

# Joel Thompson Boone Papers

## A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



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Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff  
Revised by Karen Linn Femia with the assistance of Brian McGuire

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Joel Thompson Boone Papers

**Span Dates:** 1755-1971

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1905-1971)

**ID No.13227:** MSS13227

**Creator:** Boone, Joel Thompson, 1889-1974

**Extent:** 24,000 items ; 95 containers plus 5 oversize ; 45 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Summary:** Physician and naval officer. A memoir, diaries, correspondence, photographs, reports, military papers, and other material documenting Boone's career as a medical officer in World War I, personal physician to Presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover, naval officer and doctor, and his work with the Hoover Commission, Veterans Administration, and the medical survey of the bituminous coal industry.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Boone family.

Boone, Joel Thompson, 1889-1974.

Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933.

Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923.

Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964.

### Organizations

United States. Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government (1947-1949) Committee on Federal Medical Services.

United States. Marine Corps. Marine Regiment, 6th.

United States. Veterans Administration.

### Subjects

Bituminous coal industry--United States.

Coal miners--Health and hygiene--United States.

Coal mines and mining--United States.

Coal trade--United States.

Presidents--United States--Health.

Veterans--Medical care--United States.

World War, 1914-1918--Medical care.

World War, 1939-1945--Medical care.

World War, 1939-1945--Prisoners and prisons.

### Occupations

Naval officers.

Physicians.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Joel Thompson Boone, physician and naval officer, were deposited at the Library of Congress by Boone in 1966-1970. An addition comprising the bulk of the collection was received as a deposit from Boone in 1971. The deposit was converted to a gift by his daughter, Suzanne Boone Heller, in 1983.

## Processing History

The papers were organized and described in 1979. At this time the entire collection was restricted. In 1983, the restriction was lifted from the material concerning the bituminous coal study and that material was separated and placed in additional boxes at the end of the collection. All restrictions were lifted from the papers in 1994. The finding aid was revised in 2014 and at this time the bituminous coal study material was reunited with the collection.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Joel Thompson Boone is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Joel Thompson Boone are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Joel Thompson Boone Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1889, Aug. 29	Born, St. Clair, Pa.
1913	Graduate, Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa.
1914	Lieutenant, Medical Corps, U. S. Naval Reserve
1915-1916	Transferred to regular navy and served with the Artillery Battalion, U.S. Marine Corps Expeditionary Force, Haiti
1917	Served on the <i>Wyoming</i> (battleship)
1917-1918	Surgeon, U.S. Marine Corps Sixth Regiment in France; demonstrated "extrodinary heroism" while aiding wounded marines, which would be recognized by the award of the Medal of Honor
1919-1922	Director, Bureau of Naval Affairs, American Red Cross
1922-1929	Lieutenant commander and medical officer on board the presidential yacht, <i>Mayflower</i> ; served as a personal physician to Presidents Warren G. Harding and Calvin Coolidge.
1929-1933	Physician to the White House, serving Presidents Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt
1931	Promoted to commander, U.S. Navy
1933-1935	Served on board the hospital ship <i>Relief</i>
1935-1938	Served at the Naval Hospital and then as force medical officer, Fleet Marine Force, San Diego Naval Base
1938	Senior medical officer, <i>Saratoga</i> (aircraft carrier)

1939	Commanding officer of the Naval Dispensary, Long Beach, Calif. Promoted to captain
1940	Senior medical officer, Naval Air Station, San Diego, Calif. Medical officer-in-command, Naval Hospital, Seattle, Wash.
1945	Promoted to commodore  Fleet medical officer to commander, Third Fleet Promoted to rear admiral
1946	District medical officer, Eleventh Naval District, San Diego, Calif.
1946-1947	Director, medical survey group of the bituminous coal industry
1948	Executive secretary, Secretary of Defense's Committee on Medical and Hospital Services of the Armed Forces
1948-1950	Member, Hoover Commission
1950	Appointed inspector general of the Navy Medical Department; served in Korea Retired with rank of vice admiral
1951-1955	Chief medical director, Veterans Administration
1974, Apr. 2	Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Joel Thompson Boone (1889-1974) span the years 1759-1971, with the bulk of the material dating from 1905 to 1971. The papers are organized into the following series: [Alphabetical File](#), [White House File](#), [Personal File](#), [Hoover Commission File](#), [Memoir](#), [Speech File](#), [Clippings File](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#). The papers remain primarily organized as received and as a result, some sections are unarranged and some topics are found in several different locations in the papers. Boone's unpublished memoir covers all aspects of his varied career as a navy medical officer and as such offers additional material on subjects that appear in other parts of the papers.

The [Alphabetical File](#) combines subject files and personal names into an alphabetical listing. Topics of special interest in the Alphabetical File are closely related to files in other series. Material on coal mines and the coal industry appears in both the Alphabetical File and in [Miscellany](#) and relates to Boone's work on *A Medical Survey of the Bituminous-Coal Industry*, a study led by him for the Interior Department. Items documenting the development of the Fleet Marine Force in the 1930s and 1940s are in both the [Alphabetical File](#) and in the [Miscellany](#) under "photographs." World War I material, in particular the work of the Marine Medical Corps., can be found in many places in the papers. World War I material in the [Alphabetical File](#) is in the folders titled "Second Division, American Expeditionary Forces" along with letters in the [Personal File](#) and photographs and scrapbooks in the [Miscellany](#) and [Oversize](#) series. Of special interest under "Third Fleet" is material on the release in World War II of American prisoners of war in Japan in 1945. Boone served as the task force medical officer. Most of the documents from Boone's tenure as chief medical director of the Veterans Administration are in the Alphabetical File.

The [White House File](#) features Boone's service as personal physician to Presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover, and their family members. The series also treats his work with the Commission on the Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, commonly called the Hoover Commission. Additionally, the file includes collected material about other presidential administrations, government officials, and Rapidan Camp, or "Camp Hoover," in Shenandoah National Park.

The [Personal File](#) includes family papers, biographical material, and personal correspondence. Of special interest are typed transcripts of Boone's diaries covering his White House years from 1922 to 1929 and his personal correspondence while serving in both World Wars I and II.

Boone worked on his [memoir](#) from 1961 to 1970, but was unable to complete the work because of health concerns. The Boone papers were largely gathered in support of his research for the memoir.

The [Speech File](#) contains only speeches from his time as chief medical director at the Veterans Administration.

The [Clippings File](#) is composed of news clippings gathered and organized by Boone.

The [Miscellany](#) series has a variety of printed matter, photographs, oral histories, and interviews with Boone as well as additional material on coal mining, the Hoover Commission, and World War I.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in nine series:

- [Alphabetical File, 1908-1971](#)
- [White House File, 1917-1971](#)
- [Personal File, 1894-1971](#)
- [Hoover Commission File, 1945-1948](#)
- [Memoir, 1961-1970](#)
- [Speech File, 1951-1955](#)
- [Clippings File, 1862-1969](#)
- [Miscellany, 1916-1969](#)
- [Oversize, 1755-1950](#)

## Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-28	<p><b><u>Alphabetical File, 1908-1971</u></b> Primarily correspondence; also includes printed and near-printed material, clippings, and photographs. Arranged alphabetically.</p>
BOX 29-35	<p><b><u>White House File, 1917-1971</u></b> Correspondence, notes, speeches, medical papers, and printed matter dealing primarily with Boone's years in the White House. Arranged in chronological groups by presidential administration followed by miscellaneous material.</p>
BOX 35-40	<p><b><u>Personal File, 1894-1971</u></b> Correspondence, diaries, photographs, family papers, biographical and genealogical material, and other papers. Unarranged.</p>
BOX 41-43	<p><b><u>Hoover Commission File, 1945-1948</u></b> Reports and correspondence relating to the work of the first Hoover Commission. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 44-60	<p><b><u>Memoir, 1961-1970</u></b> Drafts and research material used by Boone for writing his memoir. Arranged sequentially by chapter.</p>
BOX 61	<p><b><u>Speech File, 1951-1955</u></b> Speeches as chief medical director, Veterans Administration. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 62-82	<p><b><u>Clippings File, 1862-1969</u></b> News clippings collected by Boone. Arranged alphabetically by subject.</p>
BOX 83-95	<p><b><u>Miscellany, 1916-1969</u></b> Printed, near-printed and carbon-copied material, photographs, maps, an oral history interview, some additional coal mining items and Hoover Commission material, and early family material. Unarranged</p>
BOX OV 1-5	<p><b><u>Oversize, 1755-1950</u></b> Oversize material including eighteenth century works on surveying, mathematics, and bookkeeping by Boone family ancestors, as well as diplomas, certificates, maps and photographs. Unarranged.</p>

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-28	<b>Alphabetical File, 1908-1971</b> Primarily correspondence; also includes printed and near-printed material, clippings, and photographs. Arranged alphabetically.
BOX 1	"A" miscellaneous, 1926-1958
BOX 1	Actors, artists, authors, 1924-1971
BOX 1	Adams, Charles F., 1930-1961
BOX 1	Addresses
BOX 1	By others, 1920-1968
BOX 1	By Boone
BOX 1	1922-1950
BOX 2	1952-1969
BOX 2	Street locations, 1964-1969, undated
BOX 2	American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, 1950-1970
BOX 2	American Medical Association and medical organizations, 1931-1971
BOX 3	American Red Cross, 1919-1964
BOX 3	Apartment, Washington, D.C., 1950-1970
BOX 3	"B" miscellaneous, 1935-1957
BOX 3	Balch, John H., 1920-1932
BOX 3	Base force, 1939-1940
BOX 3	Bel, William H., 1917-1938
BOX 3	Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Bethesda, Md., 1950-1961
BOX 3	Bigelow, Allen F., 1941-1969
BOX 3	Bohemian Club, San Francisco, Calif., 1946-1957
BOX 3	Boone, Herbert, 1931-1968, undated
BOX 4	Boone parents, 1916-1957
BOX 4	Boyhood friends, 1931-1970
BOX 4	Bureau of Medicine and Surgery
BOX 4	General file, 1918-1971 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Surgeons general, 1942-1970, undated
BOX 4	Buzby, Helen (aunt), 1917-1969
BOX 5	"C" miscellaneous, 1937-1959
BOX 5	Charlton, Wingate, 1925-1975
BOX 5	Chief of naval operations, 1938-1970
BOX 5	Children, 1940-1968
BOX 5	Church, 1922-1970
BOX 5	Clubs, 1933-1971
BOX 5	Coal mines
BOX 5	1956-1968

## Alphabetical File, 1908-1971

### Container

### Contents

---

BOX 6	1943-1950 (2 folders)
BOX 6	Committee on Medical and Hospital Services of the Armed Forces, 1947-1965
BOX 6	Congress, 1924-1970
BOX 7	Congressional Medal of Honor, 1921-1970 (3 folders)
BOX 8	Davis, William T., 1930-1969
BOX 8	Derby, Richard, 1919-1968
BOX 8	Douglass, Earl L., 1929-1968
BOX 8	Dulles, John Foster, 1955-1959
BOX 8	"E" miscellaneous, 1928-1938
BOX 8	Edwards, Brad, 1928-1966 (2 folders)
BOX 9	Eleventh Naval District, 1945-1947
BOX 9	European trip 1951-1964
BOX 9	Eyer, Alfred W., 1925-1966
BOX 9	"F" miscellaneous, 1931-1957
BOX 9	Fenton, Ivor D., 1951-1968
BOX 9	Fish poisoning, 1963
BOX 9	Fleet Marine Force, 1932-1945, 1966
BOX 9	Foreign friends, 1928-1963
BOX 10	Fox, George, 1931-1960
BOX 10	"G" miscellaneous, 1941-1957
BOX 10	Goodwin, Oscar R., 1941-1957
BOX 10	Gray, Carl R., 1950-1958
BOX 10	"H" miscellaneous, 1931-1956
BOX 10	Hahnemann Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa., 1913-1970
BOX 10	Haiti, 1915-1971
BOX 11	Heefner, Daniel, 1927-1959
BOX 11	Heller, Milton and Edith, 1938-1968
BOX 11	Historical (American history), 1927-1965
BOX 11	Hospital Corps, 1938-1969
BOX 11	Hospital ships, 1929-1971
BOX 12	Inspector general, Medical Department, U.S. Navy, 1948-1950
BOX 12	Ireland, McW., 1926-1939
BOX 12	"J" miscellaneous, 1933-1952
BOX 12	Jahncke, Ernest Lee, 1929-1954
BOX 12	"K" miscellaneous, 1932-1962
BOX 12	Koch, Richard and Roscoe, 1917-1968
BOX 12	Far East and Korea, 1943-1968
BOX 13	"L" miscellaneous, 1934-1956
BOX 13	La Gorce, John Oliver, 1930-1959
BOX 13	Long Beach, Calif., 1939-1970
BOX 13	"M" miscellaneous, 1939-1958
BOX 13	Marine corps, commandants, 1943-1970
BOX 13	McComb, J. P., 1914-1966
BOX 13	Medical articles, 1911-1971

## Alphabetical File, 1908-1971

### Container

### Contents

---

BOX 13	Melhorn, Kent C., 1926-1970
BOX 13	Mercersburg Academy, Mercersburg, Pa. <i>See also Container 11, Heefner, Daniel</i>
BOX 13	Miscellany, 1909-1969
BOX 14	Alumni, 1929-1971, undated
BOX 14	Board of Regents, 1927-1971 (2 folders)
BOX 14	Academy staff, 1930-1970
BOX 14	Milbank, Jeremiah, 1932-1969
BOX 14	Military surgeons, 1948-1969
BOX 15	"N" miscellaneous, 1933-1935, undated
BOX 15	Naval Medical School, 1916-1965
BOX 15	Navy Day, Scranton, Pa., 1947
BOX 15	Navy friends, 1922-1970
BOX 15	"O" miscellaneous, 1933-1959
BOX 15	Old friends, 1924-1959
BOX 15	"P" miscellaneous, 1935-1956
BOX 15	Patients, 1959
BOX 15	Pottsville, Pa., and the Ambassador Award, 1922-1950
BOX 16	Physicians, 1931-1967
BOX 16	Portsmouth, N.H., U. S. Naval Hospital, 1929-1939
BOX 16	Princeton University, Princeton, N.J., 1933-1936
BOX 16	Promotions to captain, commodore and rear admiral, 1932-1946
BOX 16	Public officials, 1959-1963
BOX 16	"R" miscellaneous, 1939-1958
BOX 16	Relatives, 1908-1969
BOX 16	Retired Officers Association, 1955-1968
BOX 16	Retirement, 1946-1970
BOX 16	Richardson, Joe O., 1947-1964
BOX 16	Richey, Lawrence, 1930-1959
BOX 16	Ridgway, Hallie, 1953-1967
BOX 16	Rossiter, P. S., 1923-1935
BOX 17	"S" miscellaneous, 1932-1958
BOX 17	San Diego, Calif.
BOX 17	Family Hospital, 1941-1962
BOX 17	Naval Air Station, 1940-1964
BOX 17	Naval Hospital, 1936-1957
BOX 17	<i>Saratoga</i> (aircraft carrier), 1933-1968
BOX 18	Scott, Wendell G., 1944-1976
BOX 18	Seattle, Wash., Naval Hospital, 1943-1971
BOX 19	Second Division, American Expeditionary Forces
BOX 19	Miscellany, 1917-1969
BOX 19	Soldiers
BOX 19	A-L (7 folders)
BOX 20	L-S (8 folders)
BOX 20	Secretary of defense

## Alphabetical File, 1908-1971

### Container

### Contents

---

BOX 20	1947-1949 (2 folders)
BOX 21	1950-1971
BOX 21	Hospital cutbacks, 1948-1950
BOX 21	Press releases and speeches, 1947-1949
BOX 21	Trips
BOX 21	1948
BOX 22	1948-1949
BOX 22	Sibley, Berton W., 1919-1966
BOX 22	Smyth, Harold M., 1914-1965
BOX 22	South America, 1928-1953
BOX 22	Stitt, Edward Rhodes, 1924-1967
BOX 22	Strauss, William Boone, 1937-1965
BOX 22	"T" miscellaneous, 1939
BOX 22	Taxes, 1952
BOX 23	Third Fleet
BOX 23	1942-1945
BOX 24	1945-1970
BOX 24	Prisoners of war, 1945
BOX 24	Tippetts, Charles S., 1941-1965
BOX 24	Top military leaders, 1923-1963
BOX 24	Trips, 1955-1969
BOX 24	Veterans Administration
BOX 24	1930-Feb. 1952
BOX 25	1952, Mar.-1962 (3 folders)
BOX 26	1963-1970
BOX 26	Congratulations on appointment, 1951
BOX 26	Dedication of hospitals, 1953-1967
BOX 26	Special Medical Advisory Group, Council of Chief Consultants, 1952-1969
BOX 27	Chief medical director, 1951-1970
BOX 27	Middleton, William S. and Harvey V. Higley, 1949-1971
BOX 27	Reports, 1961-1967
BOX 27	Retirement, 1955
BOX 28	"W" miscellaneous, 1940-1958
BOX 28	Wallace, 1922-1966
BOX 28	Western Sea Frontier, 1931-1955 (2 folders)
BOX 28	White, Carl, 1932-1959
BOX 28	Wilbur, Ray Lyman, 1924-1968
BOX 28	<i>Wyoming</i> (battleship), 1922-1971
BOX 28	"X-Z" miscellaneous, 1923-1931
BOX 29-35	<b>White House File, 1917-1971</b> Correspondence, notes, speeches, medical papers, and printed matter dealing primarily with Boone's years in the White House.

## White House File, 1917-1971

### Container

### Contents

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Arranged in chronological groups by presidential administration followed by miscellaneous material.

BOX 29	Harding administration
BOX 29	Daugherty, Harry, 1922-1941
BOX 29	Harding, Warren G., 1921-1968
BOX 29	Sawyer, Carl W. and Charles E., 1921-1962
BOX 30	Coolidge administration
BOX 30	Coolidge, Calvin, 1923-1968
BOX 30	Coolidge, Grace Goodhue, copies of letters, 1924-1956
BOX 30	Stearns, Frank W., 1926-1936
BOX 30	Hoover administration
BOX 30	Hoover, Herbert
BOX 30	1928-1929
BOX 31	1930-1971
	(3 folders)
BOX 31	Miscellaneous speeches, 1929-1936
BOX 31	Hoover, notes by Boone, 1930-1933, 1959
BOX 32	Hoover letters, copies, 1928-1965
BOX 32	Hoover, Lou Henry, copies of letters, 1928-1944
BOX 32	Smith, Bernard R., physician to Hoover, 1930-1953
BOX 32	Roosevelt, Theodore, 1920-1963
BOX 32	Roosevelt, Franklin D., 1934-1963
BOX 32	Eisenhower, Dwight D., 1952-1968
BOX 32	Snyder, Howard McC., Dwight B. Eisenhower's physician, 1952-1970
BOX 32	Nixon, Richard M., 1956-1960
BOX 33	MacArthur, Douglas, 1931-1966
BOX 33	Truman, Harry S., 1950-1960
BOX 33	Cabinets, 1924-1970
BOX 33	White House physician, 1928-1929
BOX 33	White House
BOX 33	1925-1933
	(3 folders)
BOX 34	Miscellany, 1934-1971
BOX 34	Dogs, 1932, 1971
BOX 34	Physicians, 1924-1961
BOX 34	Report of fitness, Boone, 1917-1947
BOX 34	<i>Mayflower</i> (presidential yacht), 1922-1965
BOX 34	Presidencies, 1933-1965
BOX 34	Hoover Commission
BOX 34	First commission, 1946-1949
BOX 34	Second commission, 1949-1955
BOX 35	Rapidan Camp, Shenandoah National Park, 1929-1971
BOX 35-40	<b>Personal File, 1894-1971</b>
	Correspondence, diaries, photographs, family papers, biographical and genealogical material, and other papers.

## Personal File, 1894-1971

### Container

### Contents

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Unarranged.

BOX 35	Biography, 1946-1971
BOX 35	Genealogy, 1894-1967, undated
BOX 35	Joel T. Boone Medical and Dental Clinic, Naval Amphibious Base, Little Creek, Va., 1969-1970
BOX 35	Miscellany, 1918-1969
BOX 36	Citations
BOX 36	Groups, 1918-1966
BOX 36	Boone, 1918-1966
BOX 36	Honors, 1915-1962
BOX 36	Memoir, 1923-1970
BOX 37	Hoover, Herbert, inauguration book, 1929
BOX 37	Hoover, Herbert, Jr.
BOX 37	Miscellany, 1929-1969
BOX 37	Tuberculosis, 1930
BOX 38	Copies of orders, 1914-1960 (2 folders)
BOX 38	Hoover, Allan, 1929-1969
BOX 38	McIntire, Ross T., 1938-1959
BOX 38	Navy Department, 1930
BOX 38	Seattle, Wash., chapel ground breaking ceremony, May 28, 1944
BOX 38	Secretary of the navy, 1932-1966
BOX 38	Selection boards, 1931-1935, undated
BOX 39	World War I, 1917-1931
BOX 39	Letters to wife, 1915-1919 (3 folders)
BOX 40	Diaries, 1922-1929 (2 folders)
BOX 40	Letters, 1940-1945
BOX 40	"Notes for 1824-1939," undated
BOX 40	Photographs, 1919-1923
BOX 40	Relatives, father, siblings, etc., transcriptions of letters, 1918-1955
BOX 41-43	<b>Hoover Commission File, 1945-1948</b> Reports and correspondence relating to the work of the first Hoover Commission. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 41	1945-1948, July (4 folders)
BOX 42	1948, Aug.-Oct. (2 folders)
BOX 43	1948, Oct.-Dec. (3 folders)
BOX 44-60	<b>Memoir, 1961-1970</b> Drafts and research material used by Boone for writing his memoir. Arranged sequentially by chapter.

<b>BOX 44</b>	Foreword
<b>BOX 44</b>	Chapters 1-15
<b>BOX 45</b>	Chapters 16-20
<b>BOX 46</b>	Chapter 21
<b>BOX 47</b>	Chapter 21
<b>BOX 48</b>	Chapter 22
<b>BOX 49</b>	Chapter 22
<b>BOX 50</b>	Chapters 22-25
<b>BOX 51</b>	Chapters 26-30
<b>BOX 52</b>	Chapters 30-31
<b>BOX 53</b>	Chapters 31-32
<b>BOX 54</b>	Chapter 32
<b>BOX 55</b>	Chapters 32-34
<b>BOX 56</b>	Chapter 34
<b>BOX 57</b>	Chapter 34
<b>BOX 58</b>	Chapters 34-35
<b>BOX 59</b>	Chapters 35-36
<b>BOX 60</b>	Chapters 36-37
<b>BOX 61</b>	<b>Speech File, 1951-1955</b> Speeches as chief medical director, Veterans Administration. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 61</b>	1951-1955 (4 folders)
<b>BOX 62-82</b>	<b>Clippings File, 1862-1969</b> News clippings collected by Boone. Arranged alphabetically by subject.
<b>BOX 62</b>	Addresses (speeches)
<b>BOX 62</b>	American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars
<b>BOX 62</b>	Astronauts
<b>BOX 62</b>	Baseball
<b>BOX 62</b>	Battle force
<b>BOX 62</b>	Boone, Joel Thompson
<b>BOX 62</b>	British Royalty and Prime Ministers
<b>BOX 62</b>	Queen Elizabeth's visit to the U. S., 1957
<b>BOX 62</b>	Butler, Smedley D., 1931
<b>BOX 62</b>	Cabinet
<b>BOX 62</b>	California
<b>BOX 62</b>	Civil War
<b>BOX 63</b>	Coal
<b>BOX 63</b>	Congress
<b>BOX 63</b>	Convention, Republican, 1948
<b>BOX 63</b>	Coolidge, Calvin

## Clippings File, 1862-1969

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 63	1923-1924
BOX 64	1925-1929
BOX 64	Goodhue, Lemira, mother of Grace Coolidge
BOX 64	Coupal, James F., Coolidge physician
BOX 64	Edison, Thomas A.
BOX 65	Dulles, John Foster, fatal illness, 1959
BOX 65	Eisenhower, Dwight D.
BOX 65	Presidential inauguration, 1953
BOX 65	General file
BOX 65	1954-1955 (2 folders)
BOX 66	1956, Jan.-June 1958 (6 folders)
BOX 67	1958, July-1961 (4 folders)
BOX 68	Family and friends
BOX 68	Foreign dignitaries
BOX 68	Forrestal, James V.
BOX 68	Harding, Warren G.
BOX 68	1920-1923 (5 folders)
BOX 69	1923-1958 (4 folders)
BOX 69	Hoover, Herbert
BOX 69	Health (2 folders)
BOX 69	1928
BOX 70	1929-1931 (5 folders)
BOX 71	1932-1949 (6 folders)
BOX 72	1950-1970
BOX 72	Humphrey, Hubert H.
BOX 72	Interviews, miscellaneous
BOX 72	Johnson, Lyndon B.
BOX 72	Kennedy, John F.
BOX 72	1960-1961
BOX 73	1962-1965 (6 folders)
BOX 73	Kennedy-Johnson, 1963-1965
BOX 74	Koch, R. H.
BOX 74	Korea, 1950-1964 (4 folders)
BOX 74	Khrushchev, Nikita
BOX 74	Landon, Alfred
BOX 74	Lane, Franklin K.
BOX 74	Laval, Pierre

## Clippings File, 1862-1969

### Container

### Contents

---

BOX 74	Lincoln, Abraham
BOX 74	Lindbergh, Charles
BOX 74	Long Beach, Calif.
BOX 75	MacArthur, Douglas
BOX 75	Marine corps
BOX 75	Medical department
BOX 75	Medicine
BOX 75	Mercersburg College, Mercersburg, Pa.
BOX 75	Mitchell, Billy, trial 1925
BOX 75	Morrow, Dwight
BOX 75	Mosquitoes
BOX 75	Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
BOX 75	Navy amalgamation, the line
BOX 75	Nixon, Richard M.
BOX 75	Obituaries
BOX 75	Officers
BOX 75	Pearl Harbor
BOX 75	Pershing, John J.
BOX 76	Philosophy, prayers
BOX 76	Poetry
BOX 76	Physicians
BOX 76	Pottsville, St. Clair
BOX 76	President's children at White House luncheon, 1959
BOX 76	Quotations and humorous anecdotes
BOX 76	Red Cross
BOX 77	Revolutionary War, George Washington
BOX 77	Roosevelt, Franklin D. (5 folders)
BOX 78	Roosevelt, Theodore, and family
BOX 78	Seattle, Wash., U.S. Naval Hospital
BOX 78	Second Division (not news clippings)
BOX 78	Statistical data, commendations, etc.
BOX 78	American Expeditionary Forces, miscellany
BOX 78	Secretary of defense
BOX 78	Ships
BOX 79	Stevenson, Adlai
BOX 79	Strauss, Lewis L.
BOX 79	Supreme Court
BOX 79	Taft, William H.
BOX 79	Third Fleet
BOX 79	Top military leaders
BOX 79	Truman, Harry S.
BOX 79	Unknown soldier
BOX 80	Veterans Administration
BOX 80	Hospital dedications

## Clippings File, 1862-1969

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 80	Miscellany, 1950-1965 (5 folders)
BOX 81	Medical and services budget
BOX 81	Washington, D. C.
BOX 81	White House
BOX 81	Wilson, Woodrow
BOX 81	World War I
BOX 81	1917-1918 (2 folders)
BOX 82	1919-1969 (2 folders)
BOX 82	World War II (2 folders)
BOX 82	Yorktown Sesquicentennial, 1931
BOX 83-95	<b>Miscellany, 1916-1969</b> Printed, near-printed and carbon-copied material, photographs, maps, an oral history interview, some additional coal mining items and Hoover Commission material, and early family material. Unarranged
BOX 83-84	Papers pulled in 1951 from other folders as a research file, 1940-1963
BOX 85	"Proceedings: Special Subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee, House of Representatives; Investigation of the Closure of the Naval Hospital, Long Beach, California," 1950
BOX 86	Hoover, Herbert, trip to South America, 1928
BOX 86	Committee on Medical and Hospital Services of the Armed Forces, Final Report of the Committee, 1949
BOX 86	Hoover Commission and Committee on Medical and Hospital Services of the Armed Forces materials 1948-1949
BOX 86	1948-1949
BOX 87	1948-1956
BOX 88	Miscellaneous printed matter, 1916-1949, undated
BOX 89	<i>The Stethoscope</i> , U.S. Navy newspaper, Seattle, Wash., 1943-1946
BOX 89	World War I
BOX 89	Scrapbook, 1917-1918
BOX 89	Photographs, 1917-1918
BOX 89	Herbert Hoover Oral History Program, carbon copies of Boone's rewrite, 1969
BOX 90	<i>USS Utah Evening Bulletin</i> , 1928
BOX 90	<i>The Mercersburg News</i> , 1926-1934
BOX 90	Newspaper publicity on the Committee on Medical and Hospital Services of the Armed Forces, 1948
BOX 90	Statement of the Administrator of Veterans' Affairs before the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, House of Representatives, 1963
BOX 91	Photographs
BOX 91	World War I, 1917-1918 (6 packets)
BOX 91	Japan, 1950

## Miscellany, 1916-1969

### Container

### Contents

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BOX 91	Fleet Marine Force landing exercise, San Clemente Island, Calif., Feb. 1937
BOX 91	Printed matter, Gridiron Club books, 1924-1926
BOX 92	Maps, 1918-1947, undated
BOX 93	Transcript of oral history interview with Boone, conducted by Raymond Henle, director, Herbert Hoover Oral History Program, 1967
BOX 94	Coal industry
BOX 94	<i>A Medical Survey of the Bituminous-Coal Industry</i> , work material, 1947 (6 folders)
BOX 95	<i>The Coal Miner and His Family</i> , 1947
BOX 95	News clippings on medical survey by navy, 1946
BOX OV 1-5	<b>Oversize, 1755-1950</b> Oversize material including eighteenth century works on surveying, mathematics, and bookkeeping by Boone family ancestors, as well as diplomas, certificates, maps and photographs. Unarranged.
BOX OV 1	Diplomas, certificate, print, and maps, 1888, 1909-1913, 1922
BOX OV 2	Photographs, photographic calendar, and a magazine, 1919-1923, 1938-1939, 1947-1950, undated
BOX OV 3	"Italian Method of Bookkeeping and Mathematics," Hezekiah Boone, 1765
BOX OV 4	"Long book of Surveying," James Boone, circa 1755-circa 1759, 1883
BOX OV 4	Folio nos. 1-5, 6a, 7-12
BOX OV 5	Folio no. 6 and original leather binding