



Guide to the Robert Blair and Ralph Brennan Papers, 1890-1945

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Robert Blair and Ralph Brennan Papers, 1890-1945

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

2006.001

Author of Finding Aid:

Stephen Leavenworth, rewritten and formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler

Creator:

Ralph Brennan, born 1894; Robert I. Blair, 1908-2005

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

Two boxes, one paper package and three certificates/photos

Abstract:

Papers, 1890-1945, of Robert Blair and Ralph Brennan mostly related to the World Wars. Blair's wife was the step-niece of Brennan. Brennan's papers include materials related to the Standish Worsted Company and letters and materials related to his service in World War I. Blair's papers consists of materials about his World War II Naval service, with some post-war letters and memorabilia.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

All papers were donated to the New Hampshire Historical Society by Sarah Blair Brown of Bristol, NH.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Stephen Leavenworth at an unknown date. It was rewritten and formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler in March, 2014. This finding aid follows the standards set-forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The collection is on paper; no technical requirements are necessary for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Researchers are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Robert Blair and Ralph Brennan Papers, 2006.001. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information

Robert L. Blair was born August 27, 1908, in New York City, son of the late Myers Hogland and Sarah Jackson Blair. He graduated from Lehigh University and later joined the U.S. Navy. He was commissioned a Lieutenant in the Armed Guard, units of which were assigned to merchant vessels to protect them from U-Boat attacks. He made several trips to Mermansk in the USSR, one of the most dangerous convoy routes of the War. After the War, he worked for the Mobil Oil Company. He died September 14, 2005, in Concord, NH.

Ralph Brennan was born about 1894 in Newport, NH. He attended Worcester Academy, Worcester, MA; Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH; and Philadelphia Textile School for two years each. His father, Vincent J. Brennan, was agent for Brampton Mill in Newport, NH. Ralph was employed by the Standish Worsted Company of Penacook, NH. In 1918, he enlisted for service in World War I, in the Field Artillery as a

“Mechanic,” an enlisted grade equivalent to a PFC. He saw service in France and was there when the war ended, upon which he was assigned to the A.E.F. University at Beaune (Cote D’Or). While there, he seems to have met a French girl, ‘Eugenie,’ who wrote several letters to him. Brennan is the step-uncle of Blair’s wife, Dorothy Brennan Blair.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Robert Blair and Ralph Brennan Papers. 1890-1945, consist of official military and naval correspondence, orders, and duties as well as personal letters, souvenirs, post cards, photographs, certificates, and a diary. The papers are divided into two series: Series I. Robert Blair and Series II. Ralph Brennan. Series one, located in box one, begins with Blair’s entry into the United States Navy in 1942 and end with the conclusion of World War II in 1945. Series two, located in box two, begins with the Standish Worsted Company materials and extends through World War I. This series also contains a collection of post-cards and letters from a family member dated in the 1930’s. Ralph Brennan was the step-uncle of Robert Blair.

Arrangement

The papers have been divided into two series, one for each man:

Series 1 (Box 1): Robert Blair.

Series 2 (Box 2): Ralph Brennan.

Contents List

Series I. Robert Blair

Box 1

- Folder 1 Official Navy papers [22 items]
- Folder 2 Post-War papers and memorabilia [28 items]
- Folder 3 Personal letters and memorabilia from World War II [22 items]
- Folder 4 Certificates, Diary kept at sea, 1945 [2 items]
- Not in folder Scrapbook kept during World War II

Series 2: Ralph Brennan

Box 2

- Folder 1 Papers relating to Standish Worsted Company, 1890-1905. These include two ‘Style Journals’ from the 1890s, which must have belonged to Brennan’s father, Vincent Brennan. [6 items]
- Folder 2 Papers, photos and memorabilia from France, 1918-1919: includes two badges, ‘PFC’ and ‘Mechanic’ and one manual [34 items plus 10 photos]
- Folder 3 Letters, outgoing [29 items]
- Folder 4 Letters, incoming, 1918-1919 [6 items]
- Folder 5 Letters to Ralph from ‘Eugenie’ [8 items]
- Folder 6 Correspondence while touring Europe, 1927-1933 [42 items]
- Folder 7 Miscellaneous papers and memorabilia, post WWI [18 items]

Subject Terms

People:

Blair, Robert, 1908-2005

Brennan, Ralph, ca. 1894 - ?

Organizations:

United States – History – World War I

United States – History – World War II

United States Navy – World War II

Subjects:

Diaries

Scrapbooks

Locations:

Penacook, NH

Occupations:

Military, WWI

Military, WWII