



BHC-MSS 0233  
Guide to the Papers of Mary Ann Hornish  
July 2022

**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Hornish, Mary Ann

**Title:** Papers of Mary Ann Hornish

**Dates:** 1910s-2019

**Quantity:** 1.2 linear feet

**Abstract.** Mary Ann Paula Flanagan (later Hornish) was born in Bridgeport in 1927. The material in the collection focuses primarily on her life in Bridgeport prior to 1948, with an emphasis on photographs. Later correspondence also includes insight into growing up in Bridgeport, and the dictated family histories of Mary Ann's parents contain useful information about childhood in the Great Depression in Bridgeport.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

**Biographical History:**

Mary Ann Paula Flanagan, later Mary Ann Hornish, was born in Bridgeport, Connecticut, on November, 25, 1927. One of two children, Mary Ann and her sister Margaret, known as Peggy (later Peggy DeLuca), grew up in Bridgeport's East End neighborhood during the Great Depression. According to her own recollections, Mary Ann's parents skillfully hid the impacts of the Depression from their daughters, finding ways to ensure there were toys at Christmas. There was little want of food and her parents minimized discussion about expenses in the home.

Her parents were Anna Mary Tickey (June 16, 1891-June 28,1985) and Paul William Flanagan (March 7, 1887-March 3, 1962.) The Tickeys moved to Bridgeport for economic reasons in the early 1900s. Several members of the Tickey family worked as a part of the city's infrastructure, with Charles Tickey serving as post master at the Newfield post office. Anna Mary herself worked at Miegs and Company after attending Lincoln School, and remained at Miegs and Company until about 1921 when she met Paul William Flanagan, a salesman at the George B. Clark Furniture Company. Paul had moved to Bridgeport from Brooklyn, New York. They married on April 28, 1921 and resided on the first floor of a split house located at 59 Fifth Street. This address remained the family home until 1959, when they moved to Alpine Street.

Mary Ann graduated Warren Harding High School in 1945 and went on to attend the University of Pennsylvania's dental hygienist accreditation program. She graduated from the school in 1946 and returned to Bridgeport, working in the office of Dr. Englander. She continued to work there until 1948, when she married her husband Donald Hornish. The couple moved to Springfield, Massachusetts where Donald's family was based, before moving to Milford, Connecticut. At that time, Donald worked as a traveling salesman, while Mary Ann worked in the home. She did not pursue validating a dental license in New Jersey, as hers was only valid for Connecticut. They had

**Commented [S1]:** I believe this must be 5<sup>th</sup> Street, if she lived on the East End. Alpine Street is squarely on the East Side or even Upper East Side.

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three children while living in Milford, two sons and a daughter. Later, they moved to West Caldwell, New Jersey, and went on to have one more son. In addition to raising four children, she worked at Caldwell Flowerland from about 1977 to 1989.

Commented [S3]: 4 or three?

Mary Ann moved to New Hope, Pennsylvania with her husband following his retirement in 1989. At this time, her attention turned to gardening and voracious reading. She also knitted hats and baby blankets for newborns at Hunterdon Medical Center in Flemington, New Jersey. She died at home in New Hope on August 3, 2019.

**Scope and Content note:**

The material in the collection focuses primarily on Hornish's life in Bridgeport prior to 1948. The correspondence from 2016 to 2019 includes greeting cards as well as personal correspondence that responds to questions about growing up in Bridgeport. In addition, the folder marked "Family histories of Anna Mary Tickey and Paul W. Flanagan" represents comprehensive biographies of both of Hornish's parents and their siblings, along with information regarding her own childhood during the Great Depression. These biographies, given by dictation to Mary Ann's daughter sometime around 1998, are especially useful in examining growing up in Bridgeport in the early 1900s as her parents did and life in the East End during the Great Depression.

Most of the collection is dominated by photographs of daily life, with the vast majority of images taken in Beardsley Park or the East End. Most photographs are not identified, although some had been. In addition to the Warren Harding High School prom photograph in the "events" folder, the photographs sent by Mary Ann's friends serving in the Second World War are especially interesting, as some of the images were taken in Yokohama and Tokyo during the American occupation.

Also included are Hornish's tools used during her tenure as a dental hygienist.

**Arrangement note:**

Material is arranged into three series. The first contains personal material, including correspondence and typescript recollections, as well as material related to dental school. The second and largest series is the photograph series. The images within are primarily from 1945 and earlier, focusing on Mary Ann's and her sister Peggy's life in Bridgeport. Many images are taken in the East End, with others in Beardsley Park. The third series contains realia in the form of her dental tool kit, used in Bridgeport.

**Administrative information:**

**Provenance:** Gift of the Rinn family.

**Preferred Citation:**

Papers of Mary Ann Hornish (BHC-MSS 0233), Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

**Names and Subject Tracings**

*Personal names*

Hornish, Mary Ann

Flanagan family

Flanagan, Anna Mary

Flanagan, Paul William

DeLuca, Margaret "Peggy"

Tickey family

*Subject tracings*

Bridgeport, Conn.  
Warren Harding High School  
East End (Bridgeport, Conn.)  
Fifth Street (Bridgeport, Conn.)  
World War, 1939-1945  
Irish Americans  
Czech Americans

**Detailed box/folder listing**

Series I, Personal papers

Box 1

1. Correspondence, 2016-2019
2. Correspondence, 2016-2019
3. Family histories of Anna Mary Tickey and Paul W. Flanagan, c. 1998
4. The Folio [yearbook], 1945
5. Dental school textbooks, 1946
6. Dental school textbooks, 1946
7. Dental school textbooks, 1946
8. Dental school papers, 1945-1946

Series II, Photographs

Box 2

1. Mary Ann Flanagan, 1927-1948
2. Warren Harding High School graduation, 1945
3. Family members, 1910s-1967
4. Mary Ann with friends in Bridgeport, 1940s
5. Events, 1945, undated
6. Dental hygiene school, 1945-1946
7. Friends serving in World War II, 1944-1945
8. Tokyo and Yokohama during occupation, 1944-1945
9. Kittens, c. 1930s-1940s
10. Identified photographs, 1927-1966
11. Unidentified, undated

Flat file D, drawer 7, **folder #**, Lincoln school class photo, 1941

Box 3

Dental hygiene kit, 1946