BILLINGTON, RAY WALLACE, 1880-1962

PAPERS, 1916-1964, bulk 1941-1950

Processed by:

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Manuscript Accession Number: 90-281
Microfilm Accession Number: 1232
Date Completed: June 9, 1990
Location: XIV-M-1-2, top

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INTRODUCTION

The Ray Wallace Billington Papers, 1916-1964, are centered around Ray Wallace Billington (1880-1962), a World War I veteran and noted orthopedic surgeon of Nashville, Tennessee. The Ray Wallace Billington Papers are a gift of Mrs. Mary Billington of Nashville, Tennessee. The papers occupy 5.04 linear feet of shelf space.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Ray Wallace Billington Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Ray Wallace Billington Papers span the period 1916-1964, although the bulk of the material is largely concentrated in the years 1941-1950. The collection is composed of cards, clippings, correspondence, diaries, medical certificates, photographs, programs, scrapbooks, and writings.

The bulk of the collection is comprised of correspondence dating from 1918 through 1964. There are two main parts to the correspondence: one deals with R. W. Billington's letters written during World War I, and the second group of letters concerns his son's experience during World War II. Both sets provide an interesting view of war-ravaged Europe. Other letters outline Billington's interest in the Nashville Crippled Children's Home. There are two letters in the collection from Franklin D. Roosevelt discussing their mutual interest in the Warm Springs Foundation for polio victims. A name index of the correspondence has been compiled and appears at the end of this finding aid.

The diaries chronicle the career of the prominent physician, detailing cases and operations performed and the daily life of an observer of the world.

The collection is important because it provides a glimpse into the life of a prominent orthopedic surgeon and the experiences of Americans serving in the European theatre during two world wars.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Ray Wallace Billington

1880  December 7, born in Maury County, Tennessee, son of William K. and Martha Sue Elliott Billington
1889  Moves from Maury County to Williamson County, two miles south of Franklin
1890-1898  Educated in the public and private schools in Franklin; graduates from Battle Ground Academy
1889-1901  Attends and graduates from Vanderbilt University
1906  Graduates from Vanderbilt University Medical School
1906-1910  Opens general practice in Nashville and serves as assistant in Anatomy and Material Medical Department of Vanderbilt Medical School
1911  Goes to New York and does post-graduate work at the "Hospital for Ruptured and Crippled"
1911-1950  Begins teaching orthopedic surgery at Vanderbilt University
1912  Performs the first bone graft operation in the South; helps found Junior League Home for Crippled Children
1913  Performs the first fusion operation on the spine; marries Mary Wood Prichard of Nashville
1917  Volunteers to enter service in the U. S. Army Medical Corps and goes overseas as one of a group of twenty orthopedic surgeons who were loaned by the U. S. Government to the British for special reconstruction work in their special hospitals; serves under Sir Robert Jones.
1919  Returns to Nashville and resumes practice
1921  Gives thesis for membership in the American Orthopedic Society on "Paralysis of Muscular Spinal Nerve"
1922  Reads before the Tennessee Medical Association a paper entitled "Low Back Pain"
1931  Reads before the Southern Medical Association his paper on "A New Plastic Yoke Dressing for Fractures of the Clavicle"
1937-1941  Member of the Tennessee State Crippled Children's Committee
1949  Organization chairman and President of Tennessee State Orthopedic Society
1950  Retires from medical practice
1962  April 5, dies in Franklin, Tennessee and interred at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Nashville, Tennessee
CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Reel #1

Box 1
1. Accounts--Bills and receipts
2. Card--Bill, W. W.
3. Cards--Miscellaneous
4. Cards--Miscellaneous
5. Cards--Miscellaneous
6. Certificates--Miscellaneous
7. Clippings--Ray Wallace Billington
8. Clippings--Ray Wallace Billington
9. Clippings--World War I
10. Correspondence--Alexander-Bass
11. Correspondence--Billington, Ray Wallace, 1917
12. Correspondence--Billington, Ray Wallace, 1918
15. Correspondence--Billington, Ray Wallace, 1941-1942
16. Correspondence--Billington, Ray Wallace, 1941-1942
17. Correspondence--Billington, Ray Wallace, 1941-1942
18. Correspondence--Billington, Ray Wallace, 1943
19. Correspondence--Billington, Ray Wallace, 1943
20. Correspondence--Billington, Ray Wallace, 1943
21. Correspondence--Billington, Ray Wallace, 1943
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23. Correspondence--Billington, Ray Wallace, 1943
24. Correspondence--Billington, Ray Wallace, 1943
25. Correspondence--Billington, Ray Wallace, 1944

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1. Correspondence--Billington, Ray Wallace, 1944
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6. Correspondence--Billington, Ray Wallace, 1944
7. Correspondence--Billington, Ray Wallace, 1945
11. Correspondence--Brandon—Cummings
12. Correspondence--Daniell—Duncan, Elsie
13. Correspondence--Duncan, Elsie
14. Correspondence--Duncan, Elsie

Box 3
1. Correspondence--Duncan, Elsie
2. Correspondence--Foote-Fraser
3. Correspondence--Gambill-Howse
4. Correspondence--Jones-Kirkpatrick
5. Correspondence--Lentz-Lorenz
6. Correspondence--McAlister-Mullowney
7. Correspondence--Officer-Prichard
8. Correspondence--Ray-Rucks
9. Correspondence--Sims-Travis
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Diaries--Billington, Ray Wallace
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  2. 1934-1944
  3. 1945-1946
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Box 5
Diaries--Billington, Ray Wallace
  1. 1950-1956

Microfilm Reel #2
  2. 1957-1960
  3. 1961-1964

Box 6
Diaries--Billington, Ray Wallace
  1. 1965-1969

Box 7
  1. Lists--School of Medicine, 1906
  2. Medical certificates--Scottish General Hospital
  3. Medical certificates--Scottish General Hospital
  4. Medical certificates--Scottish General Hospital
  5. Medical certificates--Scottish General Hospital
  6. Military records--Billington, Ray Wallace
  7. Military records--Billington, Ray Wallace
  8. Notebooks--Billington, Ray Wallace
9. Photographs, drawings, etc.--Miscellaneous
10. Printed material--Miscellaneous
11. Programs--Miscellaneous
12. Programs--Miscellaneous
13. Programs--Orthopedic Society
14. Programs--Orthopedic Society

Box 8
1. Register--Billington, Ray Wallace-Funeral
2. Resume--Billington, Ray Wallace
3. Scrapbook--Billington, Ray Wallace
4. Scrapbook--Billington, Ray Wallace

Box 9
1. Scrapbook--Billington, Ray Wallace
2. Sketches--Billington, Ray Wallace
3. Sketches--"Warm Springs, Georgia"
4. Speech--"A Long Look Back"
5. Writings--Billington, Ray Wallace
6. Writings--Billington, Ray Wallace

Box 10 - *transferred to library holdings: LD5595.C65
Vanderbilt University Yearbooks
1. 1900
2. 1901
3. 1904
4. 1905
5. 1906

Microfilm Reel #3
Box 11 - *transferred to library holdings: LD7251.N23A4
Ward Seminary Yearbooks
1. 1905
2. 1906
3. 1907
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Box 12 - *see end of Box 9 for originals, in Box 12 on microfilm
1. Writings—Billington, Ray Wallace
2. Writings—Billington, Ray Wallace

Oversize Folder 1
1. Appointment--Member of the Crippled Children's Service Commission, 1941
2. Certification--American Board of Orthopedic Surgery, 1934
3. Diploma--American Orthopedic Association, 1926
4. Diploma--Alpha Omega Alpha-Vanderbilt University, 1923
5. Military Records--Appointment as 1st Lieutenant in Medical Section, 1917
6. Military Records--Appointment as Captain in Medical Section, 1918
7. Photographs (4)

**Oversize Folder 2**
Diploma--Vanderbilt University Medical School

**Oversize Folder 3**
Nashville Academy of Medicine and Davidson County Medical Society, 1937-1938
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Bass, J. L. to Ray Wallace Billington, 1952, re: regrets to know of your retirement, 1-10
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Brown, L. F. to Mrs. Ray Wallace Billington, 1965, re: sends a portrait plate and biography of Ray Wallace Billington for inclusion in a historical publication, 2-11
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