

Collection #
M 1326

**O'BRIEN, KNIGHT, AND HIMELICK FAMILY
PAPERS, CA.1867-1983**

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Processed by

Jessica Fischer
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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
William Henry Smith Memorial Library
Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org

COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 Photograph Folders, 1 OVA Box with 4 OVA Photograph Folders, 10 Manuscript Boxes, 4 Postcard Boxes, 3 Artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1867-1983

PROVENANCE: Beth Bowman,. Indianapolis, IN, 2016

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2016.0317

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Bertha May Himelick was born on May 6, 1882 to Grant County, Indiana farmers, George (1864-1939) and Lydia (b. Nov 1871) Himelick. She later married a farmer, Ira Elmer Knight ca. 1915. Bertha and Ira had two children: Dorothy Ellen Knight (b. October 12, 1918, d. June 2, 1981) and Eunice Ann (Knight) O'Brien (b. February 23, 1920, d. March 19, 2003). Both daughters graduated from Taylor University, Dorothy in 1940 and Eunice in 1942. Eunice married Penn H. O'Brien (b. August 26, 1917, d. April 7, 1993) and they had one child, Beth Ann (O'Brien) Deputy. Bertha died on February 27, 1975.

Ira Elmer Knight was born on November 11, 1884 in Kansas (died May 12, 1952) to farmers William (b. ca. 1843) and Ellen C. Knight (b. ca. 1848). William was originally from England and Ellen was born in New York. The family later moved to Clarion, Pennsylvania circa 1900. In addition to his parents, wife, and children, Ira had several siblings: Glenn Knight (b. ca. 1868), Laura (Knight) Napper (b. ca. 1873), Nellie Knight (b. ca. 1878), William Knight (b. Feb. 1880), and Bertha (Knight) Grubbs (b. ca. 1886, m. 1927 to Rev. Grubbs).

Sources:

Ancestry.com

Information found in collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This family collection contains letters, greeting cards, postcards, invitations, correspondence, pamphlets and programs (ca. 1897-1941), souvenir foldout books (ca. 1915-1964), photographs (ca. 1905-1983), a memorandum book (ca. 1914-1917), news clippings (ca. 1905-1983), report cards (ca. 1924-1936), bank books (ca. 1914-1943), a war ration book, receipts, a timetable, family deeds, U.S. Army hanky and hanky holder (ca. 1940s), and other misc. papers (ca. 1867-1937). It also contains 3 "Boeing Magazine" issues (Apr.-May, July 1957) and one "Taylor University" magazine issue (Fall/Winter 1982). The majority of the postcards in the collection are addressed to Bertha (Himelick) Knight and Ira Elmer Knight in Upland, Indiana, with many of those being between Bertha and Ira. A large portion of the letters are written to Eunice (Knight) O'Brien back home in Indiana from Penn O'Brien while he was in various locations traveling in the Army (KY, TN, AZ, PA, GA, LA, CA, OR, WA). Another substantial portion of the letters are formed by a letter chain where family members living in Upland, Indiana and Millvale, Pennsylvania would send back and forth letters addressed as "Dear Ones". This letter chain primarily includes Ellen Knight, Laura (Knight) Napper, Bertha (Knight) Grubbs, Ira Elmer Knight, Bertha (Himelick) Knight (Upland, IN), Dorothy Knight, and Eunice (Knight) O'Brien.

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War Ration Book

Artifact: 2016.0317

Pink Sweetheart U.S.A Hanky

Artifact: 2016.0317

U.S. Army Hanky Holder

Artifact: 2016.0317