John Wills Greenslade Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009
Revised 2010 April

Contact information:
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LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm70013235

Prepared by Mary A. Lacy
Collection Summary
Title: John Wills Greenslade Papers
Span Dates: 1847-1961
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1895-1952)
ID No.: MSS13235
Creator: Greenslade, John Wills, 1880-1950
Extent: 2,870 items; 11 containers plus 17 oversize; 15.2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, diaries, memoranda, reports, speeches and writings, subject files, dispatches, contracts, blueprints, charts, maps, tables, scrapbooks, clippings, photographs, and other papers documenting Greenslade's career in the United States Navy from the Spanish-American War through both world wars.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Bostwick, W. A.--Correspondence.
Brooks, Stanley Truman, 1902-1958--Correspondence.
Greenslade, John F. (John Francis), 1904- --Correspondence.
Greenslade, John Wills, 1880-1950.
Halstead, A. S. (Alexander Seaman), 1861-1923--Correspondence.
Horne, Frederick Joseph, 1880-1959--Correspondence.
Ingersoll, Royal E. (Royal Eason), 1883-1976--Correspondence.
King, Ernest Joseph, 1878-1956--Correspondence.
Knox, Frank, 1874-1944--Correspondence.
Leahy, William D.--Correspondence.
Leigh, Richard H. (Richard Henry), 1870-1946--Correspondence.
Lethem, Gordon J.--Correspondence.
Lothian, Philip Henry Kerr, Marquis of, 1882-1940--Correspondence.
Nimitz, Chester W. (Chester William), 1885-1966--Correspondence.
Pott, Herbert, approximately 1886-1945--Correspondence.
Reber, John, 1887-1960--Correspondence.
Slavich, John F.--Correspondence.
Taussig, Joseph K. (Joseph Knefler), 1877-1947--Correspondence.
Taylor, J. Frank--Correspondence.
Warren, Earl, 1891-1974--Correspondence.
Windsor, Edward, Duke of, 1894-1972--Correspondence.

Organizations
Naval War College (U.S.)
United States Naval Academy.--Faculty.
United States. Navy--Submarine forces.

Subjects
Military bases, American.
Spanish-American War, 1898--Naval operations, American.
Submarine mines.
Submarines (Ships)
Administrative Information

Provenance
The papers of John Wills Greenslade, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1968 and 1977. The deposit was converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History
The papers of John Wills Greenslade were arranged and described in 1996. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Transfers
Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Sound recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the John Wills Greenslade Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Wills Greenslade is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of John Wills Greenslade are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, John Wills Greenslade Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1880, Jan. 11</td>
<td>Born, Bellevue, Ohio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1898</td>
<td>Served on the Chicago (protected cruiser), Cuban campaign, and the Montgomery (cruiser), Puerto Rican campaign, Spanish-American War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899</td>
<td>Graduated United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1899-1902</td>
<td>Served in Philippines</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1904 Married Marie Melanie Taylor (died 1936)
1904-1906 Instructor, electrical engineering, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1909-1911 Instructor, electrical engineering, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1914 Commanded *Vulcan* (collier)
1915-1916 Senior Assistant to Head, Department of Electrical Engineering, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1917 Head, Department of Ordinance and Gunnery, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1918 Commissioned captain; commanded *Housatonic* (mine layer), Northern Mine Barrage, North Sea
1919 Commanded *Galveston* (cruiser)
1920-1923 Inspector of ordinance, Naval Powder Factory and Proving Ground, Indian Head, Md.
1923-1925 Commanded Mine Squadron I, United States Fleet
1926-1928 Head, Operations Department, Naval War College, Newport, R.I.
1928-1929 Commanded *Pennsylvania* (battleship)
1929-1930 Chief of staff, Battleship Divisions, United States Fleet
1932 Commissioned rear admiral
1932-1934 Commanded Submarine Force, United States Fleet
1933-1939 Vice admiral, commander battleships, United States Fleet
1937 Married Mary Lee Gallagher (died 1943)
1940-1941 Senior member, President's Board to Select Sites of Bases in British Possessions
1941-1944 Commandant, Twelfth Naval District with additional duty as Commandant, Pacific Southern Naval Coastal Frontier
1944 Retired from navy
Coordinator, naval logistics, Pacific Coast
Chair, joint boards for ship operations, building and repair, Pacific Coast
Married Alma Rudd Gunther
1945 Resources coordinator, Western Sea Frontier
1950, Jan. 6 Died, Bellevue, Ohio
Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Wills Greenslade (1880-1950) span the years 1847-1961, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1895-1952. The collection contains correspondence, writings, memoranda, printed matter, photographs, scrapbooks, and other material documenting Greenslade's career as a naval officer from the Spanish-American War through World War II, notably during the North Sea mine barrage, 1917-1918; as chief of staff, Battleships Division, 1929-1930; commander, Submarine Force, 1932-1934; as senior member of the President's Board to Select Base Sites in British Possessions, 1940-1941; and as commander of the Western fleet from 1942 to 1944. The papers are arranged into the following series: Diaries, Correspondence, Speeches and Writings, Subject File, Miscellany, and Oversize.

The Diaries contain originals and copies of letters from Greenslade to his mother, Nell Wills Greenslade, and sister, Sophia J. Greenslade, from the United States Naval Academy and subsequent voyages, including duty in the Philippines aboard the gunboat Concord, 1895-1900; the log of the cruiser Chicago, 1899-1901, the gunboat Princeton, and others, 1901-1904; and diaries of the cruise of the collier Vulcan in 1914; personal and private diary from the mine layer Housatonic, 1918; and notes from his trip to Baku aboard the destroyer Cole, 1919-1920. Further material on the Housatonic is in the Subject File under North Sea mine barrage and in a photograph album in the Miscellany.

Correspondence includes administrative and general correspondence as well as letters of congratulation and sympathy. Correspondents include W. A. Bostwick, A. S. Halstead, Frederick J. (“Fritz”) Horne, Royal E. Ingersoll, Ernest Joseph King, Frank Knox, William D. Leahy, Richard H. Leigh, Chester W. Nimitz, John F. Slavich, Joseph K. Taussig, J. Frank Taylor, and Earl Warren. Also included are letters from his son, John F. Greenslade, also a naval officer, written primarily between 1923 and 1936.

The Speeches and Writings series contains speeches and addresses on naval questions, command issues, and world affairs, with related correspondence, delivered between 1927 and 1948, articles on naval matters written between 1931 and 1944 for various publications, and theses and papers written at the Naval War College between 1925 and 1928.

The Subject File includes correspondence, dispatches, and memoranda which document Greenslade's tenure as chief officer of a commission to locate naval and air base sites in British possessions in 1940 and 1941. Files for each location include memoranda, charts, and aerial photographs. Correspondents in these files include William H. Beck, Stanley Truman Brooks, Edward, Duke of Windsor, Philip Henry Kerr, marquis of Lothian, Gordon J. Lethem, and Herbert Pott.

The Subject File also includes material related to the North Sea mine barrage and Greenslade's command of the mine layer Housatonic between 1918 and 1919. His personal and private diary from the Housatonic is found in the Diaries series. Other files include memoranda, correspondence, cables, and printed matter relative to naval operations, submarine force command issues, and the cruise of the collier Vulcan, which dealt with a dispute about the German ship Waltraute and payment for its cargo of coal in 1914-1915. Topics also include the Pacific Coast Joint Committee for Shipbuilding and Ship Repair, the Naval Shore Establishment Board, the United States Naval Academy, and the Naval War College, which Greenslade headed between 1926 and 1928.

The Subject File contains correspondence with John Reber concerning the "Reber Plan" for development of the San Francisco Bay area, Greenslade's résumé of service, correspondence and memoranda concerning Greenslade's duty status and disability retirement, and honors and decorations of both Greenslade and his son, John F. Greenslade. Other material includes a map and newspaper from Veracruz, Mexico, 1856-1957, typescripts of naval history documents, and correspondence relating to the donation of the Panton-Innerarity Papers, Florida history documents originally belonging to Greenslade's mother, to the Florida Historical Society.

The Miscellany includes photograph albums documenting official naval activities, specifically cruises of the Housatonic, cruiser Galveston, mine layer Shawmut, battleship Maryland, and others, the selection of base sites in British possessions, Greenslade's visit to the Kaiser Shipyards in Richmond, California, the Naval Proving Ground in Indian Head, Maryland, and the dedication of two ships by his third wife, Alma Greenslade. Three photograph albums, dated 1896-1933, including personal and family photographs, and a scrapbook of Greenslade's travel on the airship Hindenburg in 1936 have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division.

The Miscellany also includes assorted printed matter in the form of scrapbooks for the years 1895-1952, clippings about Greenslade, invitations, programs, proclamations, and a reading file of articles, monographs, and periodicals on military and foreign affairs.
Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in six series:

- Diaries, 1895-1920
- Correspondence, 1918-1949
- Speeches and Writings, 1925-1948
- Subject File, 1847-1957
- Miscellany, 1888-1961
- Oversize, 1847-1952
### Description of Series

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<td>Diaries, including some family correspondence and logs kept at the United States Naval Academy and on numerous vessels. Arranged chronologically.</td>
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<td>BOX 1-2</td>
<td><strong>Correspondence, 1918-1949</strong></td>
<td>General and family correspondence. Arranged alphabetically by type of correspondence and therein chronologically.</td>
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<td><strong>Speeches and Writings, 1925-1948</strong></td>
<td>Speeches and writings. Arranged under the headings speeches and writings and therein alphabetically by type of material.</td>
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<td>BOX 3-7</td>
<td><strong>Subject File, 1847-1957</strong></td>
<td>Correspondence, memoranda, dispatches, printed matter, maps and charts, and photographs. Arranged alphabetically by topic and then chronologically.</td>
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<td>BOX 7-11</td>
<td><strong>Miscellany, 1888-1961</strong></td>
<td>Clippings and other printed matter, photograph albums, scrapbooks, and a reading file of articles and other publications. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and then chronologically.</td>
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# Container List

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<th>Container</th>
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<td><strong>Diaries, 1895-1920</strong>&lt;br&gt;Dairies, including some family correspondence and logs kept at the United States Naval Academy and on numerous vessels.&lt;br&gt;Arranged chronologically.</td>
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<td>1895-1900, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md., diary and letters</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Greenslade, John F. (son) and family</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
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<td><strong>Speeches and Writings, 1925-1948</strong>&lt;br&gt;Speeches and writings.&lt;br&gt;Arranged under the headings speeches and writings and therein alphabetically by type of material.</td>
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<td>BOX 2</td>
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<td>Minor addresses, 1927-1932</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>&quot;Command, U.S. Navy,&quot; 1932</td>
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Speeches and Writings, 1925-1948

**Container**  | **Contents**
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**BOX 3-7**

**Subject File, 1847-1957**

Correspondence, memoranda, dispatches, printed matter, maps and charts, and photographs. Arranged alphabetically by topic and then chronologically.

BOX 3 | Battles of Mexico, map, 1847 *See Oversize*
BOX 3 | *Free American*, Veracruz, Mexico, 1847 *See also Oversize*
BOX 3 | Greenslade, John F., naval service and commendations, 1943-1945, undated
BOX 3 | Honors and decorations, 1928, 1937-1949
BOX 3 | Inactive duty status and disability, 1946-1949
BOX 3 | Institute of Pacific Relations, and World Affairs Council of Northern California, 1942-1949, undated

(2 folders)

BOX 3 | Military orders and associations, memberships, 1905, 1940-1949
BOX 3 | Naval history typescripts, circa 1925-1934, 1939, undated
BOX 3 | Naval operations, memoranda on, 1930-1931
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BOX 4 | Naval War College, Newport, R.I., 1928-1936
BOX 4 | Navy register, 1856
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BOX 4 | General, 1918-1919, undated

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BOX 4 | *Housatonic* (miner layer), log extracts, 1918
BOX 4 | Printed matter, 1918-1919, 1938, 1946
BOX 4 | Track charts, 1917-1918 *See Oversize*
BOX 4 | "Organization of the U.S. Naval Forces on Shore at Vera Cruz, Mexico," 1914
BOX 4 | Pacific Coast Joint Committee for Shipbuilding and Ship Repair, 1941-1943
BOX 4 | Panton-Innerarity Papers, donation to Florida Historical Society, 1938-1946, undated
BOX 4 | Résumé of naval service, 1948
BOX 4 | San Francisco Bay, Calif., area development, Reber plan, 1942-1947
BOX 4 | San Francisco Committee on Foreign Relations, San Francisco, Calif., 1945
BOX 4 | Selection of base sites in British possessions
BOX 4 | General

BOX 4 | Correspondence

BOX 4 | Employment, recommendations, sale of land, 1940-1941

BOX 4 | General, 1940-1941, undated

BOX 5 | Dispatches, 1940, undated
BOX 5 | Memoranda, 1940-1941, undated

(2 folders)

BOX 5 | Photograph albums, 1940

(2 folders)

BOX 5 | Location of base sites
BOX 5 | Antigua, 1891, 1933, 1940-1941, undated *See also Oversize*
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BOX 6 | Bermuda, 1901, 1933, 1938-1941 *See also Oversize*

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<th>BOX 6</th>
<th>British Guiana, 1924-1925, 1939-1941, undated See also Oversize</th>
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<td>Jamaica, 1939-1941, undated See also Oversize</td>
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<td>BOX 6</td>
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<td>Newfoundland</td>
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<td>Maps, photographs, printed matter, 1937-1940, undated See also Oversize</td>
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<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>St. Lucia, 1929, 1940, undated See also Oversize</td>
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<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>Trinidad, 1930, 1939-1941, 1957, undated See also Oversize</td>
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<td>Submarine force, fleet command issues, 1931-1936</td>
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<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>United Nations organization and problems, 1932, 1945</td>
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<td>United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.</td>
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<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>Examinations and marks, 1895-1899</td>
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<td>BOX 7</td>
<td>Waltraute (ship) case, cruise of Vulcan (collier), 1914-1915, 1922</td>
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**Miscellany, 1888-1961**

Clippings and other printed matter, photograph albums, scrapbooks, and a reading file of articles and other publications. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and then chronologically.

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<th>Clippings about Greenslade, 1903, 1920-1950, undated</th>
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<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Housatonic (miner layer) and Galveston (cruiser) cruises, 1918-1919</td>
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<td>Naval Proving Ground, Indian Head, Md., 1920</td>
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<td>BOX 8</td>
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<td>BOX 8</td>
<td>Shawmut (mine layer) cruise, 1923</td>
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<td>Maryland (battleship), Arizona (battleship) and others, 1937</td>
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<td>BOX 9</td>
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<td>BOX 9</td>
<td>Bronx (attack transport) launch, 1945</td>
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<td>BOX 9</td>
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<td>Proclamation, Golden Gate Bridge Festival, 1961</td>
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<td>Reading file on military and foreign affairs</td>
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<td>BOX 9</td>
<td>Articles, four binders, 1925-1948, undated</td>
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<td>(2 folders)</td>
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<td>Monographs, 1941-1945</td>
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<td>Report cards and high school graduation, Bellevue, Ohio, 1888-1895</td>
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BOX 11 1943-1950
BOX 11 1944-1952 *See Oversize*

BOX OV 1-OV 17 *Oversize, 1847-1952*
Oversize material consisting of photograph albums and periodicals. Arranged according to the series, folders, and boxes from which the items were removed.

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BOX OV 1 *Free American*, Veracruz, Mexico, 1847 (Container 3)
BOX OV 1 North Sea mine barrage
BOX OV 1 Track charts, 1917-1918 (Container 4)
BOX OV 2 Selection of base sites in British possessions
BOX OV 2 Location of base sites
BOX OV 2 Antigua, 1891, 1933, 1940 (Container 5)
BOX OV 3 Bahamas, 1938, undated (Container 5)
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BOX OV 5 British Guiana, 1924-1925 (Container 6)
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