

Collection #
OMB 0139

**ELEANOR BRENNER
COLLECTION, CA. 1915–1946; 1992**

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 3 oversize manuscript boxes.

COLLECTION DATES: ca. 1915–1946; 1992

PROVENANCE: William A. Johnston, St. Louis, Missouri, November, 2013

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2013.0375

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Eleanor Louise Brenner was born 23 February, 1920 in Lafayette, Indiana, daughter of Jacob and Mamie Nalley Brenner. She attended Lafayette Public Schools and graduated from Jefferson High School on 1 June, 1938. Immediately following high school she enrolled in the Lafayette Home Hospital School of Nursing, completed her training at City Hospital in Indianapolis and graduated in 1941. After graduation, she obtained a position as surgical nurse at Henry County Hospital in New Castle, Indiana. In 1942, she returned to her hometown to work at Lafayette Home Hospital.

On a sudden impulse prompted by a nursing school friend early in 1943, Eleanor and two of her girlfriends decided to drive to California to obtain nursing employment in Santa Maria, California. Eventually, Eleanor decided to join the Navy, left California in her car, 'Junior' on 6 July, 1944 and arrived back home in Lafayette on 19 July. Eleanor enlisted in the Navy on 11 September, 1944, spent two weeks in training at Portsmouth, Virginia and was then stationed at Corpus Christie, Texas. There she met Jay B. Polan and they were married 30 November, 1945. By 1948 Eleanor and her husband had returned to live in Lafayette, Indiana. She died there on 31 October, 2009.

Sources: Collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains photographs and mementos from the life of Eleanor Louise Brenner Polan. In five scrapbooks which cover the years 1920 through 1946, Eleanor traces her life through grade and high schools in Lafayette, Indiana, nurses training in Lafayette and Indianapolis, her first job in New Castle, and her move to California in 1943. In addition to photographs, the material includes newspaper clippings, wedding announcements, postcards, grade reports, greeting cards, and typewritten journal entries made during the trips to and from California. There are also many letters from Eleanor's friends which have been removed from the scrapbook and placed in file folders.

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CONTENTS

1 scrapbook (green) with 332 b/w photographs and 17 color postcards. Photos date from 1915–1942 and include pictures of family members and nursing students in Indianapolis, New Castle and Lafayette, Indiana locations

CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1

1 scrapbook (white) containing 226 b/w photographs from 1942–1943 representing nursing in Lafayette, Indiana, the car trip from Indiana to California, and establishing a home in Santa Maria, California

Box 1, Folder 2

1 folder of loose items removed from the scrapbooks, including one letter dated 1992 with accompanying photograph, two loose b/w photographs dated 1941, five loose photographic negatives, one class photo size 7" x 5" with newspaper identification of individuals, one typewritten update on the nursing class of 1941 which is dated 1992, and one receipt for donation of photograph to the Linwood School.

Box 1, Folder 3

1 scrapbook containing 480 b/w photographs, seven color postcards and two newspaper clippings. Dates from 1943–1944

Box 1, Folder 4

1 scrapbook (red) containing items from Eleanor's childhood through nursing school graduation. Items include her birth announcement, elementary and high school grade reports, entrance and tuition requirement for the school of nursing, programs, blank copies of various medical forms, and a sales receipt in the amount of \$750 for a used 1941 Plymouth Coupe.

Box 2, Folder 1

1 scrapbook (white) including items from 1943–1946. Items consist of newspaper clippings, printed poems, menus, postcards, greeting cards, invitations, and typewritten journal pages regarding Eleanor's move from Lafayette, Indiana to Santa Maria, California.

Box 2, Folder 2

1 folder of loose items removed from the (red) scrapbook. This includes correspondence to Eleanor Brenner written between December, 1937 and January, 1943. Also contains a wedding announcement and certificates.

Box 2, Folder 3

1 folder of loose items removed from the (white) scrapbook from Eleanor's Navy experience. This includes correspondence to both Eleanor Brenner Polan and J. B. Polan written between November, 1943 and June, 1946, along with instructions for a knitted afghan and a typewritten poem, a library card and Eleanor's Social Security card. Also two loose b/w photographs, a photographic negative and two wedding announcements.

Box 2, Folder 4

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, OMB 0139).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.