

Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2000

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81023044>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009046>

Prepared by Patrick Kerwin

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
Revised 2021 May

Collection Summary

Title: Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough Papers

Span Dates: 1797-1874

ID No.: MSS23044

Creator: Goldsborough, Louis Malesherbes, 1805-1877

Extent: 8,000 items

Extent: 27 containers plus 2 oversize

Extent: 7 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English.

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81023044>

Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, military records, financial papers, printed material, illustrations, and other papers concerning Goldsborough's career in the United States Navy.

Online Content: The Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough Papers are available on the Library of Congress Web site at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000105>. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition as available.*

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

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.
Surratt, John H. (John Harrison), 1844-1916.
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

Charleston (S.C.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Charleston Harbor (S.C.)
James River (Va.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
North Carolina--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Roanoke Island (N.C.)--History--Capture, 1862.
South Carolina--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Blockades.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Naval operations.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Titles

Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough Papers at the Library of Congress

Occupations

Naval officers.

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.

Online Content

The Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough Papers are available on the Library of Congress Web site at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000105>. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition as available.

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

Date	Event
1805, Feb. 18	Born, Washington, D.C.
1812	Received a midshipman's warrant, United States Navy
1816	Began service as a midshipman, United States Navy
1823-1824	Acting lieutenant, United States Navy
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 <i>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</i> . Portsmouth, N.H.: C. W. Brewster
1848	Published, <i>Letter to John Y. Mason, Secretary of the Navy, Concerning the Assignment of Rank to Medical Officers and Pursers</i> . 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 *Merrimack*, Goldsborough's command of the *Minnesota* in Hampton Roads, Virginia, while awaiting an expected second attack of the *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

Container	Series
BOX 1-24	<p><u>Correspondence and Other Papers, 1797-1874</u> Correspondence and other material. Arranged chronologically in 23 bound volumes, plus unbound material in Container 24.</p>
BOX 24	<p><u>Letterbooks, 1853-1867</u> Letterbooks. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 25	<p><u>Military Papers, 1852-1870</u> General orders, circulars, courts martial, and other material. Arranged by bound and unbound material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX 25-27	<p><u>Miscellany, 1836-1871</u> Bills, circulars, notes, notebooks, journals, illustrations, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.</p>
BOX OV 1-OV 2	<p><u>Oversize, 1861-1869</u> Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-24	Correspondence and Other Papers, 1797-1874 Correspondence and other material. Arranged chronologically in 23 bound volumes, plus unbound material in Container 24.
BOX 1	1797; 1817, Jan. 1-1831, Oct. 26 Digital content available
BOX 2	1831, Oct. 28-1834, June 24 Digital content available
BOX 3	1834, June 28-1837, Sept. 15 Digital content available
BOX 4	1837, Oct. 27-1841, Apr. 23 Digital content available
BOX 5	1841, Apr. 29-1847, Feb. 2 Digital content available
BOX 6	1847, Feb. 18-1852, May 15 Digital content available
BOX 7	1852, May 17-1856, Aug. 21 Digital content available
BOX 8	1856, Aug. 22-1859, Oct. 21 Digital content available
BOX 9	1859, Oct. 22-1861, Feb. 5 Digital content available
BOX 10	1861, Feb. 6-Nov. 7 Digital content available
BOX 11	1861, Nov. 8-1862, July 13 Digital content available
BOX 12	1862, July 15-1863, Sept. 16 Digital content available
BOX 13	1863, Sept. 17-1865, May 28 Digital content available
BOX 14	1865, May 29-Dec. 19 Digital content available
BOX 15	1865, Dec. 20-1866, June 15 Digital content available
BOX 16	1866, June 16-Nov. 24 Digital content available
BOX 17	1866, Nov. 25-1867, Apr. 14 Digital content available
BOX 18	1867, Apr. 15-1869, May 14 Digital content available
BOX 19	1869, May 15-1874, Dec. 15 Digital content available
BOX 20	Undated

Correspondence and Other Papers, 1797-1874

Container	Contents
BOX 20	1 of 4 Digital content available
BOX 21	2 of 4 Digital content available
BOX 22	3 of 4 Digital content available
BOX 23	4 of 4 Digital content available
BOX 24	1862, Feb. 23-Mar. 20 Digital content available
BOX 24	Letterbooks, 1853-1867 Letterbooks. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 24	1853, Nov. 1-1855, Oct. 7 Digital content available
BOX 24	1855, Mar. 1-1857, Sept. 15 Digital content available
BOX 24	1866, Feb. 6-1867, July 14 Digital content available
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
BOX 25	1862-1867 Digital content available
BOX 25	1865, July 6-1866, Nov. 29 Digital content available
BOX 25	Unbound, 1852, 1859, 1862-1870 Digital content available
BOX 25-27	Miscellany, 1836-1871 Bills, circulars, notes, notebooks, journals, illustrations, and other material. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 25	Bills
BOX 25	1834-1849 Digital content available
BOX 25	1850-1859 Digital content available
BOX 25	1860-1875 Digital content available
BOX 25	Undated Digital content available
BOX 26	Circulars, 1862-1866 Digital content available

Miscellany, 1836-1871

Container	Contents
BOX 26	“Continuation of the Internal Rules on Board the Vessels of the Fleet,” undated Digital content available
BOX 26	Illustrations, 1841-1871 <i>See also Oversize</i> Digital content available
BOX 26	Journal of the Board to Examine Steam Machinery Afloat, 1869
BOX 26	Newspaper clippings, 1857-1866 Digital content available
BOX 26	Notebook, 1843-1846, undated Digital content available
BOX 27	Printed matter, 1852-1867
BOX 27	1852-1867 <i>See also Oversize</i> Digital content available
BOX 27	Undated Digital content available
BOX 27	"Rigging, Proportions of for different class ships," presented by T. O. Selfridge, Dec. 1843 Digital content available
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 Nippon," undated "Part of Saratoga's decks & Batteries," undated
BOX OV 2	Printed matter, 1861, 1869, undated (Container 27)