

McLean County Museum of History

Blan, William “Russ” Collection

Processed Autumn 2025

Collection Information

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:	1 box
COLLECTION DATES:	1936-2011, but primarily 1941-1945.
RESTRICTIONS:	None
PROVENANCE:	
REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:	Permission to reproduce or publish material in this collection must be obtained in writing from the McLean County Museum of History
ALTERNATIVE FORMATS:	None
OTHER FINDING AIDS:	None
LOCATION:	Archives
NOTES:	Gift of Blan’s grandson, Todd Scheffert, summer 2020.

Brief History

Born in Kentucky, William R. "Russ" Blan (1918-1977), Blan worked 22 years in warehouse division of John Deere Implement Co near Bloomington. Later he served as a custodian for Unit 5 School. He wed Helen Ruth Scott in 1950 in Clinton and the couple reared son Tom and daughter Bonnie (later Scheffert).

Blan served from May 1941 to Jun 1945 in 95th Coast Artillery of the US Army.

Scope

The collection includes Blan's photo albums and scrapbooks with a particular emphasis on his World War II service in the Coast Artillery.

Box and Folder Inventory

Folder 1: Miscellaneous

- 1.1 Diploma, Normal Community High School, May 1936.
- 1.2 *Pantagraph* articles added by staff in 2020:
 - "Central Illinois Boys Sent to Camp Davis," 1941 Jun 6.
 - Obituary for Wm Blan, 1977 May 12.
 - Obituary for Helen Ruth Scott Blan, 2011 May 9.
- 1.3 Gift agreement, 2020 Jul 24.

Loose Books:

Historical and Pictorial Review Antiaircraft Training Center, 1941. Published by The Army and Navy Publishing Company, 1941.

Photo album, brown cover. May 28, 1941 – Jun 6, 1945. Camp Davis, NC; mountains of W.Va., Colorado mountains, Fort McDowell on Angel Island, CA; Camp Ulapau, HA and many Hawaiian sites; USO shows; etc. All photos labelled.

Photo album/scrapbook, ivory cover with eagle. Photos of family and friends, newspaper clippings from WWII and weddings, May 1945 movement orders, announcement of end of war in Europe, greeting cards mostly to Blan while in the service, etc.