

# **Browning Family 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.  
2010**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70053140>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009325>

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Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Browning Family Papers

**Span Dates:** 1824-1917

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1835-1855)

**ID No.:** MSS53140

**Creator:** Browning family

**Extent:** 900 items

**Extent:** 3 containers

**Extent:** 2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70053140>

**Summary:** Browning family members including Robert Lewright Browning (1803-1850), naval officer, his wife Eleanor Hanlon Browning, and their sons, Robert Lewright Browning (1835-1860), marine officer, and Charles Henry Browning (1846-1926), genealogist. Correspondence, journals, biographical file, genealogical and other notes, newspaper clippings, and printed material of the Browning family.

## 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

Bache, Richard, -1850--Correspondence.

Browning family.

Browning, Charles Henry. Charles Henry Browning papers.

Browning, Eleanor Hanlon, 1809-1857. Eleanor Hanlon Browning papers.

Browning, Robert Lewright, 1803-1850. Robert Lewright Browning papers.

Browning, Robert Lewright, 1835-1860. Robert Lewright Browning papers.

Cushing, Caleb, 1800-1879--Correspondence.

Du Pont, Samuel Francis, 1803-1865--Correspondence.

Napoleon I, Emperor of the French, 1769-1821.

Sinclair, William A. (William Albert), -1858--Correspondence.

Sumpter, Thomas D.--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Congress (Frigate: 1841-1862)

Ohio (Ship of the line)

United States. Navy--History.

Vincennes (Sloop of war)

### Subjects

Crimean War, 1853-1856.

Napoleonic Wars, 1800-1815--Campaigns.

### Places

Mediterranean Region--Description and travel.

Oceania--Description and travel.

Odesa (Ukraine)--History--Bombardment, 1854.

San Juan de Ulúa Island (Mexico)--History--Bombardment, 1838.

South America--Description and travel.

United States--Armed Forces--Officers--Obituaries.

### Occupations

Genealogists.

Marine Corps officers.  
Naval officers.

## Provenance

The papers of Robert Lewright Browning (1803-1850), naval officer, and his two sons, Robert Lewright Browning (1835-1860), marine officer, and Charles Henry Browning, genealogist, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1964 and converted to a gift in 1998.

## Processing History

The papers of the Browning family were arranged and described in 1979. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Browning family 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, Browning Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Notes

### Robert Lewright Browning (1803-1850)

Date	Event
1803, May 22	Born, Mason County, Ky.
1823	Commissioned midshipman, United States Navy
1829	Married Eleanor Agnes Hanlon
1832	Promoted to lieutenant
1833-1836	Duty in <i>Vincennes</i> (sloop of war), Pacific Squadron
1838	Duty in <i>Ohio</i> (ship of the line), Mediterranean Squadron
1842-1844	Executive officer, <i>Congress</i> (frigate)
1847	Commanded <i>Petrel</i> (schooner)
1850, Mar. 27	Drowned, Trinidad Bay, Calif.

### Robert Lewright Browning (1835-1860)

Date	Event
1835	Born, Dayton, Ohio
1852	Appointed second lieutenant, United States Marine Corps
1853	Duty in <i>Savannah</i> (sailing frigate), South American Squadron
1857	Duty in <i>Germantown</i> (sloop)

1858	Promoted to first lieutenant
1859	Duty in <i>Levant</i> (sloop of war)
1860	Lost at sea while attached to <i>Levant</i> (sloop of war), Coast Survey Service

### Charles Henry Browning

Date	Event
1846, Aug. 5	Born, Cincinnati, Ohio
1876	Philadelphia, Pa., correspondent, <i>New York Herald</i>
1883	Published <i>Americans of Royal Descent</i> . Philadelphia: Porter & Coates
1884	Married Katharine A. Campbell
1894-1900	Editor in chief, <i>American Historical Register</i>
1898	Published <i>Magna Charta Barons and Their American Descendants with the Pedigrees of the Founders of the Order of Runnemedede Deduced from the Sureties for the Enforcement of the Statutes of the Magna Charta of King John</i> . Philadelphia
1900	Published <i>Some "Colonial Dames" of Royal Descent. Pedigrees Showing the Lineal Descent from Kings of Some Members of the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, and of the Order of the Crown</i> . Philadelphia
1912	Published <i>Welsh Settlement of Pennsylvania</i> . Philadelphia: W. J. Campbell
1926, June 4	Died, Devon, Pa.

## Scope and Content Note

The Browning Family papers consist of papers of Robert Lewright Browning (1803-1850), naval officer, his wife, Eleanor Hanlon Browning (1809-1857), and their sons, Robert Lewright Browning (1835-1860), marine officer, and Charles Henry Browning (1846-1926), genealogist. The material spans the years from 1824 to 1917 with the bulk falling between 1835 and 1855. Included are private journals, a letterbook, correspondence, biographical file, holograph notes, newspaper clippings, and printed matter.

In a journal kept on the *Vincennes* (sloop of war), the elder Browning wrote notes on the South Sea Islands and their people. In a second journal, kept by him on the *Ohio* (ship of the line) and *Congress* (frigate), there are descriptions of Mediterranean and South American countries, copies of letters written to his wife, copies of letters from the wardroom officers to James Kirke Paulding, Isaac Hull, and Joseph Smith, and watercolors of the Turkish people. Both journals have been amended, and in the second one obituaries of naval officers who had served on these particular ships have been added. In a journal kept by the younger Robert L. Browning, there is material relating to the United States Navy, Napoleon's campaigns, the bombardment of Odesa (1854), and the attack on San Juan de Uloa (1838). The journal also includes verses, copies of a few official letters, and many personal letters. Added to the journal are genealogical notes written by his brother, Charles Henry Browning.

In a letterbook of the elder Browning are letters written by Eleanor Hanlon Browning to her husband. The correspondence files contain a few orders to duty and official letters, but the majority of the items are letters from members of the family, naval officers, and civilian friends. Some of the correspondents are Richard Bache, Robert Buchanan, Caleb Cushing, Samuel Francis Du Pont, John S. Missroon, William Sinclair, Thomas D. Sumpter, and Alexander S. Wadsworth.

## Arrangement of the Papers

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

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Private journals and letterbooks
BOX 1	Browning, Robert Lewright (1803-1850)
BOX 1	Journal
BOX 1	<i>Vincennes</i> (sloop of war), 1835-1838
BOX 1	<i>Ohio</i> (ship of the line) and <i>Congress</i> (frigate), 1838-1842
BOX 1	Letterbook, 1841-1844
BOX 1	Browning, Robert Lewright (1835-1860)
BOX 1	Journal, <i>Savannah</i> (sailing frigate) and <i>Germantown</i> (sloop), 1853-1857
BOX 2	Correspondence and miscellany
BOX 2	Correspondence
BOX 2	1832-1851
BOX 3	1852-1895, undated
BOX 3	Biographical file, undated
BOX 3	Holograph notes, [1832-1838]
BOX 3	Newspaper clippings, 1865-1917
BOX 3	Printed matter, 1877-1891
BOX 3	Unpublished story, undated