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Guide to the Francis Gilman Blake Papers

MS 1281

compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

February 2004

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(203) 432-1735
(203) 432-7441
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1281

CREATOR: Blake, Francis G. (Francis Gilman), 1887-1952

TITLE: Francis Gilman Blake papers

DATES: 1908-1953

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 9 linear feet (16 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of laboratory notebooks, lecture notes, patient charts, correspondence and photographs, primarily documenting the medical career of Francis Gilman Blake, including his tenure as Dean of the Yale School of Medicine and medical research. Also included is correspondence to his wife documenting his personal life.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1281

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the Yale University Historical Medical Library, 1980. Gift of John B. Blake, 2006.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Francis Gilman Blake Papers (MS 1281). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Francis Gilman Blake was born on February 22, 1887, in Mansfield Valley, Pennsylvania. After his father died when he was three, his family moved to Massachusetts. He received his A.B. from Dartmouth in 1908 and spent the next year tutoring a schoolboy in Maine in order to pay for Harvard Medical School, from which he received his M.D. in 1913. For the next three years, Blake worked as an intern at Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. He met Dorothy P. Dewey, a nurse in training at Peter Bent Brigham, whom he married on June 1, 1916, and with whom he had three sons. Over the next few years, Blake worked as a researcher at the Rockefeller Institute and as a professor of medicine at the University of Minnesota. In 1921, he joined the faculty at the Yale School of Medicine as one of the youngest full professors of medicine in the school's history. He served as dean of the school from 1940 to 1947. His important contributions to the medical field include research in epidemic diseases and some of the first laboratory and clinical tests of penicillin. Throughout his life, Blake was associated with the government and army, serving as civil director of army medical research. He died of a heart condition at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, on February 1, 1952.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of laboratory notebooks, lecture notes, patient charts, correspondence and photographs, primarily documenting the medical career of Francis Gilman Blake, including his tenure as Dean of the Yale School of Medicine and medical research. Also included is correspondence to his wife documenting his personal life.

Collection Contents
Original accession

b. 1	Laboratory books, lecture notes, research material, photographs, charts, and correspondence relating to medical research	1908-1950
b. 2	Laboratory books, lecture notes, research material, photographs, charts, and correspondence relating to medical research	1908-1950

Accession 2006-M-125: Additional Material, 1910-1953

The accession has been arranged into four sections: Academic Files, Office Files, Personal Files and United States of America Typhus Commission and alphabetical by title therein.

	Academic Files	
	Dartmouth College	
b. 1, f. 1	Class of 1908 reports	1911-1924
b. 1, f. 2	Class reunions brochures and correspondence	1948-1949
b. 1, f. 3	Honorary degree: correspondence and event ephemera	1936
b. 1, f. 4	Harvard Medical Alumni Association: correspondence, publications, and event ephemera	1931-1932
b. 1, f. 5	Harvard Medical School: correspondence, publications, and memorabilia	1910-1913
	Lectures	
b. 1, f. 6	Unpublished manuscripts	1922-1951
b. 1, f. 7	Wadsworth, Augustus B., Lecture: correspondence, drafts, contracts, and ephemera English	1951
	Office Files	
b. 2, f. 1	Advisory Council on Medical Education correspondence	1944
b. 2, f. 2	American Academy of Arts and Sciences	1948-1950
b. 2, f. 3	American Association for the Advancement of Science	1946
	American College of Physicians	
b. 2, f. 4-5	Correspondence, brochures, and ephemera	1942-1949
b. 2, f. 6	Event ephemera	1930-1931
b. 2, f. 7	American Geographical Society	1944-1951
	American Medical Association	
b. 2, f. 8	Memorabilia and publications	1938
b. 2, f. 9	Publications and correspondence	1944-1945
b. 2, f. 10	American Philosophical Society	1952-1951
b. 2, f. 11	American Red Cross	1945-1950
b. 2, f. 12	Army Epidemiological Board	Circa 1949
	Association of American Physicians correspondence and memorabilia	
b. 2, f. 13	1933-1939	1933-1939

b. 2, f. 14	1947-1949	1947-1949
b. 3, f. 1-2	Australian Postgraduate Federation in Medicine	1950-1951
b. 3, f. 3	Beaumont Club	1947-1951
b. 3, f. 4	Blood Characterization and Preservation Laboratory	1951
b. 3, f. 5	Brookhaven National Laboratory	1949-1950
b. 3, f. 6	"Celebration of Medical Progress at the University of Pennsylvania" correspondence and event ephemera English	1930
b. 3, f. 7	Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons correspondence	1944-1947
b. 3, f. 8	Committee on Post-War Medical Service correspondence	1945
b. 3, f. 9	Connecticut War Council correspondence and ephemera	1943
b. 3, f. 10	Consultation, Cairo, Egypt: press release and photograph	1949
b. 3, f. 11	Cornell University Medical College correspondence	1939-1942
b. 3, f. 12	Disease research and publications correspondence	1943-1945
b. 3, f. 13	"European Sojourn": family writings, ephemera, and newsclipping English	1926-1927
b. 3, f. 14	*Funk and Wagnall's New Standard Encyclopedia* Consulting and Advisory Board English	1948-1949
	General correspondence	
b. 3, f. 15	Medical publications	1946-1950
b. 3, f. 16	Medical research and events	1935-1937
b. 3, f. 17	Medical research and miscellaneous topics	1939-1942
	Harvard University	
b. 3, f. 18	Board of Overseers	1944-1950
b. 3, f. 19-21	Medical School correspondence and event ephemera Includes Tercentenary ephemera.	1934-1949
b. 3, f. 22	Interurban Clinical Club	1947, 1950
b. 3, f. 23	James Walker Memorial Hospital correspondence	1951
	Johns Hopkins Hospital correspondence	
b. 3, f. 24	1933 English	1933
b. 3, f. 25	1939-1942	1939-1942

Office Files > Johns Hopkins Hospital correspondence (continued)

b. 3, f. 26	1946-1948	1946-1948
b. 3, f. 27	*Journal of Immunology* English	1948-1951
b. 3, f. 28	Lasker Award	1946-1947
b. 4, f. 1	Life Insurance Medical Research Fund	1944-1951
	Medical conference brochures, programs, and event ephemera	
b. 4, f. 2-5	1919-1940	1919-1940
b. 5, f. 1-3	1941-1947	1941-1947
b. 5, f. 4	Merck & Co., Inc.	1948-1951
b. 5, f. 5-6	National Academy of Sciences	1946 May 8-1951 November
b. 5, f. 7	National Advisory Health Council, general	1947-1951
b. 5, f. 8	National Blood Program	1948-1951
b. 5, f. 9	National Committee for Mental Hygiene correspondence	1932
	National Research Council	
b. 5, f. 10	Correspondence	1944
b. 5, f. 11	Correspondence, fellowship report, and newsclipping	1932-1936
b. 5, f. 12	Streptococcal infection conference for U.S. Navy	1945 July 6-7
b. 5, f. 13	Subcommittee on Infectious Diseases minutes	1933-1944
b. 6, f. 1	*New England Journal of Medicine* correspondence English	1943
b. 6, f. 2	New Haven Hospital pamphlets and ephemera	1931
b. 6, f. 3	New York Academy of Medicine	1945 September-1947 November
b. 6, f. 4	Office of Research and Scientific Development correspondence	1944-1946
	Peter Bent Brigham Hospital correspondence, ephemera, newspaper clippings and publication	
b. 6, f. 5	1914-1919	1914-1919
b. 6, f. 6	1933-1938	1933-1938
b. 6, f. 7	Peters, John, Dr., 60th birthday event ephemera and correspondence	1937
b. 6, f. 8	*Postgraduate Medicine*, Medical Advisory Board	1945-1950
b. 6, f. 9	Research and Development Board	1948-1951

Office Files (continued)

b. 6, f. 10	Rhode Island Medical Society correspondence and publications	1945
b. 6, f. 11	Rockefeller Foundation correspondence	1943-1946
	Rockefeller Institute for Medical Research correspondence	
b. 6, f. 12	1919-1920	1919-1920
b. 6, f. 13	1933-1940	1933-1940
b. 6, f. 14	Scarlet fever research newspaper clippings	1924-1925
b. 6, f. 15	Trip to Central America correspondence and memorabilia	1943
b. 6, f. 16	United States Public Health Service clearance documents and correspondence	1944-1948
b. 6, f. 17	University of Aberdeen correspondence and newspaper clipping	1934, 1938
b. 6, f. 18	University of Michigan School of Public Health correspondence	1944-1947
b. 6, f. 19	University of Minnesota Medical School correspondence, publications, and ephemera	1919
b. 6, f. 20	University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine correspondence	1946-1951
	War Department	
b. 6, f. 21	Disease research: newspaper clippings, correspondence and ephemera	1943-1945
b. 6, f. 22	Office of the Surgeon General correspondence	1946-1951
b. 6, f. 23	War-Time Graduate Medical Meetings correspondence	1943
b. 7, f. 1	Yale Institute of Human Relations publications and event ephemera	1931
	Yale University	
b. 7, f. 2	Correspondence, publications, and ephemera	1920-1931
	Medical School	
b. 7, f. 3	Correspondence, report, and publications	1933-1937
	Office of the Dean correspondence, newsclippings, publications, photograph, and event ephemera	
b. 7, f. 4	1939-1942	1939-1942
b. 7, f. 5	1943-1945	1943-1945
b. 7, f. 6	1946-1951	1946-1951
b. 7, f. 7-8	Yerkes Laboratories of Primate Biology, Inc.	1950-1951

Personal Files

Correspondence

General

Personal Files > Correspondence > General (continued)

b. 8, f. 1	1917-1922	1917-1922
b. 8, f. 2	1943-1944	1943-1944
b. 8, f. 3	1945 July	1945 July
b. 8, f. 4	1946-1951	1946-1951
b. 8, f. 5	1951 July 1-1952 January 31	1951 July 1-1952 January 31
b. 8, f. 6	Colleagues in the Armed Forces	1942-1946
b. 8, f. 7	Consulting	1947-1951
b. 8, f. 8	Courtship and marriage Includes newspaper clippings, wedding invitation, and memorabilia.	1915 November-1916 June
	Dorothy Dewey (Blake)	
b. 8, f. 9	1916 English	1916
b. 9, f. 1-4	1916 English	1916
b. 9, f. 5	1917 March-June	1917 March-June
b. 10, f. 1-4	1918 February 13-1919 August 29 During his tour of duty with the United States Army during World War I, Blake wrote frequently to his wife about the progress of his medical research. He discussed the conditions of his medical subjects, who were drawn from "detention centers", where new recruits were quarantined to isolate any contagions they may have brought with them to the base, the flora and fauna of the region, daily life at the bases where he was stationed (including maps of the base layouts), and the conditions of the hospitals where he worked.	1918 February 13-1919 August 29
b. 10, f. 5-8	1919 December-1951	1919 December-1951
b. 10, f. 9	New Guinea trip Correspondence betwen Blake and his wife details his research while working in New Guinea.	1943-1944
b. 10, f. 10-11	Letters of condolence and memorial ephemera on death of Francis Gilman Blake	1952-1953
b. 11, f. 1	Portrait of Blake for Yale Includes ephemera.	1951
b. 11, f. 2	Curricula vitae, bibliographies, and biographical information	1924-1952
b. 11, f. 3	Government personnel file	1948-1952

Personal Files (continued)

b. 11, f. 4	United States Army record	1917 December 11-1934 October 29
b. 11, f. 5	United States War Department authorization documents, travel papers, and receipts	1941-1943
	United States of America Typhus Commission	
b. 12, f. 1	Award of Medal: correspondence, photograph, and War Department documentation	1945-1946
b. 12, f. 2-3	Clinical records	1943
b. 13, f. 1	Journal of research trip	1943 September 22-December 18
b. 13, f. 2	New Guinea photographs, publications, and memorabilia	1943
	Typhus research	
b. 13, f. 3	Photographs, notes, and publications	1943-1946
	Scrub typhus	
b. 13, f. 4	Maps, publications, and research notes	1944-1949
b. 13, f. 5	Research data, reports, and publications	1944, undated
b. 13, f. 6	Research notes, publications, and correspondence	1944-1951
b. 14	Scrapbook of lecture tour to Australia and New Zealand Includes material on return via Singapore, Bangkok, Karachi, Cairo, and London.	1950

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.

Subjects

Medicine

Names

Blake, Francis G. (Francis Gilman), 1887-1952