

MS-472: Lovetta R. Blanke Collection

Collection Number: MS-472

Title: Lovetta R. Blanke Collection

Dates: 1936-2012

Creator: Blanke, Lovetta Ruth (Dixon), 1919-2012

Summary/Abstract:

Lovetta R. (Dixon) Blanke (1919-2012), RN, B.S., M.A., was a school nurse, public health nurse, nurse educator, Dayton philanthropist, patron of the arts, and advocate for the profession of nursing. She advocated for children's health, health education, and other issues relevant to school nurses, such as school nurse certification. In 2008, she was named Outstanding Philanthropist by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Greater Dayton Region Chapter.

This collection documents Mrs. Blanke's career as a student, naval officer, school nurse, public health official, and philanthropist. In addition to her personal and professional papers, a selection of her awards and honors is included in this collection. Furthermore, the collection contains a few documents from her husband's experiences as an army officer/ reservist, chemist, and pilot. Also included is a copy of Bertram's death certificate and a copy of the death certificate of her mother Rose Dixon, as well as copies of the birth certificates of both of her parents, Joseph Dixon and Rose (Ingram) Dixon.

Quantity/Physical Description: 4.77 linear feet

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, Paul Laurence Dunbar Library, Wright State University, Dayton, OH 45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

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Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box Number, Folder Number], MS-472, The Lovetta R. Blanke Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Acquisition: Betty Holton donated the collection in April 2013 on behalf of Lovetta Blanke.

Separated Material:

The following book was separated from the collection because it is readily available in other libraries and did not fit the scope of the Special Collections and Archives Department's book collection:

Swartz, Oretta D. *Service etiquette*. Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Press, 1988.

Other Finding Aid:

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at <https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms472.pdf>. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Related Material:

- Wright State University-Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health Oral History Project: https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/nursing_oral_history/
- MS-46 Dayton Council on World Affairs
- MS-290 Friday Afternoon Club

Processing Information:

Many of the original text documents in this collection could not be retained. Most of the documents from Mrs. Blanke's high school career were mold-damaged or otherwise deteriorating and necessitated photocopying for preservation. Furthermore, the majority of original military and vital documents could not be retained due to the presence of social security numbers. These records were redacted and photocopied, and the originals were destroyed. Also, numerous newspaper clippings were photocopied for preservation.

Processed by: Ximena Chrisagis, May-June 2013

Arrangement: The collection is arranged into four series:

- I. Student Career and Alumni Activities, 1936-1995
- II. Active and Reserve Military Career, 1943-1979
- III. Civilian Personal and Professional Life, 1946-2012
- IV: Awards, 1998-2008

Biographical/Historical Note

Lovetta R. (Dixon) Blanke (1919-2012) was a member of the Navy Nurse Corps, school nurse, public health nurse, nurse educator Dayton philanthropist, patron of the arts, and advocate for the profession of nursing. She advocated for children's health, health education, and other issues relevant to school nurses, such as school nurse certification. In 2008, she was named Outstanding Philanthropist by the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Greater Dayton Region Chapter. Born in Harrisburg, IL on Nov. 29, 1919, she graduated from the Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing as an R.N. in 1941 and served as a Navy nurse during World War II. She earned a Bachelor of Science (1950) in Public Health Nursing from the Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, TN and her M.A. in the same discipline from University of Chicago in 1959. She joined the Academy of American Educators in 1973 and held positions as a School Nurse and Supervisor of Nursing Services in Dayton Public Schools. She was instrumental in

founding the Southwest Ohio School Nurses Association. She was also a member of numerous professional organizations, including the Ohio Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association, the Dayton Schools Management Association, the Ohio School Nurses Association, the Ohio Education Association, and the School Nurses Branch of the National Education Association. In addition to her two and a half years active naval service during World War II, she served in the U.S. Navy Reserve, retiring at the rank of commander in 1979.

She was a staunch supporter of nursing education and research. She served as Acting Director of Continuing Education for Wright State's College of Nursing and Health from 1976-1978. In the mid-2000s, she served on the external advisory board for the College of Nursing & Health. Mrs. Blanke and her husband, Bertram (whom she married in 1960), had made financial contributions to Wright State University over the years, including the Blanke Research Fund (endowment) for the College of Nursing & Health. This endowment has supported activities such as a faculty research incentive grant, graduate student scholarly project recognition, and student research recognition.

Mrs. Blanke participated in and/or contributed to several local civic organizations, including the Dayton Council on World Affairs and the Dayton Opera.

She passed away on December 10, 2012 at the age of 93.

[Sources for biographical sketch cited on last page of finding aid (after the box and file listing).]

Scope and Content

This collection documents Mrs. Blanke's career as a student, naval officer, school nurse, public health official, and philanthropist. In addition to her personal and professional papers, a selection of her awards and honors is included in this collection. Also included are a few documents from her husband's experiences as an army officer/ reservist, chemist, and pilot. Furthermore, the collection contains copies of the birth certificates of her parents.

The collection is divided into four series, but there is considerable chronological overlap among these series due to the chronological overlap between Mrs. Blanke's military and civilian life.

Series I: Student Career and Alumni Publications/Activities, 1936-1995, covers Lovetta Blanke's career as a student from high school, nursing school, college, and graduate school. For the sake of consistency, letters and publications sent from her various alma maters in subsequent years are also included in this series, as well documents related to planning her nursing school reunion and a program from her niece's graduation from Vanderbilt (under which Blanke's Alma Mater, Peabody College, had been subsumed).

Series II contains active duty, training, and transfer documents from throughout Blanke's military career as well as photographs and portraits and one of Blanke's Navy caps. It covers 1943-1979.

Series III consists of correspondence, publications, and clippings from Blanke's civilian professional life and personal life. It covers 1946-2012.

Series IV, Awards, consists of three dimensional artifacts (mostly plaques). It covers 1998-2008.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Blanke, Lovetta Ruth (Dixon), 1919-2012
Blanke, Bertram Charles, 1917-2000

Organizations/Corporate Names

United States. Navy Nurse Corps.
Wright State University-Miami Valley College of Nursing and Health.

Subjects (General)

Nursing – History.

Material Types

Correspondence
Transcripts
Monographs
Photographs
Plaques
Awards
Military Uniforms

Occupations

Nurses.
School Nurses.
Educators.
Military Officers-American.

Collection Inventory

Series I Student Career and Alumni Activities, 1936-1995

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Harrisburg Township High School Programs and Clippings, Transcript	1934-1936, 1943
	2	Student-University of Illinois	[1936-1940?]
	3	Student-Presbyterian Hospital, Chicago	1938-1941
	4	Harrisburg Township High School Clippings	1937, 1946, 1953

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	5	<i>Hammond Times</i> Newspaper Clippings	1939, 1944
	6	News Clippings-Tennessee	194?
	7	School Term Papers and Field Study Narratives	1940-[1959?]
	8	Peabody College and Nursing Education (Professional Position) -Tennessee	1949-1952
	9	Student-University of Chicago	1954-1959
	10	Diplomas (see Box 7, File 1)	1941, 1951, 1959
	11	Address-University of Chicago Citizens Board	1967
	12	Rush Presbyterian College of Nursing-Alumnae	1957, 1984-1988, 1994, 2001-2008
	13	Peabody/Vanderbilt-Alumnae	1971-197?
	14	College Transcripts	1973
	15	Class Reunion	1981-1995

Series II Active and Reserve Military Career, 1943-1979

1	16	Handwritten List of Active Duty Orders, Ready Reserve Agreements, Retirement, 1943-1979	Undated
	17	<i>The Story of Dr. Wassell</i> , by James Hilton, inscribed by Dr. Wassell to Lt. Dixon (see Box 5, File 1)	1943
	18	U.S. Navy-Active Duty	1943-1946
	19	U.S. Navy-Certificate of Satisfactory Service	1946
	20	Inactive Status-Separation from Service	1946
	21	IRS-Taxable Income/Income Tax/W2s (Navy Pay)	1943-1958
	22	<i>White Task Force: The Story of the Nurse Corps, United States Navy</i>	1945
	23	U.S. Navy-Promotion. Grade: Lieutenant	1945, 1950, 1958- 1959
	23a	Active Duty	1945-1967
	24	U.S. Navy-Inactive Status	1950-1952
	25	U.S. Navy-Appropriate Duty	1955
	26	Selective Service Standby Reserve-Notice of	1959

		Availability	
	27	U.S. Navy-Ready Reserve	1950-1959
	28	U.S. Navy-Ready Reserve Transfers and Appropriate Duty	1959-1964
	29	Active Duty for Training	1960-1962
	30	U.S. Navy-Promotion. Grade: Lt. Cmdr.	1964
	31	U.S. Navy-Requests for Appropriate Duty-Dayton	1960-1966
2	1	Navy Education, Training, Nursing Symposia	1961-1971
	2	Bureau of Naval Personnel-Fitness Report Receipts	1965-1972
	3	U.S. Navy-Promotion. Grade: Commander	1968

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
2	4	Reserve Officers Association	1968-1970
	5	Records of Emergency Data for Naval Personnel	1970, Undated
	6	Bureau of Naval Personnel-Annual Qualifications Questionnaire	1947-1971
	7	Membership-Reserve Officers Association	1981, 1989, 1996
	8	Retired Reserve/Retirement	1971-2002
	9	U.S. Navy Dress Uniform Cap (moved to Box 4)	195? or 196?

Series III Civilian Personal and Professional Life, 1946-2012

2	10	Parents-Joseph Dixon and Rose (Ingram) Dixon-Birth Certificates (copies of certified copies)	1942
	11	Illinois-Dept. of Registration and Education-Nurse Division	1942
	12	Hammond High School-Hammond, Indiana	1954-1960
	13	Identification Cards-American Association of University Women, National League for Nursing	1955
	14	Greeting Cards and Dance Cards	[1955-1960?]
	15	Dayton Public Schools-Nursing Services	1961-1975, [2004?]
	16	School Nurse Certification	1961-1973, 1991-1992, 1997
	17	Board of Trustees-Senior Citizens Center	1964, 1970-1986
	18	Mother-Rose (Ingram) Dixon-Death Certificate and Obituary	1968
	19	Ohio Association of School Nurses	1968-1975
	20	District Number 10-Ohio State Nurses Association	1969
	21	Date Book/Agenda-School Visits	1970
	22	The Academy of American Educators	1973
	23	School Nurse Certificate, State of Ohio-Dept. of Education	1973

	24	Notes for Talks/Presentations	1962-1974
	25	School Health Publications	1971-[1974?]
	26	Curriculum Vitae	[1976?]
	27	WSU School of Nursing (documents and name tag)	1976-1977
	28	<i>Dayton Daily News</i> and <i>Journal Herald</i> Clippings	1977
	29	Bertram C. Blanke	[195?]-2000
	30	District 10 Nurse of the Year	1981
	31	Philanthropy	1980, 1996-2008
3	1	Philanthropy-U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation [member card]/Victory Club [VHS]	Undated [199?]
	2	Program-Indianapolis Opera-Pavarotti	1986

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
3	3	International Driving Permit	1986-1987
	4	Friday Afternoon Club Yearbooks	1987-1990
	5	<i>Navy Nurse Corps Association News</i>	1988-1993, 2000-2002
	6	Military Service Questionnaire for Centerville & Washington Township Residents	1993
	7	Wright State University Contributions	1994-1996, 2000-2003
	8	University of Illinois Cosmopolitan Club	1995-1996, 2004
	9	Wright State University Affiliations & Contributions	2005-2009
	10	Correspondence-Bethany Lutheran Village	2006
	11	<i>Dayton Daily News</i> Clippings	2009
	12	Memorial Service-Lovetta R. (Dixon) Blanke	Dec. 15, 2012
4		U.S. Navy Dress Uniform Cap and two inserts	195? or 196?
5	1	<i>The Story of Dr. Wassell</i> (relocated from Box 1, File 17)	1943

Series IV: Awards, 1998-2008

5	2	Plaque: The Dayton Opera	1998-1999
	3	Trophy: Lutheran Social Services of the Miami Valley, Spiral of Life Society	2000
6	1	Plaque: Ohio Association of School Nurses and Southwest Ohio School Nurses Association	2001
	2	Plaque: Greater Dayton Region Association of Fundraising Professionals: Outstanding Philanthropist	2008

Documents Relocated from Existing Series (Photographs and Larger Sizes)

7	1	Diplomas and Certificates	1941, 1951, 1959, 1981
	2	Master of Arts Diploma (Original), University of Chicago	1959
	3	Photograph-Graduating Class (Presbyterian Hospital, School of Nursing)	1941
	4	Portraits/Photographs-U.S. Navy	[1943-195?], 1966-1967
	5	Certificates-U.S. Navy	1946, 1964, 1973, 1979
	6	Photographs-Hammond High School	1956-1959

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
7	7	Photographs (4) [mostly Bertram and Lovetta as a couple]	196?-1972, 1994
	8	Wright State University School of Nursing-Acting Director of Continuing Education	1976
	9	Photographs-Wright State University Affiliations	[1996?]-2002

Bibliography:

“Appoint Community Education Director: ‘We Want to Meet the Needs of Nurses’—Blanke.” *University Times*. September 1976. [Box 7, Folder 8], MS-472, Lovetta R. Blanke Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

Award Agreement, Wright State University Foundation, September 2009. [Box 3, Folder 9], MS-472, Lovetta R. Blanke Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

“Blanke, Lovetta R.” [News Death Notice. Published in Dayton Daily News from December 13 to December 14, 2012] <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/dayton/obituary-print.aspx?n=lovetta-r-blanke&pid=161678669> . Accessed 24 May 2013.

Dayton Public Schools application. [Box 2, Folder 15], MS-472, Lovetta R. Blanke Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

“Nursing Receives Largest Gift in Its History”. *Tomorrow Takes Flight: Leadership Report*. Fall 2003. Wright State University. [Box 3, Folder 7], MS-472, Lovetta R. Blanke Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

[Proof from directory entry for the Academy of American Educators, 1973]. [Box 2, Folder 22], MS-472, Lovetta R. Blanke Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio.

