

# Harold Benjamin Graham collection

AFC 2001/001/86217

Guides to the Collections in the Veterans History Project



Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
December 2012

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017655342>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/eadvhp.vh017018>

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Finding aid encoded by Irene Lule, July 2017

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Harold Benjamin Graham collection: Veterans History Project (U.S.)

**Inclusive Dates:** 1917-2012

**Call No.:** AFC 2001/001/86217

**Creator:** Graham, Harold Benjamin, 1899-1948.

**Extent (Manuscripts):** Manuscripts: 107 items.

**Language:** In English.

**Location:** Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/2017655342>

**Summary:** The Harold Benjamin Graham collection documents Graham's United States Army service from 1917-1920. Harold Benjamin Graham was born on July 7, 1899, in Spring Valley, New York. In 1917 he enlisted in the United States Army and served with the 147th Aero Squadron at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York and at Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas. He was discharged in 1920 and died in 1948. Spanning 1917-2012, collection includes correspondence from Graham, his mother, and other family members.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Coughlin, Frances

Graham, Harold Benjamin, 1899-1948

Graham, Harold Benjamin, 1899-1948--Correspondence.

### Organizations

American Folklife Center

Veterans History Project (U.S.)

### Subjects

World War, 1914-1918--Personal narratives, American.

World War, 1914-1918--Veterans--New York (State)

### Form/Genre

Correspondence.

Manuscripts.

## Arrangement

Arranged into one series: Manuscripts. Correspondence from Graham is arranged by date. Materials from Graham's mother and family are arranged by creator.

## Acquisition

Accessioned, 2012.

## Copyright Status

Duplication of collection materials may be restricted.

## Access and Restrictions

Collection is open for research; access restrictions apply. To request collection materials, please contact the Veterans History Project at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.afc/vhp.contact>

## Preferred Citation

Harold Benjamin Graham Collection (AFC/2001/001/86217), Veterans History Project, American Folklife Center, Library of Congress.

## Biographical Note

Harold Benjamin Graham was born on July 7, 1899, in Spring Valley, New York.

Graham enlisted in the United States Army as a 16-year old. He was first assigned to Orr's Mills, New York, before moving to West Point, New York. Known as "The Kid," given his young age and appearance, Graham worked as an electrician and assisted in building ships. In 1920, Graham was assigned to Kelly Field, near San Antonio, Texas, with the 71st Machine Gun Company, 147th Aero Squadron. During this period of time, Graham was a mechanic repairing engines. By February 1920, Graham was classified as an "enlisted pilot," while still performing mechanical duties. In June 1920, he was reassigned to Heller Field at Camp Dix, New Jersey. Graham was discharged in 1920.

Following his discharge, Graham returned to Spring Valley, New York. He married his wife, Janet, in 1928. Graham and his family lived in New York City, where he worked as a lineman for a telephone company. With the outbreak of World War II, Graham and his wife, Janet, were involved with a volunteer civilian patron in New York City. Harold Benjamin Graham died in 1948.

## Scope and Content

The Harold Benjamin Collection Graham collection documents Graham's United States Army service during World War I. The collection consists of correspondence.

A vast majority of the materials in the collection are letters sent by Graham to his mother from 1917-1920. Other recipients include his father and sister. Topics covered include camaraderie with his fellow servicemen; aspects of his service experience including guard duty and United States-Mexico border problems; travel in the areas in which he is stationed; ways in which he keeps busy during down time; his attempts to receive furloughs and discharges; post-discharge employment plans; instructions for his family for taking care of his car; his love life, and his impressions of Texas and its people. One additional letter is from Graham's mother, addressed to her grandchild, allocating Graham's World War I letters to his children. Additionally, the final folder contains summaries and some transcriptions of Graham's letters. These items were created and compiled by Graham's descendants.

## Description of Series

Container

Series

Series I: Manuscripts

# Container List

Container	Contents
<b>Series I: Manuscripts</b>	
<b>BOX-FOLDER</b> MSS2328/1-4	Correspondence, 1917-1920  4 folders MS01: 105 letters written between 1917 and 1920 from Harold Graham to his mother, father, and sister who lived in Spring Valley, New York. Topics covered include: camaraderie with his fellow servicemen; aspects of his service experience including guard duty and United States-Mexico border problems; travel in the areas in which he is stationed; ways in which he keeps busy during down time; his attempts to receive furloughs and discharges; post-discharge employment plans; instructions for his family for taking care of his car; his love life, and his impressions of Texas and its people.
<b>BOX-FOLDER</b> OVZ195/1	Correspondence, 1920 1 folder MS01 continued
<b>BOX-FOLDER</b> MSS2328/7	Correspondence, December 25, 1950 1 folder MS02: One letter written on 12/25/1950 from Mrs. Graham to her grandchild passing on her son's letters from World War I.
<b>BOX-FOLDER</b> MSS2328/8	Correspondence, 2012 1 folder MS03: Additional information and selected excerpts from correspondence chosen by donor to highlight portions of interesting letters and provide additional explanation.