

Mary C. Brennan papers

MC 15

Finding aid prepared by Center staff, updated by Bethany Myers.

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University of Pennsylvania, Barbara Bates Center for the Study of The History of Nursing

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Summary Information

Repository	University of Pennsylvania: Barbara Bates Center for the Study of The History of Nursing
Creator	Brennan, Mary, 1903-1992
Title	Mary C. Brennan papers
Call number	MC 15
Date [inclusive]	1903-1992
Extent	3.7 linear feet
Language	English
Abstract	This collection includes the personal and professional files of Mary Brennan, a Pennsylvania nurse active during the World War II era.

Cite as:

Mary C. Brennan papers, Barbara Bates Center for The Study of The History of Nursing, University of Pennsylvania

Biography/History

Mary C. Brennan was born in 1903 and grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. She attended the

Germantown Dispensary and Hospital Nursing School, graduating in 1923. She worked as a private duty nurse from 1923 to 1936 and again from 1940 to 1941. Between the years 1936 and 1939 she worked as a ship's nurse on 10 cruises which traveled to Europe, South America, and the Caribbean. In 1941 she joined the Army Nurse Corp and was transferred west to Hawaii and then to Guam. While in the army she helped to set up field hospitals, which were then packed up and sent to battle areas. In 1946 her tour of duty with the army ended and she returned to Philadelphia, where she attended the University of Pennsylvania School of Nursing and received a BS in Education in 1947. She then went to work at Cornell University from 1947-1950. She assisted with a World Study Tour for nursing students in 1949 and the following year she received a MA degree from Columbia University. In 1950 she became the director of nursing at Roger Williams General Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island. While there she became active in the Rhode Island State Nurses Association. In 1960 she became the director of nursing at Sewickley Valley Hospital in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. While there she became involved with the Pennsylvania League for Nursing and in 1960 she became president of the organization. During this time she was also involved with the National League for Nursing. In 1967 she retired from Sewickley Valley Hospital but still remained active in the professional organizations. In 1969 she returned to Philadelphia.

Scope and Contents

Mary C Brennan's papers consists of 3.7 linear feet and includes files of personal, professional, and organizational materials as well as photographs. This collection is strong in information during her time with the Pennsylvania League for Nursing, personal correspondence, and photographs especially those from the World War II era.

Administrative Information

University of Pennsylvania, Barbara Bates Center for the Study of The History of Nursing
Finding aid prepared by Center staff, updated by Bethany Myers.

Sponsor

This collection was processed with funds provided by the National Historical Publications and Records Commission as part of the Nursing History Processing and Cataloging Project.

Access Restrictions

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Controlled Access Headings

CORPORATE NAME(S)

- National League for Nursing.
- Pennsylvania League for Nursing.

FORM/GENRE(S)

- Personal papers

OCCUPATION(S)

- Nurse

PERSONAL NAME(S)

- Brennan, Mary, 1903-1992

SUBJECT(S)

- Military nursing
- United States. Army Nurse Corps.
- World War, 1939-1945--Medical care

Collection Inventory

SERIES 1. PERSONAL, 1903-1992.

Scope and Contents note

This series contains correspondence and general files regarding her life outside her profession.

	Box	Folder
Biographical Information, 1903-1992.	1	1
News Clips, 1942-1988.	1	2
Identification, 1937-1976.	1	3
General Correspondence, undated.	1	4
General Correspondence, 1940-1989.	1	5
Correspondence from Honolulu, 1940-1964.	1	6
Letters regarding departure from Roger Williams General Hospital (RWGH), 1959.	1	7
Memorabilia, 1920-1988.	1	8

COURSE WORK.

	Box	Folder
Catholic Girls High School, 1920.	1	9
Nursing Course Syllabus, 1920.	1	10

Requirements for Nursing Degree, 1920-1923.	1	11
Nutrition Examination, 1921.	1	12
Anatomy Course Outline, 1939.	1	13
Fall Course Essay, 1946.	1	14
English 1C Assignments, Spring, 1946.	1	15
Espanol 5C, 1946-1947.	1	16
Hematology Course Outline, Spring, 1946.	1	17
Summer Course Essay, 1946.	1	18
Education in America Paper, Winter, 1947.	1	19
Expectations of a Nurse, 1947.	1	20
Education Course 291S Paper, Winter, 1950.	1	21
Paper for MA Requirement, 1950.	1	22
	Box	Folder
University of Pennsylvania Graduation Program, 1947.	1	23
Professional Certificates, 1947-1983.	1	24
Citations, 1952-1984.	1	25
Evaluation of the Institution Program, Duquesne University, 1950.	1	26
Trip to Mexico with Associated University of Pennsylvania Clubs, November 1954.	1	28
Hollis L Caswell, Inauguration as President of Columbia University	2	29

Teacher's College, 1955.		
Penn Alumni Club, 1956-1959.	1	27
Articles by Brennan, 1954-1958.	2	30
Graduation Speeches, 1967-1969.	2	31
Notes on Use of Word and Nursing Secretary, April 1961.	2	32
Pennsylvania College Energy Debates, 1981-1987.	2	33
Mediterranean/ Black Sea Cruise Vacation, October-November 1959.	2	34
Cunard World Cruise Vacation, February-April 1960.	2	35
Post Cards of Various Tourist Sites.	2	36

SERIES 2. PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE, 1923-1967.

Scope and Contents note

This series contains general files with information on her career from her first job in 1923 to her retirement in 1967.

	Box	Folder
Germantown Dispensary, 1923.	2	1
Ship's Nurse on Grace Cruise Line, 1935.	2	2

ARMY.

	Box	Folder
Ship's Nurse on Holland-American Cruise Line, 1936-1939.	2	3
Army Correspondence, 1941-1947.	2	4
Misc. Army Documents, 1941-1945.	3	5
Transportation Documents, 1943-1945.	3	6
Administrative Nurse Handbook, 1944.	3	7
Army Awards & Certificates, 1940-1945.	3	8
Uncle Sam Productions, 1944-1945.	3	9

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY.

	Box	Folder
Columbia University, 1947-1950.	3	10
Columbia World Studies Tour, 1947.	3	11
	Box	Folder
Roger Williams Hospital, 1953-1960.	3	12
Sewickley Valley Hospital, 1960-1967.	3	13
Retirement from Sewickley, 1967.	3	14

SERIES 3. PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, 1948-1986.

Scope and Contents note

This series contains information on her involvement with the Rhode Island State Nurses Association, the Pennsylvania League for Nursing, and the National League for Nursing.

	Box	Folder
Nursing Statistics from Various Sources, 1948-1967.	3	1
International Council on Nursing, 1949.	3	2

GENERAL HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS.

	Box	Folder
General Health Care Organizations, 1949-1969.	4	3
General Health Care Pamphlets & Brochures, 1968-1986.	4	4
	Box	Folder
Rhode Island State Nurses Association (RISNA), 1955.	4	5
Western PA Association of Women Deans, Counselors & Personnel, April 1964.	4	6
American Nurses Association.	4	7
Pennsylvania Nurses' Association.	4	8
Helen Fairchild American Legion Post 412, 1966-1983.	4	9

GOVERNOR'S HEALTH CARE CONFERENCES.

	Box	Folder
Governor's Health Care Conferences - National.	4	10

Governor's Health Care Conferences - Regional.

4

11

NATIONAL LEAGUE FOR NURSING (NLN).

Box

Folder

NLN - General, 1963-1969.

4

12

Descriptions of NLN, 1970.

4

13

NLN Correspondence, 1964-1969.

4

14

NLN Structure, Positions & By-Laws, 1965-1969.

4

15

NLN Structure Revisions, 1966-1970.

4

16

NLN Policy Statements, 1968-1986.

4

17

NLN Publications, 1954-1983.

5

18

NLN Nursing Education, 1963-1983.

5

19

NLN Committee on Resolutions, 1963-1970.

5

20

NLN Committee of the Assembly of Constituent Leagues, 1968-1972.

5

21

NLN Council on Community Planning for Nurses, 1968-1969.

5

22

NLN Division of Community Services, 1968-1969.

5

23

NLN Mid-Atlantic Regional Assembly, 1968-1970.

5

24

NLN News, 1974-1979.

5

25

NLN Biennial Conventions, 1983-1985.

5

26

NLN Booklet: Essentials of Good Nursing, 1942.	5	27
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PENNSYLVANIA LEAGUE FOR NURSING (PLN).

	Box	Folder
Descriptions of PLN.	5	28
PLN - General.	5	29
PLN Structure, Positions & By-Laws, 1967-1983.	5	30
PLN - Policy Statements.	5	31
PLN - News, 1969-1986.	6	32

CORRESPONDENCE.

	Box	Folder
Correspondence - General, 1963-1985.	6	33
Correspondence - Legislation, 1968.	6	34
PLN Board of Directors, 1974-1980.	6	35
PLN Certificates, 1977-1982.	6	36

COMMITTEES-GENERAL, 1966-1974.

	Box	Folder
	6	37
	Box	Folder
PLN Committee on Nominations, 1968.	6	38
PLN Committee on Membership, 1968-1973.	6	39

PLN Committee on Finance, 1968-1974.	6	40
PLN Committee on Continuing Education, 1967-1968.	6	41
PLN Biennial Reports, 1964-1970.	6	42
PLN Annual Meeting Agendas, 1970-1986.	6	43
PLN Annual Reports, 1976-1986.	6	44

SERIES 4. PHOTOGRAPHS, 1920-1992.

Scope and Contents note

This series contains photographs, which either include her or were collected by her. There are several photographs from the World War II era and some negatives from her retirement party.

FOLDER 1 - PHOTOGRAPHS OF MARY BRENNAN (MB).

	Box	Photo
MB with Girl's High Seniors of the Basketball Team, 1920.	7	1
MB holding a baby, 1924.	7	2
MB wearing sombrero, 1917.	7	3

AS NURSE ABOARD THE S.S. ROTTERDAM.

	Box	Photo
MB among the staff of the S.S. Rotterdam, 1937.	7	4

Misty DeJong and MB going ashore, 1937.	7	5
MB and Misty DeJong with passengers aboard the S.S. Rotterdam, 1937.	7	6
MB and Misty DeJong, 1937.	7	7
MB off duty, 1937.	7	8
MB looking at the S.S. Rotterdam, 1937.	7	9

WORLD WAR II PHOTOGRAPHS.

	Box	Photo
MB with other nurses outside quarters for Mitchell Field, 1942.	7	10-11
MB with other nurses outside Con's on day of leaving, 1942.	7	12
Edith carving Mitchell Field on tree in Berkeley, 1942.	7	13
Old St Mary's Church in Chinatown, San Francisco, 1942.	7	14
Golden Gate Park, San Francisco, 1942.	7	15
MB with Group resting on hill in Berkeley, 1942.	7	16
19 MB with group on bicycling trip in San Francisco, 1942.	7	17
Powell St Cable Car after being turned, 1942.	7	20
MB with other army nurses, 1942.	7	21
MB and others in group salute, 1942.	7	22
MB at Air Evacuation Hanger, 1942.	7	23

Jo, Edith, Margaret, and Ruth, 1942.	7	24
MB with Edith, Ruth, Margaret, and Mary, 1942.	7	25-29
MB and other nurses with Mr MC Leon, 1942.	7	30-31
MB and others at Mission Delores, 1942.	7	32-36
MB and other nurses in Hawaii, 1942.	7	37-40
MB with people from 147th General Hospital, 1942.	7	41-42
MB in Oohu, Hawaii, 1942.	7	43-44
MB with army nurses and officers, Hawaii, 1942.	7	45
MB and other nurses off duty in Hawaii, 1942.	7	46-47
MB relaxing under a palm tree, Hawaii, 1942.	7	48
MB with other nurses off duty, Hawaii, 1942.	7	49
MB relaxing while off duty, 1942.	7	50-55
MB by the pool side. Hawaii, 1942.	7	56
MB at a field hospital in Hawaii, 1942.	7	57
MB off duty with other nurses, Hawaii, 1942.	7	58
MB with a dog, Hawaii, 1942.	7	59
MB in a foxhole during field training, Hawaii, 1942.	7	60
MB in full hiking gear during field training, Hawaii, 1942.	7	61
MB and unidentified man, Hawaii, 1942.	7	62

MB and two army officers, Hawaii, 1942.	7	63
MB with two other nurses, Hawaii, 1942.	7	64
MB at officer's club, Hawaii, 1942.	7	65
MB and other nurses at 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1942.	7	66
MB outside a tent at 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1942.	7	67
MB at 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1942.	7	68
MB with others eating in the shade at 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1942.	7	69
Personnel of 36th Field Hospital, hawaii, 1943.	7	70
MB in dress uniform speaking with another officer at 36th Field.	7	71-72

HOSPITAL, HAWAII, 1943.

	Box	Photo
MB at 36th Field Hospital, Hawaii, 1943.	7	73
Personalized Greeting Card, Hawaii, 1943.	7	74
MB at Elizabeth Arden, Hawaii, 1943.	7	75-76
MB in uniform, Hawaii, 1943.	7	77
MB with two dieticians from 147th General Hospital, Hawaii, 1943.	7	78-79
MB with other nurses in front of 147th General Hospital sign, Hawaii, 1943.	7	80

MB with some of the medical personnel from 147th General Hospital, Quarters, Hawaii, 1943.	7	81
MB leading an exercise group, Hawaii, 1943.	7	82
MB with another nurse from the 147th General Hospital, Hawaii, 1943.	7	83
MB feeding the dogs, Hawaii, 1944.	7	84
MB with other nurses relaxing outside their 147th General Hospital Quarters, Hawaii, 1944.	7	85
MB with dogs Oohu, Hawaii, 1944.	7	86
MB visiting the residents of 147th General Hospital, Hawaii, 1944.	7	87
MB and other nurses relaxing after returning from field training, Hawaii, 1944.	7	88
Margaret, MB, Mary, and Kay, Hawaii, 1944.	7	89
92 MB at 147th General Hospital Officer's Club, Hawaii, 1944.	7	90
94 MB and other nurses at a quiz show, 1944.	7	93
MB at her desk, Guam, 1944.	7	95
MB with other officers at the opening of the Officer's Club, Guam, 1945.	7	100
MB with other officers relaxing outside, Guam, 1944.	7	96-99
MB with an officer, Guam, 1945.	7	101
MB at Guam Officer's Club, 1945.	7	102-104

MB at a party with other officers, Guam, 1945.	7	105
MB at New Years Eve party, Guam, 1945/1946.	7	106
MB with other nurses in San Francisco on her way home, 1946.	7	107
	Box	Photo
MB outside her Philadelphia home, 1946.	7	108
MB and Pauline, a friend at Penn, 1947.	7	109
MB at Stratford on Avon, 1949.	7	110
MP about to board the plane for her World Studies Tour, 1947.	7	111
MB at RWGH annual function, 1954.	7	112

FOLDER 2.

	Box	Photo
MB at RISNA dinner, 1955.	7	113-117
MB during RISNA 50th Anniversary, Oct. 4, 1955.	7	118
MB, 1955.	7	119
MB watching graduating nursing students from RWGH, 1956.	7	120
MB and faculty of RWGH School of Nursing, " Striping Night", 1956.	7	121

MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE.

	Box	Photo
MB in Barcelona, Spain, 1959.	7	122

MB in South Africa, 1959.	7	123
127 MB at the Acropolis, Greece, 1959.	7	124
MB with other passengers, 1959.	7	128
MB in park outside Odessa next to statue of Lenin and Stalin, 1959.	7	129
MB on a camel in Egypt, 1959.	7	130

WORLD CRUISE.

	Box	Photo
MB and Ethyl Jacobs in North Africa, 1959.	7	131
MB in front of the Taj Mahal, India, 1960.	7	132
MB and Mrs Jacobs on World Cruise, 1960.	7	133
MB and Ethyl Jacobs on World Cruise, 1960.	7	134
MB going through a receiving line on World Cruise, 1960.	7	135
MB with other passengers on World Cruise, 1960.	7	136
MB in Oriental costume, 1960.	7	137
MB and Mrs Jacobs in oriental costumes, 1960.	7	138
MB and Mrs Jacobs with Chinese family at dinner as their guests, 1960.	7	139
MB feeding deer in Japan, 1960.	7	140
	Box	Photo

MB, 1960.	7	141
MB in nurse's uniform, 1960.	7	142
MB at unknown function, 1960.	7	143
MB at her desk in Sewickley Valley Hospital, 1962.	7	144
MB with May Wilcott a Sewickley board member, 1965.	7	145
Dr Clarence Miller and MB at Sewickley Valley Hospital, 1966.	7	146
MB in nurse's uniform wearing Germantown Hospital School of Nursing pin and American Red Cross pin, 1968.	7	147
MB, 1968.	7	148
MB, 1968.	7	149
Seated L-R, Lizanne Graff, MB, and Dorothy Noevello at PLN convention, 1969.	7	150
MB, ?, and Elizabeth Zulli, 1969.	7	151
MB at PLN meeting in the Hotel Hershey, 1969.	7	152
Hospital Assembly at Penn State Work Shop, 1969.	7	153
MB at unknown dinner, 1970.	7	154
L-R starting with the back row, Nellie, Bill and Gerta Miller, Bernice Woodring, Jack Meyer, Malcel Yates, James McFranklin, MB and Eilien Meyer, May 2, 1970.	7	155
Mr Lausdale, Mr Buel, ?, MB, ?, Mary Jane Lausdale, 1971.	7	156
Nellie and MB, April 1971.	7	157

MB, March 17, 1992.	7	158
MB at Christmas party, undated.	7	159
MN at Helen Fairchild Nurse's American Legion Post 412, undated.	7	160-162

PHOTOGRAPHS COLLECTED BY MB.

	Box	Folder
SS Rotterdam, 1937.	8	3
36th Field Hospital, 1942-1943.	8	4
147th General Hospital, 1943-1944.	8	5
Guam, 1944-1945.	8	6
Misc. photographs, 1935-1955.	8	7

NEGATIVES.

	Box	Folder
Negative of photograph 122.	8	8
MB at her retirement party, 1967.	8	9
The retirement party, 1968.	8	10

SERIES 5. DIPLOMAS, 1947-1970.

Scope and Contents note

This series contains some of the diplomas she received from her education.

	Box	Photo
University of Pennsylvania, BS in Education, 1947.	8	1
Columbia University, MA, 1950.	8	2
American Hospital Association Continuing Education, 1952.	8	3
Golden Jubilee Diploma from Girls High, 1970.	8	4

SERIES 6. SCRAPBOOKS, 1955-1967.**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains two scrapbooks put together by other people and given to her.

	Box	Photo
Put together by RISNA members for MB, 1955.	9	1
Put together by Miss Johnson for MB's Retirement party, 1967.	9	2

SERIES 7. AWARDS, 1981-1983.**Scope and Contents note**

This series contains two plaques she received from the College Debates on Energy.

	Box	Photo
College Debates on Energy plaque, 1981-1982.	9	1
College Debates on Energy plaque, 1982-1983.	9	2
