

Fort Smith Public Library

3201 Rogers Avenue • Fort Smith, Arkansas 72903 • 479-783-0229 • www.FortSmithLibrary.org

Finding Aid For:	Helen Valentine
Dates:	1930 to 1961, bulk 1930 to 1932 and 1940 to 1946
Size:	1 box; 0.42 linear feet
Creator/Collector:	Helen Valentine
Call Number:	Special Collection (SC)
Language(s):	English
Abstract:	<p>Helen Virginia Valentine was born on December 14, 1914, and grew up in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She graduated from Fort Smith High School in 1932. She was married to James “Jim” Montgomery Jr. from 1941 to 1947. The collection consists of a scrapbook from 1930 to 1961 and contains programs, newspaper clippings, photographs, and ephemera. Most of the scrapbook covers her high school years from 1930 to 1932 and her time married to Jim from 1941 to 1947.</p>
Subject Terms:	<p>Helen Virginia Valentine James D. Montgomery Henry Franklin Valentine Family history Fort Smith High School Beta Sigma Phi</p>
Access Restrictions:	Collection is open for research.
Copyright:	Copyright restrictions may apply. For further information contact the repository.
Preferred Citation:	[Item], [Series], Helen Valentine, [Container #], Family Collection, 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, 2022
Processing Information:	The scrapbook is in great condition. It was placed in an archive box and tissue paper placed around it to help keep it intact. However, the scrapbook would be better in a different container. Photographs found in a loose envelope were placed in sheet protectors and placed in the back

of the scrapbook. The collection was processed by Mary Carson in September 2022.

Collection Details

Biographical Note:

Helen Virginia Valentine was born on December 14, 1914, in Fort Smith, Arkansas to Henry Franklin Valentine and John Anna Carnahan. Helen graduated from Fort Smith High School in 1932. She was part of Beta Sigma Phi and contributed a lot to the society in the 1940s. She married James "Jim" D. Montgomery, Jr. On September 14, 1941, in Fort Smith, Arkansas. She moved to Little Rock where Jim worked until World War II when she went back to Fort Smith to work for Fort Chaffee as a clerk for the railroad while Jim was stationed out of State. Jim was discharged in 1945 and moved to California leaving Helen behind. She filed for divorce in 1947. She spent her life in Fort Smith working for banks and selling insurance. She died July 24, 1996, and is buried at Rose Lawn Park Cemetery in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Scope and Content:

The scrapbook was created by Helen Valentine and covers the years 1930 to 1961. It contains programs, newspaper clippings, her 1932 commencement program, and ephemera for 1930 to 1932 while she was in high school. The scrapbook skips to 1940 where she was working at Merchants Bank and a part of Beta Sigma Phi and contains newspaper clippings and ephemera during that time. It also covers her years married to Jim and has their engagement newspaper clippings and all their cards they received while married. It also contains newspaper clippings while she was working for Fort Chaffee as a clerk for the railroad during World War II. There are newspaper clippings and photographs for the 1950s and early 1960s, but they were never glued down.

Collection Inventory

Container 35: Helen Valentine, 1930 to 1961

Series 1: Helen Valentine, 1930 to 1961

1 Scrap Book, 1930 to 1961