

EVA REYNOLDS (1885-?) SCRAPBOOK, 1905-1908

31/6/76

Box 1 (dropfront)

Biography

Eva Jane Reynolds was born in 1885 in Reynoldsville, Pennsylvania. Her family later moved to Bolivar, New York where she attended Bolivar High School and later prepared at Genesee Wesleyan Seminary (Lima, New York). Her father, J. H. Reynolds, was an oil producer. In 1905 Eva Reynolds entered Northwestern University, where she studied music. She lived in Pearson's Hall (College Cottage). Reynolds was a member of the Women's Union and attended Young Women's Christian Association meetings, among other activities on campus.

In 1908 Reynolds graduated from Northwestern's School of Oratory (now School of Communication). She married Charles Petra and lived in Olean, New York. The year of her death is unknown.

See also: Alumni Biographical Files, Box 2 (Series 51/8).

Description of the Series

Eva Reynolds' scrapbook is creatively crafted. Rather than filling the blank pages of a commercially produced scrapbook, she used a book of printed photographs entitled *An Art Souvenir: Northwestern University* (published by A. L. Swift & Co., Chicago, 1897) as the base for her scrapbook. Photographs and other items representing her experiences and activities at Northwestern are pasted on to pictures printed in the book. For example, on a page picturing Pearson's Hall, Reynolds added photographs of herself and her dorm mates posing on the building's veranda. To pages showing general views of the campus, Reynolds added photographs of herself and her friends in the same surroundings. Many pages and photographs are titled or captioned. Reflecting the popularity of photography among college students, the photographs range in size and format from tiny images (some trimmed) to larger oval, square or rectangular photographs; a few are cyanotypes.

On the first few pages of the book, Reynolds described her first experiences on campus, her educational background, and her course of studies, and listed her classmates by category: prettiest, most talented, most hopeless, and best dancer. Reynolds used the book's blank pages and wide margins to full advantage, adding pictures; handwritten notes and poems; dance cards; party menus; commencement, recital, and theatre programs; news clipping; and autographs. In some cases, the printed pictures in the book are completely covered by programs, pictures cut out of other publications, or original photographs of Reynolds' classmates.

The Eva Reynolds Scrapbook was treated by the Northwestern University Library Conservation Laboratory in spring of 2003. The spine was replaced and a box was built to protect the scrapbook.

Provenance: This scrapbook was donated to the University Archives by Mr. Robert Nenno of Geneva, New York, Eva Reynolds's husband's brother-in-law, on October 10, 1977.

Restrictions: None.

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Separations: None.

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