

The Filson Historical Society

**Bullitt Family Papers-
Oxmoor Collection, additional papers, 1920-1968**

For information regarding literary and copyright interest for these papers, see the Curator of Special Collections, James J. Holmberg.

Size of Collection:

4 cubic feet

Locator Number:

Mss./A/B937d

**Bullitt Family Papers-Oxmoor Collection, additional papers.
1920-1978**

Biographical Note

William Marshall Bullitt was the son of Thomas and Annie Logan Bullitt. He too was a successful lawyer. In 1912 President Taft appointed Bullitt Solicitor General of the United States. He held the position for less than a year, as Taft was not re-elected. In 1914 he made a run for one of Kentucky's senate seat but lost. That ended Bullitt's political career. Bullitt turned his attention to his law career and made his law firm one of the most successful and largest firms in the state. In 1918 he accepted a position with the Red Cross as deputy commissioner and traveled through Europe immediately after the war. Bullitt became an influential figure in Louisville. He sat on many bank, insurance, and company boards. He was also a member of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Nora Iasigi Bullitt was the daughter of Oscar and Amy Iasigi and was born in Massachusetts in 1881. Before her marriage to William Marshall Bullitt in 1913 she wrote several articles that were published, and was an avid sculptor. She and Marshall had three children together. She became active in local groups, including the Historic Homes Foundation and was an extensive traveler her entire life.

Thomas W. Bullitt was the son of William and Nora Iasigi Bullitt. He was born in Massachusetts in 1914. He attended prep schools in England and Massachusetts before entering Harvard University and Harvard Law School. After his graduation in 1941 he briefly joined his father's law firm. After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Bullitt joined the army and was eventually sent to England to assist Field Marshal Montgomery. Bullitt's military career lasted until 1946 when he returned to Louisville and began practicing law again with his father in the firms Bullitt & Middleton and Bullitt, Dawson & Tarrant. After his father's death in 1957, Bullitt was left the bulk of the Oxmoor estate and he began right away thinking of developing some of the property. Bullitt completed the building of the Oxmoor shopping center in the 1970s and drew up a master plan of development for the rest of the estate after his death. Bullitt was an avid horseman and established the Oxmoor steeplechase. Bullitt had no children so upon his death in 1991 the estate went into trust. Sixty acres, including the main house and all the outbuildings have been preserved through a preservation easement.

Nora Bullitt Leake was the daughter of William and Nora Iasigi Bullitt. She was born in Louisville in 1916. She attended boarding schools in Massachusetts and briefly attended Bryn Mawr College. She married Eugene Leake in 1939 and they lived in Connecticut, Kentucky, and Maryland as they followed Leake's career opportunities as an artist. They had two daughters together. She died in 1980

Barbara Bullitt Watkins Christian was the daughter of William and Nora Iasigi Bullitt. She was born in Louisville in 1919. She attended boarding schools in Pennsylvania. She married Lowry Watkins in 1942 and together they had 3 children together. After their divorce in 1960 she married Virgil Christian. Barbara was active in the Republican Party and an avid horsewoman. She died in 2000.

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Scope and Content

This collection consists of letters dated 1920-1968 written by Thomas, Nora, and Barbara Bullitt to their parents William Marshall and Nora Iasigi Bullitt. The letters dated 1920-1938 were written by the children while they were away at boarding schools and mostly concern their education, family life, and social life. The letters dated 1939-1968 were written after the Bullitt children began their careers or married and concern current events, social events, and descriptions of family life. There were several letters from the Bullitt grandchildren as well.

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Folder Listing

Box #1

1. Correspondence, 1920-1922
2. Correspondence, 1923-1924
3. Correspondence, 1925
4. Correspondence, 1926
5. Correspondence, 1927
6. Correspondence, 1928-1929
7. Correspondence, January-August 1931
8. Correspondence, September-December 1931
9. Correspondence, January-February 1932
10. Correspondence, March-April 1932
11. Correspondence, May-September 1932
12. Correspondence, October-December 1932
13. Correspondence, January-March 1933
14. Correspondence, April-September 1933
15. Correspondence, October-December 1933
16. Correspondence, January-March 1934
17. Correspondence, April-August 1934
18. Correspondence, September-December 1934
19. Correspondence, January-March 1935
20. Correspondence, April-August 1935
21. Correspondence, September-December 1935

Box #2

22. Correspondence, January-March 1936
23. Correspondence, April-June 1936
24. Correspondence, July-December 1936
25. Correspondence, January-February 1937
26. Correspondence, March-August 1937
27. Correspondence, September-December 1937
28. Correspondence, January-February 1938
29. Correspondence, March-April 1938
30. Correspondence, May-June 1938
31. Correspondence, July-December 1938
32. Correspondence, January-February 1939
33. Correspondence, March-July 1939
34. Correspondence, August-October 1939
35. Correspondence, November-December 1939
36. Correspondence, January-February 1940

37. Correspondence, March-June 1940
38. Correspondence, July-December 1940
39. Correspondence, January-March 1941
40. Correspondence, April-July 1941
41. Correspondence, August-December 1941
42. Correspondence, January-May 1942

Box #3

43. Correspondence, June-September 1942
44. Correspondence, October-December 1942
45. Correspondence, January-March 1943
46. Correspondence, April-May 1943
47. Correspondence, June-September 1943
48. Correspondence, October-December 1943
49. Correspondence, January-February 1944
50. Correspondence, March-May 1944
51. Correspondence, June-December 1944
52. Correspondence, 1945-1946
53. Correspondence, January-June 1947
54. Correspondence, July-December 1947
55. Correspondence, 1948
56. Correspondence, 1949
57. Correspondence, 1950-1952
58. Correspondence, 1953
59. Correspondence, January-August 1954
60. Correspondence, September-December 1954
61. Correspondence, 1955-1957
62. Correspondence, 1958
63. Correspondence, 1959

Box #4

64. Correspondence, 1960
65. Correspondence, January-May 1961
66. Correspondence, June-December 1961
67. Correspondence, January-May 1962
68. Correspondence, June-December 1962
69. Correspondence, January-May 1963
70. Correspondence, June-December 1963
71. Correspondence, 1964
72. Correspondence, January-April 1965
73. Correspondence, May-December 1965
74. Correspondence, 1966-1968
75. Correspondence, undated.

Added Entries

Acheson, Dean, 1893-1971
Antisemitism – United States
Apthorp, Octavia Iasigi, 1857-1944
Atherton, Cornelia Anderson, 1886-
Bermuda – Description and travel
Bingham, Mary Caperton, 1904-
Bingham, Robert Worth, 1871-1937
Brandeis, Louis Dembitz, 1856-1941
Breckinridge, Mary, 1881-1965
Bullitt, A. Scott (Alexander Scott), 1877-1932
Bullitt, James Bell, 1874-1964
Bullitt, Nora Iasigi, 1881-1976
Bullitt, Priscilla Keator Pillsbury, 1915-
Bullitt, Thomas Walker, 1914-1991
Bullitt, William C. (William Christian), 1891-1967
Bullitt, Wm. Marshall (William Marshall), b.1873
Cameron, Nora Leake, 1942-
Camp Pickett (Va.)
Children – Correspondence
Children's art
Christian, Barbara Bullitt Watkins, 1919-2000
Crowninshield, Louise Du Pont, 1877-1958
Cuban Missile Crisis, 1962
Depressions – 1929
Dewey, Thomas E. (Thomas Edmund), 1902-1971
Dow, Joy Wheeler, b.ca.1909
Education
Elizabeth II, Queen of Great Britain, 1926-
England – Description and travel
Europe – Description and travel
Family life
Floods – Kentucky – Louisville
Fort Campbell (Ky. and Tenn.)
Fort Knox (Ky.)
Frankfurter, Felix, 1882-1965
Frontier Nursing Service, inc.
Goldwater, Barry, 1938-
Grabisch, Agatha Bullitt, 1875-1948
Graham, Martha
Greeting cards
Harvard University
Hindenburg (Airship)
Hungary – Description and travel
Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973

Kennedy, John F. (John Fitzgerald), 1917-1963
Korean War, 1950-1953
Leake, Eugene, 1911-
Leake, Nora Bullitt, 1916-1980
Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1902-
Louisville (Ky.) – Social life and customs
Loving, Emma, 1874-1952
Massachusetts – Social life and customs
Miller, Neville, 1894-1977
Morton, Rogers Clark Ballard, 1914-1979
Nixon, Richard M. (Richard Milhous), 1913-
Oxmoor Steeplechase
Presidents – United States – Election – 1936
Presidents – United States – Election – 1944
Presidents – United States – Election – 1964
Radcliffe College
Religion – United States
Richardson, Nina Leake, 1944-
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1914-1988
Santa Claus
Scarlatina
Social service – Kentucky
Stoll, Alice Speed, 1906-1996
Strikes and lockouts – Coal mining
Suicide
United States – Relations – Japan
Vallely, Barbara Porter Watkins, 1943-
Varé, Daniele, 1880-1956
Vietnamese Conflict, 1961-1975
Watkins, Lowry Rush, ca.1897-1981
Watkins, Lowry Rush, 1946-
Watkins, Marshall Bullitt, 1955-1996
Willkie, Wendell L. (Wendell Lewis), 1892-1944
Women in politics
World War, 1939-1945
Wyatt, Wilson W. (Wilson Watkins), 1905-1996