

# **William F. Fullam 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.  
2023**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70050096>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010023>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010  
Revised 2023 May

## Collection Summary

**Title:** William F. Fullam Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1873-1942

**Bulk Dates:** 1906-1922

**ID No.:** MSS50096

**Creator:** Fullam, William F. (William Freeland), 1855-1926

**Extent:** 3,850 items

**Extent:** 10 containers

**Extent:** 3 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70050096>

**Summary:** Naval officer and journalist. Correspondence, bulletins, biographical data, naval news sheets, radio dispatches, reports, orders, commissions, transcripts of congressional testimony, writings, photographs, clippings, and other records relating to Fullam'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

Benson, William Shepherd, 1855-1932.

Borah, William Edgar, 1865-1940.

Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948.

Fullam, William F. (William Freeland), 1855-1926.

Mitchell, William, 1879-1936.

Schumann-Heink, Ernestine, 1861-1936.

### Organizations

United States. Navy--Aviation.

United States. Navy--Foreign service--Caribbean Area.

United States. Navy--Foreign service--West Indies.

United States. Navy--Reorganization.

### Subjects

Spanish-American War, 1898--Campaigns--Cuba.

Spanish-American War, 1898--Naval operations, American.

### Places

Caribbean Area--History, Naval.

### Occupations

Journalists.

Naval officers.

## Acquisition Information

The papers of William F. Fullam, naval officer and journalist, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1952 by the Naval Historical Foundation and converted to a gift in 1998.

## Processing History

The papers of William F. Fullam were arranged and described by Ruth S. Nicholson in 1973. The collection was revised in 2010. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William F. Fullam is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of William F. Fullam 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, William F. Fullam Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1855, Oct. 20	Born, Pittsford, N.Y.
1877	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1879-1883	Duty on the <i>Swatara</i> , Asiatic Station
1883-1887	Instructor, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1885	Married Mariana W. Robinson
1886	Promoted to lieutenant
1887-1891	Duty on the <i>Boston</i> (sloop of war), <i>Yorktown</i> , and <i>Chicago</i>
1891-1894	Instructor, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1894-1897	Duty on the <i>Raleigh</i> and <i>Amphitrite</i>
1898	Duty on the <i>New Orleans</i> , Spanish-American War Instructor at United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1899	Published <i>Handbook for Infantry and Artillery, United States Navy</i> . Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute
1900-1902	Executive officer, <i>Lancaster</i> (sloop of war)
1902	Published <i>The Recruit's Handy Book</i> . Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute Published <i>The Petty Officer's Drill Book</i> . Annapolis, Md.: Naval Institute
1902-1904	Instructor, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1905	Commanded the <i>Terror</i> and the <i>Glacier</i> Promoted to commander
1906-1907	Commanded the <i>Marietta</i> (gunboat) during Cuban, Caribbean, and Central American politico-military actions
1907-1909	Commanded the Naval Training Station, Newport, R.I.
1909	Promoted to captain
1909-1911	Commanded the <i>Mississippi</i> (battleship)
1911-1913	Commandant, Naval Training Station, Great Lakes, III.

1914	Promoted to rear admiral
1914-1915	Superintendent, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1915-1917	Commander in chief, United States Pacific Reserve Fleet
1917-1919	Commander, Patrol Force, United States Pacific Fleet
1919	Retired from the United States Navy
1926, Sept. 23	Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Freeland Fullam (1855-1926) span the years 1873-1942, with the bulk of the material falling in the period 1906-1922. The papers consist of correspondence, orders to duty, speeches and writings, newspaper clippings, printed matter, photographs, and miscellaneous items and are organized into the following series: [General Correspondence and Orders to Duty](#), [Speech, Article, and Book File](#), and [Miscellany](#).

Fullam's correspondence and the columns he wrote for the *New York Tribune* in the 1920s reflect his views on the removal of United States marines from cruising ships, the reorganization of the Navy Department and the coordination of its bureaus, the superiority of air power, the conduct of World War I operations, and other military topics.

The papers also provide insight into American foreign policy in the Caribbean and Central American areas where Fullam had patrolled the coastal waters of Santo Domingo, Cuba, Honduras, and Nicaragua in 1906 and 1907.

Prominent among Fullam's correspondents are Philip Andrews, William S. Benson, Victor Blue, Josephus Daniels, Edwain Denby, George Dewey, Bradley A. Fiske, Albert Gleaves, Ernestine Schumann-Heink, Harris Laning, Blair Lee, Stephen B. Luce, Charles B. McVay, William A. Mitchell, James H. Oliver, John E. Pillsbury, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Seaton Schroeder, William S. Sims, and Richard Wainwright.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [General Correspondence and Orders to Duty, 1877-1926](#)
- [Speech, Article, and Book File, 1893-1924](#)
- [Miscellany, 1873-1942](#)

## Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-6	<p><b><u>General Correspondence and Orders to Duty, 1877-1926</u></b></p> <p>Letters received and drafts of letters sent. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.</p>
BOX 7-8	<p><b><u>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1893-1924</u></b></p> <p>Articles, historical sketches, notes, reports, statements, and miscellaneous items. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>
BOX 9-10	<p><b><u>Miscellany, 1873-1942</u></b></p> <p>Biographical material, photographs, printed matter, and other miscellaneous items. Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.</p>

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-6	<b>General Correspondence and Orders to Duty, 1877-1926</b> Letters received and drafts of letters sent. Arranged by type of material and therein chronologically.
BOX 1	Letters received and drafts of letters sent
BOX 1	1883-1907, Mar.
BOX 2	1907, Apr.-Aug.
BOX 3	1908, Sept.-1916, Apr.
BOX 4	1916, May-1917, Dec.
BOX 5	1918-1920
BOX 6	1921-1926
BOX 6	Orders to duty, 1877-1914
BOX 7-8	<b>Speech, Article, and Book File, 1893-1924</b> Articles, historical sketches, notes, reports, statements, and miscellaneous items. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 7	Articles
BOX 7	Copies of articles and speeches, typewritten, 1917-1918, undated
BOX 7	Magazine clippings, 1894-1923
BOX 7	Newspaper clippings
BOX 7	By or about Fullam, 1919-1923, undated
BOX 7	Published by Fullam in the <i>New York Tribune</i> under his pseudonym "Quarterdeck," 1920-1922
BOX 7	Congressional and official statements and reports
BOX 7	Senate Subcommittee of the Committee on Naval Affairs, 1920
BOX 7	United States Congress Aircraft Investigating Committee, 1924
BOX 7	United States Navy Board on the bombing of German ships, undated
BOX 7	Withdrawal of marines from cruising ships, 1893-1913
BOX 8	Historical data (1915-1919) and reports on the United States Pacific Fleet
BOX 8	Historical sketch (1844-1906) and reports on Santo Domingo
BOX 8	Holograph notes and preface for an unpublished book, "Three Plane Navy"
BOX 8	Miscellaneous notes
BOX 8	Notes on the Battle of Tsushima
BOX 8	Photostatic copies of data prepared for the United States Congress on "Treaty Navies," listing statistics on the navies of the United States, Great Britain, and Japan 1924
BOX 8	Typewritten manuscript of an unpublished essay, "Campaign of 1812"
BOX 9-10	<b>Miscellany, 1873-1942</b> Biographical material, photographs, printed matter, and other miscellaneous items. Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.
BOX 9	Biographical file, undated

## Miscellany, 1873-1942

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
BOX 9	Commissions, 1873-1914
BOX 9	Newspaper clippings and printed matter, 1892-1942
BOX 10	Photographs, 1876-1925

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