

Prepared by: VJA  
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EISENHOWER

**EISENHOWER, BARBARA**

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Daughter-in-law to Dwight D. Eisenhower.

DESCRIPTION: Interview #1: Childhood as daughter of an Army officer; attending Purdue University; joining her father in Vienna, Austria after World War II; life in occupied Vienna; dating John Eisenhower; planning the wedding and meeting future in-laws; Mrs. Doud; first impressions of Mamie; stationed at Fort Benning after marriage; briefly moving in with Ike and Mamie when he became President of Columbia University; life at West Point; frequent moves during first ten years of marriage; moving back to Highland Falls, New York when John left for Korea; Command and General Staff School at Fort Leavenworth; move to Fort Belvoir and then to Alexandria, Virginia to be close to Washington, DC; hectic life in Washington with four children and little help so family moved to the Eisenhower farm at Gettysburg; meeting Nikita Khrushchev at Gettysburg, how he charmed her children; impressions of the Russian women; Charles de Gaulle; vacationing with the Ike and Mamie; Denver; great times at Camp David; the press, publicity and the children; Secret Service and the need for security; the 11-nation tour in the Mediterranean and India, Indira Gandhi; reception in Iran and Pakistan; 1952 Presidential campaign; keeping life simple for her children during the White House years; importance of family to a President; John's decision to resign from military; helping his father's writing projects; Freedom's Foundation and writing *The Bitter Woods*; John becomes ambassador to Belgium; relationship with Richard Nixon family and the Eisenhower children; Palm Springs, California; Augusta, Georgia; DDE's funeral; life in Brussels; moving back to the US; her life after the children were grown; finishing her college degree; golf; more on life in Brussels; Andrew Goodpaster; some additional thoughts on Ike and Mamie.

Interview #2: Cliff Roberts; Aksel Nielson; Ellis Slater; deeding the DDE house in Gettysburg to the National Park Service; Freeman Gosden; [Bernard Law] Montgomery; Winston Churchill; Bill Robinson; managing publicity in the Eisenhower White House; John F. Kennedy; Lyndon Johnson; Richard Nixon; her relationship with the press; Dorothy Kilgallon; Robert Anderson; DDE's aides and assistants; Robert Schulz; Ike and Mamie at the end of WWII; Ike as a public speaker; the impact of the U-2 incident; John Foster Dulles; diplomatic corps; what is expected of the ambassador's wife; Kevin McCann; Mamie's likeability; couples who were friends with John and Barbara; state dinners; White House social office.

[Dwight D. Eisenhower Library Oral History Project, interviews by John Wickman on August 9, 1982 and May 9, 1983]