DOUGLAS E. CLANIN FAMILY
PAPERS, 1867–2003

Collection Information 1
Biographical Sketch 2
Scope and Content Note 4
Series Contents 6

Processed by
Kathryn Wilmot
August 2007

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:**
- **Manuscript materials:** 11 manuscript boxes, 2 oversized manuscript boxes
- **Visual materials:** one half-size document case containing black and white and color photographs
- **Artifacts:** 1 artifact

**COLLECTION DATES:** 1867–2003

**PROVENANCE:** Douglas Clanin, Anderson, IN, April 2003; September 2005

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ALTERNATE FORMATS:** None

**RELATED HOLDINGS:**
- M 0930 (Clanin and Newton Family Papers); M 0791 (Ruby M. Weatherford Papers); M 0863 (Sanford/Clanin Philippine Resistance Records); M 0783 (Douglas E. Clanin World War II Oral History Collection); SC 2630 (James P. Mullin Oral History); SC 1890 (Administration of James Brown Ray by Doug Clanin); SC 1882 (Anderson, Indiana, and the Negro by Doug Clanin); F865 .H29 1983 (California Gold Rush: Diary of Charles H. Harvey edited by Doug Clanin); E 392 .H3 1994 (Wm. Henry Harrison papers); E 392 .C52 1986 Pam Q (Gov. Wm. Henry Harrison’s administration of the Indiana Territory); E392 .H37 1994 (Guide to the papers of Wm. Henry Harrison); E392 .A4 1999 (Wm. Henry Harrison video)

**ACCESSION NUMBER:** 2003.0334, 2005.0381

**NOTES:**
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

George Arthur Clanin was born 12 August 1882 in Grant County, Indiana. On 7 October 1907 in Marion, Indiana, he married Clara Matilda Rissiek (born 15 October 1883 in Grant County, Indiana). Arthur and Clara lived in Indianapolis, Indiana, and then on a farm near Swayzee, Grant County, Indiana, and had four children, all born in Indianapolis, Indiana: Jesse Fredrick, Howard Paul, Harold Arthur, and Helen Louise Clanin (later Mrs. William A. Ellis Jr.). Arthur died in his farm home near Swayzee, Indiana, on 19 January 1956, followed by Clara at the home of her son Howard and his family in Anderson, Indiana, on 7 January 1967.


The son of Howard and Liz Clanin, Doug Clanin was born in Anderson, Indiana, on 5 May 1940. After graduating from Madison Heights High School in Anderson, Indiana, in 1958, Doug attended Purdue University from 1958 to 1963, receiving a bachelor’s degree in social studies with a minor in mathematics. He attended Indiana University-Bloomington from 1963 to 1964 and received a master’s degree in history and government. Doug taught social studies courses at Whitewater-Fountain City High School, Fountain City, Wayne County, Indiana, from 1964 to 1965. From 1965 to 1969, he served in the United States Air Force, achieving the rank of staff sergeant. During his service at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas, and with the U.S. Military Assistance Command Thailand/Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group (MACTHAI/JUSMAG), Doug’s assignments included assistant base historian, community relations officer, and technical communications director. In addition to these duties, he wrote for and also edited two military newspapers: the Lackland AFB Talespinner and the MACTHAI/JUSMAG Advisor.

Doug married Rebecca Suzanne Flowers (born 2 November 1950 in Anderson, Indiana, to Cecil Clyde and Ethel [Ingram] Flowers) in Anderson, Indiana, on 9 August 1970. They were divorced in Madison, Wisconsin, on 19 December 1974. Doug and Rebecca are the parents of two sons: Christopher Lee and David Matthew Clanin, both born in Madison, Wisconsin.

of the William Henry Harrison project, which resulted in *The Papers of William Henry Harrison, 1800-1815* microfilm publication, which was completed in 1999. Doug then worked on the Wallace Papers project, which documents the lives of Lew and Susan Wallace. In addition, from 1983 to 2002, Doug conducted over 300 interviews, primarily of World War II veterans. These interviews and transcripts are housed at the Indiana Historical Society as collection M 0783. Doug also worked on many other publications and wrote numerous articles throughout his career. He retired from the Indiana Historical Society in 2005 and is currently active in the Madison County Historical Society and as a member of the board of directors of the Gruenewald Historic House, both located in Anderson, Indiana.

Sources:

Information in the collection.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Series 1: Family Papers and Correspondence, 1867–2003 contains information on the Clanin, Weatherford, and Rissiek families including genealogy, marriage announcements, deeds, indentures, receipts, birth certificates, death certificates, obituaries, wills and estate settlements, and newspaper clippings.

Correspondence in this series consists of letters exchanged between family members and friends, including one 1907 letter written from Spiceland Sanitarium in Indiana. This series contains the story Harold Clanin wrote about the life and death of a fellow patient on the orthopedic ward at the Riley Hospital for Children, a few letters from World War II Japan, the Jacob family history, and general news.

Much of the correspondence in this series relates to Doug Clanin. He exchanges letters with his parents and other relatives while attending Purdue University and Indiana University from 1958–1964. These letters include advice and encouragement from Doug’s parents, news from home, family illnesses, Republican politics, sports, grades and tests, Delco Remy, and historical events. Letters from the years 1965–1969 cover Doug’s service in the Air Force at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and in Bangkok, Thailand during the Vietnam War era. Topics include air force training, Doug’s work as editor of the Talespinner newspaper, Vietnam and Communism, dating and relationships, Doug’s attempts to become an officer, and his experiences in Thailand. From 1972–99, the letters focus on family news, divorce, children, and vacations. Most of the letters in this series contain pop culture references to records, movies, television, and books.

Photographs included in the correspondence have been housed in separate folders and are labeled with the dates of the letters from which they were removed.

Series 2: Doug Clanin Professional Correspondence, 1963–2003 consists of letters exchanged between Doug and various historians, professors, editors, colleagues, and government representatives, many of which were written while Doug worked at the Indiana Historical Society. Topics include military history (especially World War II), oral history interviews and soldiers’ stories, the challenges of working on the William Henry Harrison and Wallace Papers projects, research interests, book and movie reviews, newsworthy events, legislation, grant funding, personal news and family history.

Photographs included in the correspondence have been housed in separate folders and are labeled with the dates of the letters from which they were removed.

Series 3: Diaries and Books, 1924–1986 contains Harold A. Clanin’s bible and the autograph book he kept when he was a patient in the Riley Hospital for Children during the years 1928–29. Harold sustained a serious injury as young boy in 1927, requiring extensive medical treatment. Two diaries kept by Harold cover the years 1928–45 and provide information on his hospital stay and various treatments received, chores, family visits, crops planted, weather, movies, illnesses and deaths, sports, and World War II progress reports. The travel diaries kept by Sarah Weatherford Clanin from 1939–86 detail the
family’s travels across the United States, routes taken, restaurants, famous landmarks, activities, and wildlife. Places visited and mentioned include Nebraska, South Dakota’s Black Hills and Mount Rushmore, Wyoming’s Yellowstone National Park, Utah’s Bryce Canyon, Colorado’s Pike’s Peak, California, Tennessee, Washington, D.C., Massachusetts, and Disney World.

Series 4: Newsletters and Other Publications, 1945–2002 contains the U.S.A.F. newspapers the Advisor and Lackland Talespinner. Published in Texas and Bangkok, Thailand, the newspapers provide information on servicemen, promotions, classes and training, policies, scheduled events and activities, movie schedules, sports, church services, births, Vietnam battles, and Thai culture.

This series also contains three articles written by Doug Clanin about his family history.
# SERIES CONTENTS

**Series 1: Family Papers and Correspondence, 1867–2003**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CONTENTS</th>
<th>CONTAINER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>German correspondence of Fredrick and Wilhelmena (Brinker) Rissiek, 1867–1993; n.d.</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clara M. (Rissiek) Clanin correspondence and papers, 1895–1967</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George A. Clanin correspondence and papers, 1904–99; n.d.</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clara (Rissiek) and George A. Clanin correspondence and papers, 1919–68</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George A. Clanin receipts, 1925–44</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Layout of orchard 1932–33 removed from George A. Clanin receipts</td>
<td>OMB 0114, Box 1, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harold A. Clanin correspondence and papers, 1928–67</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper clippings removed from Harold A. Clanin correspondence and papers</td>
<td>OMB 0114, Box 1, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William A. Brinker, removed from Harold A. Clanin correspondence and papers, ca. 1961 [one black-and-white photograph]</td>
<td>Color Photographs, Box 1, Folder 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seven Pillars, Peru, Indiana, removed from Harold A. Clanin correspondence and papers, ca. 1961 [one black-and-white photograph]</td>
<td>Color Photographs, Box 1, Folder 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard P. and Sarah (Weatherford) Clanin deeds, 1934–45</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah (Weatherford) Clanin clippings and programs, 1934–87; n.d.</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard P. and Sarah (Weatherford) Clanin papers, 1934–2000; n.d.</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah (Weatherford) Clanin World War II ration book, ca. 1942–45</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard P. Clanin clippings and certificates, 1942–78; n.d.</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital equipment designed by Howard P. Clanin and script for training film, ca. 1950s</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard P. and Sarah (Weatherford) Clanin deeds, 1950</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard P. and Sarah (Weatherford) Clanin deeds, 1954–2002</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Weatherford Postcards from Germany during World War II</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Postcards, 1915-1989</td>
<td>Box 1, Folder 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clanin and Rissiek family biographies, genealogy, and obituaries, 1956–2003; n.d.</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howard P. Clanin correspondence and papers, 1957–74; n.d.</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Clanin correspondence, 14 Sept.–16 Oct. 1958</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clanin family Christmas card ca. 1950s, removed from Doug Clanin correspondence [one black-and-white photograph]</td>
<td>Color Photographs, Box 1, Folder 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Clanin correspondence, 17 Oct.–9 Dec. 1958</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Clanin correspondence, 10 Dec. 1958–7 Apr. 1959</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Clanin correspondence, 16 Apr. 1959–4 Feb. 1960</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Clanin correspondence, 5 Feb.–29 Mar. 1960</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Clanin correspondence, 5 Apr. 1960–1 Mar. 1961</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Clanin correspondence, 2 Mar.–10 May 1961</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doug Clanin correspondence, 27 June 1961–9 Feb. 1962</td>
<td>Box 2, Folder 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 2, Folder 11

Doug Clanin correspondence, 12 Nov. 1963–9 July 1964
Box 2, Folder 12

Box 3, Folder 1

Indiana congressional delegation letters re: Doug Clanin’s request for commission in U.S.A.F., Mar.–Nov. 1966
Box 3, Folder 2

Doug Clanin correspondence, 7 Apr.–20 Nov. 1966
Box 3, Folder 3

Doug Clanin correspondence, 22 Nov. 1966–5 Oct. 1967
Box 3, Folder 4

Box 3, Folder 5

Newspaper clipping, removed from 28 Oct. 1967
Box 1, Folder 3

Doug Clanin correspondence

Doug Clanin correspondence, 29 May–8 July 1968
Box 3, Folder 6

Doug Clanin correspondence, 9 July–14 Aug. 1968
Box 3, Folder 7

Doug Clanin correspondence, 16 Aug.–8 Sept. 1968
Box 3, Folder 8

Doug Clanin correspondence, 9 Sept.–15 Oct. 1968
Box 3, Folder 9

Doug Clanin correspondence, 16 Oct.–1 Dec. 1968
Box 3, Folder 10

1968 general election sample ballot, removed from 11 Nov. 1968 Doug Clanin correspondence
Box 1, Folder 4

Newspaper clippings, removed from 16 Nov. 1968
Box 1, Folder 5

Doug Clanin correspondence

Doug Clanin correspondence, 5–30 Dec. 1968
Box 4, Folder 1

Grandma and Grandpa Weatherford, removed from 5 Dec. 1968 Doug Clanin correspondence [one color photograph]
Color photographs, Box 1, Folder 1
Harold A. Clanin correspondence and papers, 1968–85; n.d.
Box 4, Folder 2

Doug Clanin correspondence, 1 Jan.–23 Feb. 1969
Box 4, Folder 3

Doug Clanin correspondence, 27 Feb.–21 Apr. 1969
Box 4, Folder 4

Doug Clanin correspondence, 22 Apr.–6 June 1969; n.d.
Box 4, Folder 5

Doug Clanin correspondence, 18 March. 1971–26 Mar. 1975
Box 4, Folder 6

Howard P. Clanin record of weather and oil consumption, 1974–77
Box 4, Folder 7

Doug Clanin correspondence, 3 Apr. 1975–4 May 1977
Box 4, Folder 8

Newspaper clipping, removed from 17 May 1976
OMB 0114,
Doug Clanin correspondence
Box 1, Folder 6

Doug Clanin correspondence, 7 May 1977–11 May 1980
Box 4, Folder 9

Box 4, Folder 10

Capt. Wm. Francis “Jimmy” Boice gravestone, removed from 12 Dec. 1996
Doug Clanin correspondence [two color photographs]
Color photographs,
Box 1, Folder 2

Newspaper clippings, removed from 30 Sept. 1996
OMB 0114,
Doug Clanin correspondence
Box 1, Folder 7

Funeral tributes to Howard P. and Sarah (Weatherford) Clanin by Doug Clanin, 1981–2000
Box 4, Folder 11

Series 2: Doug Clanin Professional Correspondence, 1963–2003

CONTENTS
CONTAINER
Ambrosee, Stephen, 6 Mar. 1990–24 May 2002
Box 5, Folder 1
Box 5, Folder 2
Bennett, Mary, 11 Nov.–2 Dec. 1986
Breen, Ed, 5 Nov. 1990–19 Sept. 1994
Calder, J. Kent, 20–25 May 1999
Carlin, Governor John, 1 May 1997–17 Sept. 1998
Coffman, Edward, 7 June 1985–13 Mar. 1987
Coffman, Edward, 1 Apr. 1989–12 Apr. 1991
Newspaper clipping, removed from 11 Sept. 1989
Newspaper clipping, removed from 13 Nov. 1990
Coffman, Edward, 17 Apr.–14 Dec. 1991
Coffman, Edward, 2 Jan.–30 Dec. 1992
Newspaper clipping, removed from 14 June [1994?]
Newspaper clipping, removed from 22 Jan. 1996
Edward Coffman correspondence

Newspaper clipping, removed from 11 Sept. 1996
Edward Coffman correspondence

Box 6, Folder 3

Newspaper clipping, removed from 8 Jan. 1997
Edward Coffman correspondence

Box 6, Folder 4

Newspaper clipping, removed from 11 June 1998
Edward Coffman correspondence

Newspaper clippings, removed from 31 July 1998
Edward Coffman correspondence

Newspaper clippings, removed from 16 Aug. 1998
Edward Coffman correspondence

Edward Coffman and George Fugate, removed from
11 Jan. 1999 Edward Coffman correspondence [one
color photograph]

Coffman, Edward, 13 Jan.–25 Sept. 1999
Box 6, Folder 5

Newspaper clipping, removed from 18 Mar. 1999
Edward Coffman correspondence

Newspaper clipping, removed from 18 May 1999
Edward Coffman correspondence

Edward Coffman and Walt Ehlers, removed from
26 May 1999 Edward Coffman correspondence [one
color photograph]

Newspaper clipping, removed from 20 Sept. 1999
Edward Coffman correspondence

Box 6, Folder 6

Newspaper clipping, removed from 20 Nov. 1999
Edward Coffman correspondence

Box 6, Folder 7
Newspaper clipping, removed from 29 Aug. 2001  
Edward Coffman correspondence

Gravesite and church of Sgt. York family in Pall Mall,  
TN, removed from 26 May 2002 Edward Coffman  
correspondence [three color photographs]

Newspaper clipping, removed from 10 Nov. 2002  
Edward Coffman correspondence

Newspaper clipping, removed from 13 Nov. 2002  
Edward Coffman correspondence


Davis, Cullom, 26 Aug.–20 Sept. 1991

De Margerie, Emmanuel, 29 Aug.–18 Sept. 1989


Emison, Rabb, 19 July–8 Sept. 1995


Garrison, J. Gregory, 1 Dec. 1998

Giunta, Mary A., 12 Sept.–24 Dec. 1986

Gunderson, Professor Robert G., 3 Oct. 1985–  
11 Oct. 1988

Gunderson, Professor Robert G., 12 Oct. 1988–  
18 Jan. 1997


Holden, Robert, 19 May 1986–7 Nov. 1988

Huffman, Harry V., 26 May 1999

Jackson, Dr. Sara D., 27 Sept. 1988–14 May 1991

OMB 0114,  
Box 1, Folder 21

Color photographs,  
Box 1, Folder 5

OMB 0114,  
Box 1, Folder 22

OMB 0114,  
Box 1, Folder 23

Box 6, Folder 8

Box 6, Folder 9

Box 6, Folder 10

Box 6, Folder 11

Box 6, Folder 12

Box 6, Folder 13

Box 7, Folder 1

Box 7, Folder 2

Box 7, Folder 3

Box 7, Folder 4

Box 7, Folder 5

Box 7, Folder 6

Box 7, Folder 7

Box 7, Folder 8

Box 7, Folder 9

Box 7, Folder 10
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Box, Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter, removed from 1976 Merrill Jensen correspondence</td>
<td></td>
<td>OMB 0114, Box 1, Folder 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group of individuals, removed from 1976 Merrill Jensen correspondence [one black-and-white photograph]</td>
<td></td>
<td>Color Photographs, Box 1, Folder 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kortepeter, Paul</td>
<td>1 May 1989</td>
<td>Box 7, Folder 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Krasean, Thomas</td>
<td>12 Apr. 1990–10 Jan. 1995</td>
<td>Box 7, Folder 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter, removed from 12 Apr. 1990 Thomas Krasean correspondence</td>
<td></td>
<td>OMB 0114, Box 1, Folder 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lamb, Brian</td>
<td>3 Dec. 1999</td>
<td>Box 7, Folder 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laurie, Dr. Clayton D.</td>
<td>27 Oct. 1998</td>
<td>Box 7, Folder 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limbaugh, Stephen N.</td>
<td>18–22 Dec. 1992</td>
<td>Box 7, Folder 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madison, James H.</td>
<td>6–14 Sept. 1991</td>
<td>Box 7, Folder 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maslowski, Dr. Peter</td>
<td>11 Jan. 1991–5 Feb. 2002</td>
<td>Box 7, Folder 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McBeth, David</td>
<td>8 Sept. 1986–30 Sept. 1987</td>
<td>Box 7, Folder 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCord, Shirley S.</td>
<td>11 June 1999</td>
<td>Box 7, Folder 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCrory, Martin A.</td>
<td>26 Jan. 1989</td>
<td>Box 7, Folder 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller, John W.</td>
<td>17 Feb.–21 Mar. 1989</td>
<td>Box 7, Folder 26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newill, Robert B.</td>
<td>13 Sept. 1988</td>
<td>Box 7, Folder 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peckham, Howard H.</td>
<td>29 May 1981</td>
<td>Box 7, Folder 29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Preston, Jean. F., 23–26 Jan. 1989


Eddie Raines portrait Christmas card, removed from 23 Dec. 1977 Edgar F. Raines, Jr. correspondence [one color photograph]

Eddie Raines, removed from 19 Dec. 1981 Edgar F. Raines, Jr. correspondence [one color photograph]

Eddie Raines, removed from 21 Dec. 1984 Edgar F. Raines, Jr. correspondence [one color photograph]

Eddie Raines, removed from 1 May 1986 Edgar F. Raines, Jr. correspondence [one color photograph]

Eddie Raines, removed from 16 Dec. 1987 Edgar F. Raines, Jr. correspondence [one color photograph]


Edgar Raines family portrait Christmas card, removed from 15 Dec. 1998 Edgar F. Raines, Jr. correspondence [one color photograph]

Eddie Raines, removed from 13 Dec. 1999 Edgar F. Raines, Jr. correspondence [one color photograph]


Raines Jr., Edgar F. papers/articles, n.d.


Riker, Dorothy, 5–9 Apr. 1994

Ristine, Richard O., 7 Apr. 2002


Box 9, Folder 3
Box 9, Folder 4
Box 9, Folder 5
Box 9, Folder 6
Sanders, Jerry, 9 July–10 Dec. 1991
Box 9, Folder 7
Box 9, Folder 8
Simons, Richard S., 10 June 1988
Box 9, Folder 9
Box 9, Folder 10
Box 9, Folder 11
Box 9, Folder 12
Box 9, Folder 13
Summerville, James, 18 April 1988
Box 9, Folder 14
Thornbrough, Gayle, 10 June 1980–6 Dec. 1999
Box 9, Folder 15
Udall, Morris, 27 May 1975
Box 9, Folder 16
“Udall for President” pin, removed from Morris Udall correspondence
Artifacts: 2003.0334
Votaw, Dr. John F., 17 Nov. 1998
Box 9, Folder 17
Box 10, Folder 1
Box 10, Folder 2

**Series 3: Diaries and Books, 1924–1986**

**CONTENTS**

Harold A. Clanin bible, ca. 1924
Box 10, Folder 3

Autograph book kept by Harold A. Clanin while at Riley Hospital for Children, 1927–28
Box 10, Folder 4

Harold A. Clanin diary, 1928–34
Box 10, Folder 5
Harold A. Clanin diary, 1938–45
Box 10, Folder 6

Sarah E. (Weatherford) Clanin travel diary, July 1939
Box 10, Folder 7

Box 10, Folder 8

Sarah E. (Weatherford) Clanin travel diary, Oct. 1946
Box 11, Folder 1

Box 11, Folder 2

Box 11, Folder 3

Sarah E. (Weatherford) Clanin travel diary, Feb.–Mar. 1979
Box 11, Folder 4

Box 11, Folder 5

Box 11, Folder 6

Sarah E. (Weatherford) Clanin travel diary, May–June 1982
Box 11, Folder 7

Box 11, Folder 8

Box 11, Folder 9

Sarah E. (Weatherford) Clanin travel diary, July 1984
Box 11, Folder 10

Sarah E. (Weatherford) Clanin travel diary, March 1986
Box 11, Folder 11

Series 4: Newsletters and Other Publications, 1945–2002

CONTENTS
CONTAINER
The Delco-Remy Clan, 29 June 1945
OMB 0114,
Box 1, Folder 26

Lackland Air Force Base directory, ca. 1960s
Box 11, Folder 12
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>OMB</th>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 Sept.–28 Oct. 1965</td>
<td>Lackland Talespinner</td>
<td>0114</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Nov.–2 Dec. 1965</td>
<td>Lackland Talespinner</td>
<td>0114</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Dec. 1965–13 Jan. 1966</td>
<td>Lackland Talespinner</td>
<td>0114</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Jan.–17 Feb. 1966</td>
<td>Lackland Talespinner</td>
<td>0114</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Feb.–24 Mar. 1966</td>
<td>Lackland Talespinner</td>
<td>0114</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 Mar.–28 Apr. 1966</td>
<td>Lackland Talespinner</td>
<td>0114</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 May–2 June 1966</td>
<td>Lackland Talespinner</td>
<td>0114</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 June–7 July 1966</td>
<td>Lackland Talespinner</td>
<td>0114</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 July–11 Aug. 1966</td>
<td>Lackland Talespinner</td>
<td>0114</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Aug.–15 Sept. 1966</td>
<td>Lackland Talespinner</td>
<td>0114</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 Sept.–20 Oct. 1966</td>
<td>Lackland Talespinner</td>
<td>0114</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27 Oct.–23 Nov. 1966</td>
<td>Lackland Talespinner</td>
<td>0114</td>
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Indiana Historical Society  Douglas E. Clanin Family Papers, 1867–2003  Page 17
Lackland Talespinner, 23 Mar.–20 Apr. 1967

Lackland Talespinner, 27 Apr.–25 May 1967

Lackland Talespinner, 1–30 June 1967

Lackland Talespinner, 7 July–4 Aug. 1967

Lackland Talespinner, 11 Aug.–8 Sept. 1967

Lackland Talespinner, 15–29 Sept. 1967

Advisor, 19 Sept.–19 Dec. 1968

Advisor, 9 Jan.–4 Apr. 1969

Advisor, 18 Apr.–8 Aug. 1969

Articles by Doug Clanin for Reminisce magazine, 1998–2000

Doug Clanin article on Rissiek family, 2002
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