

**Guy Erwin Davis Papers**

2006-018

Special Collections  
Tuck Library  
New Hampshire Historical Society

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**Collection Overview**

**Title:** Guy Erwin Davis Papers

**Bulk Date:** 1905 -1949

**Accession Numbers:** 2006-018

**Physical Description:** 1 box

**Provenance and Acknowledgments:**

Mary Jane Walsh (donated in memory of Harry Sleeper, NHHS Volunteer. Ms. Walsh is his daughter), Concord NH

**Processor:** Sandra L. Wheeler, Volunteer

**Access Restrictions:** No restrictions

**Copyright:** For requests to publish material from this collection, contact the Special Collections Librarian for copyright information.

**Repository:** Special Collections, Tuck Library

**For Additional Information:**

Special Collections, Tuck Library  
New Hampshire Historical Society  
30 Park Street  
Concord NH 03301  
603-856-0600  
[library@nhhistory.org](mailto:library@nhhistory.org)

**Biographical Note:**

Guy Erwin Davis was born in Tilton NH in 1883. He was graduated from The United States Naval Academy in the September section of the Class of 1907 and subsequently posted to a number of ships and locations, mostly in the United States, often as an officer in charge of ordinance and/or machinery. During World War I he commanded a ship that sank an enemy submarine off the coast of France. He was made Lt. Commander in 1918 and was awarded the D.S.M. for service as Commander of a Patrol Unit operating against enemy submarines in the Atlantic. The U.S. Naval Academy has provided a full description of his military career which details the ships on which he served, his many assignments on land and the medals awarded to him. (appended).

In 1909, he married Mabel Mathewson; they apparently had two daughters, of whom only one seems to have survived to adulthood. Davis probably retired to Seattle, Washington; his death date is unknown.

**Sources:**

U.S. Naval Academy biography, 1941.

**Summary:**

The letters in this collection were all addressed to Davis' Aunt Flora [Flora Sleeper, of Laconia NH] or members of her family; though they cover the years 1905 - 46, the bulk of them were written before World War I, when Davis was starting his career and family. These describe life aboard ship, gunnery practice, his engagement and the first year or so of his marriage. Later, when he was posted to more exotic locations such as Panama, he occasionally offered a few details about how daily life was lived – servants, foods available, etc. There are no letters describing the events that led to his being awarded the DSM.

The postcards contain little in the way of messages, being intended to show his aunt where he was traveling, or, in the case of those with military subjects, what kind of ship he was on. Among the letters are a few other postcards of military subjects upon which he drew or otherwise elaborated upon descriptions in the accompanying letters.

The Sleeper family folders contain a miscellany of largely unrelated items relating to Flora Sleeper and her children.

**Contents, Box 1**

Folder 1. Letters, 1905 - 1907 (17)

Folder 2. Letters, 1908 (8)

Folder 3. Letters, 1909 - 1910 (9)

Folder 4. Letters, 1911 - 1914 (14)

Folder 5. Letters, 1916 - 1923 (7)

Folder 6. Letters, 1931 - 1938 (9)

Folder 7. Memorabilia, 1897 - 1946, n.d. (10)

Birth announcements, Annapolis graduation, invitations, holiday cards, etc.

- Folder 8. Memorabilia, n.d. (5)  
Newspaper clippings, menu, souvenir items
- Folder 9. Postcards, Military subjects, n.d. (16)  
Ships, forts, Academy buildings etc.
- Folder 10. Postcards, US subjects, 1907-09, 1920's, n.d. (21)  
Alaska, California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, New York, Pennsylvania, Utah, Virginia,  
Washington
- Folder 11. Postcards, World subjects, 1907 - 1930's, n.d. (17)  
Brazil, Cuba, Europe, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Samoa, Trinidad
- Folder 12. Sleeper Family Correspondence, 1900 - 1930, n.d. (15)
- Folder 13. Sleeper Family Documents, 1924 - 1949 (12)  
Property insurance policies, deeds, etc.