George E. Belknap Papers

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

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

Contact information:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010050

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.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

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of George E. Belknap is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1832, Jan. 22</td>
<td>Born, Newport, N.H.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1847</td>
<td>Appointed midshipman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1847-1850</td>
<td>Duty in USS Porpoise, Africa Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850-1853</td>
<td>Duty in USS Raritan, Pacific Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1853-1854</td>
<td>Attended United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1854-1855</td>
<td>Duty in USS Falmouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856-1858</td>
<td>Duty in USS Portsmouth, Asiatic Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1859-1861</td>
<td>Duty in USS St. Louis, Home Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Married Ellen D. Reed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861-1862</td>
<td>Duty in USS Huron, South Atlantic Blockade Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863-1864</td>
<td>Duty in USS Seneca, North Atlantic Blockade Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864-1865</td>
<td>Commanded USS Canonicus, North Atlantic Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865-1867</td>
<td>Duty in USS Shenandoah, Asiatic Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>Married Frances Georgiana Prescott</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1867-1868  Commanded USS *Hartford*, Asiatic Squadron
1868-1869  Duty at New York Naval Rendezvous
1869-1872  Duty in Boston Navy Yard
1872-1874  Commanded USS *Tuscavora*, Africa Squadron
1874  Duty as a hydrographic inspector
1875-1881  Commanded Pensacola Navy Yard
1881-1883  Commanded USS *Alaska*, 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
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</table>
| 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) |