

S. J. McKee Archives



Margaret Doran Roberts collection

<http://archives.brandonu.ca/en/permalink/descriptions4876>

Part Of:	RG 1 Brandon College fonds
Description Level:	Sub-series
Series Number:	MG 2 2.22
Accession Number:	18-2003, 27-2003
GMD:	multiple media
Date Range:	1901, 1915, 1924, 1932-1997; predominant 1936-1960
Physical Description:	24 cm textual records ca. 95 photographs memorabilia

History /

Biographical:

Margaret (Peggy) Doran was born on May 27, 1919 in Brandon, Manitoba to parents Sol and Margaret (Honan) Roberts. Doran grew up in Brandon and was very active in theatre during her high school and college years. Her first theatrical success came at age 20, when she directed Brandon Little Theatre's production of "Send Her Victorious," which received top honours in the Manitoba Drama Festival.

Following her graduation from Brandon College in 1941, she trained as a nurse at Montreal's Royal Victoria Hospital during the Second World War and worked at Vancouver General Hospital for almost a year.

On August 25, 1945, Peg married Dennis Roberts, whom she had met in high school. Dennis, a music graduate from the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, became interested in psychology after serving overseas with the Royal Canadian Air Force, so the couple moved to Toronto so that he could pursue a psychology degree at the University of Toronto. After Dennis graduated in 1950, the family moved to Sudbury, where Dennis and Peg became actively involved with the education and cultural life of the city. Peg was especially involved with the Sudbury Little Theatre Guild (SLTG), which was founded in 1948.

Between 1950 and 1956, Peg directed or acted in five plays. Her directorial works included: *Blithe Spirit*, *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *The Glass Menagerie* and *Antigone*. Peg was recognized for her directing of *Antigone* when she won the Edgar Stone Trophy for Directing in the Dominion Drama Festival in 1955. For the 1956-1957 season, Peg assumed the role of President of the SLTG. During this time, she successfully petitioned the Dominion Drama Festival to create a new region and thus in 1957, the Quebec-Ontario Theatre Association (QUONTA) was founded and Peg acted as its first regional chairperson. Peg's further accomplishments included co-founding and serving on the board of directors of the Sudbury Theatre Centre, as well as acting as drama consultant for the Sudbury Secondary School Board.

Peg was diagnosed with breast cancer in 1997 and, shortly after, in 1998, she moved back to Toronto. She died there on April 2, 2003. Peg and Dennis had three children: Judith Marion (b. June 23, 1946), Steven John (b. September 8, 1950), and Patricia May (b. April 5, 1955).

Custodial History:

After Peg's death in April 2003, materials in the collection were gathered and donated to the S.J. McKee Archives by her children Judith, Steven and Patricia Roberts on July 19, 2003.

Scope and Content:

Collection consists of textual records, photographs and other material that belonged to Margaret Doran Roberts. The textual materials include various personal letters, yearbooks, newspaper articles, journals, graduation diplomas, playbills and other miscellaneous records. The collection also includes approximately 95 photographs, mostly personal photographs of weddings and family, but also professionally taken group photos of the play casts. Other materials in the collection include various artefacts kept by Peg throughout her life.

Notes:	Description and inventory by Ayn Lewandoski (2003).
Storage Location:	MG 2 Brandon College students 2.22 Margaret Doran Roberts
Related Material:	Additional archival material pertaining to Peg and Dennis Roberts is located in the archives at Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario.

Arrangement:

Inventory of the collection:

Pack of matches from Mona's Dress Shop
Cigar that belonged to Sol Doran
Water colour picture, in frame, of St. Paul's Cathedral by Ev Lindsay Hunt from Brandon (1930s)
Earl Haig Graduation bracelet and Grade IX notebook belonging to Peg Doran
Nursing diploma and various other memorabilia from Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal
Unidentified pictures of war squadron, World War II
RCAF Christmas card from Sergeant William S. Day
Possible home economic project of Peg Doran filled with cake recipes
Photograph: Gordon Savage and Edith Laycock, plus Royal Winnipeg Rifles locket given by Gordon Savage to Peg Doran (with pictures of Gordon and Peg inside)
Francis Bernard Roberts' (Dennis' father) materials: correspondence with Mayo Clinic, photographs and negatives of Indian Chief etc.
Shares belonging to F.B. Roberts
Unidentified photos of children from Brandon (2)
"Willa Cather and the West," essay by Dennis Roberts
Various letters and memorabilia in letter case including:
- personal letters
- Brandon College Annual Arts Banquet programme 1941
- Brandon College Annual Commencement programme 1941
- Brandon College Alumni Dinner program 1941
- Season ticket Manitoba Drama League Provincial Finals Festival 1939
- Manitoba Medical College 4th Annual Ball dance card 1902
- Postcard to Peggy - University of Manitoba Arts Building 1939
- Various report cards from Brandon Collegiate
- Brandon Little Theatre 1936 production "Hay Fever" programme
- Shares from the Brandon Golf and Country Club 1968
- Margaret Doran's United Church of Canada Member's certificate 1933
Blue scribbler from Expression class, filled with various poems, stories, plays etc. belonging to Peg Doran
Miscellaneous newspaper clippings ranging from 1940-1979 (when dated)
Brandon Sun 75th Anniversary edition Saturday January 19, 1957
Sol Doran's daily journal - 1963 (the year of his death)
Picture of Bessie Scott, housekeeper to Sol and Margaret Doran
Wedding photographs, Peg Doran and Dennis Roberts - one in glass frame
"Through the Gateway to Yesteryear" written by Eric Wells and Gordon Tucker and Friends

through the Gateway to Yesterday - Winnipeg, Eric Flett and Gordon Fickett and friends,
 with inside inscription from Una Johnston
 Sheet music (11) of F.B. Roberts, father-in-law of Peg Doran
 Sheet music (8) of May Roberts, mother-in-law of Peg Doran
 Sheet music (4) of Peg (Doran) Roberts
 Unidentified school project, possibly a rough copy of a play, maybe Peg Doran's handwriting
 Photo of cast of play "Out to Sea" 1940
 Tube containing various graduation diplomas of Dennis Francis Roberts
 Peg Doran's graduation diploma, Brandon College 1941; letter and certificate recognizing the
 change from Brandon College to Brandon University; recognition certificate of attendance to
 50th Reunion (1991) as well as photographs from the event attended by Peg and one of her
 Brandon friends, Jean Downing
 Identification bracelet, probably belonging to May Roberts from hospital in London when
 Dennis Roberts was born
 Small glass from Smith Drug Store
 Two teaspoons, with initials G.E.B.- George Edward Bennest - uncle of Doh (Doran) Bennest
 Hammond, lawyer in Winnipeg (Doh's mother, Nell Doran, married Fred Bennest)
 Sterling silver child's cup (Peggy) and baby spoon, both belonging to Peg Doran
 Various photographs
 Dennis Roberts RCAF memorabilia including a hat, epaulettes, brass buttons etc.
 Dennis Roberts' Men's Handicap Singles tennis trophy 1932
 L.W.G.A. trophy 1933-34, believed to be awarded to Margaret [Mrs. Sol] Doran, an avid golfer
 Several pages of photographs of family holidays
 - 1958 - to Cornwall, Ontario to look for Doran relatives before St. Lawrence Seaway flooded
 low-lying graveyards
 - 1959 - when family rented a cottage in Clear Lake
 Two framed photos of Peg Roberts: as a baby and as a toddler
 Wedding announcement of Peg Doran and Dennis Roberts
 Dauphin Musical Society photograph 1924
 Playbills: Othello (1943); Wonderful Town; and The King & I
 Winnipeg Blue Bombers Annual Blue & Gold Football Game program 1959
 Play scripts: "Symphony in Illusion;" "Buddy Speaks a Piece;" "At the Photographer's;" and "At
 the Matinee"
 YMCA Winnipeg song sheet
 The New Era: 1937 & 1938
 The Sickle: 1939, 1940 & 1941
 The Quill: Vol. XXIX No. 4 (Oct. 26/38); Vol. XXIX No. 5 (Nov. 4/38); Vol. XXIX No. 6 (Nov.
 9/38); Vol. XXXI No. 8 (Dec. 12/40)