

Robert Anderson Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2009

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78010967>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010047>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010

Collection Summary

Title: Robert Anderson Papers

Span Dates: 1819-1948

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1836-1870)

ID No.: MSS10967

Creator: Anderson, Robert, 1805-1871

Extent: 5,000 items

Extent: 19 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 5 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78010967>

Summary: United States Army officer. Correspondence, letterbooks, printed material, writings, and official documents relating to Anderson's military duty in the Black Hawk War, Mexican War, and Civil War, and to his writings on coast defense, ordnance, and artillery tactics. Includes papers of his daughter, Eba Anderson Lawton, historian and biographer of her father.

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

Anderson, Larz, 1866-1937--Correspondence.

Anderson, Robert, 1805-1871.

Bache, A. D. (Alexander Dallas), 1806-1867--Correspondence.

Barnum, P. T. (Phineas Taylor), 1810-1891--Correspondence.

Beauregard, G. T. (Gustave Toutant), 1818-1893--Correspondence.

Cameron, Simon, 1799-1889--Correspondence.

Clinch, Duncan Lamont, 1787-1849--Correspondence.

Cooper, Samuel, 1798-1876--Correspondence.

Crawford, Samuel Wylie, 1829-1892--Correspondence.

Crittenden, John J. (John Jordan), 1787-1863--Correspondence.

Dix, John A. (John Adams), 1798-1879--Correspondence.

Doubleday, Abner, 1819-1893--Correspondence.

Duane, Richard B. (Richard Bache), 1823-1875--Correspondence.

Fish, Hamilton, 1808-1893--Correspondence.

Harllee, W. W. (William Wallace), 1812-1897--Correspondence.

Hatch, L. M. (Lewis M.), approximately 1814--Correspondence.

Holt, Joseph, 1807-1894--Correspondence.

Jamison, D. F. (David Flavel), 1810-1864--Correspondence.

Lawton, Eba Anderson, -1919. Eba Anderson Lawton papers.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Correspondence.

Magrath, A. G. (Andrew Gordon), 1813-1893--Correspondence.

Pickens, F. W. (Francis Wilkinson), 1805-1869--Correspondence.

Scott, Winfield, 1786-1866--Correspondence.

Sherman, William T. (William Tecumseh), 1820-1891--Correspondence.

Stanton, Edwin M. (Edwin McMasters), 1814-1869--Correspondence.

Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874--Correspondence.

Thomas, Lorenzo, 1804-1875--Correspondence.

Willard, G. L. (George L.)--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Army--Artillery.

United States. Army--History.
United States. Army--Ordnance and ordnance stores.
United States. Army. Department of Kentucky.
United States. Army. Department of the Cumberland.

Subjects

Batteries (Ordnance)--South Carolina.
Black Hawk War, 1832.
Coast defenses--United States.
Fortification--South Carolina.
Mexican War, 1846-1848.

Places

Fort Moultrie (S.C.)
Fort Sumter (Charleston, S.C.)
South Carolina--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

Occupations

Army officers.

Provenance

The papers of Robert Anderson, United States Army officer, were given to the Library of Congress by Maria and Sophie Anderson in 1922. Additional material was transferred from the Library of Congress Archives in 1989.

Processing History

The collection was processed in 1954. The finding aid was revised in 2000 and again in 2009.

Additional Guides

A card index of correspondents in the Anderson Papers is available for use in the Manuscript Division Reading Room.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Robert Anderson 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, Robert Anderson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1805, June 14	Born, Louisville, Ky.
1821-1825	Cadet, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1825	Second lieutenant, Third Artillery
1825-1826	Secretary to United States minister to Colombia
1826-1828	In garrison, Ft. Monroe, Va.
1828-1832	On ordnance duty
1832	Served in the Black Hawk War
1834	At Fort Constitution, N.H.
1835-1837	At United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1837-1838	In the Florida War
1838	Aide-de-camp to General Winfield Scott
1838-1841	Assistant adjutant general, Eastern Department
1841-1843	On Board of Officers to examine his "Instruction for Field Artillery"
1845-1846	In garrison, Fort Moultrie, S.C.
1847	Served in Mexican War
1848-1853	In garrison, Fort Preble, Me.
1853-1854	Governor, United States Branch Military Asylum, Harrisburg, Ky.
1855-1859	Inspector of Iron Work, Trenton, N.J.
1860-1861	In command, Defences of Charleston, S.C.
1861	In command, Department of Kentucky and the Cumberland
1863	In command, Fort Adams, R.I.
1865	Raised the flag at Fort Sumter, S.C.
1871	Died, Nice, France

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Robert Anderson (1805-1871) span the years 1819-1948, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period 1836-1870. Included in the collection are correspondence and letterbooks, printed matter, drafts of writings, and official documents. Part of the material relates to Anderson's military duty in the Black Hawk War and Mexican War and to his writings on coast defense, ordnance, and artillery tactics. Chief interest centers in his prominent role at the outbreak of the Civil War, when he was commander of the Union garrison during the bombardment of Fort Sumter. Also in the collection are the papers of Anderson's daughter, Eba Anderson Lawton, historian and biographer of her father.

Correspondents include Larz Anderson, A. D. Bache, P. T. Barnum, G. T. Beaugard, Duncan Lamont Clinch, Samuel Wylie Crawford, John J. Crittenden, John A. Dix, Abner Doubleday, Hamilton Fish, Joseph Holt, Abraham Lincoln, F. W. Pickens, Winfield Scott, William T. Sherman, Edwin McMasters Stanton, and Charles Sumner.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [General Correspondence, 1819-1870](#)
- [Miscellany, 1838-1911](#)
- [Eba Anderson Lawton Papers, 1833-1919](#)
- [Addition, 1861-1948](#)
- [Oversize](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-17	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1819-1870</u></p> <p>Bound volumes of correspondence, including a journal of 1838-1841, followed by a letterbook and loose correspondence.</p> <p>Bound volumes of correspondence are arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 17-18	<p><u>Miscellany, 1838-1911</u></p> <p>Presentation copies of books, clippings and other printed matter, commissions, and miscellaneous material.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.</p>
BOX 19	<p><u>Eba Anderson Lawton Papers, 1833-1919</u></p> <p>Mainly letters received by Lawton regarding Robert Anderson.</p> <p>Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 19	<p><u>Addition, 1861-1948</u></p> <p>Photocopies of annotated drawing by Truman Seymour of Cummings Point near Fort Sumter, S.C.</p>
BOX OV 1	<p><u>Oversize</u></p> <p>Commissions and certificates.</p> <p>Described according to the series and container from which it was removed.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-17	General Correspondence, 1819-1870 Bound volumes of correspondence, including a journal of 1838-1841, followed by a letterbook and loose correspondence. Bound volumes of correspondence are arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	Includes journal for 1838-1841, 13 Dec. 1819-5 Mar. 1836, 1838-1841
BOX 2	9 Mar. 1836-21 Sept. 1839
BOX 3	23 Sept. 1839-29 Mar. 1842
BOX 4	30 Mar. 1842-7 Feb. 1846
BOX 5	9 Feb. 1846-1 Apr. 1847
BOX 6	4 Apr. 1847-19 Sept. 1853
BOX 7	26 Sept. 1853-12 Nov. 1859
BOX 8	15 Nov. 1859-28 Dec. 1860
BOX 9	29 Dec. 1860-10 Jan. 1861
BOX 10	11 Jan. 1861-12 Feb. 1861
BOX 11	13 Feb.-11 Apr. 1861
BOX 12	12 Apr.-17 May 1861
BOX 13	18 May-24 Aug. 1861
BOX 14	25 Aug. 1861-7 Jan. 1862
BOX 15	9 Jan. 1862-12 May 1864
BOX 16	14 May 1864-29 Aug. 1870, undated
BOX 17	Letterbook of correspondence written from Trenton, N. J., 8 Jan. 1856-24 Oct. 1859
BOX 17	Letters
BOX 17	To Nathaniel Silsbee, 22 June 1858
BOX 17	To Nathaniel Silsbee, 9 Dec. 1859
BOX 17	To Nathaniel Silsbee, 26 Jan. 1861
BOX 17	To Lloyd Tilghman, 20 Mar. 1861
BOX 17	To Nathaniel Silsbee, 30 May 1861
BOX 17-18	Miscellany, 1838-1911 Presentation copies of books, clippings and other printed matter, commissions, and miscellaneous material. Arranged alphabetically by subject or type of material.
BOX 17	Book of clippings about Anderson, including letters from authors who dedicated hymns and poems to Anderson, 2 Jan. 1861-Oct. 1871
BOX 17	Commissions and certificates <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 17	Discharge certificate of Jean Botzy, First Regiment de Chasseurs d'Afrique, 31 Dec. 1838
BOX 17	"Evolutions of Batteries," 1840, published in 1860 by United States War Department, <i>Evolutions of Field Batteries of Artillery</i> , 1840; 1860
BOX 17	"Instruction for Siege, Garrison, & Sea Coast Artillery," including draft of "Evolutions of Field Batteries of Artillery," 1843
BOX 17	Photolitho facsimile of telegram, Anderson to Simon Cameron, 18 Apr. 1861

Miscellany, 1838-1911

Container	Contents
BOX 17	Presentation volumes
BOX 17	<i>Soldier and Pioneer: a Biographical Sketch of Lt. Col. Richard C. Anderson of the Continental Army</i> by E. L. Anderson (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1879. 63 pp.)
BOX 17	<i>Major Robert Anderson and Fort Sumter 1861</i> , by Eba Anderson Lawton (New York: Knickerbacker Press, 1911. 19 pp.)
BOX 17	<i>The Political Conspiracies Preceding the Rebellion or The True Stories of Sumter and Pickens</i> , by Thomas M. Anderson (New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1882. 100 pp.)
BOX 17	<i>Within Fort Sumter by One of the Company</i> (New York: N. Tibbals & Co., 1861. 72 pp.)
BOX 18	Miscellaneous clippings and printed matter
BOX 18	Activities of Eba Anderson Lawton (daughter)
BOX 18	Attack on Fort Sumter, S.C.
BOX 19	Eba Anderson Lawton Papers, 1833-1919 Mainly letters received by Lawton regarding Robert Anderson. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 19	Letters received by Lawton pertaining to a memorial to Robert Anderson, the Fort Sumter, S.C., flag controversy, and the publication of "The History of the Soldier's Home," 1833-1919
BOX 19	Addition, 1861-1948 Photocopies of annotated drawing by Truman Seymour of Cummings Point near Fort Sumter, S.C.
BOX 19	Annotated drawing of Cummings Point near Fort Sumter, S.C., by Truman Seymour, negative and positive photocopies, 1861, 1948
BOX OV 1	Oversize Commissions and certificates. Described according to the series and container from which it was removed.
BOX OV 1	Commissions and certificates (Container 17)