

Collection #
BV 5445

**BORDERS BOOKSTORE SEPTEMBER 11TH
MEMORIAL JOURNAL, 2001–2002**

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Processed by

Julia Deros
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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: 1 bound volume

COLLECTION DATES: 2001–2002

PROVENANCE: Donated by Anne Nelson

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS: *September 11, 2001*, AP2.T37; Elizabeth L. Greenspan, *Spontaneous Memorials, Museums, and Public History: Memorialization of September 11, 2001 at the Pentagon*, D16.163.A17.

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2017.0295

NOTES:

SKETCH

On 11 September 2001, the Islamic extremist group al-Qaeda launched a series of airline hijackings and suicide attacks against the United States. Nineteen attackers hijacked four planes out of East Coast airports and crashed them in attacks against New York City and Washington, D.C. Two planes crashed into the towers of the World Trade Center, causing their collapse. One plane crashed into the Pentagon, causing fires along the southwest side of the building. The last plane crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, after passengers attempted to overpower the hijackers and retake the plane. Nearly 3000 people died as a result of the attack: 2,750 people in New York (including 400 police officers, firefighters, and first responders), 184 people in the Pentagon, and 40 in the Pennsylvania crash. On 7 October 2001, the United States launched an attack alongside allied forces in Afghanistan to track down the al-Qaeda members responsible for the attacks, leading to extended military conflicts in the Middle East and a more aggressive pursuit of eliminating terrorist threats within the United States' foreign policy.

Many people witnessed the attacks firsthand as the events were televised, photographed, and reported over the radio. In the months following the attack, memorial events were held across the country. The Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania was completed in September 2002 and the National September 11th Memorial and Museum in New York City was completed in 2011 and 2014, respectively.

The Downtown Indy Borders bookstore was located at the corner of Washington and Meridian Streets in Indianapolis, a block south of Monument Circle. The store filled two stories and half a city block's worth of the Barnes and Thornburg Building. The Borders bookstore chain faced bankruptcy in 2011 after forty years of business as a result of continually decreasing profits lost to increased e-book sales and competition from online retailers and the Barnes and Nobel bookstore chain. The bankruptcy led to the closing of all of the chain's stores nationwide in 2011, leaving the downtown Indianapolis area without a major bookstore at that time.

Sources:

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Schouten, Cory. "Borders Bankruptcy Claims Downtown Bookstore," last modified February 16th, 2011. <https://www.ibj.com/blogs/3-property-lines-scott-olson/post/25344-borders-bankruptcy-claims-downtown-bookstore>

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains one journal written by patrons at the downtown Indianapolis Borders bookstore as a memorial to those who were killed during the attacks on 11 September 2001. The pages, which date from 27 September 2001–20 January 2002, contain entries that describe the reactions of Indianapolis citizens to the attacks and the aftermath. The entries take the form of drawings, poetry, or prose.

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