



Guide to the Betsy Gamble Hansen papers, 1902-2003 and undated

This collection guide was produced in **September 2013**.

This PDF version was created on **April 2, 2026**.

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	4
Arrangement	5
Administrative Information	6
Related Materials	6
Names and Subjects	7
Collection Inventory	7
Writings	7
Menzies Family correspondence and other papers	9

Summary

Collection Title:

Betsy Gamble Hansen papers, 1902-2003 and undated

Creator:

Hansen, Betsy Gamble.

Source:

Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

Abstract:

Betsy Gamble Hansen was an author and Duke University alumna. In 2000, she founded the Oglethorpe University Women's Network, and she belonged to Duke University's Council on Women's Studies for three years. The Betsy Gamble Hansen Papers include drafts of and papers related to Gamble's writings, especially related to her book, *Portals*, Menzies family correspondence, clippings, and other papers. Materials range in date from 1902 to 2003, with the bulk being from 1902-1960 and 1996-2003.

Extent:

5.5 Linear Feet (11 boxes)

Language:

Materials in English

Collection ID:

RL.10055

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m10p7t>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Betsy Gamble Hansen papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

The Betsy Gamble Hansen papers are organized into two series. The Writings series includes drafts of Hansen's 2003 novel *Portals*, iterations of which existed under the titles *A Communion of Saints*, *A Gathering of Saints and Sinners*, *The Hawk and the Myna Bird*, and *Tapestry Tales*. Also included in this series are papers related to the publication of the book, including publishing contracts, typeface samples, prospectuses, copyright forms, and estimates. The Menzies Family correspondence and other papers series contains letters received by Hansen's grandmother, E.B. Menzies, of Hickory, North Carolina, and her immediate family, clippings, and other papers. The bulk of the correspondence in this series was written by Menzies's sons, Bruce, George, and Tom Menzies, and her daughters Mary Stuart Menzies Tarrant and Jane Menzies Gamble (Betsy Gamble Hansen's mother). Other frequent correspondents include Tom's wife, Frances Menzies, and George's wife, Betty Menzies. Also included are birthday cards, Christmas cards, and letters for E.B. Menzies from friends. Two folders labeled "Family Correspondence" consist of correspondence between E.B. Menzies's children and their spouses. Peppered throughout these folders are letters from E.B. Menzie's grandchildren, including Betsy Gamble Hansen.

Mrs. E. B. Menzies was born Reesie Tipton Warren in 1880 in Emory, Virginia and died in 1961. She lived most of her life in Hickory, NC. She married Edward Bruce Menzies in 1902, and they remained together until Edward died in 1924. Most of the pre-1930 correspondence in the collection consists of letters from E.B. Menzies's extended family and a few letters from her children while away at camp. The children wrote infrequently in the 1930s. During this time Tom, George, and Bruce traveled across the country from their hometown of Hickory, North Carolina, in search of work, while Jane and Mary Stuart remained at home. From 1932-1935, the three men each attended the Colorado School of Mines and performed construction work for the Works Progress Administration (WPA) project to build the Hoover Dam, then held temporary jobs in several different cities before settling in California. Tom and Bruce attended college while George appears to have continued working.

During World War II, each of E.B. Menzies's sons enlisted as United States Navy Seabees in the Pacific Theater, and began to write home much more frequently. Tom graduated in 1942 and was immediately subject to the draft, while Bruce and George began service several months later. None of the three men appear to have seen much conflict, and each survived the war unharmed, although Bruce did stay in a Navy Hospital for some time, apparently due to a stomach illness. Jane and Mary Stuart kept in frequent contact with their brothers throughout the war. All three men were discharged by 1945.

In the late 1940s and 1950s, each of E.B. Menzies's sons settled in California with their wives and children. George began working for a rail line, Tom took a job at a mill, and Bruce sold insurance. E.B. Menzies moved to California to teach for two years before moving back to North Carolina. Each of her children kept in regular correspondence with her throughout the 1950s, but the letters stop in 1961, when E.B. Menzies died.

In addition to the correspondence in this series, this series contains clippings and other papers compiled by E.B. Menzies, including a small amount of financial papers, prescriptions, and materials relating to her children.

Biographical/Historical

Betsy Gamble Hansen was an author and Duke University alumna. While at Duke, she majored in English and was a member of Pi Beta Phi sorority. After graduating, she wrote for the "Women's Pages" section of the High Point Enterprise, contributed to the Beaufort, NC Gazette in 1951 and was a small business owner in Charlotte, NC for many years. Hansen also wrote and directed puppet plays in Durham, N.C. She became active in UNICEF in 1989, eventually serving on UNICEF's national board. In 2000, she founded the Oglethorpe University Women's Network, and she belonged to Duke University's Council on Women's Studies for three years. With her husband of 53 years, Harald Hansen, Betsy had two children, Edward Eugene Hansen and Brandon Hansen Frein.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials in the Writings series are arranged alphabetically by folder title. Correspondence in the Menzies Family correspondence and other papers series is arranged alphabetically by correspondent, then chronologically. Original folder titles have, for the most part, been retained.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library

411 Chapel Drive

Duke University

Durham 27708

askRL@duke.edu

URL: <https://library.duke.edu/rubenstein/>

Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Processing Information

Processed by: Samantha Crisp, September 2013

Accessions described in this finding aid: 2013-0083

Acquisition Information

The Betsy Gamble Hansen papers were received by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library as a gift in May 2013.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Material

Jean O'Barr Papers, 1974-2008 (Duke University. David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library) Margaret Taylor Smith papers, 1918-2010 and

undated, bulk 1980-2008 (Duke University. David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library)

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Women's history -- United States
- North Carolina -- Social life and customs
- World War, 1939-1945 -- United States
- Southern States -- Social conditions
- United States. Navy. Appointments and Retirements
- Menzies Family.
- Sallie Bingham Center for Women's History and Culture

Collection Inventory

Writings, 1995-2003 and undated

Physical Description: 7 boxes

Language: English

Scope and Contents

The Writings series includes drafts of Hansen's 2003 novel, *Portals*, which also appears to have existed under the early titles *A Communion of Saints*, *A Gathering of Saints and Sinners*, *The Hawk and the Myna Bird*, and *Tapestry Tales*. Also included in this series are papers related to the publication of *Portals*, including publishing contracts, typeface samples, prospectuses, copyright forms, and estimates.

Communion of Saints annotated, undated	Box 1 > Folder 1
Communion of Saints chapter drafts, 1995-2002	Box 1 > Folder 2
Communion of Saints draft, undated	Box 1 > Folder 3
Communion of Saints early draft, undated	Box 1 > Folder 4
Communion of Saints: miscellaneous, undated	Box 2 > Folder 1
Communion of Saints proposal, undated	Box 2 > Folder 2

A Gathering of Saints and Sinners chapter drafts: chapters 1-3, undated	Box 2 > Folder 3
A Gathering of Saints and Sinners chapter drafts: chapters 4-12, undated	Box 2 > Folder 4
A Gathering of Saints and Sinners chapter drafts: chapters 13-25, undated	Box 2 > Folder 5
A Gathering of Saints and Sinners draft	Box 2 > Folder 6
The Hawk and the Myna Bird, 1996	Box 2 > Folder 7
Index cards - episodes, undated	Box 2 > Folder 8
Notes, 1995 and undated	Box 3 > Folder 1
Portals - the author's annotated copy, 2003	Box 3 > Folder 2
Portals chapter drafts: chapters 1-2, undated	Box 3 > Folder 3
Portals chapter drafts: chapters 3-4, undated	Box 3 > Folder 4
Portals chapter drafts: chapter 5, undated	Box 3 > Folder 5
Portals chapter drafts: chapters 6-7, undated	Box 3 > Folder 6
Portals chapter drafts: chapters 8-9, undated	Box 4 > Folder 1
Portals chapter drafts: chapters 10-12, undated	Box 4 > Folder 2
Portals chapter drafts: chapters 13-15, undated	Box 4 > Folder 3
Portals chapter drafts: chapter 16, undated	Box 4 > Folder 4
Portals chapter drafts: chapters 17-18, undated	Box 4 > Folder 5
Portals chapter drafts: chapters 19-21, undated	Box 5 > Folder 1
Portals chapter drafts: chapters 22-23, undated	Box 5 > Folder 2
Portals contractor: Wings, 2003	Box 5 > Folder 3
Portals copyright form, 2003	Box 5 > Folder 4
Portals cover/order forms, 2003 and undated	Box 5 > Folder 5
Portals early edits of third draft, undated	Box 5 > Folder 6

Portals estimate on hard copy, 2003	Box 5 > Folder 7
Portals etsc types, 2003	Box 5 > Folder 8
Portals final proof, annotated, 2003	Box 5 > Folder 9
Portals first drafts, writings not used, notes from Barbara (1 of 2), undated	Box 5 > Folder 10
Portals first drafts, writings not used, notes from Barbara (2 of 2), undated	Box 6 > Folder 1
Portals first and second draft prospectus, 1997-1999 and undated	Box 6 > Folder 2
Portals handwritten notes, undated	Box 6 > Folder 3
Portals miscellaneous drafts (1 of 3), undated	Box 6 > Folder 4
Portals miscellaneous drafts (2 of 3), undated	Box 6 > Folder 5
Portals miscellaneous drafts (3 of 3), undated	Box 6 > Folder 6
Portals miscellaneous research, notes and drafts, 1995-1997 and undated	Box 7 > Folder 1
Portals overview, 1995-2003 and undated	Box 7 > Folder 2
Portals third draft: forward and chapters 1-6, undated	Box 7 > Folder 3
Tapestry Tales chapters 1-6, undated	Box 7 > Folder 4
Tapestry Tales first draft (1 of 2), 1995-1996 and undated	Box 7 > Folder 5
Tapestry Tales first draft (2 of 2), 1995-1996 and undated	Box 7 > Folder 6
Tapestry Tales miscellaneous, undated	Box 7 > Folder 7
Tapestry Tales overview, undated	Box 7 > Folder 8

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Menzies Family correspondence and other papers, 1902-1961 and undated

Physical Description: 4 boxes

Scope and Contents

The Menzies Family correspondence and other papers series contains letters received by Hansen's grandmother, E.B. Menzies, and her immediate family, clippings, and other papers. The bulk of the correspondence in this series was written by Menzies's sons, Bruce, George, and Tom Menzies, and her daughters Mary Stuart Menzies Tarrant and Jane Menzies Gamble (Betsy Gamble Hansen's mother). Other frequent correspondents include Tom's wife, Frances Menzies, and George's wife, Betty Menzies. Also included are birthday cards, Christmas cards, and letters for E.B. Menzies from friends. Two folders labeled "Family Correspondence" consist of correspondence between E.B. Menzies's children and their spouses. Peppered throughout these folders are letters from E.B. Menzie's grandchildren, including Betsy Gamble Hansen. In addition to the correspondence in this series, also included are clippings and other papers compiled by E.B. Menzies, including a small number of financial papers, prescriptions, and materials relating to her children.

Letters from Jane Gamble to E.B. Menzies, circa 1920-1960	Box 8 > Folder 1
Letters from Betty Menzies to E.B. Menzies, 1952-1960 and undated	Box 8 > Folder 2
Letters from Bruce Menzies to E.B. Menzies (1 of 6), circa 1920-1942	Box 8 > Folder 3
Letters from Bruce Menzies to E.B. Menzies (2 of 6), 1943	Box 8 > Folder 4
Letters from Bruce Menzies to E.B. Menzies (3 of 6), 1944-1945	Box 8 > Folder 5
Letters from Bruce Menzies to E.B. Menzies (4 of 6), 1948-1957	Box 8 > Folder 6
Letters from Bruce Menzies to E.B. Menzies (5 of 6), 1958-1961	Box 9 > Folder 1
Letters from Bruce Menzies to E.B. Menzies (6 of 6), undated	Box 9 > Folder 2
Letters from Frances Menzies to E.B. Menzies, 1944-1957 and undated	Box 9 > Folder 3
Letters from George Menzies to E.B. Menzies (1 of 3), circa 1930-1941	Box 9 > Folder 4

Letters from George Menzies to E.B. Menzies (2 of 3), 1942-1945	Box 9 > Folder 5
Letters from George Menzies to E.B. Menzies (3 of 3), 1948-1961 and undated	Box 9 > Folder 6
Letters from Tom Menzies to E.B. Menzies (1 of 4), circa 1920-1941	Box 10 > Folder 1
Letters from Tom Menzies to E.B. Menzies (2 of 4), 1942-1945	Box 10 > Folder 2
Letters from Tom Menzies to E.B. Menzies (3 of 4), 1946-1954	Box 10 > Folder 3
Letters from Tom Menzies to E.B. Menzies (4 of 4), 1955-1961 and undated	Box 10 > Folder 4
Letters from Mary Stuart Tarrant to E.B. Menzies, 1944-1954 and undated	Box 10 > Folder 5
Letters to E.B. Menzies from friends, 1902-1961 and undated	Box 10 > Folder 6
Birthday cards for E.B. Menzies, 1960 and undated	Box 11 > Folder 1
Christmas cards for E.B. Menzies, 1958-1960 and undated	Box 11 > Folder 2
Family correspondence (1 of 2), 1902-1949	Box 11 > Folder 3
Family correspondence (2 of 2), 1950-1960 and undated	Box 11 > Folder 4
Clippings, 1946-1955 and undated	Box 11 > Folder 5
Other papers, 1928, 1942-1962 and undated	Box 11 > Folder 6

Scope and Contents

Includes Tom Menzies's baptism record, an invitation to Bruce Menzies's wedding, a passage written by Bruce Menzies entitled "In Memory of Dad," a Delta Kappa Gamma Nu chapter directory dated 1959-1960, a script of a play by Katherine Bridges entitled "Trial of the Birds," and various receipts, checks, and prescriptions of E.B. Menzies.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)