winter, 1947	box 1	folder 19
Expectations of a Nurse, 1947	box 1	folder 20
Education Course 291S Paper, Winter, 1950	box 1	folder 21
Paper for MA Requirement, 1950	box 1	folder 22
University of Pennsylvania Graduation Program, 1947	box 1	folder 23
Professional Certificates, 1947-1983	box 1	folder 24
Citations, 1952-1984	box 1	folder 25
Evaluation of the Institution Program, Duquesne University, 1950	box 1	folder 26
Trip to Mexico with Associated University of Pennsylvania Clubs, November 1954	box 1	folder 28
Hollis L Caswell, Inauguration as President of Columbia University Teacher's College, 1955	box 2	folder 29
Penn Alumni Club, 1956-1959	box 1	folder 27
Articles by Brennan, 1954-1958	box 2	folder 30
Graduation Speeches, 1967-1969	box 2	folder 31
Notes on Use of Word and Nursing Secretary, April 1961	box 2	folder 32
Pennsylvania College Energy Debates, 1981-1987	box 2	folder 33
Mediterranean/ Black Sea Cruise Vacation, October-November 1959	box 2	folder 34
Cunard World Cruise Vacation, February-April 1960	box 2	folder 35
Post Cards of Various Tourist Sites	box 2	folder 36

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## Professional Experience, 1923-1967

### Scope and Contents

This series contains general files with information on her career from her first job in 1923 to her retirement in 1967.

Title/Description	Instances	
Germantown Dispensary, 1923	box 2	folder 1
Ship's Nurse on Grace Cruise Line, 1935	box 2	folder 2

## Army

Title/Description	Instances	
Ship's Nurse on Holland-American Cruise Line, 1936-1939	box 2	folder 3
Army Correspondence, 1941-1947	box 2	folder 4
Misc. Army Documents, 1941-1945	box 3	folder 5
Transportation Documents, 1943-1945	box 3	folder 6
Administrative Nurse Handbook, 1944	box 3	folder 7
Army Awards & Certificates, 1940-1945	box 3	folder 8
Uncle Sam Productions, 1944-1945	box 3	folder 9

## Columbia University

Title/Description	Instances	
Columbia University, 1947-1950	box 3	folder 10
Columbia World Studies Tour, 1947	box 3	folder 11
Roger Williams Hospital, 1953-1960	box 3	folder 12
Sewickley Valley Hospital, 1960-1967	box 3	folder 13
Retirement from Sewickley, 1967	box 3	folder 14

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## Professional Associations, 1948-1986

### Scope and Contents

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.

Title/Description	Instances	
Nursing Statistics from Various Sources, 1948-1967	box 3	folder 1

International Council on Nursing, 1949	box 3	folder 2
<b>General Health Care Organizations</b>		
<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
General Health Care Organizations, 1949-1969	box 4	folder 3
General Health Care Pamphlets & Brochures, 1968-1986	box 4	folder 4
Rhode Island State Nurses Association (RISNA), 1955	box 4	folder 5
Western PA Association of Women Deans, Counselors & Personnel, April 1964	box 4	folder 6
American Nurses Association	box 4	folder 7
Pennsylvania Nurses' Association	box 4	folder 8
Helen Fairchild American Legion Post 412, 1966-1983	box 4	folder 9
<b>Governor's Health Care Conferences</b>		
<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Governor's Health Care Conferences - National	box 4	folder 10
Governor's Health Care Conferences - Regional	box 4	folder 11
<b>National League for Nursing (NLN)</b>		
<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
NLN - General, 1963-1969	box 4	folder 12
Descriptions of NLN, 1970	box 4	folder 13
NLN Correspondence, 1964-1969	box 4	folder 14
NLN Structure, Positions & By-Laws, 1965-1969	box 4	folder 15
NLN Stricture Revisions, 1966-1970	box 4	folder 16
NLN Policy Statements, 1968-1986	box 4	folder 17
NLN Publications, 1954-1983	box 5	folder 18
NLN Nursing Education, 1963-1983	box 5	folder 19
NLN Committee on Resolutions, 1963-1970	box 5	folder 20
NLN Committee of the Assembly of Constituent Leagues, 1968-1972	box 5	folder 21
NLN Council on Community Planning for Nurses, 1968-1969	box 5	folder 22
NLN Division of Community Services, 1968-1969	box 5	folder 23
NLN Mid-Atlantic Regional Assembly, 1968-1970	box 5	folder 24



NLN News, 1974-1979	box 5	folder 25
NLN Biennial Conventions, 1983-1985	box 5	folder 26
NLN Booklet: Essentials of Good Nursing, 1942	box 5	folder 27

## Pennsylvania League for Nursing (PLN)

Title/Description	Instances	
Descriptions of PLN	box 5	folder 28
PLN - General	box 5	folder 29
PLN Structure, Positions & By-Laws, 1967-1983	box 5	folder 30
PLN - Policy Statements	box 5	folder 31
PLN - News, 1969-1986	box 6	folder 32

## Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
Correspondence - General, 1963-1985	box 6	folder 33
Correspondence - Legislation, 1968	box 6	folder 34
PLN Board of Directors, 1974-1980	box 6	folder 35
PLN Certificates, 1977-1982	box 6	folder 36

## Committees-General, 1966-1974

Title/Description	Instances	
PLN Committee on Nominations, 1968	box 6	folder 38
PLN Committee on Membership, 1968-1973	box 6	folder 39
PLN Committee on Finance, 1968-1974	box 6	folder 40
PLN Committee on Continuing Education, 1967-1968	box 6	folder 41
PLN Biennial Reports, 1964-1970	box 6	folder 42
PLN Annual Meeting Agendas, 1970-1986	box 6	folder 43
PLN Annual Reports, 1976-1986	box 6	folder 44

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## Photographs, 1920-1992

## Scope and Contents

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.

### Folder 1 - Photographs of Mary Brennan (MB)

Title/Description	Instances	
MB with Girl's High Seniors of the Basketball Team, 1920	box 7	photo 1
MB holding a baby, 1924	box 7	photo 2
MB wearing sombrero, 1917	box 7	photo 3

### As Nurse Aboard the S.S. Rotterdam

Title/Description	Instances	
MB among the staff of the S.S. Rotterdam, 1937	box 7	photo 4
Misty DeJong and MB going ashore, 1937	box 7	photo 5
MB and Misty DeJong with passengers aboard the S.S. Rotterdam, 1937	box 7	photo 6
MB and Misty DeJong, 1937	box 7	photo 7
MB off duty, 1937	box 7	photo 8
MB looking at the S.S. Rotterdam, 1937	box 7	photo 9

### World War II Photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
MB with other nurses outside quarters for Mitchell Field, 1942	box 7	photo 10-11
MB with other nurses outside Con's on day of leaving, 1942	box 7	photo 12
Edith carving Mitchell Field on tree in Berkeley, 1942	box 7	photo 13
Old St Mary's Church in Chinatown, San Francisco, 1942	box 7	photo 14
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, 1942	box 7	photo 15
MB with Group resting on hill in Berkeley, 1942	box 7	photo 16
19 MB with group on bicycling trip in San Francisco, 1942	box 7	photo 17
Powell St Cable Car after being turned, 1942	box 7	photo 20
MB with other army nurses, 1942	box 7	photo 21
MB and others in group salute, 1942	box 7	photo 22
MB at Air Evacuation Hanger, 1942	box 7	photo 23

Jo, Edith, Margaret, and Ruth, 1942	box 7	photo 24
MB with Edith, Ruth, Margaret, and Mary, 1942	box 7	photo 25-29
MB and other nurses with Mr MC Leon, 1942	box 7	photo 30-31
MB and others at Mission Delores, 1942	box 7	photo 32-36
MB and other nurses in Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 37-40
MB with people from 147th General Hospital, 1942	box 7	photo 41-42
MB in Oahu, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 43-44
MB with army nurses and officers, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 45
MB and other nurses off duty in Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 46-47
MB relaxing under a palm tree, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 48
MB with other nurses off duty, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 49
MB relaxing while off duty, 1942	box 7	photo 50-55
MB by the pool side. Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 56
MB at a field hospital in Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 57
MB off duty with other nurses, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 58
MB with a dog, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 59
MB in a foxhole during field training, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 60
MB in full hiking gear during field training, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 61
MB and unidentified man, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 62
MB and two army officers, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 63
MB with two other nurses, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 64
MB at officer's club, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 65
MB and other nurses at 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 66
MB outside a tent at 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 67
MB at 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 68
MB with others eating in the shade at 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1942	box 7	photo 69
Personnel of 36th Field Hospital, hawaii, 1943	box 7	photo 70
MB in dress uniform speaking with another officer at 36th Field	box 7	photo 71-72

## Hospital, Hawaii, 1943

Title/Description	Instances	
MB at 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1943	box 7	photo 73
Personalized Greeting Card, Hawaii, 1943	box 7	photo 74
MB at Elizabeth Arden, Hawaii, 1943	box 7	photo 75-76
MB in uniform, Hawaii, 1943	box 7	photo 77
MB with two dieticians from 147th General Hospital, Hawaii, 1943	box 7	photo 78-79
MB with other nurses in front of 147th General Hospital sign, Hawaii, 1943	box 7	photo 80
MB with some of the medical personnel from 147th General Hospital, Quarters, Hawaii, 1943	box 7	photo 81
MB leading an exercise group, Hawaii, 1943	box 7	photo 82
MB with another nurse from the 147th General Hospital, Hawaii, 1943	box 7	photo 83
MB feeding the dogs, Hawaii, 1944	box 7	photo 84
MB with other nurses relaxing outside their 147th General Hospital Quarters, Hawaii, 1944	box 7	photo 85
MB with dogs Oahu, Hawaii, 1944	box 7	photo 86
MB visiting the residents of 147th General Hospital, Hawaii, 1944	box 7	photo 87
MB and other nurses relaxing after returning from field training, Hawaii, 1944	box 7	photo 88
Margaret, MB, Mary, and Kay, Hawaii, 1944	box 7	photo 89
92 MB at 147th General Hospital Officer's Club, Hawaii, 1944	box 7	photo 90
94 MB and other nurses at a quiz show, 1944	box 7	photo 93
MB at her desk, Guam, 1944	box 7	photo 95
MB with other officers at the opening of the Officer's Club, Guam, 1945	box 7	photo 100
MB with other officers relaxing outside, Guam, 1944	box 7	photo 96-99
MB with an officer, Guam, 1945	box 7	photo 101
MB at Guam Officer's Club, 1945	box 7	photo 102-104
MB at a party with other officers, Guam, 1945	box 7	photo 105
MB at New Years Eve party, Guam, 1945/1946	box 7	photo 106
MB with other nurses in San Francisco on her way home, 1946	box 7	photo 107

MB outside her Philadelphia home, 1946	box 7	photo 108
MB and Pauline, a friend at Penn, 1947	box 7	photo 109
MB at Stratford on Avon, 1949	box 7	photo 110
MP about to board the plane for her World Studies Tour, 1947	box 7	photo 111
MB at RWGH annual function, 1954	box 7	photo 112

## Folder 2

Title/Description	Instances	
MB at RISNA dinner, 1955	box 7	photo 113-117
MB during RISNA 50th Anniversary, Oct. 4, 1955	box 7	photo 118
MB, 1955	box 7	photo 119
MB watching graduating nursing students from RWGH, 1956	box 7	photo 120
MB and faculty of RWGH School of Nursing, "Striping Night", 1956	box 7	photo 121

## Mediterranean Cruise

Title/Description	Instances	
MB in Barcelona, Spain, 1959	box 7	photo 122
MB in South Africa, 1959	box 7	photo 123
127 MB at the Acropolis, Greece, 1959	box 7	photo 124
MB with other passengers, 1959	box 7	photo 128
MB in park outside Odessa next to statue of Lenin and Stalin, 1959	box 7	photo 129
MB on a camel in Egypt, 1959	box 7	photo 130

## World Cruise

Title/Description	Instances	
MB and Ethyl Jacobs in North Africa, 1959	box 7	photo 131
MB in front of the Taj Mahal, India, 1960	box 7	photo 132
MB and Mrs Jacobs on World Cruise, 1960	box 7	photo 133
MB and Ethyl Jacobs on World Cruise, 1960	box 7	photo 134
MB going through a receiving line on World Cruise, 1960	box 7	photo 135
MB with other passengers on World Cruise, 1960	box 7	photo 136

MB in Oriental costume, 1960	box 7	photo 137
MB and Mrs Jacobs in oriental costumes, 1960	box 7	photo 138
MB and Mrs Jacobs with Chinese family at dinner as their guests, 1960	box 7	photo 139
MB feeding deer in Japan, 1960	box 7	photo 140
MB, 1960	box 7	photo 141
MB in nurse's uniform, 1960	box 7	photo 142
MB at unknown function, 1960	box 7	photo 143
MB at her desk in Sewickley Valley Hospital, 1962	box 7	photo 144
MB with May Wilcott a Sewickley board member, 1965	box 7	photo 145
Dr Clarence Miller and MB at Sewickley Valley Hospital, 1966	box 7	photo 146
MB in nurse's uniform wearing Germantown Hospital School of Nursing pin and American Red Cross pin, 1968	box 7	photo 147
MB, 1968	box 7	photo 148
MB, 1968	box 7	photo 149
Seated L-R, Lizanne Graff, MB, and Dorothy Noevello at PLN convention, 1969	box 7	photo 150
MB, ?, and Elizabeth Zulli, 1969	box 7	photo 151
MB at PLN meeting in the Hotel Hershey, 1969	box 7	photo 152
Hospital Assembly at Penn State Work Shop, 1969	box 7	photo 153
MB at unknown dinner, 1970	box 7	photo 154
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	box 7	photo 155
Mr Lausdale, Mr Buel, ?, MB, ?, Mary Jane Lausdale, 1971	box 7	photo 156
Nellie and MB, April 1971	box 7	photo 157
MB, March 17, 1992	box 7	photo 158
MB at Christmas party, undated	box 7	photo 159
MN at Helen Fairchild Nurse's American Legion Post 412, undated	box 7	photo 160-162

## Photographs collected by MB

Title/Description	Instances	
SS Rotterdam, 1937	box 8	folder 3
36th Field Hospital, 1942-1943	box 8	folder 4

147th General Hospital, 1943-1944	box 8	folder 5
Guam, 1944-1945	box 8	folder 6
Misc. photographs, 1935-1955	box 8	folder 7

## Negatives

Title/Description	Instances	
Negative of photograph 122	box 8	folder 8
MB at her retirement party, 1967	box 8	folder 9
The retirement party, 1968	box 8	folder 10

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## Diplomas, 1947-1970

### Scope and Contents

This series contains some of the diplomas she received from her education.

Title/Description	Instances	
University of Pennsylvania, BS in Education, 1947	box 8	photo 1
Columbia University, MA, 1950	box 8	photo 2
American Hospital Association Continuing Education, 1952	box 8	photo 3
Golden Jubilee Diploma from Girls High, 1970	box 8	photo 4

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## Scrapbooks, 1955-1967

### Scope and Contents

This series contains two scrapbooks put together by other people and given to her.

Title/Description	Instances	
Put together by RISNA members for MB, 1955	box 9	photo 1
Put together by Miss Johnson for MB's Retirement party, 1967	box 9	photo 2

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## Awards, 1981-1983

## Scope and Contents

This series contains two plaques she received from the College Debates on Energy.

Title/Description	Instances	
College Debates on Energy plaque, 1981-1982	box 9	photo 1
College Debates on Energy plaque, 1982-1983	box 9	photo 2

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