

Guide to the Guy Erwin Davis Papers, 1897-1949

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Guy Erwin Davis Papers, 1897-1949

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

<https://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

2006.018

Author of Finding Aid:

Sandra L. Wheeler; reformatted by Korrena Cowing

Creator:

Davis, Guy Erwin, 1883-1956

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box ; 0.42 linear feet

Abstract:

The Guy Erwin Davis Papers, 1897-1949, contain letters, memorabilia, and postcards of Davis' time in the U.S. Navy. Also present are letters and postcards for Flora Sleeper, Guy's aunt.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Guy Erwin Davis Papers were the gift of Merry Jane Walsh in memory of Harry Sleeper in June 2006. Harry Sleeper was a volunteer at the New Hampshire Historical Society and Ms. Walsh is his daughter.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Sandra L. Wheeler at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by Sandra L. Wheeler at an unknown date and reformatted by Korrena Cowing in May 2020. 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 materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

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

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Guy Erwin Davis Papers, 2006.018. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Guy Erwin Davis was born on August 5, 1883 at Tilton, NH. He graduated from the United States Naval Academy in the September section of the Class of 1907 and subsequently posted to a number of ships and locations, mostly in the United States, often as an officer in charge of ordinance and/or machinery. During World War I, he commanded a ship that sank an enemy submarine off the coast of France. He was made Lt. Commander in 1918 and was awarded the D.S.M. for service as Commander of a Patrol Unit operating against enemy submarines in the Atlantic. The U.S. Naval Academy has provided a full description of his military career which details the ships on which he served, his many assignments on land, and the medals awarded to him.

On May 29, 1909 he married Mabel Adele Mathewson at Coronado, California. She was born February 20, 1888 at San Diego, CA, daughter of Johnson A. and Mary E. Mathewson. Guy and Mabel apparently had two daughters, of whom only one seems to have survived to adulthood. Guy died February 23, 1956 at Newport, RI. Mabel died January 18, 1967. Both are buried at the Annapolis Naval Academy Cemetery.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The letters in this collection were all addressed to Guy Davis' Aunt Flora [Flora Sleeper of Laconia, NH] or members of her family; though they cover the years 1905-1946, the bulk of them were written before World War I, when Davis was starting his career and family. These describe life aboard a ship, gunnery practice, his engagement, and the first year or so of his marriage. Later, when he was posted to more exotic locations such as Panama, he occasionally offered a few details about how daily life was lived – servants, foods available, etc. There are no letters describing the events that led to his being awarded the D.S.M.

The postcards contain little in the way of messages, being intended to show his aunt where he was traveling, or, in the case of those with military subjects, what kind of ship he was on. Among the letters are a few other postcards of military subjects upon which he drew or otherwise elaborated with descriptions in the accompanying letters. Memorabilia, dated 1897 to 1946, contains graduation invitations, wedding invitations, Christmas cards, birth announcements, etc.

The Sleeper family folders contain a miscellany of largely unrelated items relating to Flora Sleeper and her children.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are organized by type, then chronologically.

Contents List

Box 1

- Folder 1 Correspondence, 1905-1907
- Folder 2 Correspondence, 1908
- Folder 3 Correspondence, 1909-1910
- Folder 4 Correspondence, 1911-1914
- Folder 5 Correspondence, 1916-1923
- Folder 6 Correspondence, 1931-1938
- Folder 7 Memorabilia, 1897-1946, undated
- Folder 8 Memorabilia, undated
- Folder 9 Postcards: military subjects, undated
Ships, forts, academy buildings, etc.
- Folder 10 Postcards: U.S. subjects, 1907-1909, 1920s, undated
Alaska, California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia, Washington
- Folder 11 Postcards: world subjects, 1907-1930s, undated
Brazil, Cuba, Europe, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Samoa, Trinidad
- Folder 12 Sleeper family correspondence, 1900-1930, undated

Folder 13 Sleeper family documents, 1924-1949

Separated materials:

Two photographs of Guy E. Davis were moved to the Photograph Collection – People.

Subject Terms

People:

Davis, Guy Erwin, 1883-1956
Sleeper, Florence

Organizations:

Lesley School
Union Graded School (Tilton, N.H.)
United States Naval Academy
United States. Navy

Subjects:

Birth announcements
Christmas cards
Correspondence
Graduation (School)
Invitation cards
Marriage
New Year cards
Postcards

Locations:

Alaska
Brazil
California
Cuba
Europe
Hawaii
Japan
Laconia, NH
Massachusetts
Mexico
New York
Panama
Pennsylvania
Peru
Samoa
Trinidad
Utah
Virginia
Washington

Occupations:

Armed Forces--Officers

Navies--Officers