

MARY E. DELBRIDGE COLLECTION

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Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	One box
COLLECTION DATES:	1904-2002
PROVENANCE:	Gift from Judy Beall, May 6, 2004
RESTRICTIONS:	None
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	See also Photograph Collection People Delbridge See also Scrapbooks: SB257: St. Joseph's Hospital School of Nursing SB259: Trinity High School

Biographical Sketch

Mary E. Delbridge was born in Clinton, Illinois on March 27, 1919. She was the only daughter of Henry William, a Decatur native, and Mary A. (Carroll) Delbridge originally of Vandalia, Illinois. Mary E. Delbridge moved to Bloomington with her family as a child and attended Lincoln Elementary School where she received her grade school certificate in June 1933. Miss Delbridge graduated from Trinity High School in 1937. While in high school, she was actively involved in the choir and glee club, the yearbook committee, Sodality club, and the orchestra. She played in several solo and ensemble recitals and with the school orchestra for musical programs, commencement ceremonies and plays. Upon graduation she received both her diploma and an academic certificate in Violin. Delbridge then enrolled in a stenography program at Brown's Business College, also in Bloomington, receiving her diploma in May 1938.

Mary then began studying at the St. Joseph School of Nursing. The school itself opened in 1921 and provided student nurses for St. Joseph Hospital until 1962. For Miss Delbridge and her classmates, nursing school brought strict behavioral regulations. Students were expected to attend lecture style classes and practical nursing sessions with staff nurses and doctors. In addition, they generally worked a minimum of eight hours per day cleaning and attending hospital patients. In 1940, Miss Delbridge earned her nursing cap, which was ceremoniously given to nursing students who had proceeded satisfactorily through the first stage of nursing school. On September 7, 1942 she completed her three year program in Practical and Theoretical Nursing and received her diploma.

Upon completing the nursing program, Mary Delbridge joined the U.S. Army Nurse Corps. and served in the 117th Division semi-mobile evacuation hospital during World War II. While in the service, Miss Delbridge trained and served at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin and other stateside military hospitals before transferring to Marseilles, France in November of 1944. She temporarily served in the 93rd Evacuation Hospital, then returned to the 117th working in Germany, France, and Austria. During her service, Miss Delbridge was temporarily appointed First Lieutenant. She was transferred home in October 1945, and was honored for her service by Illinois Governor Dwight Green and Commanding General Jacob Devers. Miss Delbridge described her time working in war hospitals for 12 or more hours per day with frequent supply and space shortages as a duty she felt she should undertake.

Immediately following her time in the Army, Miss Delbridge lived in California, but returned to Bloomington after several months. She worked for Dr. Orville Abbott then at St. Joseph Medical Center before beginning a twenty-seven year career at the McLean County Health Department. Miss Delbridge experienced the change in nursing practices that occurred after WWII as nurses took on technical and specialized responsibilities and spent less time on custodial tasks. Miss Delbridge served the community as a nurse for the McLean County Health Department until her retirement in 1981.

Miss Delbridge was a member of the St. Joseph School of Nursing Alumni Association. In 1982, she worked with fellow classmate Gertrude Shadid to plan a forty-year class reunion. She corresponded with many classmates gathering and compiling family, career, and life stories for the reunion. Mary Delbridge was also a long-time member of Holy Trinity Church in Bloomington where she was part of the Alter and Rosary society. Having lived in her Bloomington residence on 1611 S. Center Street since 1923, and served in the community for 27

years, Miss Delbridge was a friend to many in the community. Mary Delbridge died on May 17, 2002 at the age of 83. Her funeral service was held at Holy Trinity Church, and she was laid to rest in Memorial Park Cemetery in Clinton, IL.

Scope Note

The Mary E. Delbridge Collection is organized into ten folders by date and subject with two scrapbooks, photographs, and yearbook filed separately. Scrapbooks are located in the Archive Annex. Loose photographs plus three books of photos are located in photographic collection (see Delbridge, Trinity High School, and St. Joseph School of Nursing). The Trinity High School yearbook from 1937 is located in the stacks.

The Mary E. Delbridge Collection contains scrapbooks and photo books from childhood, Trinity High School, St. Joseph Nursing School, and World War II; letters, genealogical materials on the Delbridge and Carroll families, World War II military documents, and a number of photographs of Mary, fellow nurses, her family, and friends. The materials date from the late 1800's to 2002. Judy Beall, Mary's caregiver, donated the collection to the museum in May 2004.

Folders

Folder 1: Mary E. Delbridge *Pantagraph* Articles

- 1.1 "Public Career Ending," July 5, 1981, *The Pantagraph*, D 3
- 1.2 "War Changed Bloomington Woman's Life," November 9, 1996, *The Pantagraph*
- 1.3 Mary E. Delbridge obituary, May 21, 2002, *The Pantagraph*, A 5

Folder 2: Articles and Artifacts of Henry William and Mary A. Delbridge

- 2.1 "Mrs. Mary Delbridge to Mark 100th Year," April 6, 1975, *The Pantagraph*
- 2.2 "101-year-old woman dies," May 14, 1976, *The Pantagraph*
- 2.3 Mrs. Mary Delbridge obituary, May 15, 1976, *The Pantagraph*, B 11
- 2.4 Funeral card for Mary. A Delbridge, 1976
- 2.5 Attorney receipt of payment, May 6, 1911
- 2.6 John Warner Hospital payment statement, April 7, 1919
- 2.7 Alter and Rosary Society membership card, 1971
- 2.8 Henry W. Delbridge Certificate of Birth, July 18, 1939
- 2.9 Correspondence from H.A. Harris to H.W. Delbridge, December 4, 1943
- 2.10 Henry W. Delbridge Service record at Alton shops October 1922 to January 1942, Bloomington, IL, December 4, 1943
- 2.11 Henry W. Delbridge obituary, February 14, 1949, *The Pantagraph*, pp. 2
- 2.12 Certificate of Share Ownership Clinton Cooperative Association, January 20, 1941
- 2.13 Annual Statement of the Central Illinois Building, Loan, and Homestead Association of Clinton, IL, August 21, 1926
- 2.14 Notebook, 1916
- 2.15 Notebook, 1929
- 2.16 Receipt from Henry W. Delbridge's certified death certificate

Folder 3: Delbridge and Carroll Family Ancestral Records and Artifacts

- 3.1 Delbridge Genealogical Records
- 3.2 Carroll Genealogical Records
- 3.3 Sarah E. Carroll obituary, February 12, 1931
- 3.4 Joseph J. Carroll obituary "Death Claims Widely Known Railroad Man," date, source unknown
- 3.5 J.J. Carroll obituary "Widely Known Railroad Man Dies Suddenly," date, source unknown
- 3.6 "Apoplexy Fatal to Former Fayette Resident" J.J. Carroll article, date, source unknown
- 3.7 Sarah Delbridge obituary, date, source unknown
- 3.8 Professor Patrick H. Carroll obituary, date, source unknown
- 3.9 Thomas Carroll obituary, date, source unknown
- 3.10 Ernest. F. Delbridge obituary, date, source unknown
- 3.11 Untitled obituary, aunt of Mary. E. Delbridge
- 3.12 George H. Delbridge remembrance card, March 14, 1958
- 3.13 Receipt, Vandalia, IL, August 31, 1983
- 3.14 Receipt, Vandalia, IL, November 1, 1984

Folder 4: Carroll Family Correspondence

- 4.1 Letter from Priest to Joseph J. Carroll regarding brother Mike Carroll, April 4, 1904
- 4.2 Letter from Sadie to sister Mary A. Delbridge, January 18, 1916
- 4.3 Letter from Sadie to sister Mary A. Delbridge, February 4, 1916
- 4.4 Letter from Sarah Donnelly Carroll to daughter Mary A. Delbridge, December 21, 1926
- 4.5 Letter from Sarah Donnelly Carroll to Mary A. Delbridge, December 18, 1929
- 4.6 Letter from Mary E. Delbridge to grandmother Sarah D. Carroll, January 21, 1930
- 4.7 Undated Christmas card from Sarah. D. Carroll to Mary E. Delbridge

Folder 5: Mary E. Delbridge Programs and Awards from Trinity High School

- 5.1 Holy Trinity Music Class Recital program, May 28, 1933
- 5.2 "Echoes From Erin" program, March 19, 1934
- 5.3 Trinity High School Recital program, May 13, 1934
- 5.4 "The Mummy" play program, May 24, 1934
- 5.5 Commencement program, June 5, 1934
- 5.6 Trinity School of Music Academic Certificate Recital program, April 27, 1937
- 5.7 Trinity High School Commencement invitation, 1937
- 5.8 Commencement program, June 8, 1937
- 5.9 Mary E. Delbridge Academic Certificate in Violin, June 8, 1937
- 5.10 Letter to Mr. and Mrs. Henry Delbridge, June 10, 1937

Folder 6: St. Joseph School of Nursing Materials

- 6.1 Commencement Convocation program, 1936
- 6.2 Commencement Convocation program, June 1, 1937
- 6.3 Capping Exercises program, January 26, 1940
- 6.4 Graduation Invitation, 1942
- 6.5 "27 Nurses to Receive Diplomas in St. Joseph's Exercises," May 14, 1942, *The Pantagraph*, pp. 13
- 6.6 Graduation program, May 14, 1942
- 6.7 Diploma, September 7, 1942
- 6.8 Congratulatory telegraph from Mr. and Mrs. John Hanson, 1942

Folder 7: World War II Army Nurse Corps. Documents Part I

- 7.1 Physical Examination report, November 16, 1943
- 7.2 Mary E. Delbridge Certificate of Appointment, Second lieutenant and Army service record, December 13, 1943
- 7.3 Army Service Forces Special Order 211 assigning Mary E. Delbridge to 117th Evacuation Hospital, September 8, 1944
- 7.4 Army Service Forces Special Order 223 amendment to prior order, September 22, 1944
- 7.5 Movement Orders for evacuation hospital nurses, November 10, 1944
- 7.6 U.S. Army Orders requesting nurses temporarily in Paris, France, February 9, 1945
- 7.7 X-Ray Report from 117th Evacuation Hospital, May 14, 1945
- 7.8 Letter from Colonel M.P. Rudolph to the Commanding Officer of the 117 Evacuation Hospital upon departure of their unit, June 13, 1945
- 7.9 Mary E. Delbridge promotion notice and service record, September 8, 1945

- 7.10 U.S. Army Special Orders granting leave of absence for recreational visit, October 8, 1945
- 7.11 U.S. Army Special Orders transferring M. Delbridge to 166th General Hospital in Le Havre, France, October 24, 1945
- 7.12 War Department Pay and Allowance Account statement, October 31, 1945
- 7.13 U. S Army Orders transferring several overseas officers to Fort Sheridan, IL, November 1, 1945
- 7.14 M. E. Delbridge request for separation from service, November 14, 1945
- 7.15 U.S. Army Special Order 274 Acknowledging arrival of officers Ft. Des Moines, IA, November 16, 1945
- 7.16 U.S. Army Special Order granting named officers leave of absence, November 18, 1945
November 1945 – Officers Pay, Allowance and Mileage Voucher
- 7.17 M. E. Delbridge's First Lieutenant appointment certificate, December 13, 1945
- 7.18 Letter from Adjutant General to M. Delbridge upon appointment, December 13, 1945
- 7.19 Undated instructions for officers and map of Fort Sheridan
- 7.20 Separation Qualification Record, December 29, 1945

Folder 8: World War II Army Nurse Corps Documents Part II

- 8.1 Application and National Service Life Insurance Certificate, September 11, 1944
- 8.2 Christmas Letter from Mary to parents Henry and Mary Delbridge, December 17, 1944
- 8.3 Officer's Pay Data Card, 1944
- 8.4 Letter to Mary from Mrs. Gerald H Davis regarding treatment of her husband, May 23, 1945
- 8.5 M. E. Delbridge Immunization Register, August 1945
- 8.6 Undated record of hospitalization
- 8.7 Undated Immunization Register
- 8.8 Letter from General Denvers recognizing service of M.E. Delbridge, January 27, 1946
- 8.9 Letter from Frank Thompson, Director, Department of Registration and Education renewing nursing registration, January 30, 1946
- 8.10 Request for discharge certificate, May 2, 1947
- 8.11 Letter from Major General Edward F. Witsell regarding commission, June 13, 1947
- 8.12 U.S. Army Certificate of Service, July 21, 1947
- 8.13 Mary E. Delbridge's State of Illinois Service Recognition Certificate, 1947
- 8.14 September 30, 1948 Veteran's Bonus warrant
- 8.15 Application for Veterans Compensation
- 8.16 Twenty Year update on former 117th Evacuation Hospital
- 8.17 Illinois Veterans Commission Identification card
- 8.18 U.S. Army Records Jacket
- 8.19 Follies-Cocktail program taken from WWII scrapbook

Folder 9: St. Joseph School of Nursing Reunion (1942-1982)

- 9.1 Picture of St. Joseph School of Nursing Class of 1942
- 9.2 Letter from Mary Delbridge and Gertrude (Whitenack) Shadid regarding reunion, 1981
- 9.3 Address list for Class of 1942, 1982
- 9.4 Letter from Class of 1942 Officers to classmates, March 8, 1982
- 9.5 Letter from Mary Delbridge and Gertrude Shadid to classmates, March 8, 1942

9.6 Correspondence between Class of 1942 members and Mary and Gertrude giving family and career history information

Folder 10: Miscellaneous Documents and Correspondence

- 10.1 Mary E. Delbridge Bloomington Public School Certificate, June 2, 1933
- 10.2 Postcard to Mary E. Delbridge, August 16, 1937
- 10.3 Payroll Advice, January 15, 1938
- 10.4 Brown's Business College Diploma, May 1938
- 10.5 Undated Mary E. Delbridge Music Report Card
- 10.6 Driver's License for Mary E. Delbridge
- 10.7 Certificate of Junior Membership in the Order of Artistic Typists
- 10.8 Undated materials list for house keeping
- 10.9 Mary E. Delbridge's Address book
- 10.10 Christmas card
- 10.11 Sympathy cards to Mary E. Delbridge after death of friend
- 10.12 Letter to Mary, see corresponding pictures
- 10.13 Undated postcard to Mary E. Delbridge
- 10.14 Letter to Mary E. Delbridge from Jane Bush, January 21, 1982
- 10.15 Birthday card for Mary E. Delbridge from Mr. & Mrs. Harrold Washburn, August 10, 1982

Photo Booksin Photo Collection

Scrapbook 1: Childhood Scrapbook

- 1.1 Mary E. Delbridge in WWII nursing uniform
- 1.2 Mary and fellow Army Nurses, October 16, 1944
- 1.3 Undated article "December Nurse quota Met by McLean Area"
- 1.4 Mary E Delbridge, age 2
- 1.5 Mrs. S.E. Carroll and Carroll Lape
- 1.6 Mary E Delbridge
- 1.7 Carroll Lape
- 1.8 Joe Carroll Jr.
- 1.9 Unidentified pictures
- 1.10 Delbridge Residence 1611 Center Street, Bloomington , IL
- 1.11 Unidentified pictures
- 1.12 Tom Carroll and Howard Smith
- 1.13 Sadie Lape
- 1.14 Carroll Lape
- 1.15 Mary E. Delbridge with mother Mary A. Delbridge
- 1.16 Mary E Delbridge 8th Grade
- 1.17 Mary E Delbridge
- 1.18 Mary E Delbridge with parents Henry and Mary A. Delbridge
- 1.19 Mary E Delbridge
- 1.20 Mary A. Delbridge, Patsy, Sadie, and Mary E. Delbridge

Scrapbook 2: 1942 St. Joseph School of Nursing Scrapbook containing pictures of:

- 2.1 Helen Krueger
- 2.2 Mary E. Delbridge
- 2.3 Harriet Jane Ives
- 2.4 Margaret Bernardine Mertes
- 2.5 Gertrude Whitenack
- 2.6 Margaret Wertz
- 2.7 Mary Staszecki
- 2.8 June Williams
- 2.9 Florence E. Jenkins
- 2.10 Miriam J. Skinner
- 2.11 Faith Kineaid
- 2.12 Evelyn L. Keller
- 2.13 Mary Schwartz
- 2.14 Carrie Gordon
- 2.15 Jeanette Howorth
- 2.16 Madalyn Price
- 2.17 Maybelle Parker
- 2.18 Ruth G. Lantz
- 2.19 Charlene Morrison
- 2.20 Evelyn Fitzgerald

- 2.21 Unidentified pictures of nursing students
- 2.22 Graduation Day pictures with classmates, May 14, 1942
- 2.23 1942 Junior-Senior Banquet picture
- 2.24 Graduation Picture, Class of 1942
- 2.25 Graduation Picture, Class of 1942
- 2.26 Graduation Program and song sheet, May 14, 1942

Scrapbook 3: World War II Army Nurse Corps. Pictures

- 3.1 Mary E. Delbridge, last leave before overseas duty, September 1944
- 3.2 Good luck dollar, November 10, 1945
- 3.3 Marseille, France postcard, 100 Francs, and 7th Army patch, November 6, 1944
- 3.4 Castle near Saverne Phalsburg, France pictures given by a patient, December 1945
- 3.5 Gebhardt Roberts on the way back from the Battle of the Bulge, January 4, 1945
- 3.6 January 4, 1945 – Epinal
- 3.7 Connie and Mother Superior at hospital in Catholic Convent, St. Jean de Bassele, France
- 3.8 Medical Ward
- 3.9 Nuns in garden
- 3.10 Captain Chase, Chief Nurse
- 3.11 Scene behind hospital
- 3.12 Cemetery
- 3.13 Volley Ball
- 3.14 Pictures of the Gratts****
- 3.15 Soldiers, Nurses, and Children
- 3.16 Mary E. Delbridge along country road
- 3.17 Hospital entrance, March 28, 1945
- 3.18 Goldheim staging area, Easter Sunday
- 3.19 American P.W. evacuation plane
- 3.20 Unidentified military camp (4 pictures)
- 3.21 Unidentified Ruins
- 3.22 Christmas card
- 3.23 Soldiers in front of unidentified camp
- 3.24 Unidentified church
- 3.25 Unidentified camp, soldiers, and nurses (27 pictures)
- 3.26 Unidentified village and buildings (7 pictures)
- 3.27 “Now Entering Austria” sign with 6 accompanying pictures
- 3.28 23 Travel and ski pictures

Photographs

1: Family and Childhood

- 1.1 Mother Carroll (Sarah Donnelly), Mary, Sadie, Ann, and Margarite
- 1.2 Henry Delbridge
- 1.3 1605 S. Center Street
- 1.4 1605 S. Center Street
- 1.5 Unidentified picture
- 1.6 Mary E. Delbridge, age 3
- 1.7 Mary E. Delbridge in First Communion dress
- 1.8 1931 Lincoln School Girls Chorus
- 1.9 June 1933 - Lincoln School 8th Grade Graduates and autographs
- 1.10 Mary E. Delbridge with violin
- 1.11 Mary E. Delbridge
- 1.12 Mary E. Delbridge
- 1.13 Mary E. Delbridge
- 1.14 Mary E. Delbridge
- 1.15 Unidentified picture
- 1.16 Mary E. Delbridge
- 1.17 Unidentified picture
- 1.18 Unidentified picture
- 1.19 Unidentified picture
- 1.20 Mary A. (Carroll) Delbridge
- 1.21 Mary A. (Carroll) Delbridge with daughter Mary E. Delbridge
- 1.22 1938 - Trinity High School Orchestra (taken from Trinity High School scrapbook)
- 1.23 Brown's Business College Graduating Class (taken from Trinity High School scrapbook), May 24, 1938

2: St. Joseph School of Nursing

- 2.1 Mary E. Delbridge
- 2.2 Mary E. Delbridge
- 2.3 Mary E. Delbridge
- 2.4 Mary E. Delbridge
- 2.5 St. Joseph School of Nursing students (taken from St. Joseph Scrapbook)
- 2.6 Mary E. Delbridge (taken from St. Joseph School of Nursing graduation invitation)
- 2.7 Mary E. Delbridge (taken from St. Joseph School of Nursing graduation invitation)
- 2.8 Mary E. Delbridge, St. Joseph School of Nursing Graduation, 1942
- 2.9 St. Joseph School of Nursing Class of 1942 with autographs

3: World War II Army Nurse Corps.

- 3.1 Mary E. Delbridge in uniform
- 3.2 Mary E. Delbridge in uniform
- 3.3 Mary E. Delbridge in uniform
- 3.4 Mary E. Delbridge and father Henry W. Delbridge
- 3.5 Mary E. Delbridge

- 3.6 Mary E. Delbridge
- 3.7 Mary E. Delbridge with suitcase
- 3.8 Mary E. Delbridge with other Army nurses at Barney's Market Club
- 3.9 Mary Delbridge (taken from World War II Army Nurse Corps scrapbook)
- 3.10 Mary Delbridge (taken from World War II Army Nurse Corps scrapbook)
- 3.11 Mary Delbridge with nurses (taken from World War II Army Nurse Corps scrapbook)
- 3.12 Mary Delbridge with nurses (taken from World War II Army Nurse Corps scrapbook)
- 3.13 Unidentified scenery (taken from World War II Army Nurse Corps scrapbook)
- 3.14 Unidentified scenery (taken from World War II Army Nurse Corps scrapbook)
- 3.15 Unidentified scenery (taken from World War II Army Nurse Corps scrapbook)
- 3.16 Unidentified ruins (taken from World War II Army Nurse Corps scrapbook)
- 3.17 Mary E. Delbridge in uniform
- 3.18 Mary E. Delbridge in uniform
- 3.19 Mary E. Delbridge in uniform
- 3.20 Mary E. Delbridge in uniform
- 3.21 Negatives

4: 1982 St. Joseph Nursing School Reunion

- 4.1 11 unidentified pictures of classmates and spouses

5: Miscellaneous Photographs

- 5.1 Sam Kohler
- 5.2 Holly Tree (taken from letter 10.12), November 1969
- 5.3 Family picture (taken from letter 10.12), July 1969
- 5.4 Unidentified pictures
- 5.5 Unidentified pictures
- 5.6 Alex and Mallory
- 5.7 Alex and Mallory
- 5.8 Alex and Mallory
- 5.9 Lisa Carlson RN, Mennonite Home Care (taken from Christmas Card 10.10)
- 5.10 Statue at Holy Trinity Church (taken from letter), September 1994
- 5.11 Mary E. Delbridge portraits

Yearbooks

- 1: 1937 Veritas Trinity High School Yearbook