

Guide to the Donaldson Family Papers

MS 1699



compiled by Matthew T. MacLean

February 1999

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
Yale University Library
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1699

CREATOR: Donaldson family

TITLE: Donaldson family papers

DATES: 1870-1971

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6.25 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers consist of correspondence, subject files, and photographs documenting the personal and professional lives of the Donaldson family. The papers are arranged in eight series. Each series documents the life of an individual family member and almost all the series contain correspondence, subject files, and photographs.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1699>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1699>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The papers were purchased from Charles Apfelbaum in 1995.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Donaldson Family Papers (MS 1699). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Henry Herbert Donaldson was born in Yonkers, New York, on April 20, 1857. He became an accomplished professor of neurology at various universities and served as president of several professional associations. In 1884 he married Julia Desboro Vaux, who died in 1894. They had two sons, Norman Vaux and John Calvert Donaldson. In 1907 he married Emma Brace. Henry Donaldson died of pneumonia and heart failure on January 23, 1938.

Norman Donaldson graduated from Yale University in 1915 and was a member of the Scroll and Key society. He married Hildegarde Beardsley Nash in 1917. Norman Donaldson worked at the Yale University Press and was appointed director of the Press in 1950. He retired in 1959 and died in 1964.

Hildegarde Nash Donaldson was born in Belgium on June 19, 1893, the daughter of James and Mabel W. Nash. Her father died in 1904; her mother died in 1914, leaving Hildegarde as guardian of her younger sister, Mabel Virginia "Gin" Nash. Mabel Virginia Nash lived in Paris much of her life and did not marry. During World War II she was imprisoned along with other American citizens by German forces occupying France. Mabel Virginia Nash died in Paris in 1957 of complications from alcoholism.

Hildegarde Nash Donaldson was an accomplished violinist, performing her first concert at age eighteen. She graduated in 1912 from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Brussels, where she studied violin under Alfred Marchot. Later she became a pupil of Leopold Auer and also studied with Charles Martin Loeffler in Boston, and toured the United States and Europe. She made a yearly tour of Europe and regularly performed in New England venues until her retirement in 1941. She died of arthritis in Taos, New Mexico in 1946.

Norman and Hildegarde lived in New Haven throughout their marriage. Sailing and fishing in Maine were family pastimes; they also made several trips to Italy. They had two children: Virginia Louise "Midge" Donaldson (born 1918) and Harry Nash "Sonny" Donaldson (born 1920). Midge Donaldson was an actress in theater on and off Broadway who used the stage name Eve Hastings. Sonny Donaldson attended Phillips Academy, Andover, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and worked as an engineer. He married Julie Mildred Felter and they had one child, Carol Lynn Donaldson.

Scope and Contents

The papers consist of correspondence, subject files, and photographs documenting the personal and professional lives of the Donaldson family. The papers are arranged in eight series. Each series documents the life of an individual family member and almost all the series contain correspondence, subject files, and photographs.

Arrangement

Arranged in eight series:

- [I. Harry Nash Donaldson, 1923-1938.](#)
- [II. Henry Herbert Donaldson, 1910-1938.](#)
- [III. Hildegarde Nash Donaldson, 1898-1948.](#)
- [IV. Norman Vaux Donaldson, 1899-1964.](#)
- [V. Virginia Louise Donaldson, 1919-1960.](#)
- [VI. Mabel Virginia Nash, 1898-1959.](#)
- [VII. Mabel W. Nash, 1890-1914.](#)
- [VIII. General, 1870-1971.](#)

Collection Contents

Harry Nash Donaldson, 1923-1938

Correspondence

Incoming

b. 1, f. 1	A-Z [general]	1937-1938
b. 1, f. 2	Donaldson, Norman [father]	1923, undated
b. 1, f. 3	Donaldson, Virginia Louise "Midge" [sister]	1934-1936, undated

b. 1, f. 4	Outgoing	1932, 1938, undated
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Subject Files

b. 1, f. 5	Clippings	undated
b. 1, f. 6	Education	1932
b. 1, f. 7	Photograph	1935

See also: [Oversize, folder 1](#)

Henry Herbert Donaldson, 1910-1938

See also:

Correspondence		
b. 2, f. 1	Donaldson, John [son]	1936
b. 2, f. 2	Donaldson, Norman V. [son]	1910, 1914
b. 2, f. 3	Biographies	1938
b. 2, f. 4	Photographs See also: Oversize, folder 1	undated

Hildegarde Nash Donaldson, 1898-1948

Correspondence

Incoming

b. 3, f. 1	A-Z [general]	1915-1948, undated
b. 3, f. 2	Ames, Elizabeth	1938, undated
b. 3, f. 3	Baitsell, Dorothy	1918, undated
b. 3, f. 4	Bellinger, Alfred	1929-1933, undated
b. 3, f. 5	Bennett, Charles	1925
b. 3, f. 6	Boepple, Gabrielle	undated
b. 3, f. 7	Carrigan, John	1931-1938
b. 3, f. 8	Clifton, Susan [grandmother]	1898-1899
b. 3, f. 9	Cook, Judd A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1931- 1934
b. 3, f. 10	Donaldson, Harry [son]	1930-1940, undated
b. 3, f. 11	Donaldson, Henry [father-in-law]	1918-1919
b. 3, f. 12	Donaldson, Norman [husband]	1923-1935, undated
b. 3, f. 13-14	Donaldson, Virginia "Midge" [daughter]	1928-1945, undated
b. 3, f. 15	Follett, Barbara	1926-1927, 1931
b. 3, f. 16	Follett, Helen	1928
b. 3, f. 17	Hibbs, Dave	1938
b. 3, f. 18	Jeffers, Robinson	undated
b. 3, f. 19	Levens, Robert	1941
b. 3, f. 20	Lewis, Penelope	1928, 1932, 1936, undated
b. 3, f. 21	McAfee, Helen	1929-1930, undated
b. 3, f. 22	Moore, Douglas	1933, undated

Correspondence > Incoming (continued)

b. 4, f. 23-24	Morrison, Jimmy	1929-1938, 1943, undated
b. 4, f. 25	Mortari, Virgilio	1928, 1932
b. 4, f. 26	Nash, James [father]	1895
b. 4, f. 27	Nash, Mabel Virginia "Gin" [sister]	1918, 1938, undated
b. 4, f. 28	Nash, Mabel W. [mother]	undated
b. 4, f. 29	Nicolet, G.P.	1921-1922
b. 4, f. 30	Phelps, William Lyon	1931, 1933
b. 4, f. 31	Porter, Quincy A copy of this material is available in digital form from Manuscripts and Archives. Contact Manuscripts and Archives at beinecke.library@yale.edu to request access to the digital copy.	1930, 1933, undated
b. 4, f. 32	Reynolds, Mynie	1935
b. 4, f. 33	Ross, Louise	1933-1935
b. 4, f. 34	Simonds, Bruce	1918-1923, undated
b. 4, f. 35	Simonds, Rosalind	1921-1923
b. 4, f. 36	Trueblood, Sarah	1944
b. 4, f. 37	"Kit" English	1932, 1940, undated
b. 4, f. 38	"Helen and Wilson" English	1923
b. 4, f. 39	"Martin" English	1917
b. 4, f. 40	Unidentified last name	1915-1938, undated
Outgoing		
b. 4, f. 41	A-Z [general]	1919, 1932, undated
b. 4, f. 42	Troy, Hesse	1918
Subject Files		
b. 4, f. 43-46	Clippings	undated
b. 5, f. 47-49	Concert programs	1911-1940, undated
b. 5, f. 50	Death	1946

Subject Files (continued)

b. 5, f. 51	Donaldson, Virginia Louise [birth of daughter]	1918
b. 5, f. 52	Financial	1920-1948
b. 5, f. 53	"Genius Burning" [writing journal of Reynolds family] English	1928-1929
b. 5, f. 54	Music clubs	1938, undated
b. 5, f. 55	Passport	1935, undated
Photographs		
b. 5, f. 56	"The Cottage," 1923-1926	undated
b. 5, f. 57	Violin	undated
b. 5, f. 58	Wedding	1917
b. 5, f. 59	Portraits	undated

Norman Vaux Donaldson, 1899-1964

Correspondence

Incoming

b. 6, f. 1	A-Z [general]	1927-1964, undated
b. 6, f. 2	Bellinger, Alfred	1929, 1945
b. 6, f. 3	Day, George Parmly	1944, 1952, undated
b. 6, f. 4	Donaldson, Emma Brace [mother]	undated
b. 6, f. 5	Donaldson, Harry Nash "Sonny" [son]	1935-1952, undated
b. 6, f. 6	Donaldson, Henry H. [father]	1925, 1927, 1932, undated
b. 6, f. 7	Donaldson, Hildegarde Nash [wife]	1927-1928, undated
b. 6, f. 8	Donaldson, John Calvert [brother]	1905-1956, undated
b. 6, f. 9	Donaldson, Julia [niece]	1931
b. 6, f. 10	Donaldson, Julie [daughter-in-law]	1949
b. 6, f. 11-13	Donaldson, Virginia Louise "Midge" [daughter]	1927-1943, undated
b. 6, f. 14	Follett, Barbara Wilson	1928-1933, undated
b. 6, f. 15	Follett, Helen	1929, 1947, 1951, undated
b. 6, f. 16	Griswold, A. Whitney	1950, 1953
b. 6, f. 17	Henkel, Frances [Mrs. Paul Henkel]	1934, 1936
b. 6, f. 18	Hutchins, Robert	1939, 1942, 1945
b. 6, f. 19	Levens family	1938-1952
b. 6, f. 20	Lewis, Penelope	1934-1940, undated
b. 6, f. 21	Morrison, Jimmy	1931-1932, undated
b. 6, f. 22	Nash, Mabel Virginia "Gin" [sister-in-law]	1929-1940, undated
b. 6, f. 23	Podoloff, Jacob [United States Department of State]	1948

Correspondence > Incoming (continued)

b. 6, f. 24	Porter, Quincy	1934, undated
b. 6, f. 25	Pound, Ezra	1934
b. 7, f. 26	Reynolds, Diana	1926-1931, 1933, undated
b. 7, f. 27	Reynolds, Mynie	1927-1938, undated
b. 7, f. 28	Reynolds, Pamela	1926-1932, undated
b. 7, f. 29	Reynolds, Richard	undated
b. 7, f. 30	Russell, Thomas	1932
b. 7, f. 31	Simonds, Bruce	1918-1923
b. 7, f. 32	Trafford, Sarah	1940-1941
b. 7, f. 33	Troy, Hesse	1958-1959, undated
b. 7, f. 34	Vaux, Mrs. C. Boyer	1940
b. 7, f. 35	Williams, Stanley	1950, undated
b. 7, f. 36	Zilboorg, Gregory [Hildegarde Donaldson's doctor]	1946
b. 7, f. 37	"Katherine," 1947-1948 English	undated
b. 7, f. 38	"Louise," 1938 English	undated
b. 7, f. 39	Unidentified	1923-1963, undated
Outgoing		
b. 7, f. 40	A-Z [general]	1899-1959, undated
b. 7, f. 41	Donaldson, Emma Brace [stepmother]	1915-1917
b. 7, f. 42	Roosevelt, Franklin D.	1938
b. 7, f. 43	"Auntie Emma" English	1907
b. 7, f. 44	"Uncle Bow" English	1917
Subject Files		
b. 7, f. 45	Capri, Italy [trip]	1926

Subject Files (continued)

b. 7, f. 46	Christmas cards	1927, 1954, undated
b. 7, f. 47	Clippings	undated
b. 7, f. 48	Clubs	1911-1952, undated
b. 7, f. 49	Diary	1923-1925, undated
b. 8, f. 50-52	Financial	1920-1957, undated
b. 8, f. 53	Lists [includes personal calendar]	1940-1961, undated
b. 8, f. 54	Medical diary	1946-1947
b. 8, f. 55-56	Personal notebooks [diary, Christmas gift list, Plato's Republic, etc.]	1907-1920, 1926, undated
b. 8, f. 57	Sailing	1936, undated
	Sympathy correspondence	
b. 9, f. 58	Donaldson, Henry H. [death]	1938
b. 9, f. 59-61	Donaldson, Hildegarde N. [death]	1946
b. 9, f. 62	Writings [includes poetry]	1915, 1925, undated
b. 9, f. 63	Yale University Faculty Committee For Receiving Oxford and Cambridge Children	1940-1944, undated
	Yale University Press	
b. 9, f. 64	General	1935-1963, undated
b. 9, f. 65	Appointment as director	1950
b. 9, f. 66	Lewis, W. P.	1941-1942
b. 9, f. 67	Misappropriation of funds	1940
b. 9, f. 68	Pamphlets and articles	1914, 1919, 1944
	Photographs	
b. 10, f. 69	General	undated
b. 10, f. 70	Yale University Press	undated
b. 10, f. 71	Youth See also: Oversize, folder 1	1914, undated

Photographs (continued)

b. 10, f. 72	Photo albums	1906-1923, 1944, undated
b. 10, f. 73	Portraits	undated

Virginia Louise Donaldson, 1919-1960

Correspondence

Incoming

b. 11, f. 1	A-Z [general]	1935-1945, undated
b. 11, f. 2	Donaldson, Harry N. "Sonny" [brother]	1938, 1943, undated
b. 11, f. 3	Donaldson, Henry H. [grandfather]	1937
b. 11, f. 4-5	Donaldson, Hildegarde [mother]	1929-1941, undated
b. 11, f. 6-7	Donaldson, Norman V. [father]	1935-1945, undated
b. 11, f. 8	Lewis, Penelope	1919, undated
b. 11, f. 9	Morrison, Jimmy	1937, 1946, undated
b. 11, f. 10	Nash, Mabel Virginia "Gin" [aunt]	undated
b. 11, f. 11-12	Trueblood, Sarah S. "Sal" [sister of Dr. Benjamin Spock '24]	1937-1944, undated
b. 11, f. 13	"Boris" English	1944-1945
b. 11, f. 14	"Eric" [a.k.a. "Fritz"] English	1942-1945
b. 11, f. 15	"Ruthie" English	1932, undated
b. 12, f. 16	"Stan" English	undated
b. 12, f. 17	"Vera" English	undated
b. 12, f. 18	"Wal" English	1944-1945, undated
Outgoing		
b. 12, f. 19	A-Z [general]	1923-1940, undated
b. 12, f. 20	Coolidge, Calvin	1929
b. 12, f. 21	Trueblood, Sarah S. "Sal" [sister of Dr. Benjamin Spock '24]	1939-1940, undated
b. 12, f. 22	"Beantuffit" English	undated

Correspondence > Outgoing (continued)

b. 12, f. 23	"Grandma" English	1932, 1936
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Subject Files

b. 12, f. 24	Donaldson, Hildegarde N. [letters of condolence on her death]	1946
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b. 12, f. 25	Education	1932, 1937
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b. 12, f. 26	Finances	1949-1960, undated
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b. 12, f. 27	Hair [sixteen months old]	1919
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b. 12, f. 28	Theater	1942
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Photographs

b. 12, f. 29-30	Theater	undated
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b. 13, f. 31	Photo albums	1928-1933, undated
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b. 13, f. 32	Portraits	1932, 1934
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Mabel Virginia Nash, 1898-1959

Correspondence

b. 14, f. 1	A-Z [general]	1914, 1927, 1936, 1944, undated
b. 14, f. 2	Clifton, Susan [grandmother]	1898-1899, undated
b. 14, f. 3	Donaldson, Hildegard [sister]	undated

Subject Files

Death

b. 14, f. 4	General	1938, 1956-1959, undated
b. 14, f. 5	Bankers Trust Company	1954-1959, undated
b. 14, f. 6	Marshall, Mrs. George C.	1957
b. 14, f. 7	Pellerin Company	1929, 1938, 1957-1959, undated
b. 14, f. 8	Stepan, Arpinee	1956-1958, undated
b. 14, f. 9	Wiert, Anne	1957, undated
b. 14, f. 10	Wiggin Dana	1957-1959
b. 14, f. 11	Finances	1927
b. 14, f. 12	Prisoner of war	1940-1945, undated
b. 14, f. 13	Photographs	undated

Mabel W. Nash, 1890-1914

Correspondence

b. 15, f. 1	General, 1891	1908, undated
b. 15, f. 2	Joan, Will	1890-1891, 1893, undated
b. 15, f. 3	Otis, Raymond	1890

Subject Files

b. 15, f. 4	Sympathy correspondence [death of James Nash, husband]	1904
b. 15, f. 5	Travel	1906, 1914

General, 1870-1971

Correspondence

b. 16, f. 1	Family [letter from E. Root to Alfred Donaldson and from "Julia" to "mother"]	1870, 1892
b. 16, f. 2	Unidentified	1918-1947, undated

Subject Files

b. 16, f. 3	Churches	1929, undated
b. 16, f. 4	Poetry	1922-1942, undated
b. 16, f. 5	War diaries [written by "J.W.C." re: experiences in WWII]	1942-1944, undated
b. 16, f. 6	Wills	1918-1953
b. 16, f. 7	Writing	undated

Photographs

b. 16, f. 8	"Alice W. And Wedding" [contains negatives only]	undated
b. 16, f. 9	Donaldson, Harry Nash and Virginia Louise See also: Oversize, folder 1	1921, 1928, 1933-1935, undated
b. 16, f. 10	Europe	undated
b. 16, f. 11	14 Briar Lane, New Haven, Connecticut [home]	undated
b. 16, f. 12	Great Chebeague, Maine	undated
b. 16, f. 13	Homes	undated
b. 16, f. 14	Sailing [mostly unidentified]	1914, 1924-1925, undated
b. 16, f. 15	"Scanticut" [contains negatives only]	undated
b. 16, f. 16	United States [travel to: Mohawk Park, Mt. Vernon, Arizona, New Hampshire]	1926, 1938, 1940, undated
b. 16, f. 17	Washington, D.C.	undated
b. 16, f. 18	Yellowstone	undated
b. 17, f. 19-24	Unidentified [contains some negatives]	1906, 1923-1924, 1939-1940, 1948, 1971, undated

Oversize, 1870-1971

b. 18, f. 1

Photographs

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

Genealogy
Publishers and publishing
University presses
Violinists
Violin -- Performance

Names

Donaldson, Hildegarde Nash
Donaldson, Norman Vaux, 1891-1964

Corporate Body

Yale University Press