

Collection #
M 1344
OM 0652

**EZELL FAMILY
PAPERS AND PHOTOGRAPHS, 1810-1979**

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Processed by

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Manuscript and Visual Collections Department
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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: Manuscript: 2 manuscript boxes, 1 oversized manuscript folder
Visual: 1 photograph box, 1 OVA photograph box, 1 half-sized color photograph box, 1 4 x 5 acetate negative box
Artifact: 6 artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: 1810-1979

PROVENANCE: Virginia Ezell, 12 Old Dry Lane, Brigstock County, Northampton, UK, NN14 3HY

RESTRICTIONS: Slides and negatives must be requested in advance and may be viewed by appointment only and with the assistance of library staff.

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2016.0025

NOTES: Color photos, 35mm film strips, and 35 mm slides are all stored in the same box-Color Photograph Box 1

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Eugene Bryan Ezell, also known as "Ezy" by friends, was born on March 20, 1898 in Kentucky. The family later moved to Tennessee where Ezell spent most of his youth. When it came time to choose a college for the 1917-1918 school year, Ezell stayed in the state and attended the University of Tennessee as an Engineering major. He did not finish college, leaving after his second year to join the Army during WWI. This would be his start in a long career working for the government.

Once Ezell completed his duty in the Army, he worked in various roles for his family's tobacco business. By 1927, he took a position with the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a Warehouse Examiner, inspecting agricultural commodities storage. This is the role he would stay in for the next 16 years. In 1934, Ezell married Katherine Naomi Krause (b. July 15, 1910, d. June 25, 1963), the daughter of John Edward Krause, the owner of Hotel Washington in Indianapolis. Eugene and Katherine lived together in Indianapolis and had one child, Edward Clinton Ezell (b. Nov. 7, 1939, d. Dec. 23, 1993) who was also referred to as Doug.

In 1943, Ezell left his job to once again join the army, this time for WWII. His second stint in the army only lasted a few months. Ezell entered the army in March of 1943 as a 2nd Lieutenant, but had consistent leg trouble that caused him to be honorably discharged in October of 1943 after several surgeries could not fix the problem.

After returning home, Ezell was given a job as an Investigator at the Office of Price Administration, but he did not stay in this position long. He was moved around from position to position, being made a Price Surveys Officer by 1944 and then in June of that same year being moved to a Price Economist position. Ezell had a short one and a half year period of stability in this position. In 1946, he was moved to the Office of Rent Stabilization and given the position of Rent Compliance Officer. A year later he was moved yet again, this time to the position of Rent Examiner. Here he stayed for two years before getting a promotion to Compliance Negotiator. Ezell had five years in this role before yet again getting moved, this time completely out of a job. In 1953, the Office of Rent Stabilization stopped receiving funding and was forced to lay off its staff.

Now in his mid-50s, Ezell was forced to reinvent himself. He applied to several jobs, even one that would make use of this self-proclaimed status as an expert amateur photographer (he was skilled in taking and processing photographs). He ended up getting a real estate license, which he received in 1954. Ezell would only be a practicing real estate agent for about a year before passing away from heart attack in June 1955.

Sources:

Ancestry.com

Materials in collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains a mix of manuscript and photograph items as well as several artifacts. The manuscript items include letters that Eugene Ezell wrote to his wife, Katherine Ezell, while he was traveling for work and also while he was training during his short time in the Army in 1943. There are a substantial number of papers relating to Ezell's time both in the military and in his various positions working as a civil servant. Birth, marriage, and death certificates for Eugene and Katherine are present in the collection. There are grade cards (from IPS 70 and Broad Ripple High School) and diplomas for the couple's son, Edward Ezell-often referred to as Doug.

Eugene Ezell considered himself an expert amateur photographer, and the collection has a large number of his photographs, including negative film strips, acetate negatives, and slides. Many of the photos are of Eugene, Katherine, and Edward, but there are several of various people, places, and things-one of note being the July 1951 Lux Laundry fire. Katherine Ezell assembled a photo album which is also in the collection.

*There are two film strips and one folder of photographs that were taken by Eugene of Katherine that are mature in nature. They are marked with "Mature Content".

The artifacts in this collection include a brush and comb set, a locket with Katherine's maiden initials-KNK, a Canadian Infantry pin, an infant sized bracelet, and a folded 48-star U.S. Flag.

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3 Uniform Patches, n.d.	Artifact: 2016.0025
Green Comb and Brush Set, n.d.	Artifact: 2016.0025
"Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry" Pin, n.d.	Artifact: 2016.0025
Infant Sized Bracelet, n.d.	Artifact: 2016.0025

Locket (no chain) with "KNK" engraved on front, n.d.

Artifact: 2016.0025