



Smithsonian

National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

Boyd Family Papers, 1874-1945

NMAH.AC.0707

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March 2002

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Collection Overview

Repository:	Archives Center, National Museum of American History
Title:	Boyd Family Papers
Date:	1874-1945
Identifier:	NMAH.AC.0707
Creator:	Boyd, Walter Willard, Dr. Boyd, John C. Carpenter, Josephine
Extent:	6 Cubic feet (7 boxes) 2 Motion picture films
Language:	English .
Summary:	Papers related to Dr. John C. Boyd's career as a U.S. Navy surgeon, including his commission, names recommended for awards, his casebook for 1874-1877, his correspondence, including two letterpress books, 1895-1902; photographs. Also photographs, especially those by his son, Dr. Walter Willard Boyd, of Dr. Harvey Cushing performing neurosurgical and other operations; two films (1931) of an operation; two scrapbooks, including one outlining an accident and eventual amputation of the leg of Walter Jones Willard (includes letters and sympathy cards).

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

Donated by Ms. Josephine Carpenter, daughter of Dr. Walter Willard Boyd, Nov. 19, 1999.

Related Materials

Some materials from the donor were distributed to other NMAH divisions or to other archival repositories.

Princeton University Posters Collection. The Princeton University Library donated this extensive collection of WWI, and WWII materials to the Smithsonian in 1963 and 1967.

Photographic scrapbook #4 of Dr. Cushing's operations can be found at the Cyber Museum of Neurosurgery. It was donated to the American Association of Neurosurgery Archives by Dr. Richard U. Light. <http://www.neurosurgery.org/cybermuseum/journal/>

Processing Information

Collection processed by Robert Harris and Stephanie Thomas, 2002.

Preferred Citation

Boyd Family Papers, 1874-1945, Archives Center, National Museum of American History.

Restrictions on Access

Collection open for research on site by appointment. Unprotected photographs must be handled with gloves.

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Biographical / Historical

The Boyd Family Collection consists primarily of correspondence, recruitment and other posters, personal papers, and photographs of a naval surgeon, John C. Boyd, and his son Walter Willard Boyd.

Dr. John C. Boyd was a surgeon and medical inspector for the United States Navy. Included in the collection is Boyd's Naval Commission, December 19, 1873, his Patient Case Book 1874-1877, and a Letterpress book of his correspondence with other professionals and military officials. As a naval inspector, he not only examined patients' conditions, but he also inspected the sanitation of the soldier's quarters and other areas aboard naval ships.

His son, Dr. Walter Willard Boyd, was a photographer of medical surgeries performed by Dr. Harvey Cushing (1869-1939). Cushing was widely known as the greatest neurosurgeon of the 20th century and his school of neuro surgery was world famous. His contributions to neuroscience were numerous and he was also known as a medical historian. Cushing's biography of Sir William Osler won a Pulitzer Prize in 1926. Boyd interned under Cushing and put together an exhibit at the Bent Brigham Hospital's 30th Anniversary Celebration in honor of Dr. Harvey Cushing's contributions to neuroscience. This collection contains photographs taken by Walter Boyd that were displayed at this exhibit. Dr. Richard U. Light (one of Cushing's last residents and also an avid photographer) and Dr. Boyd filmed Dr. Cushing's 2000th verified brain tumor operation on April 15th, 1931. Two films of this operation are included in the collection. In addition, Scrapbook #3 contains photographs of Dr. Cushing performing operations.

Also contained in this collection is a scrapbook outlining the details of a leg accident of Walter Jones Willard. Walter Jones Willard is the son of C.C. Willard, former owner and proprietor of the Ebbitt Hotel and the Willard Hotel, both in Washington, D.C. Walter Jones Willard and his brother Edward were both graduates of Yale University class of 1892 and were members of the prominent Willard family of D.C.

Scope and Contents

This collection is divided into six series.

Series 1: Awards and Commissions, 1917-1920

Series 2: Casebook, 1874-1877

Series 3: CORRESPONDENCE, January 1895-February 1902

Series 4: PHOTOGRAPHS, 1928 - 1939

Series 5: POSTERS, early 1900's- mid 1940's

Series 6: SCRAPBOOKS, 1888-1945

Series 7: FILM, 1931

Arrangement

Divided into 7 series.

Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Amputation
- Medicine
- Museum curators
- Nervous system -- Surgery
- Neurosurgeons
- United States Navy -- 20th century
- War posters
- World War, 1914-1918 -- Posters -- United States
- World War, 1939-1945 -- Posters -- United States

Types of Materials:

- Correspondence -- 1900-1950
- Greeting cards
- Letterpress copybooks
- Posters -- World War, 1914-1918 -- United States
- Scrapbooks -- 1880-1910
- Sympathy cards

Names:

- Cushing, Harvey, Dr., 1869-1939
- Pavlov, Ivan Petrovich, 1849-1936
- Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.
- Ruth, Babe, 1895-1948
- Willard, Walter Jones

Occupations:

- Surgeons

Container Listing

Series 1: Awards/Commission, 1917-1920

Scope and Contents: This series includes John C. Boyd's U. S. Naval Surgeon Commission, December 19, 1873 and lists of soldier's names recommended for Distinguished Service Medals, Medals of Honor, Navy Crosses, and Letters of Commendation.

Box 1, Folder 1 [Lists of persons recommended for Distinguished Service Medals & Medals of Honor, December 1919 - January 1920](#)

Box 2, Folder 1 Lists of persons recommended for Navy Crosses, 1917-1919

Box 1, Folder 2 Letters of Commendation, October 1919 - March 1920

Box 4, Folder 1 Naval Surgeon Commission, John C. Boyd, U.S.N., December 19, 1873

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Series 2: Casebook, 1874-1877

Scope and Contents: This series consists of John C. Boyd's naval case book, which gives descriptions and charts of the patients Boyd examined. The case book describes his medical procedures for the years 1874-1877.

Box 1, Folder 3

[Casebook of Assistant Surgeon, Dr. John C. Boyd, U.S.N., 1874-1877](#)

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Series 3: Correspondence, January 1895-February 1902

Scope and Contents: This series contains two letter press books, both authored by John C. Boyd. One contains his personal and business correspondence with other doctors and professionals and a United States Naval Surgeon, and the other contains his correspondence regarding his duties as United States Naval Inspector.

Box 2, Folder 2	Letterpress Book, John C. Boyd, U.S.N. Surgeon, Jan. 10, 1895 - November 1895
Box 3, Folder 4	Letterpress Book, John C. Boyd, U.S.N. Medical Inspector, May 1895 - February 1902

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Series 4: Photographs, 1928 -1939

Scope and Contents: This series includes framed photograph of AThe departure of the U.S. Navy Fleet from Hampton Roads, Virginia, December 16, 1907 on its cruise around the world." A gift to Walter Boyd, 1939, from his friends at U.S.D.A. London, J.H.E.M. McAndrews. The majority of photographs are of surgery and personal images associated with Harvey Cushing. Walter Boyd took many of these photographs.

Box 1, Folder 4	Photograph of a surgeon, 1932 (gift to Walter Boyd)
Box 7	Photograph of "The departure of the U.S. Navy Fleet from Hampton Roads, Virginia, December 16, 1907 on its cruise around the world." Notes: A gift to Walter Boyd, 1939, from his friends at U.S.D.A. London, J.H.E.M. McAndrews
Box 2, Folder 3	Photographic Scrapbook #3, photos of Harvey Cushing's operations, 1928-1932
Box 1, Folder 5	Photographs of Harvey Cushing performing operations, taken by Walter Boyd. # 1,2,5,6. Index Included.
Box 4, Folder 2	Photographs of Harvey Cushing performing operations, taken by Walter Boyd. # 10 and 17. Index Included.
Box 4, Folder 3	Photographs of Harvey Cushing performing operations, taken by Walter Boyd. # 18 Index Included.
Box 5, Folder 1	Photograph of Naval Soldiers and Surgeons on step, ca. 1870-1890
Box 3, Folder 1	Photographs of Harvey Cushing performing operations, taken by Walter Boyd. # 3 and 4. Index Included.
Box 3, Folder 2	Photographs of Harvey Cushing performing operations, taken by Walter Boyd. # 7, 8, 9. Index Included.
Box 3, Folder 3	U.S. Naval Ship Photographs, taken by Walter Boyd, # 11-16.
Box 1, Folder 6	[Babe Ruth and wife at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital : black-and-white photoprint, ca. 1940.] 1 Item Image(s): Harvey Cushing Photographs, taken by Walter Boyd, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital 30th Anniversary Photographic Exhibit, Copied- May, 1963. Pictures: 19-80. Index Included. Image(s) Photographer: Boyd, Walter Willard, Dr. Notes: 02070709.tif (AC Scan) Silver gelatin on paper. In Box 1, Folder 6. Unrestricted research use on site by appointment. Photographs must be handled with cotton gloves unless protected by sleeves.

Ruth is seated on a stool, with his wife standing behind him, with medical equipment in the background..

Peter Bent Brigham Hospital 50th Anniversary Photographic Exhibit by Walter Boyd, May, 1963.

Names: Ruth, Babe, 1895-1948
Peter Bent Brigham Hospital.

Topic: Athletes
Celebrities -- 1930-1940
Baseball players

Place: Boston (Mass.) -- 1910-1950

Genre/Form: Black-and-white photographic prints -- Silver gelatin -- 1900-1950

Box 1, Folder 7

[Photographer holding large folding camera : photoprint.]

1 Item (Silver gelatin on paper.; 2.5" x 2.25".)

Image(s): [Harvey Cushing Photographs, taken by Walter Boyd, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital 30th Anniversary Photographic Exhibit, Copied- May, 1963. Pictures: 81-139. Index Included.](#)

Image(s)

Notes: 02070712 (AC Scan No.)
Photographer unidentified. Subject may be Dr. Walter William Boyd.

Names: Boyd, Walter Willard, Dr.

Topic: Cameras
Photographers

Genre/Form: Photographs -- 1930-1940 -- Black-and-white photoprints -- Silver gelatin

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Series 5: Posters, early 1900's- mid 1940's

Scope and Contents: The series includes posters with images of military personnel.

Box 5, Folder 5	U.S. Marine Pre-WWI Recruitment Poster, Bruce Moore, illustrator
Box 5, Folder 5	U.S. Marine Pre-WWI Recruitment Poster, Riesenbergs, illustrator, 1913
Box 5, Folder 3	U.S. Marine Pre-WWI Recruitment Poster, Leyendecker, illustrator
Box 5, Folder 4	U.S. Marine Pre-WWI Recruitment Poster, Leyendecker, illustrator
Box 5, Folder 4	U.S. Marine Pre-WWI Recruitment Poster, Leyendecker, illustrator
Box 5, Folder 2	American Ouvreir Funds, helping French orphaned children, Alfred Klots, illustrator, WWI, 1918
Box 5, Folder 2	Belgians in Britain, Relief Effort, WWI
Box 5, Folder 3	Buy Liberty Bonds, Relief Effort, WWI, 1918
Box 5, Folder 2	Bundles for Bluejackets, Recruitment Poster, McClelland Barclay, illustrator, WWII
Box 5, Folder 2	Bundles for Bluejackets, Recruitment Poster, McClelland Barclay, illustrator, WWII

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Series 6: Scrapbooks, 1888-1945

Scope and Contents: Series includes two scrapbooks. One scrapbook outlines the accident and amputation of Walter Jones Willard's leg, and the subsequent letters and cards of sympathy from friends of the Willard family. The other scrapbook contains newspaper clippings and photographs featuring inventions, ships, Broadway show programs and ticket stubs, and articles on electricity and the military. The scrapbook gives us insight into the period of 1905-1945.

Box 1, Folder 8 [Walter Jones Willard's Leg Accident at the Depot, includes Newspaper Clippings and Sympathy Letters, 10 December 1888](#)

Box 6 Newspaper Clippings and Photographs regarding: Inventions, Ships, Broadway Show Programs and Ticket Stubs, Electricity Articles, Military Articles, 1905-1945

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Series 7: Film, 1931

Scope and Contents: This series contains two film reels of Dr. Cushing's 2000th verified brain tumor operation, filmed by Walter Boyd on April 15th, 1931.

Reel OF 707.1;	2000th verified brain tumor operation performed by Harvey Cushing.
Reel RF 707.1	1 Motion picture film (16mm black and white, silent print, 800 ft.)
	Notes: This film shows the 2000th brain tumor operation performed by Dr. Harvey Cushing, renowned neurosurgeon. Dr. Light and Dr. Walter Willard Boyd created and filmed the operation. The film shows the cranial tumor removal, as well as the post-surgery patient care. Highlights of the film include a female pathologist who diagnoses and classifies the tumor tissue. The filming quality is very good and shows the operating room and tools, along with the nurses and other doctors involved. This film would be an excellent tool for an exhibit on medical science or related topic.
	Dr. Harvey Cushing, Dr. Light, Dr. Walter Willard Boyd, other doctors and nurses.

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