Abstract: John Woolf Jordan (1840-1921) was a Philadelphia historian specializing in genealogies and personal histories, especially those of Pennsylvania families. This scrapbook comprises a single volume containing clippings of John W. Jordan's travel narrative, "Random Notes of a Week's Visit to England" from an unknown publication; also included are picture postcards and photographic illustrations of the ships on which he traveled and locations he visited, several of which are accompanied by handwritten annotations. The notes detail Jordan's sea voyage to and from England and his experiences exploring the counties of London, Surrey, and Sussex. Jordan's voyage took place between July 8 and August 6, 1911.
# Descriptive Summary

**Identification:** MSS 093, Item 025

**Creator:** Jordan, John W. (John Woolf), 1840-1921.

**Title:** John W. Jordan, "Random Notes of a Week's Visit to England" scrapbook

**Inclusive Dates:** 1911

**Extent:** 1 v. (28 p.); 24 x 19 cm.

**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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# Administrative Information

**Citation:** MSS 093, Item 025, John W. Jordan, "Random Notes of a Week's Visit to England" scrapbook, Special Collections, University of Delaware Library, Newark, Delaware.

**Shelving Summary:** Item 025: Shelved in SPEC MSS 093 SCRAPBOOK FOLIO

**Location:** Special Collections, University of Delaware Library Newark, Delaware 19717-5267 Phone: 302-831-2229 Fax: 302-831-6003 URL: http://www.lib.udel.edu/ud/spec/

**Source:** Gift of Shaun Mullen, 2012.

**Processing:** Processed and encoded by Elyse Brown, September 2012.

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Biographical Note

John Woolf Jordan (1840-1921) was a Philadelphia historian specializing in genealogies and personal histories, especially those of Pennsylvania families.

Jordan served as librarian of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania from 1903 until his death in 1921. He served as a lieutenant during the Civil War and also as the first president of the Pennsylvania Federation of Historical Societies, vice-president of the Colonial Society of Pennsylvania, and registrar of the Pennsylvania Society Sons of the Revolution. He edited and contributed to histories and genealogies such as *Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania* (1911) and *Colonial Families of Philadelphia* (1911). Jordan also edited several printings of historical diaries, narratives, and personal histories, many of them from the Revolutionary War period. In 1902 he received a Doctor of Laws degree from Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. He was married twice, to Lillie Moore in 1866 (with whom he had two sons) and to Anne Page in 1873 (with whom he had two sons and one daughter).

Sources:


Mullen, Shaun. Email to L. Rebecca Johnson Melvin, September 15, 2012.
Scope and Content Note

This scrapbook comprises a single volume containing clippings of John W. Jordan's "Random Notes of a Week's Visit to England" from an unknown publication; also included are picture postcards of the locations he visited, several of which are accompanied by handwritten annotations. The notes detail Jordan's sea voyage to and from England and his experiences exploring the counties of London, Surrey, and Sussex. Jordan's voyage took place between July 8 and August 6, 1911.

Jordan's essay is written in the form of an informative travel narrative and emphasize the historical significance of the places he visited. There is also ample description at the beginning and the end of the narrative to describing Jordan's experience aboard the ocean liners.

Jordan departed Philadelphia on July 8, 1911, for Boulogne, France, aboard the S. S. Graf Waldersee. The description of the ship and voyage is accompanied by images of the ship and its interiors. Jordan spent two days in Boulogne before steaming to London, and descriptions of the port city are also accompanied by pasted-in images. Once in London, Jordan described landmarks relevant to a Pennsylvanian audience, such as the newly erected William Penn memorial in the church of All Hallows Barking and the Middle Temple at the Inns of Court where listed as students are three pre-Revolutionary period Pennsylvanians.

The majority of Jordan's tour was spent sight-seeing in Sussex county via his host Mr. Keasbey's "high power automobile." He described the towns of Lewes and Brighton and features such as the Downs, Devil's Dyke, and Beachy Head, of which an image is also included. Other notable places he visited were Pevensey Castle, Battle Abbey in Hastings, and the ancient towns of Winchelsea and Rye. Jordan's descriptions of these places and their histories are accompanied by pasted-in picture postcards and images. The final page of Jordan's descriptions of these places before his return to London includes a color image of the "Wilmington Giant" accompanied by a handwritten note indicating that it was "seen from the car windows after leaving Eastbourne for London."

Jordan concluded his tour with some final sights in London such as St. Paul's Cathedral, Somerset House, Westminster Cathedral, and the "Ye Cheshire Cheese" inn on Fleet Street. Jordan departed for New York on July 29, 1911, aboard the S.S. Minnetonka of the Atlantic Transport Line. An image of the ship is included as well as an abstract log from the voyage containing the travel schedule and weather forecast.

Throughout his essay, Jordan also mentioned his acquaintanceships with various notable figures. He shared his train to London with former Liverpool mayor and House of Commons member Sir William Watson Rutherford (1853-1927), lamented missing a visit with American artist Edwin Austin Abbey (1852-1911), whose name is misprinted as "W. E. Abbey" due to Abbey's illness, and on the trip home befriends former Atlantic Transport Line president Bernard N. Baker (1854-1918), New York Evening Post financial editor Alexander Dana Noyes (1862-1945), and the Minnetonka's captain, Edwin Galton Cannons (1862-1934).
Selected Search Terms

**Personal Names**


Noyes, Alexander Dana, 1862-1945.

Abbey, Edwin Austin, 1852-1911.

**Corporate Names**

Hamburg-American Line.

Atlantic Transport Line.

**Topical Terms**

Ocean travel--History--20th century.

Travel--History--20th century.

Travel writing--History--20th century.

**Geographic Names**

London (England)--Description and travel.

Sussex (England)--Description and travel.

Winchelsea (England)--Description and travel.

Rye (England)--Description and travel.

England--Description and travel.

Atlantic Ocean--Description and travel.

**Form/Genre Terms**

Scrapbooks.

Notes.

Picture postcards.

Ships' logs.
Occupation

Historians.
Librarians.

Personal Contributors


Related Materials in this Repository

This item forms part of MSS 093 Commonplaces, Albums, and Scrapbooks collection.
Detailed Description of the Collection

John W. Jordan, "Random Notes of a Week's Visit to England" scrapbook, 1911 [Item 025]

1 vol.