

Collection #  
P 0872

**VIRGINIA L. ROWLING NUNES COLLECTION  
1941-1947**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

**VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION:** 4 folders

**COLLECTION  
DATES:** 1941–1947

**PROVENANCE:** Gift from Kim Houchin of Bellefontaine, Ohio, 2022

**RESTRICTIONS:** None

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**ACCESSION  
NUMBER:** 2022.0096

**NOTES:**

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Virginia Rowling Nunes lived in Indianapolis and worked for Indiana Bell telephone company. It appears that she and her co-worker Barbara Brake Loftin socialized at nightclubs in the mid-1940s before they were married.

Virginia Lucille Rowling was born 1 December 1919 in Bellefontaine, Ohio, to Harry A. Rowling and Mayda Armstrong Rowling. Her father worked for the railroad. Virginia appears to have been an only child. Her family lived in Bellefontaine at the time of the 1930 census but sometime between 1935 and 1940 the Rowlings moved to Indianapolis.

In February 1947 Virginia married John Elmer Nunes (1916–2002), an Army veteran of World War II, in Indianapolis. They lived in Indianapolis at the time of the 1950 census, but later lived in Carmel in Hamilton County. He was a manager for Sears, Roebuck & Co. and she was a supervisor for the Indiana Bell telephone company. Virginia worked for Indiana Bell for more than twenty years, retiring in 1978. She was a member of the United Methodist Church of Bellefontaine in Ohio and attended Carmel United Methodist Church. She was also a member of the National Federation of Women's Clubs and a volunteer at Community Hospital East. Virginia died on 4 November 2003.

Barbara Louise Brake was apparently a friend of Virginia. Barbara was born on 14 June 1919 in Indianapolis to Carl Everett Brake (1886–1927) and Ruth Curtis Brake (1898-1977). After her father's death, her mother married John L. Lather. By 1940 Barbara was working as an operator at Bell Telephone. She married Leonard T. Loftin on 24 April 1947, and they had two sons, John and Richard. By 1950 she was a schedule clerk for Bell. In 1970 she became the first woman president of Indiana Bell Pioneers of America. She worked for the telephone company for thirty-eight years, retiring in 1977. She was a member of Carmel Christian Church. Barbara died 26 October 1990 in Indianapolis.

Leonard "Bud" Thompson Loftin was born on 1 November 1917 in Indianapolis to Fred Loftin and Ida Edith Heileman Loftin. He attended Arsenal Technical High School. He served in the Army during World War II. For more than thirty years he worked for Universal Tool and Die/Cams Inc., retiring in 1983. He was a member of North Tacoma Christian Church. He died 11 November 1993 in Indianapolis.

Harold Vincent Corbin (1921–2007) attended Shortridge High School in Indianapolis and Indiana University in Bloomington. In September 1947 he married Kathryn Weaver, and they had three children: David, Robert, and Nancy. At the time of the 1950 census, Harold was working as a salesman.

Lamar Hundley Layfield (1920–1994) was born in Virginia, attended Ohio State University, and died in Pennsylvania, but served in the Army during World War II from Fort Harrison and Camp Atterbury in Indiana and graduated from Butler University in Indianapolis. He married Joan Beebe in August 1947, and they had four children: Lamar Jr., Michael, LuAnne, and Elizabeth. He worked for the Insurance Company of North America for thirty-seven years, part of that time as the manager of its Indianapolis office.

## Sources:

Ancestrylibrary.com (Accessed 11 December 2023):

Find a Grave  
Indiana, U.S., Birth Certificates, 1907–1944  
Indiana, U.S., Death Certificates, 1899–2017  
Marion County, Indiana, U.S., Marriage Index, 1925–2012  
U.S., City Directories, 1822–1995  
U.S., Newspapers.com™ Marriage Index, 1800s–current  
U.S., School Yearbooks, 1900–2016  
U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936–2007  
U.S., World War II Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947  
United States Federal Census, 1920–1950

Obituary for Lamar H. Layfield Sr. *The Indianapolis Star*, 19 September 1994, p. C9.

Obituary for Lamar H. Layfield Sr. *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, 19 September 1994, p. B4.

Obituary for Barbara L. Loftin. *The Indianapolis News*, 27 October 1990, p. C5.

Obituary for Leonard T. Loftin. *The Indianapolis News*, 13 November 1993, p. B7.

Obituary for John E. Nunes. *The Indianapolis Star*, 20 January 2002, p. B6.

Obituary for Virginia L. Rowling Nunes. *The Indianapolis Star*, 6 November 2003, p. B7.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection consists of photographs, a drawing, and photocopies of newspaper clippings about Virginia Rowling (later Virginia Nunes). The photographs include a 1941 group portrait of Indiana Bell Telephone Co. workers and four photos of Virginia, her co-worker friend Barbara Brake (later Barbara Loftin), and others at various nightclubs in Indianapolis and Anderson, Indiana, in 1945 and 1946. The nightclub photos were removed for preservation reasons from souvenir folders from the nightclubs; these folders are included in the collection separately. The drawing is a portrait of Virginia sketched by a man in the military in 1943. The newspaper clippings show Virginia posing to have her portrait drawn by another military man in 1943, plus an announcement of Barbara Brake's wedding in 1947.

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### CONTENTS

### CONTAINER

Group portrait of Indiana Bell Telephone Co. business office workers, 1941, shows thirty-eight women and fifteen men standing outside the Bell building at New York and Meridian Streets in Indianapolis. Individuals are not identified. (photo by Hirshburg Studio of Indianapolis)

Folder 1 of 4

Photo taken at Johnny Williams' Castle Barn on Pendleton Pike in Indianapolis, shows eight men and women seated around a table with drinks on it. The four men are wearing military uniforms. [At far left is Harold Corbin; second from left is Virginia Rowling; second from right is possibly Barbara Brake; others are unidentified.] (photo by Phillip, September 1945)

Folder 1 of 4

Photo taken at Wharf House Nite Club, shows Lamar Layfield and Virginia Rowling seated at a table. (photo by Howard, April 1946)

Folder 1 of 4

Photo from folder titled "Ayars Lamarr presents *The Southern Mansion*" shows Baskin Emerson and Virginia Rowling seated at a table holding 7Up bottles. (photo by Phillip, May 1946)

Folder 1 of 4

Photo from folder titled "Green Lantern Dance to Name Bands...Anderson, Indiana" shows Bill Mahler, Virginia Rowling, Barbara Brake, and Leonard "Bud" Loftin seated at a small table. (18 May 1946)

Folder 1 of 4

Folders from which the above four nightclub photos were removed: 1) pink folder – Johnny Williams' Castle Barn / 8400 Pendleton Pike Route 67 / Indianapolis, Indiana / Dancing and Floor Shows Nightly in the Beautiful Terrace Room; 2) yellow folder – Wharf House Nite Club; 3) suede-like tan folder – Ayars Lamarr / presents / *The Southern Mansion* / Indianapolis; 4) beige folder – Green Lantern / Dance to Name Bands / on / Indiana's Finest Floor / Lanane and Lanane Enterprise / Anderson, Indiana.

Folder 2 of 4

Pencil drawing of Virginia Rowling's head and shoulders; written at top is "Ginny" and signed below is "Love / Bill [last name unreadable; Turner?], 1943.

Folder 3 of 4

Photocopy of two newspaper clippings using the same photo that shows Virginia Rowling posing to have her portrait drawn by Sergeant Neil Fallon of West Virginia, who was training the ROTC unit at Crispus Attucks High School. It is mentioned that Virginia is a member of the Fourth Regiment Cadettes. The drawing is taking place in the art center in a branch of the Indianapolis Service Men's Centers. One clipping was in *The Indianapolis News* on 3 April 1943; the other clipping appears to have been in a newspaper in Bellefontaine, Ohio.

Folder 4 of 4

Photocopy of newspaper clipping with a photo of Barbara Brake along with an announcement of her approaching marriage to Leonard T. Loftin. The clipping was from *The Indianapolis Star* on 20 April 1947.

Folder 4 of 4