

Sec. War

Lyfe

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

Gen. Pershing asks very strongly
Col. Geo. C. Marshall (Infantry)
be Promoted to Brigadier —

Can we

Put in list of next promotions?

54 years old

THE STRANGE CASE OF THE Tully Archive

How a Treasure Trove of Previously Unknown FDR Documents Came to the Roosevelt Library

By Bob Clark

It was only a small piece of paper from early 1936, with some presidential notes on it, but it was the long hand of history—the past putting its stamp on the future.

It was a “chit,” a handwritten note from President Franklin D. Roosevelt to his secretaries. He directs them to prepare a memorandum to the Secretary of War asking that a certain Army colonel be put on the next list for promotion to brigadier general.

Roosevelt had received the promotion recommendation from none other than General of the Armies John J. Pershing, who had led American troops in Europe in World War I and was considered a national hero. Roosevelt wrote on the chit: “Gen. Pershing asks very strongly.” The 54-year-old colonel had worked for Pershing as aide-de-camp and in other positions during and after the war, and the general was impressed.



President Franklin Roosevelt in his study with his three secretaries: (left to right) Marguerite A. LeHand, Marvin McIntyre, and Grace Tully, November 4, 1938. Tully maintained several thousand presidential documents—primarily drafts of correspondence and handwritten notes—until her death in 1984, a collection later known as the Tully Archive.

Col. George C. Marshall was subsequently promoted to brigadier general in October 1936. Three years later, the President named Marshall Army Chief of Staff, making him a four-star general and jumping him over dozens of other multistar officers. He was one of FDR's most trusted and indispensable military advisers during World War II. And it was Marshall who, in turn, spotted another promising young officer and quickly promoted him over more senior officers: Dwight D. Eisenhower, who would later lead the D-day invasion of western Europe in 1944.

This historic "piece of history" was one of the most interesting documents discovered among the papers collected by Grace Tully, principal secretary to Roosevelt during World War II. The papers remained in Tully's possession until her death in 1984, when they disappeared for several years. Late last year, however, they finally ended up where they should have been all along—in the holdings of the National Archives, specifically the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, New York.

But the journey to the National Archives taken by the Grace Tully Archive, a treasure trove of Roosevelt-era documents, had many mysterious twists and turns. The November 15, 2010, opening was the culmination of a five-

year effort by the National Archives to rescue these materials from the brink of private sale and bring them home to the Roosevelt Library—an effort that literally took an act of Congress. The tale of how the Tully Archive came to the Roosevelt Library is full of intrigue, fraud, bankruptcy, and political maneuvering—a tale truly worthy of the mystery novels so beloved by Franklin Roosevelt.

* * * * *

The story of the Grace Tully Archive really begins on June 4, 1941, the day that Marguerite A. "Missy" LeHand suffered a debilitating stroke and collapsed at the end of a White House dinner. Missy LeHand had been Franklin Roosevelt's personal secretary, confidante, close friend, and adviser for 21 years.

No one on the White House staff was closer to FDR than was LeHand. She had been with him since he unsuccessfully ran for the vice presidency in 1920. LeHand, along with Eleanor Roosevelt and Louis Howe, helped him through the dark years following the devastating attack of polio in 1921. She lived in the governor's mansion in Albany when FDR was governor of New York, and she moved into the White House in 1933 when he was elected President.

As FDR's principal personal secretary, LeHand met with him in the morning as

he breakfasted in bed. She read the morning newspapers with him and prepared him for the day's schedule. In both Albany and Washington, she served as substitute hostess at official events in Mrs. Roosevelt's absence. She was a valued member of FDR's inner circle, and her opinion on matters of state and of politics was sought and considered. In addition to her official duties, LeHand held power of attorney for FDR and managed his bank accounts, including paying his bills by check. Missy LeHand was devoted to FDR. She never married and had no children.

When LeHand suffered the stroke in 1941, the void she left as Roosevelt's personal secretary was filled by Grace Tully, who for many years had been second in line to LeHand. Tully held a much more traditional secretarial role in the Roosevelt circle. Unlike LeHand, she had not been with FDR during his first nationwide campaign in 1920 or through the strains of the polio years, and therefore she did not have as close a personal connection to FDR or to the Roosevelt family. But Tully was a trusted and respected member of FDR's staff nonetheless.

Grace Tully was born in 1900 in Bayonne, New Jersey. Her father died when she was very young, and she and her two sisters and brother were raised by a devout Catholic mother. Grace attended parochial and convent schools before enrolling in secretarial school. She worked for 10 years as a secretary for Cardinal Patrick Hayes in New York before seeking employment with the Democratic National Committee headquarters in 1928. Tully was assigned to assist Eleanor Roosevelt, who was organizing support for presidential nominee Al Smith. When Franklin Roosevelt was nominated for the governorship later that year, Tully went to work on Roosevelt's secretarial staff assisting LeHand. Tully served with FDR in Albany for four years, and then moved to Washington when Roosevelt was elected President.

In general, Tully performed routine typing and dictation duties for the President. She managed his mail and served as primary files manager for the White House, particularly the maintenance of the President's speech



Marguerite (Missy) A. LeHand in her White House office, ca. 1940. LeHand was the President's personal secretary, confidante, close friend, and adviser for 21 years, until her stroke in 1941. Her papers form part of the Tully Archive.

The President
The White House Washington D.C.

The Power Authority of the State of New York
advises me of the status of its negotiations with the
State Department in the matter of effecting an
agreement between the Federal Administration
and the State of New York in connection with
the development of the St. Lawrence River for navigation and power.
According to this report after ^{many protracted} conferences
between the State Department and the Power

New York Governor Franklin Roosevelt drafted a telegram in July 1932 to President Herbert Hoover urging progress in the project for developing the St. Lawrence River for navigation and power. Concerned with the delay and New York's share of the cost, he urged that they "seek speedily to adjust this matter by a personal conference."

files but also sensitive correspondence and personal files. After LeHand's stroke, Tully added LeHand's duties to her own.

After FDR's death in 1945, Grace became executive secretary of the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial Foundation, an organization dedicated to preserving the memory and legacy of FDR. Also reflecting her trusted status, prior to his death FDR had appointed Tully to a three-person committee to serve as a steward of his papers in preparation for their opening to researchers. The other members of the committee were speech writer Samuel I. Rosenman and presidential adviser Harry L. Hopkins. From 1945 to 1947, as the legal status of the papers was resolved through FDR's estate, Tully had special access to those FDR papers still located at the National Archives in Washington that had not yet been transferred to the Roosevelt Library in Hyde Park, New York. She served as the liaison to the papers for the estate executors, the library, and the Truman White House.

The papers committee was disbanded in the late 1940s after ownership of the FDR papers was confirmed in the United States government following the administration of the Roosevelt estate. The committee was deemed a nontestamentary request by Roosevelt not

binding on the Archivist of the United States.

During this time, Tully wrote and published a short memoir filled with personal anecdotes and observations on her time as FDR's secretary. In the book, *F.D.R., My Boss*, she quoted from several short notes and letters FDR had written. This was an early indication that perhaps Tully was in possession of some Roosevelt documents, although given her access to the Roosevelt papers and the fact that the papers were not open for research until the mid-1950s, the book did not appear to raise any flags to the library staff.

In 1955, Tully joined the staff of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee, working with then-Senate Majority Leader Lyndon B. Johnson and establishing a lifelong friendship with LBJ and Lady Bird Johnson. She remained at the committee until her retirement in 1965.

On August 3, 1980, the *New York Times* ran a special feature interview of Grace Tully on the occasion of her 80th birthday. In the interview, Tully casually mentioned having in her possession several dozen handwritten notes by FDR. This article was seen by then-Roosevelt Library Director William R. Emerson, who on August 27, 1980, wrote to Tully asking her to consider placing the materials at the Roosevelt

Library. Tully graciously responded that while she was not as yet ready to part with the documents, "The Library will undoubtedly get them after my death or possibly before."

Grace Tully died on June 15, 1984, at George Washington University Hospital in Washington, D.C. Like Missy LeHand, Tully never married and had no children. In March 1985, Library Director Emerson wrote to Tully's surviving sister, Paula Larrabee (who also had worked in the Roosevelt White House), and again expressed an interest in obtaining what was believed to be Tully's small collection of Roosevelt materials. No response was received from Larrabee, and at this point the trail of the Tully collection goes cold and murky for 15 years.

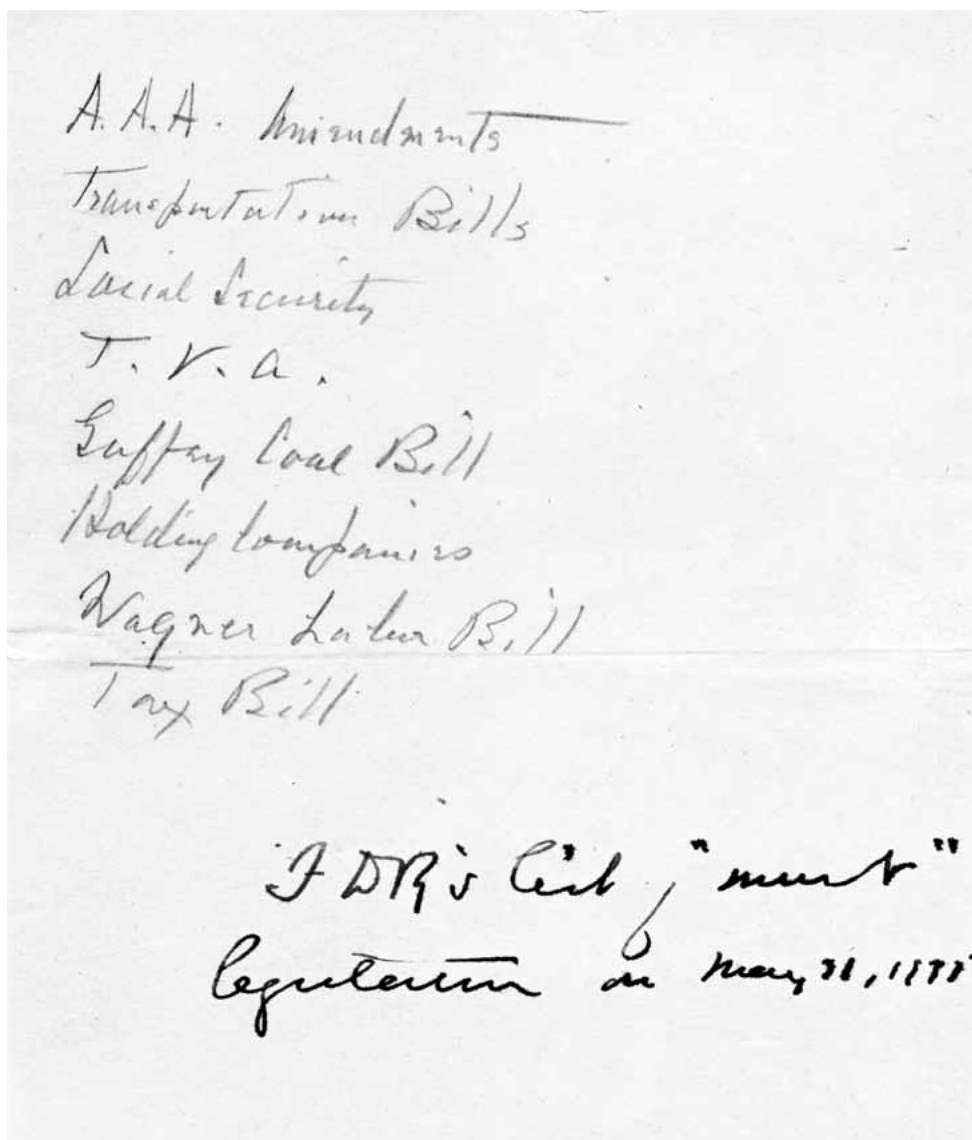
It is believed that the collection passed into the hands of two people—perhaps Larrabee's caregivers—who offered the collection for sale in Atlanta in 1999. In April 2000, the collection was again put up for sale through Guernsey's Auction House in New York, New York.

Sometime after this date, the collection was acquired by Glenn Horowitz Bookseller in New York for approximately \$3.5 million—an indication that the collection was far greater in scope than originally believed based on Tully's



Above: FDR Library Director Cynthia Koch unseals the Tully Archive, July 2010. The collection had been sealed for five years pending an agreement between Sun-Times Media and the National Archives on the terms of the donation.

Right: A handwritten note, or "chit," dated May 31, 1935, recorded FDR's list of "must" legislation for that year. Such drafts were later typed into official memorandums or other messages.



book and her 1980 letter to William Emerson. It was during an event at Horowitz's showroom that current Roosevelt Library Director Cynthia Koch saw portions of the collection on display and suspected its true extent.

In 2001, the Tully Archive—as it was now known—was purchased from Horowitz by Hollinger International Corporation for \$8 million. Hollinger, a media holding company, was led by Chief Executive Officer Lord Conrad Black. Black was a dual Canadian-British citizen and business mogul who renounced his Canadian citizenship in 2001 to accept a British peerage. He also was well-known as an avid collector of Franklin Roosevelt-related documents and memorabilia. Indeed, from 1996 through the acquisition of the Tully Archive, Hollinger International paid \$9.6 million for Roosevelt-related collections. In 2002, the Tully Archive was transferred from Horowitz to Black's personal residence, and the next year Black published a large biography of FDR, *Franklin D. Roosevelt: Champion*

of Freedom (Public Affairs, 2003), in which documents from the Archive are cited as being from the "Hollinger Collection."

In 2004, Black resigned as CEO of Hollinger after an internal investigation alleged misuse of company funds. A trial in U.S. District Court resulted in Black's 2007 conviction for fraud, and he was sentenced to prison and ordered to pay \$6.1 million in restitution to Hollinger. Hollinger, meanwhile, had undergone a corporate restructuring due to its precarious financial condition and had changed its name to Sun-Times Media Group.

In 2004, Sun-Times Media placed the entire Tully Archive for sale at Christie's in New York in the hopes of recovering some of the monies

invested in the historical documents. In August 2004, a representative from Christie's contacted the Roosevelt Library and suggested that there were some items in the collection that he believed the library might be interested in acquiring. The collection was to be broken up and sold in lots to maximize the potential sale value and therefore the income realized to Sun-Times Media. Christie's permitted representatives of the library to come to the auction house and survey the collection over the course of several days.

Within a short time, it was readily apparent that the Tully Archive was much larger (an estimated 5,000 documents!) and more expansive in scope than originally believed. It also was clear that at least a percentage of the

My dear Mr. President,

Ambassador Long has handed to me, with his essentials, your very kind letter of May 14th. and the copy of the inaugural address received on your induction into the Presidency of United States that you have inscribed to me.

I wish to express to you my most sincere thanks and appreciation for your kindness. I will keep your address in my library among my most valuable remembrances as a token of your friendship.

I am very glad that you have chosen as Ambassador of the U.S. of A. to Italy an old friend of yours and I can assure you that Mr. Long has won from the very first moment my personal esteem.

The relations of the United States

A letter from Benito Mussolini to President Roosevelt in June 1933 is an example of official diplomatic correspondence that ended up in Tully's private possession. Mussolini expressed hope that he and FDR could meet and discuss their common international concerns.

documents were actually FDR's own personal papers, such as drafts of speeches and official memoranda and letters, which should have come to the Roosevelt Library with the rest of his papers in accordance with the President's directions prior to his death. At this point, the library worked closely with National Archives Office of the General Counsel to stop the Christie's sale in its entirety until it could be determined how many of the approximately 5,000 documents could be deemed FDR's own papers and therefore government property.

The survey of the collection also revealed that in addition to the FDR papers and Grace

Tully's own personal correspondence, writings, and materials, the collection also included an unusual amount of Missy LeHand's personal correspondence. A closer examination led to the discovery in the Tully Archive of LeHand's 1935 Testamentary Instructions (witnessed by FDR) making Tully the administrator of LeHand's estate and instructing Tully to dispose of LeHand's personal papers as she saw fit. It was obvious that Tully had decided to keep LeHand's papers herself, even to the point of denying to Eleanor Roosevelt that she had any of LeHand's papers following LeHand's death in 1944.

So, the Tully Archive really consisted of

three fascinating collections: FDR's papers, Missy LeHand's papers, and Grace Tully's papers. While the library and National Archives believed it could stake a good-faith claim to the FDR portion of the Tully Archive, the remaining collections might be broken apart and lost to history if a resolution as to the whole Archive could not be reached. It was therefore in the best interests of the library and the National Archives if a settlement could be reached that would result in the donation of the entire Tully Archive to the library, thus avoiding long and protracted litigation over just that portion of the collection to which the government could make a good-faith claim.

With the Christie's sale halted and it still unclear how the ownership of the Tully Archive would be resolved, NARA's general counsel and the legal counsel representing Sun-Times Media Group entered into an agreement in July 2005 that permitted the Roosevelt Library to box up the collection, seal the boxes, and transport them to the library in Hyde Park for safekeeping. Under the agreement, the boxes were to remain sealed until the settlement of the matter or until they became the subject of litigation. And at the library they sat for the next five years as negotiations continued.

From the beginning of the negotiations it was clear that all parties had the best interests of history in mind. Sun-Times Media was willing to donate the entire collection, as long as some type of appropriate charitable tax deduction was permitted in exchange for the gift—a very standard exchange of consideration when historical materials are donated to the National Archives.

The sticking point was how to value the collection. It was believed that Hollinger had paid an overinflated value for the collection because of Conrad Black's desire to acquire it. An appraisal likely would reveal as such, particularly since many of the most monetarily valuable items in the collection, like FDR's handwritten notes and speech drafts, were subject to the government's claim of ownership.

Furthermore, the National Archives could only accept the donation and provide a charitable donation certificate; it could not

place a value on the materials. Sun-Times Media and its lawyers were understandably concerned about how the Internal Revenue Service might view a deduction based on the original purchase price of \$8 million.

A creative solution then presented itself: pursue an act of Congress that would facilitate the donation of the entire Tully Archive by waiving any claims by the federal government to the Tully Archive and thereby permitting a tax deduction for the original purchase price, as long as the collection was donated to the National Archives and Records Administration.

Through the efforts of Senators Charles Schumer of New York and Richard Durbin of Illinois and Congresswoman Louise Slaughter of New York, the legislation passed the House of Representatives on November 16, 2009, and the Senate on January 13, 2010. President Obama signed the bill (SB 692) into law on February 1, 2010.

But this unique solution was almost stymied by Sun-Times Media's filing for bankruptcy protection in March 2009. Under bankruptcy law, the Tully Archive became the property of the corporation's bankruptcy estate, and any agreement to dispose of that property required the

approval of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court. On October 8, the Bankruptcy Court approved the sale of Sun-Times Media and all its assets, including the Tully Archive, to the Chicago Newspaper Liquidation Corporation.

Ultimately, the Bankruptcy Court approved the donation of the Tully Archive on June 28, 2010. And on June 30, Chicago Newspaper Liquidation Corporation and Archivist of the United States David S. Ferriero executed the deed of gift formally transferring ownership of the Tully Archive to the National Archives and Records Administration. The boxes that had remained sealed at the Roosevelt Library for five years could now be opened and made available to researchers in their entirety.

* * * * *

From the moment that the donation was finalized, the Roosevelt Library was committed to making the Tully Archive accessible to researchers as quickly as possible.

One of the guiding principles of archival practice is the preservation of original order of collections, meaning that the way a person, business, or government agency creates and

maintains its papers and records are critical to understanding how the documents relate to each other.

As archivists at the Roosevelt Library began reviewing the Tully Archive, it became clear that, over the course of many decades and having passed through several private hands and auction houses, the organizational integrity of the three collections within the Tully Archive—Grace Tully Papers, Missy LeHand Papers, and FDR Papers—had been compromised and that documents had been rearranged and repackaged to maximize sale value.

So the first step to making the Tully Archive available to researchers was imposing a new order on the materials. Each document was read and reviewed and sorted into groups comprising the Tully Papers, LeHand Papers, and FDR Papers. Once the initial sorting was completed, each collection was then organized along a fairly traditional archival arrangement, beginning with correspondence, financial materials, writings, and so forth. The materials were put into folders, labeled, and placed into archival storage boxes, and a folder-level finding aid was created.

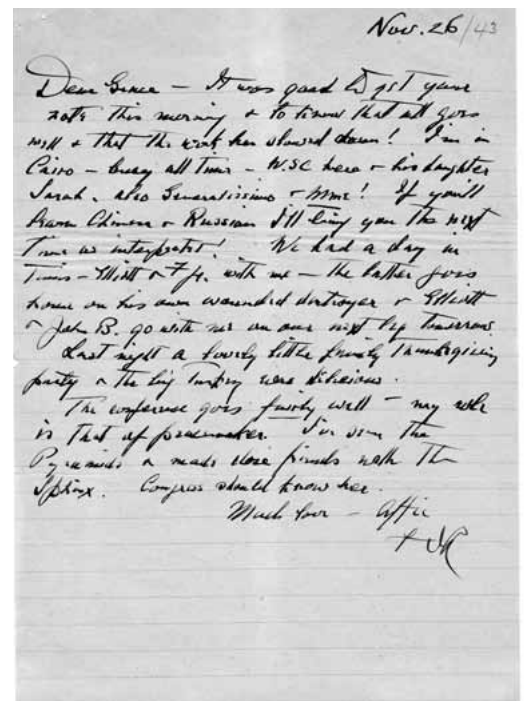
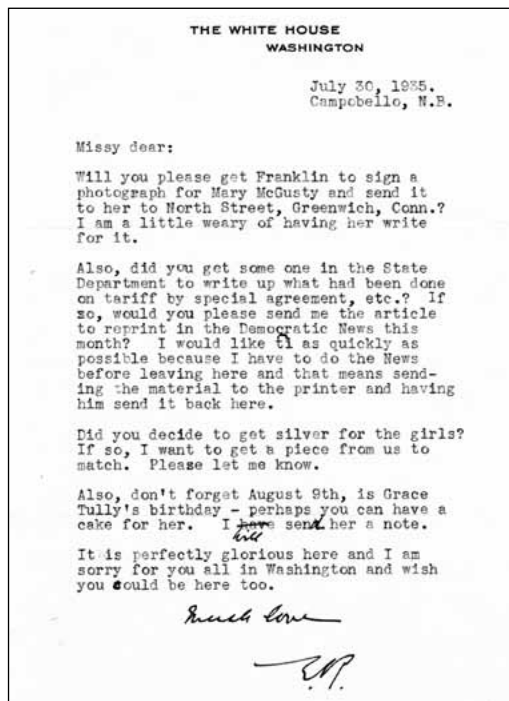
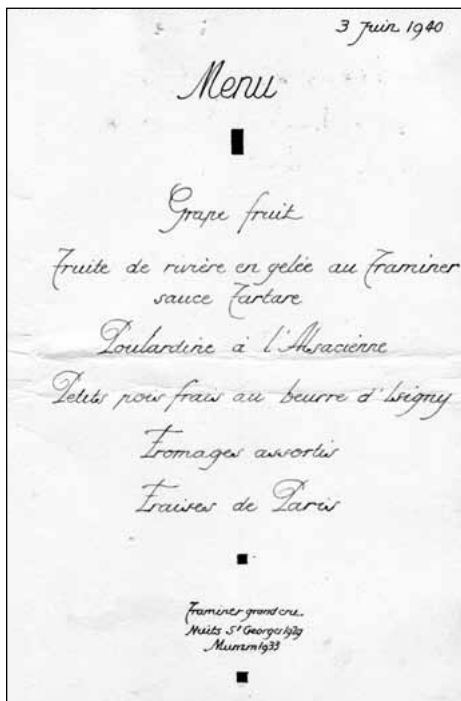
This finding aid is the researchers' gateway to the collection, allowing them to quickly

FDR's handwritten first draft of his 1938 State of the Union Address, ca. January 1938. The four-page draft discusses the darkening war clouds abroad and the continuing economic challenges at home.

Annual Message

In addressing the Congress on the State of the Union it is necessary on this occasion to recur to the issues which underly facts and to speak simply, earnestly and clearly. Present events, and the ~~the~~ ^{only} ~~in~~ ^{in the future} compel it.

We cannot conduct a national government after the practice of 1787, or 1837, or 1887, for the obvious fact that human needs are infinitely ~~greater~~ ^{greater} ~~and~~ ^{and} human desires ~~are~~ ^{are} greater, infinitely more difficult to meet than in any previous



Left: Ambassador William Bullitt sent Missy LeHand the menu from a horrific event. On June 3, 1940, Bullitt was attending a luncheon at the French Air Ministry when German bombs began raining down on the City of Lights. One bomb crashed through the roof of the Air Ministry, but Bullitt was unharmed. Middle: Eleanor Roosevelt's letter to Missy LeHand suggested that Missy get a cake for Grace Tully's upcoming birthday on July 30, 1935. Right: FDR's handwritten letter to Grace Tully sent from the Cairo Conference, November 26, 1943, where he was meeting with Winston Churchill and Chiang Kai-Shek.

determine the types of materials in the collection, the names of correspondents, and the dates and titles of speech drafts, for example. The finding aid is now posted on the Roosevelt Library's web site (www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu).

On November 15, 2010, as promised, the Grace Tully Archive was officially opened to researchers at the Roosevelt Library, and the entire collection was digitized and made available online in early 2011.

* * * * *

The Tully Archive is an amazingly rich and varied collection. Of course, most important are the new Franklin Roosevelt Papers that make up about a fifth of the collection. The best way to describe this new material is that it is a "first draft of history." As FDR's personal secretaries, Missy LeHand and Grace Tully handled drafts of correspondence, handwritten notes or "chits" from FDR that would have been typed into memorandum form, and first and intermediate drafts of speeches and messages. The FDR Papers within the Tully Archive contain all of this variety of material. For reasons lost to history, these documents remained in the custody of his

secretaries instead of being filed within FDR's own papers that came to the library.

Another example of the "chit," like the one written about George Marshall, was written by FDR on July 6, 1935, and intended for Harry Hopkins, the administrator of the newly created Works Progress Administration. It reveals the interconnectedness in FDR's mind of all aspects of the economy. FDR instructed Hopkins to put 280,000 unemployed people to work making overalls and other clothing because this not only would give them gainful employment but also consume 750,000 bales of cotton, which would increase cotton prices.

An important example of the correspondence found in the FDR Papers is a handwritten letter written by Benito Mussolini to Roosevelt in June 1933, just a few months into the new Roosevelt administration. Shortly after his inauguration in March 1933, Roosevelt appointed Breckinridge Long to be the United States ambassador to Italy.

Upon presenting his credentials to Mussolini, Long also gave *Il Duce* a letter from FDR and the gift of an inscribed copy of Roosevelt's first inaugural address.

Mussolini responded with the unique letter discovered in the Tully Archive in which he expressed his deep gratitude and admiration to the President. *Il Duce* also expressed his hope that he and FDR might meet one day to "discuss the outstanding world problems in which the United States and Italy are mutually interested." The letter was delivered through the State Department to the White House. Obviously official diplomatic correspondence, it is unclear how the Mussolini letter ended up in Tully's private possession.

Another important correspondence item discovered in the collection is a handwritten draft of a lengthy telegram from New York Governor Franklin Roosevelt—newly nominated to run as the Democratic candidate for President—to sitting President Herbert Hoover.

Written in July 1932, this telegram challenges Hoover to conclude apace the negotiations with Canada on the St. Lawrence Seaway Project. FDR also insisted that, as governor of New York, he had the right to participate in those negotiations himself. The tone and subtext of the telegram

[Apr 5, 1945]

Aiken -
Shum.

Dear Mr Tully - Thank You
for your nice note. I love
it - I am so happy to feel
that you had time to many
interruptions. —

Have just talked with
Mrs Shoumatoff - who is
motor down - reaching Aiken -
hopefully Sunday night -
bringing her photographer then
she has known for 20 years or
more - & for whom she will
ouch entering - His name is:
Nicholas Robbins - 521 W 139 St
N.Y. City - We will telephone
you on Sunday morning - or
Monday morning - We would probably

[1944]

July 16

Dear Grace,
who is getting the
Vice-Presidential nomination?
I have been beside myself
trying to figure it out.
Shall it be (Barbary)
Douglas, or Wallace (?) or
whom?

Love
Missy

B. S. V. P.
P. D. Q.

Left: Lucy Mercer Rutherford's April 5, 1945, letter to Grace Tully—written seven days before FDR's death—arranging to visit Warm Springs with portraitist Elizabeth Shoumatoff. Right: Missy LeHand's letter to Grace Tully inquiring who would be the fourth term vice-presidential nominee, sent just two weeks before Missy's death, July 16, 1944.

is a foreshadowing of the confrontational relationship between the two leaders that manifested during the “interregnum” after FDR’s election later that year.

Roosevelt Library archivists discovered many handwritten drafts, edits, and fragments of Fireside Chats and other radio addresses, messages to Congress recommending legislation and transmitting reports, campaign addresses, and other speeches. Of particular importance is FDR’s four-page handwritten first draft of his 1938 State of the Union Address, a speech in which the President candidly discussed the darkening war clouds abroad and the challenging economic times at home as the nation faced the recession of 1937–1938.

The LeHand Papers consists almost entirely

of personal correspondence files, including personal letters Missy received from diplomatic figures abroad at the outbreak of and in the early years of World War II. Included are letters from Ambassador Joseph P. Kennedy in London and Ambassador William C. Bullitt and his assistant Carmel Offie in Paris. The collection also contains a draft article written by Missy about her experiences in the White House with FDR.

Among the most interesting of the letters in the LeHand Papers is a 1940 letter from millionaire Vincent Astor, a close friend of FDR’s and part of the President’s shadow network of worldwide informants. Astor wrote to Missy that it was imperative that the President see to the immediate admittance to

the United States of the wife, mother-in-law, and daughter of Carl Norden, the designer of the Norden bombsight, so as to ensure Norden’s return to the United States and, therefore, the security of the highly accurate bombsight’s technological advances. Astor handwrote an urgent postscript on the letter declaring, “Please hurry this in every way that you can. If it’s illegal, or contrary to red tape, it’s got to be done anyway.”

In addition to the many letters the ambassador in Paris William Bullitt wrote to LeHand, he also sent her a unique souvenir from the time just before the fall of France. On June 3, 1940, Bullitt was attending a luncheon at the French Air Ministry when German bombs began raining down on the

City of Lights. One bomb crashed through the roof of the Air Ministry, but Bullitt was unharmed. He sent LeHand the menu from that horrific event.

The Grace Tully Papers, the largest part of the Tully Archive, include an extensive series of personal correspondence among Grace Tully, Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt, other members of the Roosevelt administration, friends, and family. Of particular interest in the correspondence files are letters from Eleanor Roosevelt revealing the extent to which Tully, in addition to her duties as FDR's secretary, assisted Mrs. Roosevelt in her day-to-day activities. There also is correspondence exchanged between Tully and Lyndon and Lady Bird Johnson that casts light on Tully's life after the Roosevelt years. Also included are writings by Grace Tully, including draft notes and chapters for her memoir and unpublished reminiscences of FDR.

Finally, Tully kept extensive memorabilia of her life with FDR, including copies of Roosevelt speeches inscribed by the President, copies of White House press releases, a set of official logs of the President's trips, inauguration souvenirs, and colorful menus from railroad trips that she took with FDR.

There are many handwritten letters from FDR to Tully written during the President's various trips, fishing cruises, and travels abroad to wartime conferences. These letters would have accompanied the pouch of the President's paperwork, such as signed correspondence, bills signed into law, appointments, and nominations, sent back to the White House by military transport. They are friendly—almost

parental—in tone, and share interesting news and gossip from the trip.

A particularly fascinating letter was written by FDR on November 26, 1943, from Cairo, Egypt, where the President was meeting with Winston Churchill and Chiang Kai-Shek before proceeding on to the Teheran Conference with Churchill and Stalin. Its kind and joking nature reveals the affectionate place Tully held in Roosevelt's official family, and his description of his trip to see the indecipherable Sphinx ends with the phrase: "Congress should know her."

Another document critical to understanding Tully's place in FDR's official family as well as the personal lives of the Roosevelts is a letter from Lucy Mercer Rutherfurd to Grace written one week before FDR's death in Warm Springs, Georgia. In it, Rutherfurd makes arrangements for herself, famed portrait painter Madame Elizabeth Shoumatoff, and Shoumatoff's photographer Nicholas Robbins to come to Warm Springs.

As is well known, Lucy Mercer and FDR had a brief affair that, when discovered by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1918, forever changed the nature of their marriage. FDR continued to maintain some limited contact with Rutherfurd throughout his life, increasing to more frequent social visits and car rides together during the last year and a half of FDR's life as he grew weary and isolated with his wartime duties.

As this letter suggests, Grace Tully played a major role in facilitating these private meetings that were kept secret from Eleanor Roosevelt until after FDR's death. Tully, Rutherfurd, Shoumatoff, and Robbins, among others, were at Warm Springs with the President on April 12, 1945, when he was stricken with the massive cerebral hemorrhage from which he died a few hours later. The portrait being painted by Shoumatoff would forever remain "The Unfinished Portrait."

Finally, perhaps the most poignant document in the Tully Archive is a letter written by Missy LeHand to Grace on July 16, 1944. Although severely weakened and dying from the stroke that first felled her in 1941, LeHand nevertheless maintained a deep

interest in FDR and the political game that she so dearly missed. From her convalescence in Massachusetts, Missy scrawled a short note to Grace asking the question that was on the minds of all Americans that summer: "Who is getting the Vice-Presidential nomination? I have been beside myself trying to figure it out." It is undoubtedly among the final if indeed not the last of the letters written by LeHand before her death on July 31, 1944. Although brief, this single, heart-wrenching letter ties together the three parts of the Tully Archive.

The significance of the Grace Tully Archive is not in any one document, but in the aggregation it reveals to us the importance of two great public servants in the Roosevelt White House: Missy LeHand and Grace Tully. They sacrificed their personal lives, and in Missy's case ultimately her life, in helping Franklin D. Roosevelt become one of the greatest of American Presidents. **P**

NOTE ON SOURCES

This article draws upon materials in the Grace Tully Archive, its finding aid, and the acquisition case file, as well as the Franklin D. Roosevelt Papers and the Eleanor Roosevelt Papers in the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library at Hyde Park, New York.

Secondary sources consulted include Conrad Black, *Franklin D. Roosevelt: Champion of Freedom* (New York: Public Affairs, 2003); Kenneth S. Davis, *FDR: Into the Storm* (New York: Random House, 1993); Franklin D. Roosevelt, *Public Papers and Addresses of Franklin D. Roosevelt*, ed. by Samuel I. Rosenman, 1933 and 1938 volumes (New York: Random House, 1938; MacMillan, 1941); articles on Missy LeHand and Grace Tully contained in *Franklin D. Roosevelt: His Life and Times: An Encyclopedic View* (Boston: G. K. Hall, 1985), ed. by Otis L. Graham, Jr. and Meghan R. Wander; an excerpt from "The Hollinger Chronicles," *Fine Books and Collections Magazine* (2010), www.finebooksmagazine.com/issue/0206/hollinger_chronicles.phtml; and the bill summary and status reports for HR 1506 and SB 692, December 3, 2010, <http://thomas.loc.gov>.

Author



Bob Clark is supervisory archivist at the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library and Museum in Hyde Park, New York. He received bachelor and masters degrees in history from Texas Tech University in Lubbock and a juris doctor from Syracuse University. He has been with the Roosevelt Library since 2001.

To learn more about

- The story of the Tully material in a video, go to the National Archives channel on YouTube.com.
- The contents of the Tully collection, go to www.fdrlibrary.marist.edu/archives/collections/tully.html.
- Franklin Roosevelt and the Roosevelt Library, go to www.archives.gov/publications/prologue/2006/winter/.