

Collection #
M 1383

**GEORGE L. HARDING FAMILY
PAPERS, 1869-1921**

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Processed by

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 manuscript box, 1 half manuscript box

COLLECTION DATES: 1869-1921

PROVENANCE: Gift from The Brick Row Book Shop, San Francisco, California

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2004.0148

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

George Laban Harding was born in September 1893 to Henry Harding and Alma Duzan in Indianapolis, Indiana. He graduated from Shortridge High School in 1911 and earned an A.B. degree from Indiana University in 1915. In 1917 he earned an M.B.A. from Harvard University before serving as a junior grade lieutenant in the United States Navy Reserves during World War I.

After the war, Harding worked in Tacoma, Washington, as an assistant comptroller for a ship-building firm. Beginning in 1928, he worked at the Pacific Telephone & Telegraph Company in San Francisco, California. He worked there for 30 years and retired in 1958.

George L. Harding married three times during his life, to Georgia Cole (d. 1923), Signe Berg (d. 1959), and Dorothy Huggins. His only child was Henry Harding (1923-1998).

Through his studies at Harvard, Harding developed an interest in Western Americana and became "a recognized authority on the early printing and printers of the West Coast." He became a member of the California Historical Society in 1932 and its president in 1958. George Harding died on 30 August 1976 in Berkeley, Alameda County, California.

The maternal side of Harding's family can be traced back to the Earls of Lenox in Scotland in the 990s. This is based off research conducted by Laura Duzan Tarkington, George L. Harding's aunt, on the East Coast (including Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania) between 1892 and 1908. Some of the research was used to confirm her eligibility for the Society of Colonial Dames of America. It is possible the family is distantly related to Newton Booth Tarkington through marriage.

Family names researched by Laura Duzan Tarkington include: Barber (Barbour?), Bishop, Bowen, Duzan, Eaton (Heaton), Gray, Lindley, McFarland (McFarlane), McKay, Moon, Nelson, Prudden, Tarkington, Wathen, and Willet.

Sources:

Material in collection

Ancestry.com

Lewis, Oscar. "In Memoriam: George Laban Harding." *California Historical Quarterly* 55, No. 4 (Winter 1976/1977): 376-377.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection contains the research conducted primarily by Laura Duzan Tarkington in the early part of the 1900s, including correspondence from relatives (distant and far) and information she found in historical societies and books. The folders are ordered by family name, with the notebooks at the end.

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