

Collection #
BV 4981

MARGARET DAVIDSON SCRAPBOOK 1914–1917

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Processed by

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF
COLLECTION: 1 bound volume

COLLECTION
DATES: 1914–1917

PROVENANCE: Cynthia Frank, Ridgefield, Connecticut

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE
FORMATS:

RELATED
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION
NUMBER: 2008.0092

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Margaret Layne Davidson (1901–33) was born in Indiana to Mary Galvin Davidson and R. Frank Davidson, an attorney. She was the eldest of three daughters. The family lived a comfortable life at 5428 Lowell Ave in the Irvington area of Indianapolis. Davidson attended the Irvington School, graduating in 1914, and then Shortridge High School, from which she graduated in 1918.

In school she was a good student and excelled as an athlete. She was captain of a local field hockey team and participated in basketball as well. She appears to have had many friends and frequently attended parties, dances, and club meetings. One of her favorite activities was attending local theatrical productions, though she does not seem to have done any acting herself. She did, however, play the ukulele.

After graduation from Shortridge, Davidson attended Butler University, where she was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma. At the age of twenty, she traveled extensively through Europe along with her mother and two younger sisters (it is unclear whether or not her father went along). In 1923 she married Alfred Henry Case (1899–1963), who had served in the Navy during the First World War. They had one son, Robert F. Case (1924–1990).

Margaret Davidson Case died in 1933 in Troy, Pennsylvania, cause unknown.

Louise Perrett and Sarah K. Smith's *The Girl Graduate: Her Own Book* was a popular scrapbook volume published by Reilly and Lee, and went through more than fourteen editions between 1906 and 1917.

Sources:

Butler University Yearbook, 1921

Collection Materials

Glenwood Cemetery Records, Troy, Pennsylvania

Susan Tucker, Katherine Ott, and Patricia Buckler. *The Scrapbook in American Life*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2006.

United States Census Records

United States Navy Enlistment Records

United States Passport Applications

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Margaret Davidson created this scrapbook between 1914 and 1917, beginning in eighth grade and ending after her third year of high school—it appears that the volume was full by then. The book provides headings for class photographs, autographs, invitations, programs, news clippings (“Press Notices”), et cetera. However, in a few cases Davidson has extended the sections or created new ones (such as “Dance Programmes” and “My Clubs”). The result is more focused on Davidson’s friends and social life than on school facts and events.

The book begins with several pages of inspirational poems and quotes, written out by Davidson and including authors such as Byron and Longfellow. This was a common practice in autograph books and scrapbooks at the time; most of the signees in the autograph and photograph sections leave similar quotes by well-known writers, rather than original messages. Most of the rest of the book is dedicated to short descriptions of social events and the documents related to them. There are many examples of invitations, dance cards, and theater programs produced during the 1910s, and the event descriptions provide a picture of what the social life of a popular high school girl would have been like during the decade. In addition to these materials, there are also news clippings related to Shortridge High School students, a 1914 *Shortridge Daily Echo*, information on the sports and clubs Davidson participated in, several pressed flowers, and photographs from trips to Martinsville and Lake Jewel.

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Margaret Davidson Scrapbook

CONTAINER

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CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
<http://opac.indianahistory.org/>
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, BV 4981).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.