

Collection #
M 1042
OMB 0136

**BILLINGS GENERAL HOSPITAL, FORT BENJAMIN
HARRISON RECORDS,
1943–2003**

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	2 manuscript boxes; 1 oversized manuscript box; 1 box photographs
COLLECTION DATES:	1943–2003
PROVENANCE:	Martha Rose Scott Baum, Indianapolis, Indiana, September, 2012
RESTRICTIONS:	None
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:	
RELATED HOLDINGS:	
ACCESSION NUMBER:	2012.0245
NOTES:	

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Billings General Hospital was constructed on the grounds of Fort Benjamin Harrison, east of Indianapolis and opened on 1 March 1941 under the command of Colonel Harry L. Dale. It was named for Colonel John Straw Billings from Switzerland County, Indiana, who served as a surgeon during the Civil War, and was on the staff of the Army Surgeon General from 1864–1895. Its primary function was to serve as an orthopedic center for wounded soldiers. The hospital was designed to house 1,600 patients but at times the number swelled to 2,000. The hospital closed in March, 1946.

Sources:

Information in collection.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains scrapbooks, photographs, and patient interviews, 1941–1946. Martha R. Baum, a civilian with the hospital's public relations staff assembled the scrapbooks and conducted the patient interviews. The scrapbooks are comprised of photographs, newspaper clipping and other items chronicling the history of the hospital. Patient interviews include basic information and are separated into two categories: alphabetical and by type such as branch of service, where served, prisoners, nurses and African-Americans. Also included are photographs of military personnel receiving treatment and performing rehabilitation exercises. There also are photographs of parties, dances, and special events including performances and visits by celebrities including Bob Hope and Bing Crosby, Carmen Miranda and Jennifer Jones. Additional items include loose newspaper clippings, copies of the hospital's newsletter, *Top Billings*, a record book of newspaper releases, and general items regarding the hospital.

SERIES CONTENTS

Series 1: Scrapbooks

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Scrapbook #2

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Series 2: Interviews

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Patient Interviews, Air Corps, 1944-45

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Patient Interviews, ETO, Normandy, 1944

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Patient Interviews, Italy, 1944-45

Box 1, Folder 3

Patient Interviews, Pacific, 1944-45

Box 1, Folder 4

Patient Interviews, Nurses, 1945

Box 1, Folder 5

Patient Interviews, Sample from About 500
Interviews, 1944-45

Box 1, Folder 6

Patient Interviews, "Of Particular Interest," 1943-44

Box 1, Folder 7

Patient Interviews, Pre-1945

Box 1, Folder 8

Patient Interviews, Officers, 1944

Box 1, Folder 9

Patient Interviews, African-Americans, 1944-45

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Patient Interviews, Prisoners, 1944-45

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Patient Interviews, Asia, 1944-45

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Patient Interviews, ETO After Normandy, 1944-45

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Series 3: Billings General Hospital Related Materials

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Holiday Publications, 1944-45

Top Billings, 1945

Record Book, Newspaper Releases, 1945-46

General Information, ca. 1945

Directories, February, 1946

Martha Baum, Notes, 26 February 1946

Herbert L. Dubbe, 1946

Newspaper Clippings, 1945-46

Martha Baum, Notes on Patients, n.d.

Newspaper Clippings, 2003

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Postcards

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 1042).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.