

Fort Smith Public Library

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Finding Aid For:	Ben Geren
Dates:	1935 to 1942; bulk date 1941
Size:	1 Folder; 0.08 linear feet
Creator/Collector:	Myra Geren
Call Number:	Special Collection (SC)
Language(s):	English
Abstract:	Benton “Ben” Asbury Geren was born in 1894 and married in 1918 to Myra Estelle Perry. They had two daughters: Doris Gene and Betty Ben. Ben Geren became sheriff of Sebastian County in 1940 and judge of Sebastian County in 1953. Ben died in 1974. This collection contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, and ephemera Myra collected between 1935 and 1942.
Subject Terms:	Geren, Ben Geren, Myra Family Sheriff American Legion Auxiliary
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research.
Copyright:	Copyright restrictions may apply. For further information contact the repository.
Preferred Citation:	[Item], [Series], [Record Group], [Container #], [Collection Name], Fort Smith Public Library, Fort Smith, Arkansas.
Acquisition Information:	Unknown
Repository:	Fort Smith Public Library, Barbara Walker Genealogy and Arkansas History Collection, Fort Smith, Arkansas
Finding Aid Created By:	Rachel Sanford, 2023.
Processing Information:	During processing the collection was sectioned out into three series: Records, Correspondence, and Ephemera. The items were organized by date within each series. Staples, paper clips, and pins were removed from the items and replaced with archive clips. The collection was processed by Rachel Sanford in June 2023.

Collection Details

Biographical Note:

Benton "Ben" Asbury Geren
1894 Born December 14 in Arkansas
1918 marriage to Myra Estelle Petty on January 22 in Calhoun, Michigan
1921 daughter Doris Gene born on May 12 in Lewis Town, Montana
1922 daughter Betty Ben born on November 17 in Fort Smith, Arkansas
1940 Ben is elected Sheriff of Sebastian County
1941 daughter Doris Gene married Raymond Edwards on February 19 in Fort Smith, Arkansas
1953 Ben is elected Sebastian County Judge
1955 daughter Betty Ben married Lutfu Uzman on December 17 in Boston, Massachusetts
1974 Ben died November 10 in Fort Smith, Arkansas

Scope and Content:

The records of the family collection for Ben Geren include correspondence, programs, ephemera and newspaper clippings. The records range from 1935 to 1942 with most of the records being in 1941.

The "Records" series ranges from 1940 to 1942 and includes birth registrations, insurance, and report cards. The birth notice is for Robert Staples with no known connection to the Geren family.

"Correspondences" range from 1939 to 1941 and include letters, cards, and thank you notes. There are several correspondences that are undated and are included at the front of the series.

The "Ephemera" series ranges from 1935 to 1941 and includes newspaper clippings, programs and invitations. At the back of folder 4 are two items that are ephemeral but aren't a program or invitation: drycleaner receipts and photograph negatives with no names included.

System of Arrangement:

This collection is organized into three series: "Series 1. Records," "Series 2. Correspondence," and "Series 3. Ephemera". The correspondence and ephemera are filed chronologically as best as it can.

Collection Inventory

Container 119: Ben Geren, 1935 to 1942

Series 1: Records, 1940 to 1942

- 1 Records, 1940 to 1942
 1. Notification of Birth Registration for Robert Charles Staples in Kansas City, Missouri on 1942 November 22
 2. Notification of Birth Registration for Robert Charles Staples in Kansas City, Missouri on 1942 November 22
 3. Arkansas Valley Trust Company Bodily Injury Liability and Property Damage Liability Insurance for three people: Ben Geren, wife Myra Geren, and daughter Betty Ben Geren
 4. School Report Cards during Fall Semester of 1940-1941 for Doris Gene Geren and Betty Ben Geren

Series 2: Correspondence, 1939 to 1942

- 2 Correspondence Undated and 1939 to 1940, 1939 to 1940
 1. Thank you message from Mrs. Alice Proctor and family, Undated
 2. Thank you message from Mrs. A. L. Hendricks and family, Undated
 3. Thank you message from Dess and Nell Garrett and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bolger, Undated
 4. Thank you message from The Conklin Family, Undated
 5. Thank you message from Steinke Family, Undated
 6. Thank you message from Mrs. Frederick Duke Jr. and Billy, Undated
 7. Circle No. 3 with a riddle, Undated
 8. Telegram to Mrs. Ben Geren from brother, Undated
 9. Letter from Betty Ben Geren to "Bink" and Daddy, Undated
 10. Letter and photographs from "Little Tweetum" to "Little Tweetum" (Myra), 1939 May 31
 11. Letter from Dorothy Elizabeth Noble to Myra Geren, 1940 September 6
 12. Letter from Ruth Carmack office of Tax Collector to Ben Geren, 1940 December 21
 13. Telegram from "Little Tweetum" to Myra Geren, 1940 December 23
- 3 Correspondence 1941, 1941
 1. Letter from J. J. H. to Myra Geren, 1941 January 5
 2. Letter from Thomas M. Collins to Myra Geren, 1941 January 31
 3. Letter from T. M. Cunningham to Ben Geren, 1941 February 1
 4. Telegram from Doris and Raymon to Ben Geren, 1941 February 23
 5. Letter from Harold B. Hightower secretary of the Men's Club of the First Methodist Church to Ben Geren, 1941 March 21
 6. Thank you message from Mrs. J. T. Williams and Mrs. Ralph Mechem to Myra Geren, 1941 April 2
 7. Easter card from Doris Gene and Raymond to Geren family, 1941 April 11

8. Letter from Bernice Seymour to Mr. and Mrs. Geren, 1941 April 24
9. Birthday Card from J. J. Holloman, Jr. to Myra Geren, 1941 June 28
10. Letter from Elizabeth Smith to Mr. and Mrs. Geren, 1941 July 10
11. Note from Mrs. Carl Young to Myra Geren, 1941 August 8

Series 3: Ephemera, 1935 to 1941

4 Invitation and Programs, 1935 to 1941

1. Memorial Exercises at Vicksburg National Cemetery, 1935 May 30
2. American Legion Auxiliary membership for Mrs. Myra Geren, 1940 September 5
3. Recital by Igor Gorin at University of Arkansas Field House, 1940 December 9
4. Recital by Kirsten Flagstand at Robinson Memorial Auditorium, 1941 January 14
5. Inaugural Ceremonies For the State of Arkansas Constitutional Officers, 1941 January 14
6. Inaugural Ceremonies For the State of Arkansas Constitutional Officers, 1941 January 14
7. S. Hurok presents the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo at the Robinson Memorial Auditorium, 1941 February 24
8. Homecoming-Founders' Day, The College of the Ozarks, 1941 April 16
9. "Gay Nineties" Dinner, 1941 April 16
10. Convention Banquet Menu at the Goldman Hotel, 1941 May 9
11. Fort Smith High School Commencement Exercise invitation, James Harold Bassett, 1941 May 30
12. Marriage Announcement for Dorothy Virginia Wise to George E. Ash, 1941 June 30
13. The Model Laundry-Cleaners Receipts for Ben Geren, 1940 April 26
14. Two Photograph negatives of unknown people

5 Newspaper Clippings, 1941

1. 8 newspaper clippings taped to paper, one clipping is an image of Doris Gene Geren, most clippings are about Doris Gene marrying Raymond Edwards, 1941
2. 5 newspaper clippings taped to paper front and back, 2 clippings have photos of Myra Geren, also taped to the paper is Ben Geren's ribbon, 1941
3. 4 pages of newspaper clippings taped to paper front and back from when Ben Geren was sheriff, 1941