



Orland Smith Greene  
1894-1961

Founder of the  
Orland S. and Frances S. Greene Fund in

The New York Community Trust  
909 Third Avenue  
New York, NY 10022

*In 1962, the will of Orland Smith Greene established the Orland S. and Frances S. Greene Fund, to be administered by the New York Community Trust for charitable purposes.*

The score was tied when Hobby Greene came to bat for Princeton in the last half of the ninth inning. As captain of the team, it was up to him to beat the arch rival Yale team in the last game of the 1915 inter-collegiate baseball season. Hobby swung, connected, and hit the home run that won the game.

That night the Princeton team celebrated the victory in a New York hotel. The gang was all there — including Coach Bill Clarke, to whom Hobby Greene had come to feel especially close. Although the attention was focused on him that evening, Hobby had no liking for the limelight. The outspoken ball-player let his admirers know, in a few terse, well-chosen words, that he was having none of their hero-worship. That settled, he went on to enjoy the party. In the years that followed, his friends never let him forget that game or that evening, and he never tired of reminiscing with them.

Orland Smith Greene was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on March 7, 1894. His father, William M. Greene, was vice president and general manager of the southwest division of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad. His mother was the former Jeanette Donnelly. The family, which included a brother and sister, spent several pleasant years in Cincinnati, Baltimore, and Chicago, where their father's railroad business took them.

Orland attended the Adirondack-Florida School and continued his college preparatory courses at the Hill School in Pennsylvania, where he was captain of the baseball team. In 1911, Orland Greene entered Princeton, and in his sophomore year earned a position on the varsity baseball team. Just under six feet tall, the slender, rangy youth with the long arms and fine hands was not only a fine athlete. He proved himself to be at least as talented in the classroom as he was on the baseball diamond. "His quick mind could make a home run before the rest of us could get to first base," one of his classmates recalled.

As captain of his team, Hobby, as he was known in his college days, was admired for his consideration of his teammates. One who was a sophomore on Hobby's team recalls that, because of Hobby's thoughtfulness, he was the only substitute to earn his "P" in the final game of the season. Hobby had put the sophomore in against the Yale team simply because he knew the neophyte player would thereby win his letter.

A lifelong friend remembers Hobby's generosity. During their Princeton days, he and Greene lived in a rooming house with four other students. "Greene would lend me five dollars anytime, but he would force me to go down to the drugstore to buy a ten-cent toothpaste, because it was my turn." Years later, Orland Greene paid for that friend's two-week trip to Bermuda with his family, waving away any talk of repayment or even gratitude. "If he liked you, the sky was the limit," remarked the friend.

It seemed to his fellow students that Hobby was one of those people who can get good grades without working particularly hard. He graduated in 1915 with a Litt. B. degree and a fine academic record. After graduation, he returned to his native city of Cincinnati and went to work for Procter & Gamble, a prospering soap manufacturer that had recently expanded into the food industry.

Nearly two years later the United States entered the World War. On May 10, 1917, a month after America's declaration of war against Germany, Orland enlisted in the Field Artillery. In September of that year, Lieutenant Orland Greene was sent to France to join the American Expeditionary

Force under General John J. Pershing's command. During the months that followed, Greene's outfit was involved in some of the heaviest fighting of the war.

He was at the battle of Chemin des Dames, a strategic road held by the Germans until the Allies dislodged them. He fought also in the Toul Sector. In May of 1918, he and other troops were rushed to Chateau-Thierry to stem a new German offensive in what was the first major battle involving American fighting men. In September of the same year, Lieutenant Greene fought at Saint-Mihiel, which was recovered by American troops in one of the most important American actions of the War. Greene's outfit returned to the United States in April of 1919. Orland held the rank of captain at the time of his discharge.

Orland — he dropped his nickname, Hobby, after college — was twenty-five when he returned to civilian life. The next year, he married Marion McLeod Thompson. For the next decade he utilized his business ability in several different enterprises. At one time he was treasurer of a leather company in Cincinnati. Later he helped organize the Message Exchange, a service which operated in Grand Central and Pennsylvania Terminals in New York. In 1925, he listed his occupational field as estate management in Cincinnati. In 1928, he was working as a stock broker. But Orland Greene eventually discovered that his real talent lay in handling his own investments. He displayed the same apparently casual attitude toward finance that had marked his approach to academic life, and he achieved the same success.

*The Greenes' converted PT boat, "Bink II."*





1915 Princeton baseball captain Orland S. Greene (left) with Coach Bill Clarke.

In the late 1930s, Orland and his wife moved to the East. For some years the Greenes, who were childless, spent their summers in Princeton, New Jersey, and their winters in Bermuda. But the marriage did not remain a happy one, and in 1947 it ended in divorce.

Soon after, Orland met — or met again — Frances Schoen Park, the “little sister” of William Schoen, a fellow Princetonian. “Binky,” as she was known, was only a child when her older brother Bill went to college and returned home to talk about his friend, Hobby. But Binky was an attractive widow eleven years his junior when she and Orland renewed their acquaintance at a chance meeting in Bermuda. Frances Schoen was the daughter of a steel manufacturer in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As a young woman, she had married a prosperous industrialist, and she had now been a widow for some years. Binky and Orland soon decided to marry.

Friends recall the Greenes as a devoted couple, much alike in personality and interests. Although they made their home in an oceanfront house in Palm Beach, Florida, Palm Beach society was not to their taste. They had a few old friends to whom they were loyal, but when the high social season got under way each year they fled to other places

— a house on eastern Long Island or their newly-completed hideaway in Barbados. Both loved such outdoor sports as golfing and fishing, and, while Mrs. Greene had a special fondness for horses, Orland continued to enjoy a good game of tennis.

But most of all they loved the sea. They shared their boating life with others, and what they did with their boats is a good sign of their interest in having others gain use and enjoyment from them. In 1953, they gave “Bink I” to the United States Air Force “for recreational use by military personnel stationed at Palm Beach International Airport.” That boat was followed by a surplus World War II PT boat, which Orland converted into a first class yacht and christened the “Bink II.” Eventually he gave that boat away, too, presenting it to the marine study department of the University of Miami.

Orland Greene's generosity and deep concern for others did not end with his death from cancer on December 14, 1961, after a long illness. Many of the bequests in his will were designated for old friends, some of whom dated back to college days. But in addition to a deep loyalty to close companions, Orland Greene also had great compassion for all who needed help. By his will, Orland Smith Greene demonstrated clearly his thoughtful concern not only for dear friends, but for strangers as well.



The New York Community Trust is a publicly-supported community foundation which provides centralized management for many charitable funds. New York's major banks serve as trustees. Trustee for the Orland S. and Frances S. Greene Fund is The Chemical Bank.