

Guide to
MS 530
Margaret Berlin Beard Abraham papers

Span Dates, 1919-1953
Bulk Dates, 1938-1943

2 feet, 1 inch (linear)

Processed by Laura Hollingsed, 2006

Updated by Carrie-Ann Chavez, June 29, 2015

Donated by Burl Abraham, 2006 and 2015.

Citation: Margaret Berlin Beard Abraham papers, 1919-1953, MS 530, C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department
University of Texas at El Paso

Biographical Sketch

Margaret Berlin Beard Abraham was born on October 14, 1919 at Ranger, Texas to Amos Franklin and Ida Mary Stephens Beard. She attended public schools in Texas, graduating from Breckinridge High School in 1937. Margaret Abraham's interest in becoming a registered nurse occurred after her older sister died after childbirth in 1932. Margaret then graduated from Hotel Dieu School of Nursing in El Paso, Texas in 1941. She was employed for some time as a nurse in Sherman, Texas at St. Vincent's Hospital. She married Elwyn Maple Abraham on January 4, 1942 at her parents' home in Ranger, Texas. While her husband was overseas in World War II, she continued her practice in Sherman. Margaret Abraham had ten children. She died on June 29, 2002 in Rose Hill, Kansas.

Source: Burl Abraham, 2006

Series Description or Arrangement

The Margaret Berlin Beard Abraham papers are arranged in four series:

Series I. Biographical, 1919-1941

Arranged chronologically.

Series II. Hotel Dieu School of Nursing and Hospital, 1930-1941

Arranged chronologically.

Series III. Photographs, 1938-1950

Arranged chronologically.

Series IV. Scrapbooks, 1938-1948

Arranged chronologically.

Scope and Content Notes

The Margaret Berlin Beard Abraham papers date 1919 – 1953. Types of materials include correspondence, nursing school diplomas and certificates, photographs, scrapbooks, and ephemera. These papers help document nursing

activities at the Hotel Dieu School of Nursing and the Hotel Dieu Hospital in El Paso, Texas from 1938-1943. The earliest item is a Hotel Dieu School of Nursing informational pamphlet from 1930. Correspondence includes letters from Hotel Dieu School of Nursing students and teachers and Hotel Dieu Hospital staff members as well as colleagues from other hospitals. The papers also contain photographs of nurses and physicians at the School of Nursing and Hospital and scenes of Hotel Dieu buildings and operating rooms. Various ephemera from Mrs. Abraham's nursing career are included in the collection.

Provenance Statement

The Margaret Berlin Beard Abraham papers were donated by her son, Burl Abraham, in 2006. Additional materials were added in 2015.

Restrictions

See **Notes to the Researcher**.

Literary Rights Statement

Permission to publish material from the Margaret Berlin Beard Abraham papers, must be obtained from the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library. Citation should read, Margaret Berlin Beard Abraham papers, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Notes to the Researcher

The Margaret Berlin Beard Abraham papers, especially the photographs, are very fragile and should be handled with care. Turn pages with photos carefully.

Researchers should also view:

Barbara Dent collection of medical history research, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

El Paso Graduate Nurses' Association, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Hotel Dieu Hospital collection, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Hotel Dieu School of Nursing records, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Sister Alyosius Williams collection, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, the University of Texas at El Paso Library.

Container List

Series I. Biographical, 1919-1941

Box #	Folder #	Title	Date
1	1	Biographical information—biography and grade reports from nursing school	1919-1940
1	2	Correspondence	1938-1947
1	3	Nursing diploma from Hotel Dieu School of Nursing, Registered Nurse certificate, and Texas re-registration certificates	1941-1953
1	4	Nursing diploma cover, Hotel Dieu Sisters' Hospital, El Paso, Texas	1941
1	5	Graduation invitations, name cards, and gift cards	1939, 1941
1	6	Hotel Dieu School of Nursing class of 1941, clippings	1941

Series II. Hotel Dieu School of Nursing and Hospital, 1930-1941

1	7	Hotel Dieu School of Nursing, El Paso, Texas, information pamphlet	1930
1	8	Hotel Dieu School of Nursing Golden Jubilee invitation	1948
1	9	Hotel Dieu Alumnae Association Newsletter and Invitation	1946, 1952
1	10	Texas Graduate Nurses' Association, District No. 1, correspondence and Constitution and By-Laws pamphlet	1941-1945
1	11	Various material—Includes "Class Song"; "Poem to the Seniors"; list of operations performed at Hotel Dieu Hospital; article on "Breast Feeding"; and religious medal	1938-1941 and undated

Series III. Photographs, 1938-1950, undated

1	12	Photographs—Margaret Berlin Beard Abraham (11)	1938-1941, undated
1	13	Photographs—Hotel Dieu School of Nursing buildings (10)	1938-1950s, undated
1	14	Photographs—Hotel Dieu Hospital operating rooms (8)	1940-1941
1	15	Photographs—Hotel Dieu School of Nursing Class of 1939, 1940, and 1941	1939-1941

		(3)	
1	16	Photographs—Hotel Dieu Hospital physicians (30)	1938-1941, undated
1	17	Photographs—Hotel Dieu Hospital physicians and nurses (24)	1941
1	18	Photographs—Allie Ball (4 photos. 1 negative)	1938-1941, undated
1	19	Photographs—Various nurses (6ph, 1neg.)	1943
1	20	Photographs—Various nurses (36)	1938-1941
1	21	Photographs—Various nurses (42 photos, 5 neg.)	1938-1941
1	22	Photographs – Various nurses and Hotel Dieu (3)	1938, 1941, undated
1	23	Photographs – Juanita Peacock Eyer (6)	c. 1940-1945
1	24	Greeting cards	1938-1945, undated
Series IV. Scrapbooks, 1938-1948			
2	1	Scrapbook cover with Hotel Dieu seal and poem, “The Nurse” [oversize]	1938
2	1	Original newspaper clipping about Hotel Dieu School of Nursing Class of 1941 (Series II.) [oversize]	1941
2	2	Pages of photographs from a scrapbook-Juanita Peacock Eyer [oversize]	c. 1938-1941
2	3	Two photo albums (incomplete, some photographs removed by Abraham family) [oversize]	c. 1938-1948