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Davison Family Collection

Creator: Davison Family
Dates: 1913-1961, n.d.
Quantity: .01 linear feet
Identification: PMML ID# 320755, OCLC# 231692069, Call# PAPERS 00013
Citation: [Document Title]. The Davison Family Collection, [Box #, Folder #], Pritzker Military Museum & Library, Chicago, IL.
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Biographical Note

The Davison family was one of the east coast's most prominent families during the late 1800s/early 1900s. Their philanthropic efforts and their patriotic spirits during the First World War did not go unnoticed by the American public.

Henry Pomeroy Davison was born on June 12, 1867 in Troy, Pennsylvania. He began his career as a bookkeeper in a bank managed by a family member and when he was 21, found a job at a bank in Bridgeport, Connecticut. It was there he met his future wife. Mary Kate Trubee was born on February 2, 1871 in Bridgeport, Connecticut. On April 13, 1893, she married Henry P. Davison.

Three years later the couple moved to New York City where Davison held a position at the Astor Place Bank. A few years later, Davison became president of the Liberty National Bank and then became involved in the founding of the Bankers Trust Company. In 1909, Davison became a senior partner at JP Morgan & Company. The following year Davison attended a secret meeting in Jekyll Island, Georgia. Many believe this meeting led to the creation of the Federal Reserve.

Then the United States entered World War I, Davison was named Chairman of the War Council of the American Red Cross. His first campaign brought in \$4 million to send Red Cross teams to various fronts.

Kate was active in the Red Cross during WWI as well. In 1917, she organized the Nassau County Chapter and stood at its chairman for twenty seven years. She also gave Nassau County its first Red Cross Chapter house in 1918. She died on January 31, 1961.

When the war ended, Henry Davison sought to create an international organization to coordinate the work of various Red Cross societies. The League was formed on May 15, 1919 and included the nations of Great Britain, France, Japan, Italy and the United States. Davison died in 1922.

Frances Davison was born in 1903. She married Ward Cheney, the son of Charles Cheney, a partner at J.P. Morgan & Company in 1926. She and Ward had three children. Frances died in 1969.

Alice Davison was born on September 6, 1899 in Englewood, New Jersey. She married Artemus L. Gates, a classmate of her brother, Trubee's, in 1922. Together they had two children.

Henry Jr. was born April 3, 1898 in Englewood, New Jersey. He followed closely in his father's footsteps and went into the banking field. During WWI, Henry served in the American Ambulance Corps in France. In 1929, after a year at Cambridge, Henry became a partner at J.P. Morgan & Company (the same company his father had been a partner with) and in 1940 when J.P. Morgan became an incorporated bank and trust company, Henry was made vice president and director. In 1953 he was made senior vice president and eventually president in 1955. When the company merged with the Guaranty Trust and became the Morgan Guaranty Trust, Henry was elected vice chairman. He died on July 2, 1961.

Frederick Trubee Davison was born on February 7, 1896. The more politically inclined member of the Davison family, Trubee attended Yale University. While there he created the First Yale Unit in 1915. The First Yale Unit was the first naval air reserve unit and although Trubee was injured during a training exercise and never saw combat, he remained active in the unit's activities throughout the war. Following college, Trubee was a member of the New York state assembly from Nassau County's 2nd District from 1922-1926. He also served as Director of Personnel for the Central Intelligence Agency and as assistant Secretary of War in charge of Aviation. Trubee died in 1976.

Scope and Content of the Collection

This collection consists of the personal papers of the Davison Family. The bulk of this collection focuses on the family's work during the First World War.

The collection includes three letters, all of which pertaining to aviation. In one of the letters, the author's name is indiscernible, but in it he discusses engineers and mechanics. Another is written by the Secretary of the Navy to F. Trubee Davison in reference to the First Yale Unit which he established at the beginning of the First World War. The final letter is from Henry Woodhouse, the recipient of the first letter, to Mrs. Davison regarding the written history of the First Yale Unit.

The collection also includes two newspaper clippings. One clipping notes the promotion of Ralph Paine who wrote the history of the First Yale Unit. The other clipping is a notice of the death of Henry Pomeroy Davison, Jr.

The remainder of the collection is made up of two documents. The first is a brochure from the spring meeting of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. The second is a compliment card from Mrs. Davison.

Arrangement

The collection arrived with no discernable arrangement and was rearranged in a more efficient working order by PMML staff. The collection is contained within one archival folder.

Rights

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Related Collections

SSgt. Walter R. Jager Collection

Key Subjects

This collection is indexed under the following headings in the Library's online catalog. Researchers interested in materials about related topics, persons, or places should search the catalog using these subject headings.

Names

Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948
Davison, Alice (Gates), 1899-
Davison, Frances (Cheney), 1903-1969
Davison, Frederick Trubee, 1896-1976
Davison, Henry Pomeroy, 1867-1922
Davison, Henry Pomeroy Jr., 1898-1961
Davison, Kate Trubee, 1871-1961
Paine, Ralph Delahaye, 1871-1925
Woodhouse, Henry, 1884-

Subjects

United States--Naval reserve flying corps, 1914-1918.
World War, 1914-1918--Aerial operations.
World War, 1914-1918--United States.

Container List

Folder One

Davison Family Collection

Letter to Henry Woodhouse from J.E. Huresaker [?], 1913
Brochure from American Society of Mechanical Engineers, 1914
Letter to F.T. Davison from Josephus Daniels, 1916
Letter to Kate Davison from Henry Woodhouse, 1926
Newspaper Clipping, 1953
Newspaper Clipping, 1961
Compliment Card of Mrs. Henry Pomeroy Davison, n.d.