Collection Summary
Title: Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough Papers
Span Dates: 1797-1874
ID No.: MSS23044
Creator: Goldsborough, Louis Malesherbes, 1805-1877
Extent: 8,000 items; 27 containers plus 2 oversize; 7 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, military records, financial papers, printed material, illustrations, and other papers concerning Goldsborough's career in the United States Navy.

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
Barron, James, 1769-1851--Correspondence.
Black, Jeremiah S. (Jeremiah Sullivan), 1810-1883--Correspondence.
Burnside, Ambrose Everett, 1824-1881.
Cabell, J. L. (James Lawrence), 1813-1889--Correspondence.
Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873--Correspondence.
Crittenden, John J. (John Jordan), 1787-1863--Correspondence.
Decatur, Stephen, 1779-1820--Correspondence.
Du Pont, Samuel Francis, 1803-1865--Correspondence.
Everett, Edward, 1794-1865--Correspondence.
Fox, Gustavus Vasa, 1821-1883--Correspondence.
Goldsborough, Louis Malesherbes, 1805-1877.
Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865.
Motley, John Lothrop, 1814-1877--Correspondence.
Smith, Joseph, 1790-1877--Correspondence.
Tatnall, Josiah, 1795-1871--Correspondence.
Upshur, A. P. (Abel Parker), 1790-1844--Correspondence.
Welles, Gideon, 1802-1878--Correspondence.
Wilkes, Charles, 1798-1877--Correspondence.

Organizations
Castillo de San Juan de Ulúa (Mexico)
Merrimack (Frigate)
Minnesota (Frigate)
United States Naval Academy.
United States. Navy.
Virginia (Ironclad)

Subjects
Blockade--South Carolina--Charleston Harbor.
Burnside's Expedition to North Carolina, 1862.
Cabinet officers.
Dueling.
Hampton Roads, Battle of, Va., 1862.
Mexican War, 1846-1848.

Places
Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1917.

Other Repositories

Other collections of Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough material are in the New York Public Library, New York, N.Y., and the Rare Book, Manuscript, and Special Collections Library, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough 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.

Microfilm

Selected documents relating to the Civil War have been included in *A People At War*, a microfilm edition issued by Chadwyck-Healy, 1989-1990.

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1805, Feb. 5</td>
<td>Born, Washington, D.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1812</td>
<td>Received a midshipman’s warrant, United States Navy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1816</td>
<td>Began service as a midshipman, United States Navy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1823-1824</td>
<td>Acting lieutenant, United States Navy</td>
</tr>
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</table>
1825  Commissioned lieutenant
1827-1829  Served in the Mediterranean in command of four ships
1830  Given charge of the newly created Depot of Charts and Instruments (of which he was the originator), Washington, D.C.
1831  Married Elizabeth Gamble Wirt
1833  Commanded mounted volunteers in Seminole War
1841  Promoted to commander
1843-1846  Stationed at Portsmouth, N.H.
1845  Published A Reply by L. M. Goldsborough to an Attack Made upon the Navy of the United States by Samuel E. Coures, President of the Peace Society, Portsmouth, N.H.: C. W. Brewster
1848  Published, Letter to John Y. Mason, Secretary of the Navy, Concerning the Assignment of Rank to Medical Officers and Pursers. Washington, D.C.
1849-1850  Senior naval member of a commission which explored California and Oregon
1853-1857  Superintendent, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1855  Promoted to captain
1859-1861  Commanded Brazil Squadron
1861  Took command of Atlantic Blockading Squadron
1862  Promoted to rear admiral
1862  Cooperated with Union General Ambrose Burnside in capture of Roanoke Island, N.C.
1862-1865  Performed administrative duties, Washington, D.C.
1865  Took charge of European Squadron
1868  Stationed in Washington, D.C.
1873  Retired from United States Navy
1877, Feb. 20  Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note
The papers of Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough (1805-1877) span the years 1797-1874 and include correspondence, military records, financial papers, printed material, illustrations, and other material relating to his career in the United States Navy.
The collection is organized in five series: Correspondence and Other Papers, Letterbooks, Military Papers, Miscellany, and Oversize. Included is an account of the capture of Castillo de San Juan De Ulúa during the Mexican War in 1847, the capture of John H. Surratt, and Goldsborough’s work as superintendent of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, 1853-1857. Also included are items from the Civil War relating to the blockade of Charleston Harbor, General Ambrose Everett Burnside’s Roanoke Island expedition, operations on the James River, the scuttling of the USS Merrimack, Goldsborough’s command of the USS Minnesota in Hampton Roads, Virginia, while awaiting an expected second attack of the CSS Virginia, and visits to the front lines by Abraham Lincoln and members of his cabinet. A draft of a letter from Stephen Decatur to James Barron which led to a challenge and duel is also included.

Correspondents include Jeremiah S. Black, J. L. Cabell, Salmon P. Chase, John J. Crittenden, Samuel Francis Du Pont, Edward Everett, Gustavus Vasa Fox, John Lothrop Motley, Joseph Smith, Josiah Tatnall, A. P. Upshur, Gideon Welles, and Charles Wilkes

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged in five series:

- Correspondence and Other Papers, 1797-1874
- Letterbooks, 1853-1867
- Military Papers, 1852-1870
- Miscellany, 1836-1871
- Oversize, 1861-1869
## Description of Series

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<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>BOX 1-24</td>
<td><strong>Correspondence and Other Papers, 1797-1874</strong></td>
<td>Correspondence and other material. Arranged chronologically.</td>
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<td>BOX 24</td>
<td><strong>Letterbooks, 1853-1867</strong></td>
<td>Letterbooks. Arranged chronologically.</td>
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<td>BOX 25</td>
<td><strong>Military Papers, 1852-1870</strong></td>
<td>General orders, circulars, courts martial, and other material. Arranged by bound and unbound material and chronologically therein.</td>
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<td>BOX 26-27</td>
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<td>Bills, circulars, notes, notebooks, journals, illustrations, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.</td>
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<td><strong>Oversize, 1861-1869</strong></td>
<td>Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.</td>
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| BOX 1-24  | **Correspondence and Other Papers, 1797-1874**  
Correspondence and other material.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1     | 1797; 1817, Jan. 1-1831, Oct. 26 |
| BOX 2     | 1831, Oct. 28-1834, June 24 |
| BOX 3     | 1834, June 28-1837, Sept. 15 |
| BOX 4     | 1837, Oct. 27-1841, Apr. 23 |
| BOX 5     | 1841, Apr. 29-1847, Feb. 2 |
| BOX 6     | 1847, Feb. 18-1852, May 15 |
| BOX 7     | 1852, May 17-1856, Aug. 21 |
| BOX 8     | 1856, Aug. 22-1859, Oct. 21 |
| BOX 9     | 1859, Oct. 22-1861, Feb. 5 |
| BOX 10    | 1861, Feb. 6-Nov. 7 |
| BOX 11    | 1861, Nov. 8-1862, July 13 |
| BOX 12    | 1862, July 15-1863, Sept. 16 |
| BOX 13    | 1863, Sept. 17-1865, May 28 |
| BOX 14    | 1865, May 29-Dec. 19 |
| BOX 15    | 1865, Dec. 20-1866, June 15 |
| BOX 16    | 1866, June 16-Nov. 24 |
| BOX 17    | 1866, Nov. 25-1867, Apr. 14 |
| BOX 18    | 1867, Apr. 15-1869, May 14 |
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| BOX 20    | Undated |
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| BOX 23    | 3 of 4 |
| BOX 24    | 4 of 4 |
| BOX 24    | 1862, Feb. 23-Mar. 20 |
| BOX 24    | Letterbooks, 1853-1867  
Letterbooks.  
Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 24    | 1853, Nov. 1-1855, Oct. 7 |
| BOX 24    | 1855, Mar. 1-1857, Sept. 15 |
| BOX 24    | 1866, Feb. 6-1867, July 14 |
| BOX 25    | Military Papers, 1852-1870  
General orders, circulars, courts martial, and other material.  
Arranged by bound and unbound material and chronologically therein. |
| BOX 25    | Bound |
### Container | Contents
--- | ---
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**BOX 26-27** | **Miscellany, 1836-1871**
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**BOX 26** | Illustrations, 1841-1871 [See also Oversize](#)
**BOX 26** | Journal of the Board to Examine Steam Machinery Afloat, 1869
**BOX 27** | Newspaper clippings, 1857-1866
**BOX 27** | Notebook, 1843-1846, undated
**BOX 27** | Printed matter, 1852-1867
**BOX 27** | 1852-1867 [See also Oversize](#)
**BOX 27** | Undated
**BOX 27** | "Rigging, Proportions of for different class ships," presented by T. O. Selfridge, Dec. 1843
**BOX OV 1-OV 2** | **Oversize, 1861-1869**
| Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.
**BOX OV 1** | Miscellany
**BOX OV 1** | Illustrations (Container 26)
| Illustration of caps of 10 and 8 inch shells, March 1841
| "Sketch Showing the Position of 3 Buoys placed on the Middle-Ground in Neuse River, N.C.,” May 1862
| Two illustrations of "J. Gregory's Patent No. 2303," Sept. 18, 1863
| "Plan of Ordnance Foundry," Nov. 10, 1869
| "The Niphon," undated
| "Part of Saratoga's decks & Batteries," undated
**BOX OV 2** | Printed matter, 1861, 1869, undated (Container 27)