Biographical Note

Elinor Reinhardt Gordon Blair (June 29, 1913-April 17, 2015) was born at Indiana State Normal School (ISNS) in Indiana, Pennsylvania. She was the only child of McClellan C. Gordon (1863-1937) and Emma Elizabeth Reinhardt Gordon (1887-1984). From 1913 until her father retired from ISNS in 1927, Elinor Gordon grew up on campus.

Elinor’s father, McClellan C. Gordon, was born in Snow Hill on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, and he was an 1885 and 1888 graduate of Indiana State Normal School (ISNS). After graduating from Indiana State Normal School, McClellan Gordon served as a principal in West Newton and Irwin, Pennsylvania, before returning to teach at ISNS in 1892. He continued his education at the ISNS Summer School in 1891, and attended summer programs at Princeton University and Columbia University. McClellan Gordon was a faculty member in the Mathematics Department of ISNS for 35 years from 1892 until his retirement in 1927. During his tenure at Indiana, Gordon had been described as “more than a teacher.” He supervised the bookstore, the student loan fund, and assisted recent graduates in finding teaching positions. Gordon coached several sports teams including baseball and women's tennis and field hockey. McClellan Gordon married Emma Elizabeth Reinhardt Gordon, who was from Titusville, Pennsylvania. She was a teacher and a 1907 graduate of ISNS. Elinor Gordon Blair’s parents were married in 1910. McClellan Gordon was a Freemason, and he and his wife were active in the Indiana community.
At a time when faculty lived as well as worked on campus, the activities of the Indiana State Normal School were a major part of Elinor Gordon Blair’s childhood, which she described in *Growing up on a college campus, 1913-1927* (2004). The Gordon family lived in the Smith Mansion near campus where they supervised 12 student boarders. For nine years, Elinor attended the Model School in Wilson Hall at ISNS through the ninth grade in 1927. She lived at Indiana State Normal School until her father’s retirement in 1927. The 1927 ISNS Instano Yearbook was dedicated to her father “To McClellan C. Gordon, our beloved teacher, who has taught us that the Road to Perseverance, with an occasional touch of humor, leads us to the Realization of our Ideals.” Gordon was an active participant in numerous organizations throughout Indiana including the First Presbyterian Church, the Masonic Lodge, and the Indiana Hospital Board. Upon retiring, Gordon continued to serve Indiana State Teachers College as treasurer of the Jane E. Leonard Loan Fund until 1931. Three decades after his death in 1937, Gordon Hall was named for McClellan C. Gordon.

Elinor Gordon was a 1934 graduate of Vassar College, and she married David Hall Blair (June 30, 1906-October 23, 1986) on July 12, 1935. They raised their three children in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Elinor Gordon Blair taught English at the Indiana Area High School from 1956 until her retirement in 1975. A long-time resident of Indiana, she was a member of Calvary Presbyterian Church, founding president of the New Century Club, and a member of the Ingleside Club. On June 29, 2013, Elinor Gordon Blair celebrated her 100th birthday at St. Andrew’s Village.

For more information about McClellan C. Gordon and Elinor Gordon Blair, please visit the Elinor Gordon Blair digital project and read her book *Growing up on a college campus, 1913-1927* (2004). Learn more about the Elinor Gordon Blair Scholarship offered by the Robert E. Cook Honors College at Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP).
Scope and Content
The collection includes correspondence, papers, photographs, and publications from the personal and professional activities of McClellan C. Gordon and his daughter Elinor Gordon Blair. The collection contains information about civic organizations including Freemasonry in Indiana, Pennsylvania. Prominent in this collection are photographs and papers pertaining to the Model School and Indiana State Normal School (ISNS) during the early 20th Century, and later Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP). Elinor Gordon Blair was also knew Jane Leonard, first Preceptress of Indiana State Normal School (Manuscript Group 24).

Provenance
Donated by Elinor Gordon Blair (1913-2015).

Restrictions
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Processor
This collection was rearranged and the inventory written by David Kupas, July 25, 2005. The collection was organized and the finding aid was updated by Harrison Wick on May 20, 2016.

Container List
Box 1 McClellan Gordon (15 folders)
Series A: Correspondence of McClellan Gordon
1. Letters of recommendation, 1890-1907
2. Letters of recommendation re: principal at Indiana Normal School of Pennsylvania, 1917
3. Letters re: retirement, 1927
   a. Name card from the McElhaney and Gordon Testimonial Banquet, October 27, 1927

Box 1 McClellan Gordon (continued)
Series B: Financial and Legal Documents of McClellan Gordon
4. Individual Income Tax Returns, 1929-1931
5. Property/School Tax for Indiana, Pennsylvania, 1932
6. Summons & Complaint of City of Buffalo v. Emily O. Wadsworth, et.al., 1919

Box 1 McClellan Gordon (continued)
Series C: Miscellaneous
7. Program for The Board of Education of Indiana, Pennsylvania: Opening of the New Indiana High School, September 28, 1925
8. Famous Handwriting of J. Blair Sutton, August 20, 1910
9. Lock of Child’s Hair, probably Elinor Gordon Blair’s
10. Pamphlets re: Freemasons:
   a. Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania: In Memoriam: Right worshipful past Grand Master Brother J. Henry Williams, 1919
   b. The Scottish Rite Cathedral New Castle, Pennsylvania
   f. Grand Lodge F. & A. M. of Pennsylvania: Masonic Burial Service Extract from Section IX Ahiman Rezon, 1895
   g. Membership Card: Ancient Accepted Scottish Rite Valley of New Castle, Pennsylvania, McClellan Gordon
   h. Business Cards: McClellan Gordon, Indian Lodge 313, F. & A. M. (2 copies)
   i. By-Laws Jaffa Temple A. A. O. N. M. S. Altoona, Pennsylvania (September 1, 1926)

11. Miscellaneous
   a. United States of America Department of State permit, April 26, 1899
   b. Newspaper Obituary: A. C. Gordon
   c. Correspondence: Gordon Memorial Fund (after McCellan Gordon’s death in 1937)
   d. Writing: Peter I
   e. Impromptu Remarks by Elbert H. Gray Chairman, United States steel Corporation at Annual Meeting, April 21, 1924 Including Remarks of Stockholders
   f. Correspondence: Christmas Greeting Card from Mr. and Mrs. McClellan Gordon
   g. Metal nameplate: Mr. and Mrs. McClellan Gordon
   h. Indiana State Normal School Faculty Record: McClellan Gordon, January 7, 1921
   i. Member’s Pass to Visitor’s Gallery of U.S. House of Representatives for McClellan Gordon and friend
   j. Correspondence: Campaign Letter from John S. Fisher, April 26, 1926
   k. Name card: Mr. McClellan Gordon (4 copies)

Box 1 McClellan Gordon (continued)
Series D: Professional Activities of Elinor Gordon Blair

Box 1 McClellan Gordon (continued)
Series E: Oral History Interviews

Box 2 Indiana State Normal School – later IUP (15 folders)
1. Program: Indiana State Normal School, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Junior Exhibition July 11, 1882
2. Ingleside Minutes, ca. 1900, April 4, 1924
4. “A Summer Tour to Europe 1905” Organized and Accompanied by Messrs. A. M. Hammers and M. C. Gordon, of the Indiana Normal School of Pennsylvania.
5. The Instano 1917 (spine is split)
7. “The Arrow” (Indiana Training School, Junior High Department) Vol. 1, No. 1, May 1924;
9. Newspaper Article: “Instructors are Honored at Testimonial: Miss Jean R. McElhaney and Prof. M. C. Gordon Feted at Completion of Long Terms of Service at Normal School” (Indiana Evening Gazette Vol. 24, No. 57, October 29, 1927, pp. 1-2)
10. Indiana State College brochure, c. 1960
11. Names of Buildings, 1963
14. Program: The Dedication of Breezedale, April 21, 1989
15. Miscellaneous:
   Indiana State Normal School: Indiana, Penna. 1875-1925;
   Twenty Year Reunion, Indiana State Teachers College, May 27, 1933, Class Songs and Cheers
   Program: Pennsylvania State Normal School Indiana, Pennsylvania: Fifty-first Annual Commencement, May 28-June 1, 1926

Box 3 Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP)
Series A: Newspaper Articles
Box 3 Indiana State Normal School (continued)

Series B: Photographs – Indiana State Normal School

4. McClellan Gordon in Pittsburgh, before 1910
5. Model School 10th Grade Graduation, 192?
7. Play or Pageant, Indiana Normal School, early 20th Century
8. Unidentified Group Photograph
9. Composite Photograph; Individual Photographs of Wm. H. Sproull;
   Commencement Program, July 9, 1885; Identification Note by Elinor Gordon Blair, September 21, 1990
10. East Steps or Possibly North Steps, about 1900
11. 1924 Pageant, Presbyterian Church, Directed by Walter Jackson
12. Smith Cottage, 1913
13. Indiana Normal School, possibly Senior Girls, 1907
14. McClellan Gordon, and unknown (3 copies)

Box 4 Photographs (11 folders)

1. Gordon Family (5 photographs)
2. Elinor Gordon
3. Photograph: Elinor Gordon
   a. Photograph: Elinor Gordon in Stroller, about 2 (1915)
   b. Photograph: Elinor, Smelling the Dandelion
   c. Photograph: Elinor Reinhardt Gordon, Age 2, Mascot of Indiana State Normal School, 1915
   d. Photograph: Elinor Gordon, Age 2 (1915)
   e. Photograph: Elinor Gordon, age 6 (1919)
   f. Photograph: Elinor Gordon, age 6 (1919)
   g. Photograph: 1116 Pembritin St., North Side, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 1919
   h. Photograph: 1116 Pembritin St., North Side, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, May 1919
   i. Photograph, 1930
   (40 unidentified photographs)
4. McClellan Gordon:
   a. Photograph: McClellan Gordon, possibly graduation from one-room school, age 16
   b. Photograph: Tin-type photograph
   c. Photograph: McClellan Gordon, Atlantic City, New Jersey, before 1910
   d. Photograph, May 21, 1932
   e. Photograph: McClellan Gordon in Office, c. 1930
   f. Photograph: Sleigh Ride, before 1910
   g. Photograph: McClellan Gordon (2 copies)
   h. Photograph: McClellan Gordon, with mustache, about 1900
   i. Photograph: McClellan Gordon, just before 1910
   j. Photograph: Professor McClellan Gordon, Indiana, Pennsylvania
5. Indiana State Normal School: Identified Photographs and Postcards
   a. Penny Postcard: Indiana Normal School
   b. Photograph: Elinor Gordon
   c. Photograph: Group of Students on North Steps, c. 1900
   d. Photograph: Christmas Party, Indiana Normal School, Turn of the 20th Century
   e. Newspaper Article: Normal School Faculty, early 1900s (2 copies)
   f. Photograph: Winter Term, 1902
   g. Photograph: Girls Group Photograph, 1907
   h. Photograph: Field Hockey Team, 1907
   i. Photograph: McClellan Gordon, probably in Faculty Apartment, Indiana Normal School
   j. Photograph: McClellan Gordon, probably in the Book Room of John Sutton Hall, Indiana Normal School
   k. Photograph: McClellan Gordon in Costume in His Office in Sutton Hall (2 copies)
   l. Photograph: McClellan Gordon in Costume in His Office in Sutton Hall
   m. Photograph: Past Campus “Informal Group”
   n. Photograph: Croquet Team
   o. Photograph: Informal Group, East Campus
   p. Photograph: McClellan Gordon, Malvina Ridelle, Hope Stewart, Jane Leonard
   q. Photograph: Freshman Officers from 1916 Instano including a 3-year-old Elinor Gordon
   r. Photograph: Ingleside in Breezedale: McClellan Gordon, Judge Blair, Mrs. Blair, Hope Stewart, Miss Leonard
   s. Photograph: Fancy Dress Occasion, Indiana Normal School, early 20th Century
   t. Photograph: Group in front of John Sutton Hall, before 1910
   u. Photograph: Faculty Group or Literary Society, Indiana Normal School, c. 1900
   v. Photograph: 1927 Graduating Class, University School

6. Indiana Normal School: (8 unidentified photographs)

7. Keith Children:
   a. Photograph: John A. H. Keith, Jr., son of President Keith
   b. Photograph: John A. H. Keith, Jr., son of President Keith
   c. Photograph: Mary Lee Keith, daughter of President Keith

8. Miscellaneous: (13 unidentified photographs)

9. New Castle Consistory Gathering (of Masons), September 1, 1921
10. Scrapbook: Elinor Gordon, 1913-1917
11. Student Art Work of James Mack, circa 1918

Box 5 Elinor Gordon Blair (33 folders)
Series A: Writings and Presentations by Elinor Gordon Blair
   1. Jane Austen’s Last Six Years, March 23, 1932
   2. Folk and Art Song, late 1930s or 1940s
   3. Pianists of Today, April 23, 1951
4. Comments upon a Group of Novels, 1956
5. Archibald MacLeish’s Verse Play, J. B., January 8, 1959 (2 copies)
8. Marshall McLuhan as Viewed by Others, April 11, 1969
9. The Impact of Positive Accomplishment: The Influence of Picasso, April 2, 1971
10. Our Town: Indiana, Penna., The Early Years, October 6, 1972
11. The Adams Family, February 7, 1975
12. Watership Down by Richard Adams, April 1, 1976
15. Fascinating American Cities: New Orleans, February 5, 1982 (2 copies)
17. E. B. White, an Appreciation, November 6, 1987
18. Our Vulnerable Planet, April 8, 1988
22. Our Age by Noel Annan, February 25, 1996
23. The Cross, March 19, 1997
25. Henry Grunwald: One Man’s America, November 22, 1998
26. The Cunning Man by Robertson Davies, October 7, 1999
27. William Shakespeare 1564-1616 (Someone in the second millennium who has influenced us today), February 5, 2000
29. The Doomsday Book by Connie Willis, October 2001
33. Sarah Stansbury Sutton, date unknown

Box 5 Elinor Gordon Blair (continued)

Series B: Research Files of Elinor Gordon Blair

34. Jane Austen
35. Columbus, Indiana
36. Contemporary Novel
37. Early America
38. Education I
39. Education II
41. Miscellaneous I
42. Miscellaneous II
43. Pablo Picasso (1881-1973) Spanish painter, sculptor, printmaker, and ceramicist
44. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (1918-2008) Russian novelist, historian, and critic of Soviet totalitarianism
46. Television
47. Toffler and the future
49. Zen and the Art of the Motorcycle
50. Jimmy Stewart was fond of His Hometown
51. Normal School Youth

Box 5 Elinor Gordon Blair (continued)

Series C: Publications of Elinor Gordon Blair
53. The Quarto, No. 20 (Fall-Winter 2003)

Box 6 Cultural and Educational Programs & Pamphlets (17 folders) of Elinor Gordon Blair

2. American Film Theatre
3. Art in Oregon
4. The Arts in Indiana (Pennsylvania), 1965-1999
5. Biographical Sketches Sara Larue Hayes Lambert
6. Brookside Dinner Theatre
7. The Canadian Players
8. Cooperative Association of State Teacher’s College
9. Indiana Arts Council
11. Indiana Area Senior High School
13. IUP: College of Fine Arts [“Faust”-“Working”]
14. Indiana Players
16. IUP The Lively Arts, 1988-2000 (various)
17. IUP University Museum Exhibition Catalogs, 1990s (various)

Box 7 Books from the library of McClellan Gordon (24 books)
Box 8 Books from the library of McClellan Gordon (19 books)


Box 9 Photographs: Scrapbook of Elinor Gordon Blair

1. Pilgrimage to the Iona Abbey in Scotland, Sponsored by Sabbath House, July 7-19, 1992

Box 10 Cultural Events and Pamphlets of Elinor Gordon Blair

1. Indiana Symphony Society, 1989-1990 to 2000-2001 Concert Series
4. IUP Indiana Campus Music Performances, 1952-1999 (various)
5. The Metropolitan Opera National Company
6. Oregon Shakespeare Festival
8. Pittsburg Opera [Madama Butterfly – Tosca]
9. Pittsburg Public Theatre
10. The Playbill
11. The Playgoer
12. The Playhouse
13. The Sendracs
14. The Show Festival
15. Stratford Festival
16. Summer Theatre Guild [Affairs of State- The Moon is Blue]
17. Summer Theatre Guild [The Odd Couple- You Can’t Take it With You]
18. Swing Out Productions
19. Miscellaneous
20. Miscellaneous Art Gallery/ Museum Pamphlets
22. Miscellaneous Programs

**Box 11 Travel and Photograph Albums of Elinor Gordon Blair**
1. Europe, 1959
2. Europe, 1964 (1)
3. Europe, 1964 (2)
5. China, 1988
   a. Presentation on the Yangtze River by Elinor Blair at Breezedale Hall, 1992
   b. Tourist Bureau slides of the: Great Wall, Ming Tombs, Palace Museum, Summer Palace, and Qin Terra-Cotta Figures.
6. Photograph Album: China, 1988
7. Photograph Album: Cambridge and Venice, 1989
8. Photograph Album: Egypt, 1989

**Box 12 Travel Photograph Albums of Elinor Gordon Blair**
1. Photograph Album: Russia, 1990
2. Photograph Album: France, 1991 (1)
3. Photograph Album: France, 1991 (2)

**Box 13 Vassar College – French II Assignment by Elinor Gordon Blair (flat oversized)**
1. “Quel Ques Impressions De France,” by Elinor Gordon (Blair), Vassar College, French II course assignment, April 1929