

**Taylor and Nicholson family
papers, 1810-1899, bulk 1869-1944
HC.Coll.1215
HC.Coll.1215**

Finding aid prepared by Finding aid prepared by Leslie O'Neill and Forrest Wright

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

2009.11.24

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Summary Information

Repository	Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections
Creator	Nicholson family
Creator	Taylor family
Creator	Taylor, Rebecca Nicholson, 1857-1944
Creator	Taylor, William Nicholson, 1882-1945
Title	Taylor and Nicholson family papers
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1869-1944
Date [inclusive]	Bulk, 1869-1944 1810-1999
Extent	10.5 Linear feet
General Physical Description note	21 containers and 3 rolled photographs
Language	English
Abstract	<p>The Taylor and Nicholson family papers contain the records of these two families from the late-nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. The two focal points of this collection are William Nicholson Taylor (1882-1945), and his mother, Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor (1857-1944). William graduated from Harvard in 1903 and afterwards spent considerable time abroad studying architecture. He also served as an officer in the United States Military from 1916 to 1917, and worked in diplomacy after the war. Rebecca was a noted writer and poet during this time period. The strength of this collection is the collected materials related to William's</p>

time in the military, as well as his sketchbooks related to architecture and Harvard. Researchers interested in the works of Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor or Quaker women, should also consult Rebecca's notebook and correspondence. There is extensive correspondence between the various members of these two families from the 1880s to 1940s.

Preferred Citation note

Haverford College Library, Haverford, PA, Quaker Collection, Taylor and Nicholson family papers, Coll. No. 1215

Biographical Note

William Nicholson Taylor was born on June 22, 1882 in Cincinnati, OH to Quaker parents Frank Hendrickson Taylor and Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor. He grew up at Linden, a family home near Haddonfield, NJ. Frank Hendrickson Taylor (1855-1934) graduated from Harvard and was president of the Westinghouse Electric Company. Rebecca Nicholson Taylor (1857-1944), a descendent of the Whitall family, is known for writing poetry, history and memoirs.

William Nicholson Taylor studied architecture at Harvard University. Following his graduation in 1903, "his interests were evenly divided between athletics, travel and art," (Who's Who Abroad). Spending a considerable amount of his adult life abroad, he studied at the American Academy of Rome and at the Ecole des Beaux-Arts from 1905-1910, receiving his Diplome d'Architecte. He also sketched cartoons throughout his life, and played Cricket internationally.

When the United States entered World War I, Taylor joined the Field Artillery Officers' Reserve Corps as a captain. On May 15, 1917, he was called to active duty and sent to Officers' Training camp in Fort Niagara, New York. By August 15, 1917, he was promoted to major. He was then assigned to the 310th Field Artillery, 79th Division in Camp Mead, Maryland and a month later, sent to the School of Fire in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. His military successes continued as he was appointed instructor on December 21, 1917, promoted to Lieutenant Colonel on July 28, 1918, and assigned to command the 29th Field Artillery at Camp Funston, Kansas. At the end of the war, Taylor was discharged on February 11, 1919.

Following the war, Taylor married Gertrude Christine Duret de Brie on May 15, 1919. The Taylors moved to France where Taylor served as general European Manager for the E.I. DuPont de Nemours Export Corporation, Inc. in Paris. Their three children were born in Paris: Constance Alix, born on July 8, 1921; Benjamin de Brie, born on March 15, 1923; and Marie-Celine, born on May 20, 1925. In 1927, Taylor became president of the American Chamber of Commerce in France. The Taylor family returned to the United States in 1936, living in Wilmington, Delaware, Norton, Connecticut, New York, New York, and Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Taylor worked as an architect for George Howe.

During the Second World War, Taylor served in the 3rd Services Command, United States Army Office of the Inspector General. He died in Washington, DC in April, 1945.

Publications by Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor include: *Songs of Hope*, 1915; *Small Adventures of a Little Quaker Girl*, 1937; *A Family History of the Residence of Rebecca and Sarah Nicholson, Haddonfield, New Jersey*, 1917; *The Wind Passeth Over It*, circa 1925; *Poems: Christmas Greetings*, 1915; *Earth People: and Other Verse*, circa 1920s-1930s; *What Our Work Is: And Why We Do It*, 1897; and *Memoir of Mary Whitall*, 1885.

Scope and Contents note

This collection contains the records of the Taylor and Nicholson families from the late nineteenth to mid twentieth centuries. Included within the collection are correspondence, scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, and photographs. This collection is divided into three series; "William Nicholson Taylor," "Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor," and "Collected Family Material." William Nicholson Taylor spent 1916 to 1917 serving as an officer in the United States Military and collected material (including panoramic photographs) of his time. He also sketched architectural designs and cartoons. Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor was a noted writer and poet during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century, thus researchers interested in her work or Quaker women should consult her notebook and correspondence included in the collection. Additionally, researchers interested in these families would be well served searching through this collection, as one of its strength lies in the intimate correspondence written between family members.

Within the "William Nicholson Taylor" series are four subseries: "Correspondence," "School Material," "French Material," and "Manuscripts, Scrapbook, Proposal and Newspaper Clippings." The "Correspondence" subseries includes letters predominately written to his wife Christine de Brie Taylor, and his mother Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor. Also represented in this subseries are his letters written during his time spent in the military from 1916 to 1917. The "School Material" subseries contains a scrapbook related to his final year at Harvard, 1903. Additionally, the "Photographs" subseries includes three oversized panoramic pictures of military bases and officers from William's time in the military during World War I.

The "Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor" series contains correspondence, a photograph as child, and a notebook. Included in her correspondence are letters to her sister, Elizabeth Whittall Nicholson, and husband, Frank Hendrickson Taylor. Her notebook includes drawings, photos, and notes on her sons and her work as a writer.

The "Collected Family Material" series is comprised of three subseries: "Correspondence," "Photographs," and "Photocopy, Pamphlet, and Miscellaneous." Of note in this series are the Notes on Whittall Family which includes genealogical sketches of the Taylor and Nicholson ancestry, as well as the "Photographs" subseries which include pictures of various family members and the Taylor estate. The Miscellaneous folder contains unidentified pieces of paper that were found within the collection.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections 2009.11.24

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research use.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright restrictions may apply. Please contact the Archives with requests for copying and for authorization to publish, quote or reproduce the material.

Custodial History note

Gift of Benjamin Taylor, son of William Nicholson Taylor.

Processing Information note

The processing of this collection was made possible through generous funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, administered through the Council on Library and Information Resources' "Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives" Project.

This collection was *minimally processed* in 2009-2011, as part of an experimental project conducted under the auspices of the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries to help eliminate processing backlog in Philadelphia repositories. A minimally processed collection is one processed at a less intensive rate than traditionally thought necessary to make a collection ready for use by researchers. When citing sources from this collection, researchers are advised to defer to folder titles provided in the finding aid rather than those provided on the physical folder.

Employing processing strategies outlined in Mark Greene's and Dennis Meissner's 2005 article, *More Product, Less Process: Revamping Traditional Processing Approaches to Deal With Late 20th-Century Collections*, the project team tested the limits of minimal processing on collections of all types and ages, in 23 Philadelphia area repositories. A primary goal of the project, the team processed at an average rate of 2-3 hours per linear foot of records, a fraction of the time ordinarily reserved for the arrangement and description of collections. Among other time saving strategies, the project team did not extensively review the content of the collections, replace acidic folders or complete any preservation work.

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- American Chamber of Commerce in France.
- E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co..
- Field Artillery School (Fort Sill, Okla.).
- Fort George G. Meade (Md.).
- Fort Riley (Kan.).
- Harvard University.
- Old Fort Niagara (N.Y.).
- Society of Friends.

- United States. Army. Reserve Officers' Training Corps .
- École nationale supérieure des beaux-arts (France).

Genre(s)

- Cartoons (humorous images)
- Clippings
- Correspondence.
- Family papers.
- Genealogical tables
- Marriage certificates
- Memorabilia
- Notebooks
- Photographs.
- Scrapbooks
- Sketches

Geographic Name(s)

- Boston (Mass.)
- Chestnut Hill (Philadelphia, Pa.)
- Haddonfield (N.J.)
- Kansas
- Maryland
- New York (State)
- Oklahoma
- Paris (France)

Personal Name(s)

- Taylor, Frank Hendrickson, 1855-1934
- Taylor, Gertrude Christine de Brie, b. 1897
- Taylor, Rebecca Nicholson, 1857-1944
- Taylor, William Nicholson, 1882-1945

Subject(s)

- Architecture
- Art

- Authors
- Cricket
- Painting
- Quaker women
- Quakers
- World War I

Series I. William Nicholson Taylor

Collection Inventory

Series I. William Nicholson Taylor 1882-1945	
Subseries a. Correspondence 1899-1943	
	Box
To Gertrude Christine de Brie Taylor 1919-1945	1-4
To Gertrude Christine de Brie Taylor (includes photocopies of original letters) 1919-1945 Files in this sub-series are made up of letters sent from William Nicholson Taylor to his wife, Gertrude, that have been transcribed and photocopied.	5-6
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor, Letters from Camp Mead 1917	7
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor, Letters from Camp Funston 1917-1919	7
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor, Letters from England and Paris 1920	7
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor, Letters from Paris 1921-1922	7
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1910	7

Subseries a. Correspondence

To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor (2 folders) 1917	8
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1917-1918	8
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1918	8
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1919-1929	8
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1920	8
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1920-1922	8
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1920-1936	9
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1920	9
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1921-1922	9
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1922	9
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1923-1928	9
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1924-1928	10

Subseries a. Correspondence

To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1925-1926	10
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1926-1928	10
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor (2 folders) 1930	10
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1932	11
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor (2 folders) 1933	11
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1933, 1936	11
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1934	11
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1936	11
To Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor, Typescript Copies of Letters (2 folders) 1902-1919	12
To William H. Nicholson 1899, 1901	13
To Frank Hendrickson Taylor undated	13

Subseries b. School material

To Sara and Rebecca Nicholson 1906-1920	13
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To Eliza Nicholson circa 1890s	13
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To Others 1943	13
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Travel Letters (typescript copies) (2 folders) 1902-1905	13
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Military, Expense Records 1917	13
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Military, Letter Exchanges with Personnel	13
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Military, American Field Service 1940	13
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Invitations undated	14
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Unidentified undated	14
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Empty envelopes undated	14
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Subseries b. School material 1901-1917**Box**

Subseries c. France

History of Architecture Course Notebook 1902	14
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Harvard Class of 1903 Scrapbook 1903	14
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Ecole Des Beaux Arts Notebook 1903-1917	15
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Harvard cartoon sketches 1917	15
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Subseries c. France 1924-1930**General note**

This subseries is comprised of materials collected by William Nicholson Taylor related to his time spent living in France.

Box

Pamphlets 1924, 1928, 1930	15
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Photographs and clippings 1929-1930	15
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Subseries d. Miscellaneous**Box**

Manuscript fragments undated	16
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Series II. Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor

16

Scrapbook: The War Years, The Army, and After 1917-1929

Item

Panoramic photographs and illustration of military camps circa 1914-1918

(loose
on shelf)

Box

Proposal for Philadelphia Revitalization 1939-1940

16

Newspaper Clippings undated

16

Series II. Rebecca Morgan Nicholson Taylor 1886-1940**Box**

Correspondence to Elizabeth Whitall Nicholson 1880-1936

17-19

Correspondence to Frank Hendrickson Taylor 1886

19

Photograph as child

19

Notebook, including photos and drawings 1882-1893

20

Series III. Collected family material

Subseries a. Correspondence

Subseries a. Correspondence 1872-1940	
	Box
From Seth Gifford to Whitall Nicholson 1872	20
From Bessie Nicholson to Whitall and Eliza Nicholson undated	20
From Emma Penny to Eliza Nicholson 1913	21
From Emma Penny to Gertrude Christine de Brie Taylor undated	21
From Frank Hendrickson Taylor to Whitall Nicholson undated	21
From Frank Hendrickson Taylor to William Nicholson Taylor undated	21
Frank Hendrickson Taylor	
	Box
From Gertrude Christine de Brie Taylor to Eliza Nicholson 1933	21
From Gertrude Christine de Brie Taylor to Parents undated	21

Subseries b. Photographs

21

From Taylor Children (Constance Alix, Benjamin de Brie, and Marie Celine) to William Nicholson and Gertrude Christine de Brie Taylor undated

21

From Taylor Children (Constance Alix, Benjamin de Brie, and Marie Celine) to family members undated

21

Notes on Whitall Family undated

Subseries b. Photographs**Box**

21

Nicholson Home undated

21

Rebecca and Sarah Nicholson undated

21

William Nicholson and Gertrude Christine de Brie Taylor Family 1921

21

Gertrude Christine de Brie Taylor undated

21

Encased Photographs undated

Subseries c. Photocopies, Pamphlets and Miscellaneous**Box**

Subseries c. Photocopies, Pamphlets and Miscellaneous

Photocopy of 1697 New Testament undated

21

Pamphlet: The Science of Motherhood, given to Bessie Nicholson from Aunt
Hannah undated

21

Miscellaneous undated

21