

Collection #
SC 3343

**BEULAH B. GRAY
PAPERS ADDITION, JUNE 1955**

[Collection Information](#)

[Biographical Sketch](#)

[Scope and Content Note](#)

[Contents](#)

Processed by

Alysha Zemanek
September 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: 1 manuscript folder

COLLECTION
DATES: June 1955

PROVENANCE: Charles D. Gray, Petersburg, IN; November 1999

RESTRICTIONS: None

COPYRIGHT:

REPRODUCTION
RIGHTS: Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection
must be obtained from the Indiana Historical Society.

ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS: Beulah B. Gray Papers M 391

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2000.0093

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Beulah B. (Brazleton) Gray (1882–1964) was a local historian, newspaper editor/owner, and genealogist in Pike County, Indiana.

Mrs. Gray was born in Petersburg, Indiana, the daughter of Rosalvo and Laura (Capehart) Brazleton. She graduated from Petersburg High School in 1900 and taught school in Cato, Indiana, from 1901–1902. In 1903 she married Edward Montgomery Gray (circa 1880–1932), and they had four children.

Early in life Mrs. Gray began writing letters prolifically and developing her great interest in history and genealogy which she maintained throughout her life. In 1920 she joined the staff of the *Otwell Star* as a reporter. She served as editor of the paper from 1929–1945, and purchased the paper about 1930. She also wrote a column about the history and the residents of Pike County. During this same period, she began a regular and continuing correspondence with Senator Homer E. Capehart.

With the outbreak of the Second World War, she saw a need to stay in touch with those going off to war. She began by writing and requesting their unit insignia. Some of these men and women became regular correspondents, writing from all theaters of the war, including enemy prison camps. She never failed to reply to the soldiers' letters, and always with encouragement and affection. During the war she opened a correspondence with an English woman named Elsie Whitehurst Lighthorn, whose parents owned an inn in Norwich, Cheshire, England. Over a period of years, a deep friendship developed between the two women that lasted well beyond the end of the war.

In addition to her newspaper work, Mrs. Gray wrote many historical articles and pamphlets, and was a frequent speaker on historical topics. She also wrote many church pageants and short plays for special celebrations. Her greatest accomplishment was *The Saga of Three Churches: A History of Presbyterianism in Petersburg, 1821–1953*.

In 1945 Mrs. Gray sold the *Star* to Donald M. Montgomery of the Petersburg *Press*, and in November of the following year, the *Star* was absorbed by the *Press*. After her retirement from the newspaper business, Mrs. Gray became the housemother for the student nurses' residence at Welborn Baptist Hospital in Evansville. She remained there until ill health forced her retirement in 1950. She then returned to Petersburg where she lived with her daughter until her death in 1964.

Sources:

Alberty, Betty. Collection guide. M 0391 Beulah B. Gray Papers, 1813–1962. Indiana Historical Society. (Guide completed March 2004)

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection addition contains two letters and envelopes from U.S. Senator from Indiana Homer E. Capehart to Beulah B. Gray in June 1955. The letters discuss Capehart's visit to Gray that month and Gray meeting Secretary of State John Fester Dulles.

CONTENTS

CONTENTS

Beulah B. Gray papers addition, June 1955

CONTAINER

Folder 1