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MSS 473 File 8

Title: Elsie Mae McPheron Tuberculosis (TB) Sanatorium Photos Collection, Richland and Summit Counties, 1940

Location: Ohio Genealogical Society, Lyle H. West Archives, 611 SR 97 W, Bellville, Ohio, 44813

Preferred Citation: Elsie Mae McPheron Tuberculosis (TB) Sanatorium Photos Collection, Richland and Summit Counties, 1940, MSS 473, file 8. Lyle H. West Archives, Ohio Genealogical Society, Bellville, Ohio.

Dates: April-August 1940

Creator(s): Elsie Mae McPheron (1910-1967)

Donor(s): Mansfield Memorial Museum, Mansfield, OH

Biography of Creator and Administrative History:

On December 12, 1910, Elsie Mae McPheron was born in Lima, Ohio, the second of three daughters born to Elvin Otto McPheron (1882-1963) and Verna Edith Barton (1887-1980). Elvin was a native of Perry Township in Allen County, and Verna was a native of Wayne Township, Auglaize County. Elvin was an insurance salesman and Verna a homemaker. They were married in 1907, and their first daughter, Grace Lucille, was born in 1908. Elsie followed in 1910 and finally Lois in 1912.

Elsie and her sisters attended school in Lima until the family moved to Cranberry Township, Crawford County, sometime after 1920. Elsie attended New Washington schools through grade 10 and ultimately graduated from Shelby High School in 1929. According to her obituary, she attended the Mount Sinai Hospital School of Nursing in Cleveland and took additional coursework through the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing, which became part of Case Western Reserve University.

Other pictures in this collection from August 1940 are taken at the Richland County Tuberculosis Sanatorium, also known as the Eleanor Thomas Sanatorium, located at 535 Lexington Avenue, Mansfield, Ohio. Elsie's obituary lists her work history as six years, Shelby Public Health Nurse; fifteen years in Elyria; and the last seven years prior to her death with the Mansfield-Richland County Health Department as a school nurse serving Shiloh and Plymouth. No mention of employment at the Edwin Shaw or Eleanor Thomas sanatoriums are provided in her obituary; however, a line in the *Mansfield News Journal* of May 15, 1941, indicates that "Miss Elsie McPheron had been employed as county T.B. dispensary nurse on a part time basis at \$80 a month." So, she could have been a substitute or temporary nurse at the Shaw Hospital at the time the pictures were taken, or perhaps she was just there visiting colleagues.

Elsie Mae McPheron was tragically killed at 4:15 P.M. on September 22, 1967, when her car was struck and subsequently dragged by a Pennsylvania Railroad train at the Rock Road crossing south of Shelby. She was 56-years-old at the time and was survived by her mother with whom she made her home at 24 West Jefferson Avenue, Shelby; her sisters, Mrs. Grace (Ellsworth) Springer of New Washington and Mrs. Lois Horst of Hollis, New York.

EDWIN SHAW TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM—SUMMIT COUNTY, OHIO

In the early part of the 20th century, sanatoriums were established as a combination of a traditional medical hospital and that of a long-term residence for people with chronic illness. In most cases, these facilities were for tuberculosis (TB) patients who needed to be isolated from the general population due to the highly contagious nature of the disease. Sanatoriums were architecturally designed with many porches, decks, and balconies for patients to receive fresh air and sunlight as part of their treatment. At one time, the state of Ohio had 25 such facilities, most on the outskirts of large metropolitan areas—away from the air and noise pollution of the big city.

This institution was founded in 1915 as the Springfield Lake Sanatorium and was renamed in 1934 to honor Edwin Shaw, one of the early trustees for the sanatorium. At the time these pictures were taken, the Shaw hospital was a tuberculosis hospital. Some of the records for this facility, which closed in 1985, were filmed by Family Search. The collection includes patient admittance cards from 1915-1947 and employee cards from 1915-1940 and can be browsed and searched online: <https://www.familysearch.org/en/search/collection/1985540>

Scope and Content: Photographs of nurses and patients at the Edwin Shaw Tuberculosis Sanatorium in Springfield Township, Summit County, Ohio, and of nurses and patients at the Eleanor Thomas Sanatorium, 535 Lexington Avenue, Mansfield, Ohio. Pictures taken on a few specific occasions in 1940.

System of Arrangement: Loose photographs sorted into two groups: Edwin Shaw Sanatorium and Evelyn Thomas Sanatorium

Extent: 1 file

Access: No access restrictions.

Language: English

Provenance: After Elsie's death in 1967, the photographs would have been in the custody of her mother Verna Edith Barton McPheron with whom Elsie resided in Shelby. After Verna's death in 1980, the pictures likely became property of Elsie's oldest sister Grace Lucille McPheron Springer (1908-2006). At some point they were acquired in an unknown manner by the Mansfield Memorial Museum which closed in 2023 upon the death of its curator. The pictures were then donated to OGS in 2025.

Related Archival Materials: Featured in the Spring 2026 issue of the *OGN*

Processing Information: Extensive additional historical research completed by processor to identify locations and full names of people pictured.

Additional notes: A recent donation of all-named photographs from the former Mansfield Memorial Museum features women—some in nursing uniforms, others in regular clothing—standing on a porch or balcony of a building. The year was marked as 1940, but the location was not provided; research showed they were taken at the Edwin Shaw Sanatorium in Springfield Township, Summit County, Ohio---then a mostly rural area southeast of Akron (see postcard).

Clues from the notes written on the backs of the pictures helped establish that the original owner/photographer of these pictures was a Miss Elsie Mae McPheron. Elsie Mae McPheron does not have a card in the family search collection, so I have been unable to confirm or disprove whether or not she was actually on staff at Edwin Shaw or if she was a patient there herself. It does appear that she took these pictures in April and May of 1940 while there either as an employee, patient, or guest.

Captions from photographs used in the Spring 2026 OGN feature:

None of the photographs in this collection had a location provided—only the names of the women and the year 1940. Fortunately, 1940 was also a census year, so I was able to find most of the women enumerated together on the census under the heading *Institution* listed as either *employee* or *patient* for the Edwin Shaw Sanatorium (Tuberculosis), successor to: Springfield

Lake Sanatorium. Several postcard views of the facility were published after it opened, and I was able to purchase this particular card from an Ebay seller. This card prominently shows the elevated open-air deck/sun porch connecting the main buildings of the sanatorium which is exactly where these pictures were taken. Addressed to Mrs. E.T. Hutzen of Braddock, Pennsylvania, on June 28, 1916, the message portion reads, *"Dear Belle, Yes it's a job but we are getting around fine & enjoying it. Hope to see you down home this summer. Love to all, Julia"*. The addressee is Belle Brenner Hutzen (1876-1962), a native of Youngstown, and Julia is probably her younger sister, Julia M. Brenner Huffman (1877-1969).

Elsie McPheron on the upper deck (left) and through the open window of a room (right) at the Edwin Shaw Sanatorium in 1940.

Adela Helen Petrila (left) was admitted to the Edwin Shaw Sanatorium at the age of 16 on November 17, 1936. Her admission card shows her admittance number as 4952 and that she was the daughter of John & Anna (Adamatis) Petrila, Lithuanian natives living in Paris Township, Portage County with a Newton Falls postal address. Her occupation states "At home—did not return to school this fall," which indicates that she had been ill by the start of the 1936-37 school year.

Anna (Adomatis) Petrila (right), mother of Adella, was herself admitted as a patient from December 29, 1936 to April 18, 1937—likely having contracted TB from caring for her daughter. Her admittance number of 4969 suggests that 17 other patients were admitted between the time Adela entered on November 17 and when Anna entered on December 29.

Adela was discharged on October 1, 1940 to the Good Convalescent Home; 732 W. Exchange St.; Akron. Sadly, Adela succumbed to tuberculosis at the age of 21 and died there on October 2, 1941, exactly one year and one day after she left Edwin Shaw. Mrs. Anna Petrila died at the age of 60 in 1955.

Helen Petrosky (left), age 29, was a patient at the sanatorium from November 1, 1939 to June 18, 1940. Her admission card gives her address as 115 19th Street, Barberton, the daughter of Michael Petrosky; Occupation: Seiberling Rubber Company; Religion: Catholic. At the time of admission, her mother, Mrs. Verna Belich Petrosky, was also a resident of the sanatorium. At the age of 40, Helen married Joe Kozan in 1950. They had no children, and she was 83 at the time of her death in 1993.

Jeanette Elsie Smith (right), age 18, entered the sanatorium as a patient and left the sanatorium as an employee. The Cullman, Alabama, native was unemployed at the time of admission on October 24, 1939. She was hired as an office worker on March 26, 1942 and then discharged on May 5, 1942. Shortly after discharge she married Mark Judson Hanna (1922-

1958) on July 28, 1942 and then later remarried to Jack Milton Young Jr. (1926-1994) in 1960. She had no children.

Dr. Clarence Ludlam Hyde (1878-1945) served as the superintendent of the Edwin Shaw Sanatorium from August 22, 1920, until his death. The Buffalo, New York, native attended the University of Michigan's Homeopathic Medical School graduating in 1906. Prior to his tenure at Edwin Shaw, he had worked at several hospitals in Buffalo as a TB doctor. In addition to his role as the superintendent of Edwin Shaw, he was also the medical director of the Municipal TB Clinic in Akron.

Mrs. Irene (nee: Olah) Wieland-Black was a nurse's aide who began her service at the Edwin Shaw Sanatorium on April 6, 1931, at the age of 16. The 1940 census indicates she had only completed two years of high school and was still a nurse's aide at the time this picture was taken. Her 2007 obituary states that she worked at Edwin Shaw for 22 years and took care of many patients in the Sunshine Cottage which was the dormitory for children with TB.

Miss Bessie Mae Clapp, RN. (1902-1976). She was a native of Saltville, Virginia, and was never married.

Elizabeth Dorothea (nee: Soyer) Hill-Cornwell, RN. (1914-1999). She was a native of Monongah, West Virginia, and at the time of hiring in 1939, her wage was \$69/month.

Miss Lillian Anna Dillon (1872-1958). She was hired as a nurse in 1922 at the age of 50 and was still working at the age of 67 when this picture was taken in 1940.

Elsie McPherson with the children of her sister Grace: **June Lavon Springer** (b. 1935); **Everett Clayton Springer** (b. 1938); **Robert Leroy Springer** (1930-2008). Taken July 7, 1940.

Some staff at the Edwin Shaw Sanatorium in 1940 (l-r): Mary Richardson (no information found), Irene (Olah) Wieland-Black (1914-2007); Bridget "Bridie" Lawless (1896-); Bessie Mae Clapp (1902-1976); Florence "Flossie" Ellen Adams (1885-1958); Margaret Mathilde Taras (1905-1977); Elizabeth Dorothea (Soyer) Hill-Cornwell (1914-1999).

1940s Shelby Public Health League Women

BACK ROW:

1. Bertha (Arnold) Brunk (1888-1952)
2. Mrs. McNiel
3. Mary Lucile Bushey (1902-1977)
4. Ada W. (Ferguson) Schiffer (1899-1982)
5. Mrs. Wilsdon

6. Dr. Emma Julia (Lien) Thorson, chiropractor (1877-1972)
7. Lois Wildman (1915-1965)
8. Mary Shaw
9. Hilda Irene (German) Ellery (1911-2003)
10. Harriet Rose

FRONT ROW:

1. Esther (Hamilton) Dewey (1907-1984)
2. Marguerite Ovens
3. Lauretta Frances (Stine) Bourgeois (1905-1999)
4. Antonia Gertrude (Johnston) Yohn (1910-1999)
5. Kay Sweet
6. Bernadine E. (Hicks) Parnell-Wertz (1906-1977)
7. Georgia Beth (Sybrandt) Dennis (1906-1992)
8. Lorena V. (McPhilly) Bourgeois (1900-1986)

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Box 1

File 8:

Edwin Shaw Sanatorium Identified Individuals – April/May 1940

Adams, Florence Ellen "Flossie" (1905-1977)
 Anderson, Dorothy
 Bachus, Hazel
 Baker, Leah
 Baubles, Bernice Martha STARCHER (1915-1969)
 Behanna, Olga E. (1908-)
 Berg, Ruth
 Campbell, Mrs. Betty
 Clapp, Bessie Mae (1902-1976)
 Conrad, Peggy
 Correll, Mary Jayne CORNELIUS (1919-2007)
 Davidson, Marjorie

Dillon, Lillian Anna (1872-1958)
Feyler, Sarah M. (1891-1942)
Goebel, Katherine [nee: Heinbuch]
Gordon, Dr. Nathan Gold (1910-1980)
Greenleaf, Marie [nee: White] (1918-1998)
Hewitt, Dorothy Marie (1911-)
Hopkins, Vera [nee: Rozmarich] COX (1914-)
Hyde, Dr. Clarence Ludlam (1878-1945)
James, Florence Helen [nee: Lowry] (1903-1954)
Kliment, Mary (1920-1947)
Landis, Marie
Lawless, Bridget Mary "Bridie" (1896-)
Lean, Dorothy Frances VRABEL (1916-1976)
Loretta, Theresa M. "Pat" [nee: Rigger] (1910-2011)
McPheron, Elsie Mae (1910-1967)
Moreno, Mrs. Lena (b. ~1917/18-)
Petricca, Nell Janis (1913-1951)
Petrila, Adela Helen (1920-1941)
Petrila, Anna [nee: Adamatis] (1895-1955)
Petrosky, Helen KOZAN (1910-1993)
Richardson, Mary
Smith, Jeanette Elsie HANNA-YOUNG (1921-1994)
Soyer, Elizabeth Dorothea HILL CORNWELL (1914-1999)
Taras, Margaret Mathilde (1905-1977)
Wieland-Black, Irene [nee: Olah] (1914-2007)
Williams, Naida Ruth [nee: Reeves] (1902-1943)
Wolf, Betlilow

Eleanor Thomas Sanatorium Identified Individuals – August 1940

Almy, Mrs. Albert
Chuhaloff, Ruska T. (Mrs. Nick)
Correll, Mary Jayne CORNELIUS (1919-2007)
Ling, Mrs. Elma
McPheron, Elsie Mae (1910-1967)
Mueller, Mrs. Bertha
O'Larry, Mrs.
Oster, Mrs. Phyllis
Pattinger, Nancy

Stephens, Mrs.

Wolf, Miss Lilian E.

[Presumed to be] Shelby Public Health League

Bourgeois, Laurretta Frances [nee: Stine] (1905-1999)

Bourgeois, Lorena V. [nee: McPhilmy] (1900-1986)

Bushey, Mary Lucile (1902-1977)

Brunk, Bertha [nee: Arnold] (1888-1952)

Dennis, Georgia Beth [nee: Sybrandt] (1906-1992)

Dewey, Esther [nee: Hamilton] (1907-1987)

Ellery, Hilda Irene [nee: German] (1911-2003)

Johnston, Antonia Geraldine YOHN (1910-1999)

McNiel, Mrs.

Ovens, Marguerite

Parnell-Wertz, Bernadine E. [nee: Hicks] (1906-1977)

Rose, Harriet

Schiffer, Ada W. [nee: Ferguson] (1899-1982)

Shaw, Mary

Sweet, Kay

Thorson, Dr. Emma Julia [nee: Lien] (1877-1972)

Wildman, Lois (1915-1965)

Wilsdon, Mrs.

Family Members

McPheron, Elvin Otto (1882-1963)

Springer, Everett Clayton (1938-)

Springer, June Lavon BIDDINGER (1935-)

Springer, Robert Leroy (1930-2008)

Key Words: Tuberculosis; Sanitarium; Springfield Lake Sanatorium; Edwin Shaw Sanatorium; Edwin Shaw Hospital; Summit County; Eleanor Thomas Sanatorium; Eleanor Thomas Hospital; Eleanor Thomas Convalescent Home; Richland County; Nursing

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