O'BRIEN, KNIGHT, AND HIMELICK FAMILY
PAPERS, CA.1867-1983

Collection Information
Biographical Sketch
Scope and Content Note
Contents

Processed by
Jessica Fischer
November 2017

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: 2 Photograph Folders, 1 OVA Box with 4 OVA Photograph Folders, 10 Manuscript Boxes, 4 Postcard Boxes, 3 Artifacts

COLLECTION DATES: Ca. 1867-1983

PROVENANCE: Beth Bowman, Indianapolis, IN, 2016

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2016.0317

NOTES:
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Bertha May Himelick was born on May 6, 1882 to Grant County, Indiana farmers, George (1864-1939) and Lydia (b. Nov 1871) Himelick. She later married a farmer, Ira Elmer Knight ca. 1915. Bertha and Ira had two children: Dorothy Ellen Knight (b. October 12, 1918, d. June 2, 1981) and Eunice Ann (Knight) O'Brien (b. February 23, 1920, d. March 19, 2003). Both daughters graduated from Taylor University, Dorothy in 1940 and Eunice in 1942. Eunice married Penn H. O'Brien (b. August 26, 1917, d. April 7, 1993) and they had one child, Beth Ann (O'Brien) Deputy. Bertha died on February 27, 1975.

Ira Elmer Knight was born on November 11, 1884 in Kansas (died May 12, 1952) to farmers William (b. ca. 1843) and Ellen C. Knight (b. ca. 1848). William was originally from England and Ellen was born in New York. The family later moved to Clarion, Pennsylvania circa 1900. In addition to his parents, wife, and children, Ira had several siblings: Glenn Knight (b. ca. 1868), Laura (Knight) Napper (b. ca. 1873), Nellie Knight (b. ca. 1878), William Knight (b. Feb. 1880), and Bertha (Knight) Grubbs (b. ca. 1886, m. 1927 to Rev. Grubbs).

Sources:
Ancestry.com
Information found in collection
This family collection contains letters, greeting cards, postcards, invitations, correspondence, pamphlets and programs (ca. 1897-1941), souvenir foldout books (ca. 1915-1964), photographs (ca. 1905-1983), a memorandum book (ca. 1914-1917), news clippings (ca. 1905-1983), report cards (ca. 1924-1936), bank books (ca. 1914-1943), a war ration book, receipts, a timetable, family deeds, U.S. Army hanky and hanky holder (ca. 1940s), and other misc. papers (ca. 1867-1937). It also contains 3 "Boeing Magazine" issues (Apr.-May, July 1957) and one "Taylor University" magazine issue (Fall/Winter 1982). The majority of the postcards in the collection are addressed to Bertha (Himelick) Knight and Ira Elmer Knight in Upland, Indiana, with many of those being between Bertha and Ira. A large portion of the letters are written to Eunice (Knight) O'Brien back home in Indiana from Penn O'Brien while he was in various locations traveling in the Army (KY, TN, AZ, PA, GA, LA, CA. OR, WA). Another substantial portion of the letters are formed by a letter chain where family members living in Upland, Indiana and Millvale, Pennsylvania would send back and forth letters addressed as "Dear Ones". This letter chain primarily includes Ellen Knight, Laura (Knight) Napper, Bertha (Knight) Grubbs, Ira Elmer Knight, Bertha (Himelick) Knight (Upland, IN), Dorothy Knight, and Eunice (Knight) O'Brien.
CONTENTS

Photos of People (includes 1 tintype of a man), n.d.

Photos of Locations, n.d.

Photo Postcard, Muncie Boys Band, ca. 1914

Farm, n.d.

Miller's Well, N.M., 1905

People in Field, n.d.

"Lovers Lane", n.d.

Greeting Cards, Christmas, n.d. (1 of 7)

Greeting Cards, Christmas, n.d. (2 of 7)

Greeting Cards, Christmas, n.d. (3 of 7)

Greeting Cards, Christmas, n.d. (4 of 7)

Greeting Cards, Christmas, n.d. (5 of 7)

Greeting Cards, Christmas, n.d. (6 of 7)

Greeting Cards, Christmas, n.d. (7 of 7)

Greeting Cards, Christmas, 1906-1927

Greeting Cards, Christmas, 1928-1929

Greeting Cards, Christmas, 1930-1933

Greeting Cards, Easter, 1928-1929

Greeting Cards, Valentines, n.d. (1 of 5)
Greeting Cards, Valentines, n.d. (2 of 5)  
Box 1, Folder 13

Greeting Cards, Valentines, n.d. (3 of 5)  
Box 1, Folder 14

Greeting Cards, Valentines, n.d. (4 of 5)  
Box 1, Folder 15

Greeting Cards, Valentines, n.d. (5 of 5)  
Box 1, Folder 16

Christmas Greeting, Sadie Louise Miller, n.d.  
Box 1, Folder 17

Greeting Cards, Thanksgiving and July 4th, n.d.  
Box 1, Folder 18

Ira Knight, Receipts, 1907-1933  
Box 2, Folder 1

Ira Knight, Bank Books, 1914-1943  
Box 2, Folder 2

Receipts, Taylor University, 1922-1937  
Box 2, Folder 3

William Knight, Memorandum Book, ca. 1914  
Box 2, Folder 4

High School Graduation Announcements, 1897-1932  
Box 2, Folder 5

Upland High School Graduation Announcements & Programs, 1919-1932  
Box 2, Folder 6

Purdue University, Graduation Program, 1910  
Box 2, Folder 7

Taylor University, Graduation/Performance Programs, 1915-1945  
Box 2, Folder 8

Birth and Marriage Announcements, 1908-1932  
Box 2, Folder 9

Dorcas Bible Class, Booklets, 1924-1930  
Box 2, Folder 10

Dorothy Knight, Report Cards, 1924-1936  
Box 2, Folder 11

The Search-Light, Religious Newspaper, Vol. 3 No. 1, 1905  
Box 2, Folder 12

Scripture Cards, 1905  
Box 2, Folder 13

Eastern Indiana Christian Conference Programs, 1921-1922  
Box 2, Folder 14

Religious Informational Papers, 1922-1942  
Box 2, Folder 15
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Jewels of Thought&quot;, First issue of the Jewel Gatherers Monthly Paper, 1940</td>
<td>2, Folder 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Typed and Handwritten Prayers, n.d.</td>
<td>2, Folder 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ruth Heinlein, Piano Recital Program, n.d.</td>
<td>2, Folder 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Various Business Cards, 1908-1909</td>
<td>2, Folder 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suffolk Vacation Tours to California, Pamphlet, 1915</td>
<td>2, Folder 20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monroe Township Fair, Program, 1921</td>
<td>2, Folder 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hines Coach Lines Timetable, 1939-12-18</td>
<td>2, Folder 22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boeing Magazine, April, May, and July Issues, 1957</td>
<td>2, Folder 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taylor University Magazine, Fall/Winter 1982</td>
<td>2, Folder 24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Anatomy Pencil Drawings by Bertha (Himelick) Knight, n.d.</td>
<td>3, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ira Knight, Chiropractic Appointment Card, n.d.</td>
<td>3, Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family History, Notes, n.d.</td>
<td>3, Folder 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ira Knight, Memorandum Book, 1911</td>
<td>3, Folder 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Family Deeds, 1897 and 1886</td>
<td>3, Folder 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ira Knight, Life and Auto Insurance Documents and Informational Booklets, 1916</td>
<td>3, Folder 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last Will and Testament of William Knight, 1920</td>
<td>3, Folder 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Lemley Himelick, Obituary, 1931</td>
<td>3, Folder 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George Himelick Funeral Services Receipt, 1939</td>
<td>3, Folder 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L.A. National Bank Letter Concerning Bonds of Lou Jacinto, 1893</td>
<td>3, Folder 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Pierces Invalid's Hotel and Surgical Institute, Dream Book, n.d.</td>
<td>3, Folder 12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Box 3, Folder 13

"The Warne Baby Fold", Pamphlet, 1925  
Box 3, Folder 14

"The Christmas Child" Booklet, Bombay, Apr. 8-10, 1905  
Box 3, Folder 15

Medical Field Service School-Instruction Schedule, Carlisle Barracks, PA, Aug. 4-9, 1941  
Box 3, Folder 16

Post Chapel Service, Carlisle Barracks, PA, Programs, 1941  
Box 3, Folder 17

"The Forty-Won-Er", Military Newsletter, July 1943  
Box 3, Folder 18

News Clippings, ca. 1930-1970  
Box 3, Folder 19

Unidentified Letters, 1914 and ca. 1930s  
Box 3, Folder 20

Bertha and Dorothy Knight, Eunice and Penn O'Brien, Postcards, 1962-1983  
Box 3, Folder 21

South Bend, Indiana, Souvenir Folder, n.d.  
Box 3, Folder 22

Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, 1939  
Box 4, Folder 1

Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, 1940  
Box 4, Folder 2

Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, Jan.-July 1941  
Box 4, Folder 3

Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, August 1941  
Box 4, Folder 4

Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, Sept.-Oct. 1941  
Box 4, Folder 5

Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, Nov.-Dec. 1941  
Box 4, Folder 6

Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, Jan.-Feb. 1942  
Box 4, Folder 7

Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, Mar.-Apr. 1942  
Box 4, Folder 8
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Box and Folder</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, May-Aug. 1942</td>
<td>Box 4, Folder 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, Sept.-Nov. 1942</td>
<td>Box 4, Folder 10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, Dec. 1942</td>
<td>Box 4, Folder 11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, Jan.-Feb. 1943</td>
<td>Box 4, Folder 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, Mar.-Dec. 1943</td>
<td>Box 4, Folder 13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, Jan.-Sept. 1944</td>
<td>Box 4, Folder 14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, Oct.-Nov. 1944</td>
<td>Box 4, Folder 15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, Dec. 1944</td>
<td>Box 4, Folder 16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, Jan.-Feb. 1945</td>
<td>Box 5, Folder 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, March 1945</td>
<td>Box 5, Folder 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, April 1945</td>
<td>Box 5, Folder 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, May-Dec. 1945</td>
<td>Box 5, Folder 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, n.d., (1 of 2)</td>
<td>Box 5, Folder 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters from Penn O'Brien to Eunice O'Brien, n.d. (2 of 2)</td>
<td>Box 5, Folder 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters to Penn O'Brien, 1942-1972</td>
<td>Box 5, Folder 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters to Eunice (Knight) O'Brien, 1939-1972</td>
<td>Box 5, Folder 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters to Eunice (Knight) O'Brien, n.d.</td>
<td>Box 5, Folder 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters to Eunice and Penn O'Brien, 1943-1969</td>
<td>Box 5, Folder 10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Letter to Glenn Knight, 1887  
Letters to Laura (Napper) and Bertha (Grubbs) Knight, 1945-1950  
Letters to Laura (Knight) Napper, 1890-1972  
Letters to Ellen and Laura (Napper) Knight, 1925-1931  
Letters to Ellen and Laura (Napper) Knight, 1932-1941  
Letters to Ellen Knight, 1925-1936  
Letters to Mr. and Mrs. William Knight, 1911-1939  
Letter from Ethel Himelick, 1939  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, 1907-1916  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, 1917-1919  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, 1920  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, 1921-1922  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, 1923  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, Jan.-Jun. 1924  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, July-Dec. 1924  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, Jan.-May 1925  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, Jun.-Aug. 1925  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, Sept.-Dec. 1925  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, Jan.-Apr. 1926  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, May-Dec. 1926  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, 1927  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, 1928-1929  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, 1930  
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, Feb.-Mar. 1931
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, 1950-1971  Box 9, Folder 14
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, 1972-1973  Box 9, Folder 15
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, n.d. (1 of 14)  Box 10, Folder 1
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, n.d. (2 of 14)  Box 10, Folder 2
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, n.d. (3 of 14)  Box 10, Folder 3
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, n.d. (4 of 14)  Box 10, Folder 4
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, n.d. (5 of 14)  Box 10, Folder 5
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, n.d. (6 of 14)  Box 10, Folder 6
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, n.d. (7 of 14)  Box 10, Folder 7
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, n.d. (8 of 14)  Box 10, Folder 8
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, n.d. (9 of 14)  Box 10, Folder 9
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, n.d. (10 of 14)  Box 10, Folder 10
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, n.d. (11 of 14)  Box 10, Folder 11
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, n.d. (12 of 14)  Box 10, Folder 12
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, n.d. (13 of 14)  Box 10, Folder 13
'Dear Ones', Letter Chain, n.d. (14 of 14)  Box 10, Folder 14
Family Letters with First Page Missing, n.d  Box 10, Folder 15
Postcards to Bertha Himelick, 1906-1915  Box 11
Postcards to Bertha (Himelick) Knight, Ira Knight, 1905-1972  Box 12
Postcards to Ira Knight, Dorothy Knight, Ellen Knight, Laura Napper, Penn and Eunice O'Brien, Bertha Grubbs, George Himelick, 1907-1983  Box 13
Postcards to Knight Family, Vernon Phillips, Via and Amy Benbow, Ackerly, Buffington, Townsend, Unknown Recipients, Black Postcards, Photo Postcards, 1910-1974  Box 14
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Artifact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>War Ration Book</td>
<td>2016.0317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pink Sweetheart U.S.A Hanky</td>
<td>2016.0317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Army Hanky Holder</td>
<td>2016.0317</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>