

**Wm. Oland Bourne Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2002**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81013375>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009056>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009  
Revised 2024 October

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Wm. Oland Bourne Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1841-1885

**Bulk Dates:** 1856-1867

**ID No.:** MSS13375

**Creator:** Bourne, Wm. Oland (William Oland), 1819-1901

**Extent:** 1,500 items

**Extent:** 6 containers plus 2 oversize

**Extent:** 2.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm81013375>

**Summary:** Clergyman and journalist. Letters, verse, and narratives submitted in a contest sponsored by Bourne, chaplain at Central Park Hospital, New York City, during the Civil War, and editor of the periodical *The Soldier's Friend*. Other correspondence pertains to slavery, economic conditions of the working man, and *The Soldier's Friend*, edited by Bourne.

**Online Content:** The Wm. Oland Bourne Papers are available on the Library of Congress website at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/collmss.ms000043>. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition as available. Transcription datasets from the Wm. Oland Bourne Papers are available online at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gdc/gdcdatasets.2019667237>.

## 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

Bourne, Wm. Oland (William Oland), 1819-1901.

### Organizations

Central Park Hospital.

United States. Army--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

United States. Navy--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Workingmen's Democratic Republican Association.

### Subjects

Amputees.

Disabled veterans--United States.

Penmanship--Competitions.

People with disabilities.

Slavery--United States.

### Places

United States--Economic conditions.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Medical care.

United States--History--Civil war, 1861-1865--Periodicals.

United States--History--Civil war, 1861-1865--Veterans.

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

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

### Titles

*Soldier's friend.*

*William Oland Bourne papers*

*Wm. Oland Bourne Papers at the Library of Congress*

### Occupations

Clergy.  
Journalists.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of Wm. Oland Bourne, clergyman and journalist, were given to the Library of Congress by Gabriel Wells in 1931.

## Processing History

The papers of Wm. Oland Bourne were processed in 2009 by Bradley Gernand and Patrick Kerwin.

## Additional Guides

Inventories compiled by Charles Cooney including an alphabetical listing of each soldier and sailor who participated in the two penmanship contests, and a select list, organized by battle, referencing battles described by their accounts, are available for use in the Manuscript Reading Room. Also available is a list of photographs in the collection. Both are available in a [PDF](#) document.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Wm. Oland Bourne 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.

## Online Content

The Wm. Oland Bourne Papers are available on the Library of Congress website at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/collmss.ms000043>. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the online edition as available.* Transcription datasets from the Wm. Oland Bourne Papers are available online at <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc/gdc/gdcdatasets.2019667237>.

## Preferred Citation

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

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Oland Bourne (1819-1901) span the years 1841-1885, with the bulk concentrated in the period, 1856-1867. Bourne, editor of the periodical *The Soldier's Friend*, sponsored a contest in 1866 in which Union soldiers and sailors who lost their right arms by disability or amputation during the Civil War were invited to submit samples of their penmanship using their left hands. The contest, which awarded \$1,000 prizes for the winning entries, was succeeded by a second contest which awarded \$500 prizes. Bourne's papers contain correspondence and broadsides concerning the contests, the entries submitted, and photographs of the participants.

Bourne, who served as chaplain of Central Park Hospital, a military hospital in New York City, also collected Civil War reminiscences recorded by his patients in autograph books. The reminiscences generally include information concerning places and dates of enlistment, descriptions of major battles, wounds suffered, and the dates and circumstances of the patients' admittance to the hospital.

Bourne also was interested in politics and active in the New York affiliate of the Workingmen's Democratic Republican Association, and his correspondence documents the history of the association from 1841 through 1885.

## **Arrangement of the Papers**

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

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Civil War reminiscences by soldiers and sailors in Central Park Hospital, New York, N.Y., 1864-1865 (3 vols.) <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1856-1884, undated <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 1	Left-hand Penmanship contest
BOX 1	Broadsides, 1866-1867 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 1	List of contributors, their residences, and date of wounds, undated <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 1	Soldier and sailor contributions
BOX 1	Series I (\$1,000 in prizes, awarded in 1866 )
BOX 1	Entries 1-7 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 1	Entries 8-12 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	Entries 13-20 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	Entries 21-30 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	Entries 31-40 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	Entries 41-50 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	Entries 51-60 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	Entries 62-70 (Entry 61 not included in collection) <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	Entries 71-80 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 2	Entries 81-90 (Entry 88 not included in collection) <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	Entries 91-100 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	Entries 101-110 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	Entries 111-120 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	Entries 121-130 (Entry 122 not included in collection) <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	Entries 131-140 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	Entries 141-145

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### Container

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	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	Entries 146-153
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	Entries 154-170 (Entries 157-159, 166 not included in collection)
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 3	Entries 171-180 (Entry 173 not included in collection)
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	Entries 181-192
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	Entries 193-200
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	Entries 201-210
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	Entries 211-220
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	Entries 221-230
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	Entries 231-240
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BOX 4	Entries 241-250
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	Entries 251-260
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	Entries 261-270 (Entry 264 not included in collection)
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 4	Series II (\$500 in prizes, awarded in 1867 )
BOX 4	Entries 1-10
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 5	Entries 11-20 (Entry 11 not included in collection)
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 5	Entries 21-30
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 5	Entries 31-40
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 5	Entries 41-50
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 5	Entries 51-60 (Entry 57 not included in collection)
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 5	Entries 61-70 (Entry 67 not included in collection)
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 5	Entries 71-80
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 6	Entries 81-90
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 6	Entries 91-100
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 6	Entries 101-110
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 6	Entries 111-114 (Entry 113 not included in collection)
	<a href="#">Digital content available</a>

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 6	Entries not identified by number, or by name <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 6	Photographs, primarily of Left-hand Penmanship contest participants, circa 1861-1865 <i>See also</i> <a href="#">Oversize</a> <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX 6	Periodicals, 1841-1885 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 6	Workingmen's Democratic Republican Association and other political material, 1842-1885, undated <i>See also</i> <a href="#">Oversize</a> <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX OV 1	Oversize (Container 6) Left-hand Penmanship Contest Photographs of participants, circa 1861-1865 <a href="#">Digital content available</a>
BOX OV 2	Periodicals (includes "Carriers' Addresses" to readers of these periodicals), 1841-1885, undated <a href="#">Digital content available</a> Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>American Brotherhood</i>, New York, N.Y., 1845</li><li>• <i>American Patriot</i>, New York, N.Y., 1841</li><li>• <i>Boston Commonwealth</i>, Boston, Mass., 1885</li><li>• <i>Christian Intelligencer</i>, New York, N.Y., 1843, 1860</li><li>• <i>East Section Visitor and Advertiser</i>, New York, N.Y., 1846</li><li>• <i>Evening Mirror</i>, New York, N.Y., 1850</li><li>• <i>Independent</i>, [s.n.], 1859</li><li>• <i>Iron Platform</i>, New York, N.Y., 1856, 1872, undated</li><li>• <i>New England Loyal Publication Society</i>, Boston, Mass., 1864</li><li>• <i>New York Recorder</i>, New York, N.Y., 1854</li><li>• <i>Protestant Vindicator</i>, New York, N.Y., 1842, 1845</li><li>• <i>The Soldier's Friend</i>, New York, N.Y., 1869</li></ul>
BOX OV 2	Workingmen's Democratic Republican Association and other political material, 1842-1885, undated <a href="#">Digital content available</a> Includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "A Challenge!," 1863</li><li>• "A Great Fraud," 1863</li><li>• "A Traitor's Peace!" undated</li><li>• "Address on the School Question, by the Ninth Ward Committee," 1842</li><li>• "Attention: Discussion of the Tariff and Slavery Questions," Clay Club County Committee, 1844</li><li>• "Dan'l O'Connell on Democracy!" 1863</li><li>• "Don't Unchain the Tiger!" 1863, 1872, undated</li><li>• "To the Laboring Men of New York," 1863, 1864</li></ul>