

Pittsburg State University

Pittsburg State University Digital Commons

Finding Aids

Special Collections & University Archives

2016

Layton, Elizabeth Hope (1909-1993), Collection

Special Collections, Leonard H. Axe Library

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/fa>

Recommended Citation

Special Collections, Leonard H. Axe Library, "Layton, Elizabeth Hope (1909-1993), Collection" (2016).
Finding Aids. 107.

<https://digitalcommons.pittstate.edu/fa/107>

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections & University Archives at Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of Pittsburg State University Digital Commons. For more information, please contact lfthompson@pittstate.edu.

#91 Layton, Elizabeth Hope (1909-1993), Collection
9 folders

INTRODUCTION

A collection of materials relating to Elizabeth Hope Layton, a native of Wellsville, Kansas, who took an art class at age 68, and went on to achieve national recognition for her artwork and exhibitions. The collection consists of correspondence, typewritten poems, obituary, news clippings, photograph, art sketch, a spring 2000 traveling exhibition catalog, and other papers.

DONOR INFORMATION

These materials were collected by former Special Collections curator Eugene DeGruson.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Elizabeth Hope Converse was born October 27, 1909 at Wellsville, Kansas to Asa Finch and May Fink Converse. She attended Wellsville schools and graduated in 1926. She then attended Ottawa University (Kansas) for two years. She married Clyde C. Nichols in 1929 and they had five children. She later divorced Nichols in 1953.

She lived in Denver, Colorado, and later returned to Wellsville in 1942 to take the position of managing editor of The Wellsville Globe, which was owned by her family. Her father was the publisher and her mother was a poet and a columnist for the newspaper. She ran the newspaper following her father's death in 1942. She retired from the newspaper business when it sold in 1957. She married Glenn Layton, Sr. in March 1957.

Layton suffered for years from depression and was devastated when she lost her son, Riley, in 1976. The following year she enrolled in an art class at Ottawa University and earned the nickname "Grandma" from her younger classmates. She enjoyed "contour drawing" and went on to produce hundreds of colored-pencil compositions on various aspects of life including aging, death, genocide, marriage, hunger, AIDS, crack, and capital punishment. She gave numerous one-woman shows, including a show at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., and donated her artwork to benefit others. She was named "Distinguished Kansan of the Year" in 1989 by the Native Sons and Daughters of Kansas. She also received Lifetime Achievement Award by the Women's Caucus for Art in 1990.

Elizabeth H. Layton died on March 15, 1993 and is buried in the Wellsville Cemetery.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

There are three series in this small collection of materials relating to Elizabeth Hope Layton: **Correspondence, Obituaries and Biographical**, and **Miscellaneous**.

The **Correspondence** series contains handwritten letters, typewritten poems, and various news clippings from Layton to Eugene DeGruson in 1981, 1982, and 1986.

The **Obituaries and Biographical** series includes Elizabeth H. Layton's obituary, and newspaper tributes written about her life.

The **Miscellaneous** series consists of a photograph of Elizabeth Layton, her husband, Glenn, and Zula Bennington Greene that was taken in 1987; a printed portrait of Layton drawn by Ted Watts, a spring 2000 traveling exhibition catalog, drawing instructions, and an edited copy of [A Dream on the Back Shelf](#).

FOLDER LIST

Correspondence Series

- f. 1 1981
- f. 2 1981
- f. 3 1982
- f. 4 1986
- f. 5 1989

Obituaries and Biographical Series

- f. 6 Obituaries and Funeral Service, March 1993
- f. 7 Clippings, undated, 1986-2001

Miscellaneous Series

- f. 8 Photograph; Sketch; Art Catalog; Drawing Instructions
- f. 9 A Dream on the Back Shelf, typescript, editorial marks

INDEX ENTRIES

A Dream on the Back Shelf

DeGruson, Eugene "Gene"

Greene, Zula Bennington

Layton, Elizabeth Hope

Layton, Glenn, Sr.

Watts, Ted