

Wm. Oland Bourne Papers

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Prepared by Bradley Gernand and Patrick Kerwin

Collection Summary

Title: Wm. Oland Bourne Papers

Span Dates: 1841-1885

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1856-1867)

ID No.: MSS13375

Creator: Bourne, Wm. Oland (William Oland), 1819-1901

Extent: 1,500 items ; 6 containers plus 2 oversize ; 2.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Clergyman and journalist. Letters, verse, and narratives submitted in a contest sponsored by Bourne, chaplain at Central Park Hospital, New York City, during the Civil War, and editor of the periodical *The Soldier's Friend*. Other correspondence pertains to slavery, economic conditions of the working man, and *The Soldier's Friend*, edited by Bourne.

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

Bourne, Wm. Oland (William Oland), 1819-1901.

Organizations

Central Park Hospital.

United States. Army--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

United States. Navy--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Workingmen's Democratic Republican Association.

Subjects

Amputees.

Penmanship.

People with disabilities.

Slavery--United States.

Places

United States--Economic conditions.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Medical care.

United States--History--Civil war, 1861-1865--Periodicals.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Titles

The soldier's friend.

Occupations

Clergy.

Journalists.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Wm. Oland Bourne, clergyman and journalist, were given to the Library of Congress by Gabriel Wells in 1931.

Additional Guides

Inventories compiled by Charles Cooney including an alphabetical listing of each soldier and sailor who participated in the two penmanship contests, and a select list, organized by battle, referencing battles described by their accounts, are available for use in the Manuscript Reading Room. Also available is a list of photographs in the collection. Both are available in a [PDF](#) document.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Wm.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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Wm. Oland Bourne 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.

Online Content

The Wm. Oland Bourne Papers are available on the Library of Congress Web site at <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000043>.

Preferred Citation

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

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Oland Bourne (1819-1901) span the years 1841-1885, with the bulk concentrated in the period, 1856-1867. Bourne, editor of the periodical *The Soldier's Friend*, sponsored a contest in 1866 in which Union soldiers and sailors who lost their right arms by disability or amputation during the Civil War were invited to submit samples of their penmanship using their left hands. The contest, which awarded \$1,000 prizes for the winning entries, was succeeded by a second contest which awarded \$500 prizes. Bourne's papers contain correspondence and broadsides concerning the contests, the entries submitted, and photographs of the participants.

Bourne, who served as chaplain of Central Park Hospital, a military hospital in New York City, also collected Civil War reminiscences recorded by his patients in autograph books. The reminiscences generally include information concerning places and dates of enlistment, descriptions of major battles, wounds suffered, and the dates and circumstances of the patients' admittance to the hospital.

Bourne also was interested in politics and active in the New York affiliate of the Workingmen's Democratic Republican Association, and his correspondence documents the history of the association from 1841 through 1885.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Civil War reminiscences by soldiers and sailors in Central Park Hospital, New York, N.Y., 1864-1865 (3 vols.) Digital content available
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1856-1884, undated Digital content available
BOX 1	Left-hand Penmanship contest
BOX 1	Broadsides, 1866-1867 Digital content available
BOX 1	List of contributors, their residences, and date of wounds, undated Digital content available
BOX 1	Soldier and sailor contributions
BOX 1	Series I (\$1,000 in prizes, awarded in 1866)
BOX 1	Entries 1-7 Digital content available
BOX 1	Entries 8-12 Digital content available
BOX 2	Entries 13-20 Digital content available
BOX 2	Entries 21-30 Digital content available
BOX 2	Entries 31-40 Digital content available
BOX 2	Entries 41-50 Digital content available
BOX 2	Entries 51-60 Digital content available
BOX 2	Entries 62-70 (Entry 61 not included in collection) Digital content available
BOX 2	Entries 71-80 Digital content available
BOX 2	Entries 81-90 (Entry 88 not included in collection) Digital content available
BOX 3	Entries 91-100 Digital content available
BOX 3	Entries 101-110 Digital content available
BOX 3	Entries 111-120 Digital content available
BOX 3	Entries 121-130 (Entry 122 not included in collection) Digital content available
BOX 3	Entries 131-140 Digital content available

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 3	Entries 141-145 Digital content available
BOX 3	Entries 146-153 Digital content available
BOX 3	Entries 154-170 (Entries 157-159, 166 not included in collection) Digital content available
BOX 3	Entries 171-180 (Entry 173 not included in collection) Digital content available
BOX 4	Entries 181-192 Digital content available
BOX 4	Entries 193-200 Digital content available
BOX 4	Entries 201-210 Digital content available
BOX 4	Entries 211-220 Digital content available
BOX 4	Entries 221-230 Digital content available
BOX 4	Entries 231-240 Digital content available
BOX 4	Entries 241-250 Digital content available
BOX 4	Entries 251-260 Digital content available
BOX 4	Entries 261-270 (Entry 264 not included in collection) Digital content available
BOX 4	Series II (\$500 in prizes, awarded in 1867)
BOX 4	Entries 1-10 Digital content available
BOX 5	Entries 11-20 (Entry 11 not included in collection) Digital content available
BOX 5	Entries 21-30 Digital content available
BOX 5	Entries 31-40 Digital content available
BOX 5	Entries 41-50 Digital content available
BOX 5	Entries 51-60 (Entry 57 not included in collection) Digital content available
BOX 5	Entries 61-70 (Entry 67 not included in collection) Digital content available
BOX 5	Entries 71-80 Digital content available
BOX 6	Entries 81-90 Digital content available
BOX 6	Entries 91-100 Digital content available

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 6	Entries 101-110 Digital content available
BOX 6	Entries 111-114 (Entry 113 not included in collection) Digital content available
BOX 6	Entries not identified by number, or by name Digital content available
BOX 6	Photographs, primarily of Left-hand Penmanship contest participants, circa 1861-1865 <i>See also</i> Oversize Digital content available
BOX 6	Periodicals, 1841-1885 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 6	Workingmen's Democratic Republican Association and other political material, 1842-1885, undated <i>See also</i> Oversize Digital content available
BOX OV 1	Oversize (Container 6) Left-hand Penmanship Contest Photographs of participants, circa 1861-1865 Digital content available
BOX OV 2	Periodicals (includes "Carriers' Addresses" to readers of these periodicals), 1841-1885, undated Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>American Brotherhood</i>, New York, N.Y., 1845• <i>American Patriot</i>, New York, N.Y., 1841• <i>Boston Commonwealth</i>, Boston, Mass., 1885• <i>Christian Intelligencer</i>, New York, N.Y., 1843, 1860• <i>East Section Visitor and Advertiser</i>, New York, N.Y., 1846• <i>Evening Mirror</i>, New York, N.Y., 1850• <i>Independent</i>, [s.n.], 1859• <i>Iron Platform</i>, New York, N.Y., 1856, 1872, undated• <i>New England Loyal Publication Society</i>, Boston, Mass., 1864• <i>New York Recorder</i>, New York, N.Y., 1854• <i>Protestant Vindicator</i>, New York, N.Y., 1842, 1845• <i>The Soldier's Friend</i>, New York, N.Y., 1869 Digital content available
BOX OV 2	Workingmen's Democratic Republican Association and other political material, 1842-1885, undated Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Challenge!, 1863• A Great Fraud, 1863• A Traitor's Peace! undated• Address on the School Question, by the Ninth Ward Committee, 1842• Attention: Discussion of the Tariff and Slavery Questions, Clay Club County Committee, 1844• Dan'l O'Connell on Democracy! 1863• Don't Unchain the Tiger! 1863, 1872, undated• To the Laboring Men of New York, 1863, 1864 Digital content available