

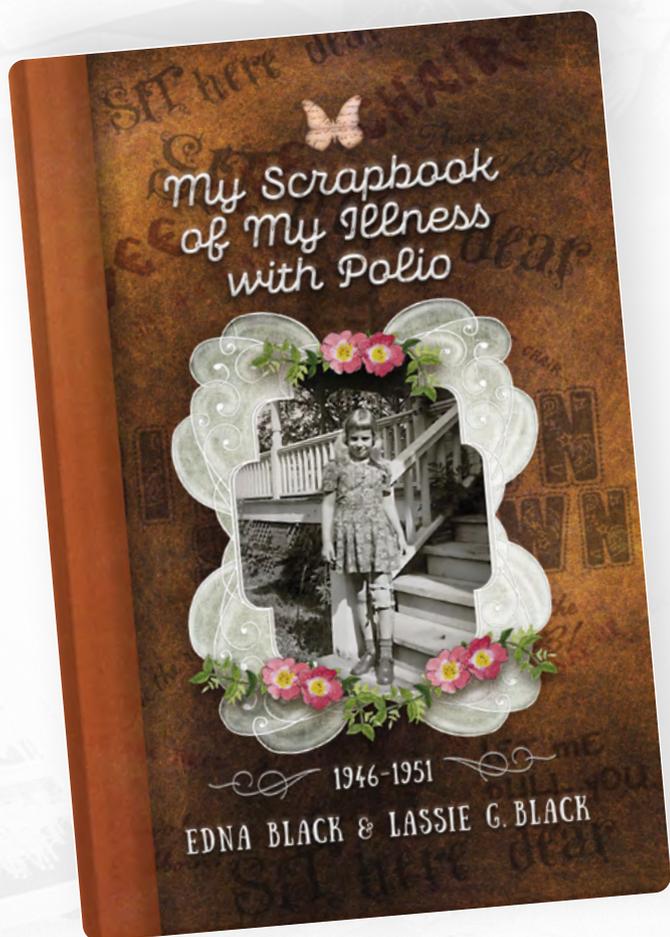


MY SCRAPBOOK OF MY ILLNESS WITH **POLIO**

**Featuring a unique scrapbook diary of one child's experience with Polio in the 1940s.**

Author:

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*Contributing Editor & Libraries Senior Associate*



**M**y *Scrapbook of My Illness with Polio* is the story of one child's experience with polio in the 1940s. When Edna Hindson, then Edna Black, was diagnosed with polio in 1946, she spent time in the hospital and at Franklin Delano Roosevelt's Warm Springs Rehabilitation Facility in Georgia recovering and regaining mobility. During a six-year period, her mother kept a daily diary describing events in her daughter's life—in her daughter's voice. This voice makes the polio journal unique, telling a story that also is becoming increasingly rare—a narrative about a life-changing illness that now is vanishing from the public consciousness.

*Edna with walking stand in her new brace.*

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*Lassie Goodbread Black & Edna Ray Black Hindson*

*Co-authors & polio survivor*

In the 1940s, paralytic polio had become epidemic in America, infecting mostly children and causing widespread fear as outbreaks moved across the country in the warmer months. The increasing prevalence of the disease, and the fact that the American president elected to four terms was paralyzed by polio, called public attention to the condition and the need for funding research for a cure, or at least a vaccine. This motivated Americans to send their dimes to the White House. With this effort, and continuing dedication to protect America's children, vaccines were created in the 1950s and early 1960s. Since that time, concerted efforts to vaccinate children have eliminated the three wild forms of the disease from the United States.

As with many infectious diseases that were once a public threat, Americans have no memory of the fear and panic that accompanied the seasonal polio outbreaks. This journal thus helps to capture this history and thus to recapture a history of how infectious disease shaped American society, and shaped individual lives.

Edna's physical scrapbook and the collection of related materials—cards, photos, and memorabilia—were included



in the Smithsonian Institution's exhibit "Whatever Happened to Polio," and boxes of materials are part of the Smithsonian's archives. Edna had a copy of the story, and it was transcribed into a digital file by Nina Stoyan-Rosenzweig. Nina met Edna through a polio survivor's group and, once she was aware of the unique nature of the document, she contacted the LibraryPress@UF to see about publishing it as a book.

To make this unique piece of history available for a wide audience, the book is currently available for free download from the UF Digital Collections and is purchasable as a print-on-demand volume through UF Press.

With the recent pandemic, the story of polio—complete with the work to develop a vaccine, how our world responded together, and the individual stories of those with polio—is all the more relevant. In addition, Edna and Nina continue to share this story through presentations. Ongoing work also includes plans to interview polio survivors in north Florida.

