

George E. Belknap Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress



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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

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LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm70052696>

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson

Collection Summary

Title: George E. Belknap Papers

Span Dates: 1857-1903

ID No.: MSS52696

Creator: Belknap, George E. (George Eugene), 1832-1903

Extent: 1,400 items ; 4 containers ; 1.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, articles, memoranda, and miscellaneous papers relating to Belknap's naval career.

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

Ammen, Daniel, 1820-1898--Correspondence.

Belknap family.

Belknap, George E. (George Eugene), 1832-1903.

Brooke, John M. (John Mercer), 1826-1906--Correspondence.

Goodrich, Caspar F. (Caspar Frederick), 1847-1925--Correspondence.

Lowell, Samuel W.--Correspondence.

Remey, George Collier, 1841-1928--Correspondence.

Riddle, John A.--Correspondence.

Roe, Francis Asbury, 1823-1901--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Navy--Foreign service--China--Guangzhou.

United States. Navy--Foreign service--Hawaii.

United States. Navy. Asiatic Fleet.

Subjects

Genealogy.

Hydrography.

Oceanography.

Sea stories.

Places

United States--Economic policy.

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

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

United States--Social policy.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of George E. Belknap, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1959 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of George E. Belknap were arranged and described in 1969. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Additional Guides

In 1969, the Library published *George Eugene Belknap, Reginald Rowan Belknap, a Register of Their Papers in the Library of Congress*.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of George E. Belknap is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of George E. Belknap 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, George E. Belknap Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1832, Jan. 22	Born, Newport, N.H.
1847	Appointed midshipman
1847-1850	Duty in USS <i>Porpoise</i> , Africa Squadron
1850-1853	Duty in USS <i>Raritan</i> , Pacific Squadron
1853-1854	Attended United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1854-1855	Duty in USS <i>Falmouth</i>
1856-1858	Duty in USS <i>Portsmouth</i> , Asiatic Squadron
1859-1861	Duty in USS <i>St. Louis</i> , Home Squadron
1861	Married Ellen D. Reed
1861-1862	Duty in USS <i>Huron</i> , South Atlantic Blockade Squadron
1863-1864	Duty in USS <i>Seneca</i> , North Atlantic Blockade Squadron
1864-1865	Commanded USS <i>Canonicus</i> , North Atlantic Squadron
1865-1867	Duty in USS <i>Shenandoah</i> , Asiatic Squadron
1866	Married Frances Georgiana Prescott

1867-1868	Commanded USS <i>Hartford</i> , Asiatic Squadron
1868-1869	Duty at New York Naval Rendezvous
1869-1872	Duty in Boston Navy Yard
1872-1874	Commanded USS <i>Tuscarora</i> , Africa Squadron
1874	Duty as a hydrographic inspector
1875-1881	Commanded Pensacola Navy Yard
1881-1883	Commanded USS <i>Alaska</i> , Pacific Squadron
1883	Commanded Norfolk Navy Yard
1883-1884	President, Naval Torpedo Board
1885	Promoted to commodore
1885-1886	Superintendent, Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C.
1886-1889	Commanded Mare Island Navy Yard
1889	Promoted to rear admiral
1889-1892	Commanded Naval Forces, Asiatic Station
1892-1894	President, Naval Board of Inspection
1893	Naval representative, Chicago World's Fair, Chicago, Ill.
1894	Retired from the navy
1898	Recalled to active duty as President of the Naval Coaling Board
1903, Apr. 7	Died, Key West, Fla.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of George Eugene Belknap (1832-1903) span the years 1857-1903, and consist of correspondence, speeches, articles, and miscellaneous material. The papers reflect Belknap's naval career including duty in the barrier forts at Canton, China, in the 1850s, combat duty in the Civil War, a tour of duty in Hawaii, and his command of the Asiatic Fleet. His interest in hydrographical and oceanographical matters as well as contemporary social, political, and economic questions is demonstrated by correspondence with his colleagues. Principal among these are Daniel Ammen, John M. Brooke, Caspar F. Goodrich, Samuel W. Lowell, George Collier Remey, John A. Riddle, and Francis Asbury Roe. There is also a grouping of notes and memoranda apparently intended for use in an autobiography, some research in Belknap family genealogy, a small amount of family correspondence, and recollections and writings about the sea.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1857-1903, undated (11 folders)
BOX 1	Letterpress book, 1879
BOX 2	Speech and article file, 1893-1902, undated (11 folders)
BOX 3	Miscellaneous writings and recollections, undated (8 folders)
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1874-1903 (5 folders)