

Francis Winslow 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.
2007**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70022293>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms007090>

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Revised 2010 April

Collection Summary

Title: Francis Winslow Papers

Span Dates: 1833-1863

ID No.: MSS22293

Creator: Winslow, Francis, 1818-1862

Extent: 700 items

Extent: 2 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 0.8 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70022293>

Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, journals, logs, and other papers documenting Winslow's naval career.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Winslow family--Correspondence.

Winslow, Francis, 1818-1862.

Winslow, Mary Sophia Nelson, 1827- --Correspondence.

Organizations

Brandywine (Frigate)

Dale (Ship)

Erie (Sloop of war)

Falmouth (Sloop of war)

Marion (Ship)

Merrimack (Frigate)

R.R. Cuyler (Ship)

Saratoga (Sloop of war)

United States. Navy--Cruise, 1834-1837.

United States. Navy--Cruise, 1854-1859.

United States. Navy--Foreign service--South America.

United States. Navy--History.

United States. Navy--Officers.

Water Witch (Steamer)

Subjects

Harbors--Alabama.

Harbors--Florida.

Harbors--Louisiana.

Logbooks--United States--19th century.

Places

Alabama--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Blockades.

Argentina--Description and travel.

Brazil--Description and travel.

Buenos Aires (Argentina)--Description and travel.

Florida--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Blockades.

Louisiana--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Blockades.

Montevideo (Uruguay)--Description and travel.

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)--Description and travel.

South America--Description and travel.
United States--History, Naval.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Blockades.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Naval operations.
Uruguay--Description and travel.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Provenance

The papers of Francis Winslow, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation from 1969 to 1989 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Francis Winslow were arranged and described in 1997. The finding aid was revised in 2007.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Francis Winslow 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, Francis Winslow Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1818, Sept. 6	Born, Boston, Mass.
1833-1842	Midshipman, <i>Brandywine</i> (frigate), <i>Enterprise</i> (schooner), <i>Natchez</i> , <i>Erie</i> , <i>Marion</i> , and <i>Dale</i> (sloops-of-war), Brazil Station
1842-1844	Master, acting lieutenant, and lieutenant, <i>United States</i> (frigate)
1846	Married Mary Nelson
1847-1848	Duty on <i>Washington</i> (brig) in Mexican waters during Mexican War
1849-1852	Duty on <i>Independence</i> (frigate)
1854-1856	Duty on <i>Falmouth</i> and <i>Saratoga</i> (sloops-of-war)
1857-1859	Duty on <i>Merrimack</i> (frigate), Pacific Squadron
1861	Commander, <i>Water Witch</i> (gunboat), Gulf Blockading Squadron
1861-1862	Commander, <i>R. R. Cuyler</i> (gunboat), Gulf Blockading Squadron
1862, Aug. 26	Died at sea

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Francis Winslow (1818-1862) span the years 1833-1863 and parallel his naval career, which began with his appointment as a midshipman at age fifteen in 1833 and a cruise to Brazil in 1834 and ended in 1862 with his death at sea of yellow fever while commanding a gunboat. The collection, consisting mostly of correspondence, journals, and logs, is arranged alphabetically by type of material and thereunder chronologically.

General correspondence, all with his wife, Mary Nelson Winslow, or with other family members, is arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent. Elizabeth Winslow Pickering, addressed as "mother" in Winslow's correspondence with her, was an aunt who raised Winslow when his mother died during his infancy. J. J. Wilkins, whom Winslow addressed as "aunty" in correspondence, was his wife's aunt.

The letterbook documents Winslow's only independent commands of the gunboats *Water Witch* and *R. R. Cuyler* during Civil War blockade duty in Louisiana, Alabama, and Florida waters.

The official correspondence, consisting of orders, appointments, notifications of promotions, letters from commanding officers, and a minor incident report, summarize Winslow's career from his appointment as midshipman in 1833 to his commission as a lieutenant in 1844.

A journal dated 1834-1837 covers Winslow's first cruise to South America aboard the *Brandywine* (frigate) and his subsequent duty on the Brazil Station and ashore at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Montevideo, Uruguay, Buenos Aires, Argentina, and other locations, as well as aboard the *Erie* (sloop-of-war) and other vessels.

A journal and log dated 1839-1842 is an account of Winslow's cruises on the sloops-of-war *Marion* and *Dale* in Atlantic and Pacific South American waters. A journal and log spanning the years 1854-1859 relates to cruises on sloops-of-war *Falmouth* and *Saratoga* and the *Merrimack* (frigate), flagship of the Pacific Squadron.

The oversize passport was issued by the United States consul at Leghorn (Livorno, Italy) in 1851 during a period spanning 1849-1852 when Winslow was cruising the Mediterranean aboard the frigate *Independence*. Information from this and other periods not documented by his journals, such as his cruise aboard the *Washington* (brig) from 1847 to 1848 during the Mexican War, is included in Winslow's lengthy letters to his wife in the general correspondence.

In 1935 Winslow's son, Arthur, published *Francis Winslow, His Forebears and Life*, largely based on these papers. However, material used for the book did not include the earliest and most engaging journal of 1834-1837 relating to Winslow's midshipman cruises at Brazil Station.

Arrangement of the Papers

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

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	General
BOX 1	Pickering, Arthur, 1840-1841
BOX 1	Pickering, Elizabeth Winslow, 1839-1842
BOX 1	Wilkins, J. J., 1855
BOX 1	Winslow, George, 1840-1842
BOX 1	Winslow, Mary Nelson, 1847-1863 (6 folders)
BOX 2	Letterbook, <i>Water Witch</i> and <i>R. R. Cyler</i> (gunboats), 1861-1862
BOX 2	Official, 1833-1858
BOX 2	Journals and logs, 1834-1859 (5 folders)
BOX 2	Passport, 1851-1852 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Passport, 1851-1852 (Container 2)