



## John Brattin Family Papers UA.10.3.429

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University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall

943 Conrad Road, Room 101

East Lansing , MI 48824

Business Number: 517-355-2330

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University Archives and Historical Collections
<b>Creator:</b>	Brattin, Alice Jane, 1914-1983
<b>Creator:</b>	Brattin, John, 1915-1995
<b>Creator:</b>	Knight, Kate Baker
<b>Title:</b>	John Brattin family papers
<b>ID:</b>	UA.10.3.429
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1849-1995
<b>Physical Description:</b>	8.5 Cubic Feet 8 boxes, 1 scrapbook box, 1 oversize folder
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English .

### Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: "Item title, Collection title, Collection Identifier, Michigan State University Archives & Historical Collections, East Lansing, Michigan."

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## Biographical Note

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John Bowlby Brattin was born on June 7, 1915 to Elizabeth Hope and Claude Lamar Brattin. Since the age of four, John was a life-long resident of East Lansing, Michigan. After graduating from high school in 1932, John and a friend hitch-hiked across the United States, unable to attend the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles which was the original goal. After returning home, John attended Michigan State College (MSC, now Michigan State University) and graduated in 1936 with his Bachelor's degree. During his time at MSC, John met his first wife, Alice Jane Knight (MSC graduate 1935), whom he married in 1939. A few months later, John graduated from the University of Michigan with his law degree. Together, John and Alice Jane had seven children. His children affectionately called him "Chetty." John had his own law practice in East Lansing, worked to help end racism, and protested against the United States involvement in wars. He volunteered his time to several local community organizations,

such as the Edgewood United Church, the Lansing Mental Health Center, the East Lansing School Board, the American Friends Service Committee, the American Civil Liberties Union, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. He was awarded the Greater Lansing Human Relation award in 1962. An avid traveler, John traveled around the world. He visited all fifty states, all the provinces in Canada, Italy, Spain, New Zealand, Newfoundland, and more. He was also a collector of stamps and loved playing tennis. John's first wife, Alice Jane, died in 1983. Three years later in 1986, John married his second wife, Margaret Peisner. John passed away on May 6, 1995.

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## Scope and Content

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The John Brattin family papers consist of mainly John Brattin's papers and correspondence, but it does contain materials and correspondence from his first wife, Alice Jane, and his mother-in-law, Kate Baker Knight. This collection covers John's life from high school graduation until his death. Included in the collection are correspondence, work documents, photographs related to the Bowlby, Baker, and Knight families, certificates, family newsletters, newspaper clippings, scrapbooks, a postcard collection, small tokens from John's travels, and stamps.

There are many loose stamps found throughout the collection in various folders. Also, letters that are addressed to "Chetty" were referring to John Brattin. His family nickname was "Chetty."

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

University Archives and Historical Collections

Conrad Hall  
943 Conrad Road, Room 101  
East Lansing , MI 48824  
Business Number: 517-355-2330  
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URL: <http://archives.msu.edu/>

## Conditions Governing Access

Collection is open for research. Box 6351, folders 16-17 are restricted.

## Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish material from this collection must be obtained from University Archives & Historical Collections, Michigan State University.

## Conditions Governing Access

**Legal Status:** Donor(s) have transferred any applicable copyright to Michigan State University but the collection may contain third-party materials for which copyright was not transferred. Copyright restrictions may apply. Property Rights: Michigan State University.

## Processing Information

Record group changed from 00254 to UA 10.3.429 to reflect John and Alice Brattin's connection to Michigan State University. -M. Badgley-Malone, January 2023.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Lawyers -- Michigan
- Olympics
- Postage stamps
- Stamp collecting
- Travel
- Universities and colleges -- Alumni and alumnae
- East Lansing (Mich.)
- Account books
- Certificates
- Clippings (Books, newspapers, etc.)
- Correspondence
- Diaries
- Ephemera
- Family histories
- Ledgers (account books)
- Legal correspondence
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks
- Brattin, Alice Jane, 1914-1983

- Brattin, John, 1915-1995
- Knight, Kate Baker
- Michigan State University. Class of 1935
- Michigan State University. Class of 1936
- Michigan State University. Alumni and alumnae
- University of Michigan. Law School

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## Collection Inventory

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### Alice Jane Brattin

Title/Description	Instances	
Account Book, 1945-1947	box 6351	folder 1
Alumni List - Adrian Public Schools, 1930	box 6351	folder 2
Art History Notes - Examples of Art Scrapbook, undated	box 6351	folder 3
Charm School Play Script, The, 1922	box 6351	folder 4
College Report Cards, 1931-1935	box 6351	folder 5

### Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
1918-1979	box 6352	folder 1
July 3 - 15, 1935	box 6352	folder 2
July 17 - August 15, 1935	box 6352	folder 3
August 19 - October 7, 1935	box 6352	folder 4
October 8 - November 15, 1935	box 6352	folder 5
November 16 - December 26, 1935	box 6352	folder 6
December 27, 1935 - February 3, 1936	box 6352	folder 7
February 10 - June 26, 1936	box 6352	folder 8
July - October 1936	box 6352	folder 9
November 1936 - March 1937	box 6352	folder 10
April - July 1937	box 6352	folder 11
August - November 1937	box 6352	folder 12
December 1937 - March 1938	box 6352	folder 13
April - July 1938	box 6352	folder 14
August - October 1938	box 6352	folder 15

November - December 1938	box 6352	folder 16
January - March 1939	box 6352	folder 17
1939-1955, undated	box 6352	folder 18
1961-1965	box 6352	folder 19
Correspondence and Notes from College and Mason, 1934-1938, undated	box 6352	folder 20
Epherma - Dance Cards and Valentines, undated	box 6351	folder 6
Expenses Book, 1932-1933	box 6351	folder 7
Guestbook from Memorial Service for Alice Jane Brattin, 1983	box 6351	folder 8
MSC Dance Cards and Ticket Stubs, 1931-1940	box 6351	folder 9
"Memories of my Mother: Alice Jane Brattin" by C. J. Burrell, 1991	box 6351	folder 10
Miscellaneous - Note Cards, Drivers License, 1983, 1992, undated	box 6351	folder 11
Musings by Alice Jane Brattin, undated	box 6351	folder 12
Record of Family Traits, February 26, 1935	box 6351	folder 13
"Thicker Than Water" by Marshall Palley, Circa 1984	box 6351	folder 14
Thoughts and Memories from Friends, 1983-1990	box 6351	folder 15

## Restricted (2 Folders)

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## John Brattin

Title/Description	Instances	
Account Ledger, 1961-1962	box 6355	folder 14
Account Ledger, 1964-1966	box 6355	folder 15
Address Labels, 1991, undated	box 6355	folder 16
Application for a British Empire-Wide Visa, May 19, 1934	box 6355	folder 17
Assorted Notes, Stickers, and Stamps, undated	box 6355	folder 18
Brattin Inventory, undated	box 6355	folder 19
Brattin's Iowa High School Content Examination, November 17, 1931	box 6355	folder 20
"The Brattin Stamp Co. Catalogue of the Commonest Stamps of the World, Books 1 and 2", author unknown, undated	box 6355	folder 21

Brattin Woods, 1979, 1995, 1997	box 6355	folder 22
Business Taxes - IRS, 1958-1982	box 6355	folder 23
Calendar, 1960	box 6355	folder 24
Calendar, 1960-1961	box 6355	folder 25
Certificates Awarded to John Brattin, 1941, 1988, undated	box 6355	folder 26
Certificates of Claud Brattin, 1942 - 1972, undated	box 6355	folder 27
Claud Brattin's Pilot Flight Record and Log Book, 1943-1947	box 6355	folder 28
Congratulations on the Greater Lansing Human Relations Award, 1962	box 6355	folder 29

## Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
May 1927 - December 1930	box 6353	folder 1
January 1931	box 6353	folder 2
February - December 1931	box 6353	folder 3
March - July 1932	box 6353	folder 4
August - December 1932	box 6353	folder 5
1933	box 6353	folder 6
January - September 1934	box 6353	folder 7
October - December 1934	box 6353	folder 8
January - August 1935	box 6353	folder 9
September - December 1935	box 6353	folder 10
1936 - June 1937	box 6353	folder 11
July - December 1937	box 6353	folder 12
1938	box 6353	folder 13
March - May 1939	box 6353	folder 14
June - December 1939	box 6353	folder 15
1940	box 6353	folder 16
Personal - Early Career (Arranged Alphabetically), 1941-1943	box 6353	folder 17-18
1945-1996	box 6354	folder 1
Addressed to both John and Alice Jane Brattin, 1938, undated	box 6354	folder 2



## John Brattin Family Papers UA.10.3.429

Addressed to both John and Alice Jane Brattin, June - September 1939	box 6354	folder 3
Addressed to both John and Alice Jane Brattin, October 1939 - January 1940	box 6354	folder 4
Assorted Family Letters, 1918 - 1932, undated	box 6354	folder 5
Assorted Letters to John Brattin, 1974-1992	box 6354	folder 6
B.L. Brattin, 1938, 1960-1961, undated	box 6354	folder 7
Blanche to John and Family, 1960-1964, 1992, undated	box 6354	folder 8
Bob Coppock to John and Family, 1990, undated	box 6354	folder 9
Charlotte to John and Family, 1991-1993	box 6354	folder 10
Claud and Elizabeth Brattin to John Brattin, 1933 - 1966, undated	box 6354	folder 11
Envelopes, 1965	box 6354	folder 12
Florence to John and Family, 1989-1993, undated	box 6354	folder 13
From John to Unidentified, 1947-1990, undated	box 6354	folder 14
Grace to John and Family, July 12, 1970	box 6354	folder 15
Gretchen Williamson (Photos included), 1969-1992	box 6354	folder 16
Helen Brattin to John Brattin, 1961-1991	box 6354	folder 17
Jimmie to John Brattin, January - June 1985	box 6354	folder 18
John to Barbara Lu Brattin, 1938	box 6354	folder 19
John Brattin and Alice Jane Brattin, July 1933 - July 1934	box 6354	folder 20
John Brattin and Alice Jane Brattin, August - December 1934	box 6354	folder 21
John Brattin and Alice Jane Brattin, January - June 1935	box 6354	folder 22
John Brattin and Alice Jane Brattin, 1951 - 1959, undated	box 6354	folder 23
John to Children, 1959, 1986 - 1992	box 6354	folder 24
John to Margaret, October 8, 1985	box 6354	folder 25
John to his Parents, 1961, undated	box 6354	folder 26
Leah to John and Family, 1991	box 6354	folder 27
Margaret Knight, 1930 - 1931, undated	box 6354	folder 28
Mary Bowlby and John Brattin, 1965-1975	box 6354	folder 29
Mary Bowlby and John Brattin, 1976-1991	box 6354	folder 30
Meg to John and Family, 1935 - 1994, undated	box 6354	folder 31

<b>Philately</b>		
<b>Title/Description</b>	<b>Instances</b>	
Organized by Last Name, K-Ni, 1942-1943	box 6354	folder 32
Organized by Last Name, Ni-Ru, 1942-1943	box 6354	folder 33
Organized by Last Name, Sa-Z, 1942-1943	box 6354	folder 34
Precancel Stamps, 1941-1942	box 6354	folder 35
Stamps and Trying to Work on a Ship, 1931-1934	box 6355	folder 1
Unsigned Letters, 1960 - 1961, undated	box 6355	folder 2
William Knight, 1906	box 6355	folder 3
Date Book, 1965	box 6355	folder 30
Diary of Social Life and 1932 Trip, undated	box 6355	folder 31
Fall of Pemberton Mill by Elizabeth Stewart Phelps; Marguerite of France by Felicia Hemans; Notes on trip from Denver to Hagerman's Pass, Glenwood Springs and Return, August 1892	box 6355	folder 32
Family Background and Genealogical Information, 2015, undated	box 6355	folder 33
Family Newsletters, 1984-1992	box 6356	folder 1
Family Newsletters, 1993 - 1995, undated	box 6356	folder 2
Faxon Family Tree, undated	box 6356	folder 3
Federal Reformatory - Chillicothe, Ohio Paperwork, 1939	box 6356	folder 4
Financial Ledger, 1960-1995	box 6356	folder 5
Finanical Ledger - Law Office and Stamps, 1946-1955	box 6356	folder 6
Genealogy of John and Alice Jane Brattin Families, undated	box 6356	folder 7
Grievance Material Related to Denial of Admission to the Bar in Washington, D.C., Circa 1939	box 6356	folder 8
Harris A. Silverberg vs. Kerns Hotel, 1935-1936	box 6356	folder 9
"Improving the Sunday School Thro Expressional Activities" by Kate Knight, October 7, 1925	box 6356	folder 10
James A. Wilder Memorandum Book/George N. Chalkers Book, 1849-1874	box 6356	folder 11
John Brattin Assorted Reciepts, Notices, and Business Cards, 1936-1966, undated	box 6356	folder 12
John Brattin's High School Diploma and High School Reunion Speech, 1932, 1994	box 6356	folder 13
John Brattin Motor Trip Diary, Circa 1927		

	box 6356	folder 14
John Brattin Olympic Trip Memorabilia, 1932	box 6356	folder 15
John Brattin Paper Route Log Book, undated	box 6356	folder 16
John Brattin's Personal Notes, undated	box 6356	folder 17
John Brattin Political and Personal Causes, undated	box 6356	folder 18
John Brattin University of Michigan Membership Cards, 1934-1939	box 6356	folder 19
John and Alice Jane Brattin Membership Cards and Ticket Stubs, 1936, 1939, and undated	box 6356	folder 20
Ledger, 1945-1952	box 6356	folder 27
Letters of Introduction for John Brattin and Curtis White Traveling to the Olympic Games, July 1932	box 6357	folder 1
Liberal Arts Essay, Author Unknown, undated	box 6357	folder 2
Marriage License of John and Alice Jane Brattin, March 27, 1939	box 6357	folder 3
Memo Book, undated	box 6357	folder 4
"Memorie's of J. B." by Mercer Patriarche, undated	box 6357	folder 5
Miscellaneous - Correspondence, Notes, and Stamps, 1934-1993, undated	box 6357	folder 6
MSC Commencement Program, June 15, 1936	box 6357	folder 7
Newcomer's Evening Bridge, 1964-1968	box 6357	folder 8
Newsletter. "The Players", October 1951	box 6357	folder 9
Newspaper Clippings, 1936-1962, undated	box 6357	folder 10
Newspaper Clippings, undated	box 6357	folder 11
Newspaper Clippings. The Brattin Family, 1936-1958, undated	box 6357	folder 12
Notebook, undated	box 6357	folder 13
Part of a Calendar, 1978-1979	box 6357	folder 14
Personal. John Brattin, 1979	box 6357	folder 15
Photocopies of Plaques for John Brattin, 1962, 1982	box 6357	folder 16
Photograph Book, undated	box 6357	folder 17

## Plays

Title/Description	Instances	
"Cuckoos on the Hearth: Play in Three Acts" by Parker Fennelly, 1942	box 6357	folder 18

Incomplete Play Scripts, undated	box 6357	folder 19
Precancel Collecting in the Thirties, undated	box 6357	folder 20
Railroads and Freight Cars, undated	box 6357	folder 21
Report Cards of John Brattin, 1920-1936	box 6357	folder 22
Road Map and Historical Guide - New York, undated	box 6357	folder 23
Single Entry Ledger, 1940-1943	box 6357	folder 24

## Stamps

Title/Description	Instances	
Brattin's Notes on his own Stamp Collection, undated	box 6357	folder 25
Envelopes with Stamps and Loose Stamps, 1860-1934, undated	box 6357	folder 26
Envelopes with Stamps and Loose Stamps Found in Cigar Box, 1949-1987, undated	box 6357	folder 27
How to Tells Stamps Materials, 1925, undated	box 6357	folder 28
Stamp Collection, 1981-1984, undated	box 6357	folder 29
Stamp File Books, 1964-1965, 1971, undated	box 6357	folder 30
Tennis Rankings, 1931-1934	box 6357	folder 31
Thank You Note, undated	box 6357	folder 32
University Materials, 1934-1936, undated	box 6357	folder 33
University of Michigan Law School Examination Books, Report Card, and Account Book, 1936-1939	box 6357	folder 34
Valentine's, undated	box 6357	folder 35
Wedding Invite of James and Margaret Thomas-Stahle, 1938	box 6357	folder 36
West Adrian Congregational Church 100th Anniversary Program, 1936	box 6357	folder 37
Will Journal, 1942-1967	box 6357	folder 38
Yearbook-Calendar, 1935	box 6357	folder 39

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## Kate Baker Knight

### Correspondence

Title/Description	Instances	
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1896-1898	box 6355	folder 4
1906-1908	box 6355	folder 5
1910	box 6355	folder 6
1921-1922, 1927	box 6355	folder 7
1930-1933	box 6355	folder 8
1935-1939	box 6355	folder 9
1941-1947	box 6355	folder 10
1948-1949	box 6355	folder 11
1951	box 6355	folder 12
Undated	box 6355	folder 13
Kate Knight's Canadian Favourites Cook Book, 1949	box 6356	folder 21
Kate A. Baker Diary, December 9, 1883 - November 7, 1885	box 6356	folder 22
Kate Knight Funeral Program, 1965	box 6356	folder 23
Kate Baker Knight's Journal, 1892-1954	box 6356	folder 24
Kate Baker's Musings, 1891	box 6356	folder 25
Kate Baker's Postcard Collection, circa 1906	box 6356	folder 26

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## Books

Title/Description	Instances	
Law Register Book, 1939-1969	box 6357	folder 40
"Longs Peak: It's Story and a Climbing Guide" by Paul W. Nesbit, 1953, 1972	box 6357	folder 41
"Unique Ghost Towns and Mountain Spots" by Caroline Bancroft, 1961	box 6357	folder 42

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## Ephemera

Title/Description	Instances	
Brattin Pencils, undated	box 6357	folder 43
Business Cards and Stickers from Nevada and Wyoming, 1950, undated	box 6357	folder 44
Locks of Hair, undated	box 6357	folder 45

Rock Collection from California Trip, undated	box 6358	folder 4
Stamp Magnifying Glass, undated	box 6358	
Wallet and Swatch of Materials, undated	box 6357	folder 46
Wishbone, undated	box 6358	folder 5

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## Photographs

Title/Description	Instances	
Baker/Knight/Lapham Family Member, undated	box 6351	folder 18
Baker/Knight/Thomas Family Members, 1870, 1898, undated	box 6351	folder 19
Brattin Family Members, 1953 and undated	box 6351	folder 20
Alice Jane Brattin, 1933-1937	box 6351	folder 21
Alice Jane Brattin, undated	box 6351	folder 22
Alice Jane and Margaret Knight, 1919-1929	box 6351	folder 23
Alice Jane Knight and Others, 1932-1935	box 6351	folder 24
Claud Brattin and Alice Jane Brattin, undated	box 6351	folder 25
Mr. & Mrs. Claud L. Brattin, July 24, 1946	box 6351	folder 26
John Brattin, 1934-1983, undated	box 6351	folder 27
John and Alice Jane Brattin, 1934, undated	box 6351	folder 28
John Brattin and Groups of People, 1979-1984, undated	box 6351	folder 29
John Brattin and Others, undated	box 6351	folder 30
John David Brattin, December 1941	box 6351	folder 31
Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, undated	box 6351	folder 32
Kate Baker Knight, 1896-1953, undated	box 6351	folder 33
Kate Baker Knight Teaching, 1895-1896	box 6351	folder 34
William Knight, 1933, 1964, undated	box 6351	folder 35
Local Politicians and Police Officers, 1939-1977	box 6351	folder 36
Places, undated	box 6351	folder 37
People, 1934-1987, undated	box 6351	folder 38
Scenes, 1932, 1934, undated	box 6351	folder 39
Stella and others, 1983-1984	box 6351	folder 40

Train, 1981	box 6351	folder 41
<b>Photo Album, 1918-1923, undated</b>	box 6351	folder 42

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## Plaques

Title/Description	Instances	
Michigan Credit Union Attorneys Conference, May 15, 1984	box 6358	folder 1
Certificate of Service Award to John Brattin, February 28, 1982	box 6358	folder 2
Annual Human Relations Award to John Brattin, February 28, 1962	box 6358	folder 3

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## Oversized

Title/Description	Instances	
Certificate from the Supreme Court of the United States of America, May 6, 1968	box 6394	
Years of Service to the Ingham County Bar Association, November 9, 1989	box 6394	

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## Scrapbooks

Title/Description	Instances	
Kate Baker to Margaret Knight, undated	box 6358	
Kate Baker's Commonplace Book, undated	box 6358	
Scrapbook/Newspaper Clippings, undated <u>Container Summary</u> : Adrian, MI Newsclippings	box 6358	
Scrapbook/Newspaper Clippings, undated <u>Container Summary</u> : Adrian, MI Newsclippings	box 6358	
Scrapbook/Newspaper Clippings, undated	box 6358	

Container Summary: Adrian, MI Newsclippings

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Scrapbook/Newspaper Clippings, undated

box 6359

Container Summary: East Lansing, MI ; Whitehills Estates  
articles

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