

Lewis M. Haupt Papers
A Finding Aid to the 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/mm73025296>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010043>

Prepared by Don Schewe

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

Collection Summary

Title: Lewis M. Haupt Papers

Span Dates: 1849-1923

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1892-1903)

ID No.: MSS25296

Creator: Haupt, Lewis M. (Lewis Muhlenberg), b. 1844

Extent: 3,000 items

Extent: 9 containers

Extent: 4.0 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm73025296>

Summary: Civil engineer and public official. Correspondence, minutes, memoranda, reports, speeches, and articles relating to the selection of a route for an isthmian canal and to Haupt's efforts to secure the Nicaraguan route includes records of the Nicaraguan Canal Commission and the Isthmian Canal Commission, with further material relating to Herman Haupt and his duties as chief of construction and operation of the United States Bureau of Military Railroads during the Civil War.

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

Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.

Bryan, William Jennings, 1860-1925--Correspondence.

Carnegie, Andrew, 1835-1919--Correspondence.

Haupt, Herman, 1817-1905. Herman Haupt letterbook. 1861-1863.

Haupt, Lewis M. (Lewis Muhlenberg), 1844-1937.

Hay, John, 1838-1905--Correspondence.

Morgan, John Tyler, 1824-1907--Correspondence.

Search, Theodore C.--Correspondence.

Organizations

Isthmian Canal Commission (U.S.) Isthmian Canal Commission (U.S.) records.

Nicaraguan Canal Commission (U.S.) Nicaraguan Canal Commission (U.S.) records.

United States. Bureau of Military Railroads.

Subjects

Canals--Nicaragua.

Military railroads.

Occupations

Civil engineers.

Public officials--Pennsylvania.

Provenance

The papers of Lewis M. Haupt, civil engineer and public official, were purchased by the Library of Congress, 1930-1938.

Processing History

The papers of Lewis M. Haupt were arranged and described in 1972. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Additional Guides

The Lewis M. Haupt Papers are mentioned in *Report of the Librarian of Congress, 1930*, p. 77. A list of the major correspondents along with the dates of their letters is kept in the Manuscript Division Reading Room with the finding aid.

Related Material

A related collection in the Manuscript Division is the John Tyler Morgan Papers.

Copyright Status

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

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Lewis M. Haupt in these papers and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Lewis M. Haupt 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, Lewis M. Haupt Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

| Date | Event |
|---------------|--|
| 1844, Mar. 21 | Born, Gettysburg, Pa. |
| 1863-1867 | Cadet, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y. |
| 1867-1869 | Engineer, United States Army |
| 1869-1872 | Topographical engineer, Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, Pa. |
| 1872-1892 | Professor of civil engineering, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, Pa. |
| 1873 | Married Isabella Christina Cromwell |
| 1892-1937 | Private engineering practice, Philadelphia, Pa. |
| 1897-1899 | Member, Nicaraguan Canal Commission |
| 1899-1902 | Member, Isthmian Canal Commission |
| 1904 | Won gold and silver medals for engineering feats, St. Louis Exposition, St. Louis, Mo. |
| 1911 | Patented automatic device for reclaiming eroded beaches |
| 1937, Mar. 10 | Died, Bala Cynwyd, Pa. |

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Lewis Muhlenberg Haupt (1844-1937) span the years, 1849-1923, with the bulk of the items dating from 1892 to 1903. A majority of the collection concerns Haupt's work for the Nicaraguan Canal Commission and the Isthmian Canal Commission and his attempts to secure the Nicaraguan Canal. The papers are in English and are organized into the

following series: [Family Papers](#), [Correspondence](#), [Records of the Nicaraguan and the Isthmian Canal Commissions](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The [Correspondence](#) deals exclusively with the canal question. Haupt was an advocate of the Nicaraguan route rather than the Panamanian, and lobbied for the former. Correspondence about his lobbying efforts are found in his letters to Senator John Tyler Morgan, the Senate advocate of the Nicaraguan route, and Theodore C. Search, president of the National Association of Manufacturers. The letters are arranged chronologically with an indexed letterbook for 1900 at the end of the correspondence.

The [Records of the Nicaraguan and the Isthmian Canal Commissions](#) contain minutes of commission meetings; internal memoranda; questionnaires; memorials sent to the commission; working papers; drawings and charts; newspaper clippings; congressional hearings, speeches, and proposed bills; and reports submitted to and prepared by the commission, including *Preliminary Report of the Isthmian Canal Commission* and drafts of the final report. The working papers consist of articles and statistical and climatological data on Central America; information on sizes, drafts, and weights of ships; and shipping rates. The internal memoranda are conjectural papers written for the commission by its members on the cost of building the canal, projected income and profits, and expected usage. The drawings and charts contain Haupt's projection of the Nicaraguan route and a map of the route printed in a contemporary journal.

The [Miscellany](#) file includes speeches and articles by Haupt supporting the canal route through Nicaragua and advertisements for his classes at the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia.

The [Family Papers](#) consist of typescripts of letters written by Haupt's father, Herman Haupt, between July 1861 and September 1862, a letterbook of Herman Haupt's correspondence from November 1862 to August 1863, and a letter from Haupt to his son Lewis M. Haupt in September 1863. These letters contain a large amount of family correspondence as well as official correspondence concerning Herman Haupt's duties as chief of construction and operation of the United States Bureau of Military Railroads during the Civil War.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Family Papers, 1861-1863](#)
- [Correspondence, 1890-1923](#)
- [Records of the Nicaraguan and the Isthmian Canal Commissions, 1849-1904](#)
- [Miscellany, 1895-1905](#)

Description of Series

| Container | Series |
|-----------|--|
| BOX 1 | <p><u>Family Papers, 1861-1863</u></p> <p>Typescripts of Herman Haupt's letters, a letterbook with index, and a letter to Lewis M. Haupt. Arranged chronologically.</p> |
| BOX 2-3 | <p><u>Correspondence, 1890-1923</u></p> <p>Letters received and copies of letters sent relating to the isthmian canal. Arranged chronologically with a letterbook from 1900 at the end.</p> |
| BOX 4-8 | <p><u>Records of the Nicaraguan and the Isthmian Canal Commissions, 1849-1904</u></p> <p>Minutes, internal memoranda, questionnaires, working papers, memorials, reports, drawings, charts, newspaper clippings, and congressional hearings and speeches. Arranged by type of material.</p> |
| BOX 9 | <p><u>Miscellany, 1895-1905</u></p> <p>Advertisements, articles, and speeches. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p> |

Container List

| Container | Contents |
|----------------|--|
| BOX 1 | Family Papers, 1861-1863 Typescripts of Herman Haupt's letters, a letterbook with index, and a letter to Lewis M. Haupt. Arranged chronologically. |
| BOX 1 | Letters of Herman Haupt, typescripts, July 1861-Sept. 1862 |
| BOX 1 | Letterbook of Herman Haupt, Nov. 1862-Aug. 1863 |
| BOX 1 | Letter from Herman Haupt to Lewis M. Haupt, 1863 |
| BOX 2-3 | Correspondence, 1890-1923 Letters received and copies of letters sent relating to the isthmian canal. Arranged chronologically with a letterbook from 1900 at the end. |
| BOX 2 | 1890-1900 |
| BOX 3 | 1901-1923, undated (5 folders) |
| BOX 3 | Letterbook, 1900 |
| BOX 4-8 | Records of the Nicaraguan and the Isthmian Canal Commissions, 1849-1904 Minutes, internal memoranda, questionnaires, working papers, memorials, reports, drawings, charts, newspaper clippings, and congressional hearings and speeches. Arranged by type of material. |
| BOX 4 | Internal memoranda, 1893-1904, undated (3 folders) |
| BOX 4 | Memorials to the commission, 1898-1903 |
| BOX 4 | Minutes of meetings, 1899-1902, undated |
| BOX 4 | Questionnaires sent by the commission, 1899 |
| BOX 5 | Drawings and charts, circa 1887 |
| BOX 5 | Working papers, 1849, 1892-1902 (4 folders) |
| BOX 6 | Congressional hearings, speeches, and documents, 1892-1901 |
| BOX 6 | Newspaper clippings, circa 1898-circa 1903 |
| BOX 6 | Reports, undated (3 folders) |
| BOX 7 | (4 folders) |
| BOX 8 | <i>Preliminary Report of the Isthmian Canal Commission</i> , 1900 |
| BOX 8 | Final report, drafts, circa 1901 (4 folders) |
| BOX 9 | Miscellany, 1895-1905 Advertisements, articles, and speeches. Arranged alphabetically by type of material. |
| BOX 9 | Advertisements for classes at Franklin Institute, Philadelphia, Pa., 1898-1901 |

Miscellany, 1895-1905

Container Contents

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| BOX 9 | Articles, circa 1895-1905 |
| BOX 9 | Speeches, 1902-1905 |