

MS-1895  
Ellanore June Parker  
Originals 1915-1955 39 cm

Ellanore June Parker was born in Ireland ca. 1879. She graduated from Winnipeg General Hospital and in 1910 joined the first contingent of the Canadian Army Medical Corps as a nursing sister. As a First Lieutenant she went to France in January 1915 and served with the 2nd Canadian General Hospital near Dieppe.

At a brief interlude at the Canadian Hospital at Netherhaven on Salisbury Plain she met her lifelong friend and companion, Murney Pugh. Sister Parker served with the First Canadian Division at the Battle of Mons and also treated the first gas cases from Vimy and the Somme, inhaling some of the gas in the process. Because Sister Parker had a susceptible chest, the gas laid her low. When the war ended she was returned to Canada as a patient in a hospital ship and was not expected to pull through. Over the years she had several attacks of pneumonia as a result of the gas, each time being given up for lost by doctors. Sister Parker was awarded the British General Service Medal, the Victory Medal and the Mons Star.

Ellanore Parker and Murney Pugh went to California in 1919 and here Ellanore Parker put to use her talent as a writer. She contributed over a long period, mostly from her bed, to the editorial page of the *Los Angeles Times*. She also had two books of wartime experiences written as fiction, *The Flower of the Land* and *The Land Lay Waiting*, published. Murney Pugh, her nurse and amanuensis, did the copying and editing.

In 1948 they came to Victoria where they lived at 2493 Eastdowne Road. Miss Parker also was involved in inventing and she designed a water cannon which was used in London during the Blitz, and a magnetic detector which was the forerunner of radar. She was a member of the Red Chevrons Association, the Canadian Overseas Nursing Sisters' Association and the John O'London Literary Association. Ellanore Parker died on 10 October 1965 aged 86.

The records consist of manuscript editions of her novels, poems, short stories, and newspaper articles (mostly unpublished); correspondence with various people including Charles de Gaulle, Sir Anthony Eden and Cristobel Pankhurst; newspaper cuttings; scrapbooks, mostly of her newspaper articles; addresses of tribute and epigrams.

Photographs pertaining to her war service in France have been transferred to Visual Records accession 198812-003.

Box	File	Contents
1	1	"The Land Lay Waiting" or "A Ring on her Finger" manuscript, 277 pages
1	2	"The House on Sussex Lane" manuscript, 263 pages
1	3	"Sophie" or "Up Train to London" manuscript, 248 pages
1	4	"Tessa in Canada" or "Mixed Heritage", "An autobiographical novel dealing with World War I in France and opening of the West" notes say "Rough Copy - not published as yet" and explain that it was written in Victoria in 1955 while she was ill in bed, manuscript, 250 pages
2	1	"Eileen under Italian Skies, A Romance" or "Eileen" or "The Ravished Heart" manuscript, 210 pages
2	2	"The Little Stone House" notes say "Really, this could be second part of 'Flower of the Land' or 'Sheila' which was published in 1941" and "Not published as yet" manuscript, 41 pages
2	3	Manuscript articles, many of which were published in the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> , includes both short stories and more general articles
2	4	Poems in manuscript form
2	5	Short stories in manuscript form
2	6	Reviews and clippings
2	7	Scrapbook re. her writing
2	8	Miscellaneous records and limited correspondence from and about Murney May Pugh and her family
3	1	Correspondence relating to Ellanore Parker's inventions + medal
3	2	Correspondence with Sir Anthony Eden
3	3	Miscellaneous correspondence (Cristobel Pankhurst, T.A. Crerar, Charles de Gaulle, King George V, Lieutenant-Colonel Carne, W.E. Ireland)
3	4	Addresses of tribute to the nurses of World War 1 sent to Ellanore Parker
3	5	Fragments of stories (most published in the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> )
3	6	Epigrams written by Ellanore Parker, manuscript and typed
3	7	Scrapbook of articles written by Ellanore Parker in the <i>Los Angeles Times</i> 1925-1927 (has a photograph of Ellanore Parker on cover)
3	8	Various newspaper cuttings relating to Ellanore Parker
3	9	Booklet on Browsholme Hall, near Clitheroe, Lancashire owned by a relative of Ellanore Parker
3	10	Map of Great Britain ca. 1940