

**John Archer Lejeune Papers**  
**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**2024**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79029884>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010133>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Manuscript Division staff, 2010  
Revised 2024 January

## Collection Summary

**Title:** John Archer Lejeune Papers

**Inclusive Dates:** 1815-1950

**Bulk Dates:** 1900-1942

**ID No.:** MSS29884

**Creator:** Lejeune, John Archer, 1867-1942

**Extent:** 6,125 items

**Extent:** 21 containers

**Extent:** 8.2 linear feet

**Extent:** 16 microfilm reels

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79029884>

**Summary:** Marine Corps officer and educator. Family and general correspondence, memoranda, speeches and writings, notes, military papers, and printed matter relating to Lejeune's education and his military 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

Ausland, John E., 1896-1975--Correspondence.  
Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.  
Barnett, George Ernest, 1873-1938--Correspondence.  
Black, Hugo LaFayette, 1886-1971--Correspondence.  
Butler, Smedley D. (Smedley Darlington), 1881-1940--Correspondence.  
Craig, John Houston--Correspondence.  
Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.  
Dorrance, Gordon, 1890-1957--Correspondence.  
Harbord, James G. (James Guthrie), 1866-1947--Correspondence.  
Keyser, R. S.--Correspondence.  
Kilbourne, Charles Evans, 1872-1963--Correspondence.  
Lane, Rufus Herman, 1870-1948--Correspondence.  
Lejeune family--Correspondence.  
Lejeune, Augustine, 1860-1935--Correspondence.  
Lejeune, Ellie, 1872-1953--Correspondence.  
Lejeune, John Archer, 1867-1942.  
Long, Charles Grant, 1869-1943--Correspondence.  
Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948--Correspondence.  
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.  
Russell, John H. (John Henry), 1872-1947--Correspondence.  
Summerall, Charles Pelot, 1867-1955--Correspondence.  
Trammell, Park, 1876-1936--Correspondence.  
Trout, Hugh Henry, 1878-1950--Correspondence.  
Vinson, Carl, 1883-1981--Correspondence.  
Waller, Littleton Waller Tazewell, Jr., 1886-1967--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Cincinnati (Cruiser)  
Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.)--Students.  
United States Naval Academy--Students.  
United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces.  
United States. Marine Corps--Foreign service--Haiti.

United States. Marine Corps--Foreign service--Mexico--Veracruz-Llave (State)  
United States. Marine Corps--Foreign service--Panama.  
United States. Marine Corps--Foreign service--Samoan Islands.  
Vandalia (Screw sloop)  
Virginia Military Institute.

### **Subjects**

Hurricanes--Samoan Islands.  
Military education--United States.  
Spanish-American War, 1898--Naval operations.  
World War, 1914-1918--France.  
World War, 1914-1918--United States.

### **Occupations**

Educators.  
Marine Corps officers.

## **Acquisition Information**

The papers of John Archer Lejeune were given to the Library of Congress by his daughters, Eugenia D. Lejeune and Laura T. Lejeune, in 1961. An addition includes items purchased by the Library in 2021.

## **Processing History**

The papers of John Archer Lejeune were arranged and described in 1961 by Audrey Walker and reprocessed for microfilming in 1980. The finding aid was revised in 2009. An addition was processed in 2022 by Miles Lawlor.

## **Transfers**

Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the John Archer Lejeune Papers. Patrons are encouraged to contact the Prints and Photographs Division in advance of a research visit.

## **Copyright Status**

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

## **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of John Archer Lejeune 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.

## **Microfilm**

A microfilm edition of a portion of these papers is available on sixteen reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. *To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.*

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, John Archer Lejeune Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1867, Jan. 10	Born, Pointe Coupée Parish, La.
1881-1884	Attended Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.
1888	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1890	Commissioned second lieutenant, United States Marine Corps
1895	Married Ellie Harrison Murdaugh (died 1953)
1898	Commanded battalion of marines aboard the <i>Cincinnati</i> (cruiser) during the Spanish-American War
1903-1904	Commanded battalion of marines, Isthmus of Panama
1908-1909	Commanded brigade of marines, the Philippines
1909-1910	Attended Army War College, Carlisle, Pa.
1914	Commanded brigade of marines during capture of Vera Cruz, Mexico, and commanded regiment of marines as part of the army of occupation of that city
1915-1917	Assistant to the commandant, United States Marine Corps
1917	Commander, Marine Barracks, Quantico, Va.
1918	Commissioned major general
1918-1919	Commander, 2nd Division, American Expeditionary Forces, World War I
1920-1929	Commandant, United States Marine Corps; retired, 1929
1929-1937	Superintendent, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.
1930	Published <i>The Reminiscences of a Marine</i> . Philadelphia: Dorrance
1942, Nov. 20	Died, Baltimore, Md.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Archer Lejeune (1867-1942) span the years 1815-1950, with the bulk of the material concentrated between the years 1900-1942. The collection consists of correspondence, memoranda, miscellaneous notes, speeches and writings, military papers, and printed matter organized in six series: [Family Correspondence](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Writings File](#), [Military Papers](#), [Miscellany](#), and [2022 Addition](#).

Although the correspondence is sparse for the years prior to 1920, the collection contains letters and papers that highlight major events in Lejeune's early military career such as his conduct aboard the *Vandalia* (screw sloop) in the 1889 hurricane at Apia, Samoa, his service on the *Cincinnati* (cruiser) during the Spanish-American War, and the landing and occupation of Vera Cruz by the marines. Several letters from Littleton W. T. Waller, Smedley D. Butler, and John Henry Russell relating to the situation in Haiti in 1915-1916, as well as a detailed report assessing conditions in that country in 1920, are in the [General Correspondence](#). However, the largest group of military papers pertains to the operations of the 2nd Division, American Expeditionary Forces, during World War I. In addition to letters in the [General Correspondence](#) series, the papers contain field orders, general orders, intelligence reports, and other documents in the [Military Papers](#) series and a history of the 2nd Division in the [Miscellany](#) series. Lejeune's military career reached its zenith with his appointment as commandant of the United States Marine Corps. From 1920 to his retirement in 1929, Lejeune's correspondence reveals his concern for establishing the corps on a permanent peacetime basis and for enhancing its public image. Lejeune told the story of his life in the marines in the autobiographical *Reminiscences of a Marine*, published in 1930.

Another view of Lejeune's military career can be discerned from the letters he wrote to his sister, Augustine L. Lejeune, between 1882 and 1931. Beginning with Lejeune's school days at Louisiana State University and at the United States Naval

Academy, these letters often contain personal observations, details, and informal descriptions of military operations and tours of duty covered in the other series.

The most voluminous segment of correspondence in the Lejeune Papers covers the years 1929-1937, when he was superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute. Most of the letters are from admirers seeking photographs and autographs, from veterans or the families of marines who served under his command, and from various educational, religious, civic, and veterans' organizations inviting Lejeune to deliver speeches, visit their cities, or participate in their programs. Several letters are requests for assistance in securing promotions, commissions, and appointments or in having changes made in service records. Lejeune's continued dedication to the marine corps during his retirement years is also manifested in his letters supporting various naval appropriation bills, and in his responses to inquiries during the 1935 Senate Naval Committee's investigation of the marine corps.

A file of clippings within the collection recapitulates Lejeune's career as depicted in newspapers and magazines. Loosely arranged by subject, the file covers his military assignments, his association with Virginia Military Institute, and other material relating to Lejeune, the marine corps, and World War I. In some cases, articles from several newspapers describing the same news event are included in the file.

Correspondents include John E. Ausland, Newton Diehl Baker, George Ernest Barnett, Hugo LaFayette Black, Smedley D. Butler, John H. Craige, Josephus Daniels, Gordon Dorrance, James G. Harbord, R. S. Keyser, Charles Evans Kilbourne, Rufus Herman Lane, Charles Grant Long, John J. Pershing, Franklin D. Roosevelt, John Henry Russell, Charles Pelot Summerall, Park Trammell, Hugh Henry Trout, Carl D. Vinson, and Littleton W. T. Waller.

The final series, the [2022 Addition](#), consists of letters written by Lejeune to Ellie, his wife, while stationed in France commanding the 2nd Division, American Expeditionary Forces during and immediately after World War I. The letters begin in late June 1918 and run through the duration of the war to November 1918, with a smattering of additional letters extending through December of 1919. Subjects covered in the letters include Lejeune's day-to-day activities while in command, discussions of American strategy and troop movements along the front, and Lejeune's reflections on the violence that he witnessed on the Western Front.

## Arrangement of the Collection

This collection is arranged in six series:

- [Family Correspondence, 1815-1942](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1889-1942](#)
- [Speeches and Writings File, 1912-1942](#)
- [Military Papers, 1912-1932](#)
- [Miscellany, 1888-1950](#)
- [2022 Addition, 1918-1919](#)

## Description of Series

<b>Container</b>	<b>Series</b>
BOX 1-3 REEL 1-3	<b><u>Family Correspondence, 1815-1942</u></b> Letters between family members, mainly by Lejeune to his sister, Augustine L. Lejeune. Arranged alphabetically by name of person.
BOX 3-10 REEL 3-9	<b><u>General Correspondence, 1889-1942</u></b> Letters received, drafts and copies of letters sent, telegrams, memoranda, and attachments. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 11-12 REEL 9-10	<b><u>Speeches and Writings File, 1912-1942</u></b> Speeches, drafts and notes for speeches, articles, book reviews, and correspondence. Arranged by type of material and chronologically within each file.
BOX 13 REEL 11	<b><u>Military Papers, 1912-1932</u></b> Unit citations and decorations, field orders, general orders, reports, and miscellaneous official non-personal military papers. Arranged by military unit and within by type of material.
BOX 14-20 REEL 11-16	<b><u>Miscellany, 1888-1950</u></b> Awards, biographical data, correspondence, financial papers, military orders to duty, medical and scholastic records, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 21 not filmed	<b><u>2022 Addition, 1918-1919</u></b> Letters from Lejeune to Ellie, his wife, while commanding the 2nd Division, American Expeditionary Forces, United States Army, during World War I. Arranged chronologically.

# Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18,062 and 18,062.1

<b>Container</b>	<b>Contents</b>
<b>BOX 1-3 REEL 1-3</b>	<b>Family Correspondence, 1815-1942</b> Letters between family members, mainly by Lejeune to his sister, Augustine L. Lejeune. Arranged alphabetically by name of person.
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Close, Phillip H.
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Drake, Kate A.
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Glennon, James B.
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Glennon, James B., Jr.
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	Lejeune, Augustine L.
<b>BOX 1 REEL 1</b>	1882-1907 (9 folders)
<b>BOX 2 REEL 2</b>	1908-1920 (10 folders)
<b>BOX 3 REEL 2</b>	1921-1931 (4 folders)
<b>BOX 3 REEL 2</b>	Lejeune, Ellie Murdaugh
<b>BOX 3 REEL 3</b>	Scott, William H.
<b>BOX 3 REEL 3</b>	Other family members
<b>BOX 3-10 REEL 3-9</b>	<b>General Correspondence, 1889-1942</b> Letters received, drafts and copies of letters sent, telegrams, memoranda, and attachments. Arranged chronologically.
<b>BOX 3 REEL 3</b>	1889-1918 (4 folders)
<b>BOX 4 REEL 4</b>	1919-1929 (5 folders)
<b>BOX 4 REEL 4</b>	1930
<b>BOX 4 REEL 4</b>	Jan.-Apr. (3 folders)
<b>BOX 5 REEL 4</b>	May-Dec. (6 folders)
<b>BOX 5 REEL 4</b>	1931
<b>BOX 5 REEL 4</b>	Jan.- Mar. (3 folders)
<b>BOX 6 REEL 4</b>	Apr.-Dec. (5 folders)
<b>BOX 6 REEL 5</b>	1932
<b>BOX 6 REEL 5</b>	Jan.-May (4 folders)
<b>BOX 7 REEL 6</b>	June-Dec.

## General Correspondence, 1889-1942

Container	Contents
BOX 7 REEL 6	1933-1934 (6 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 6	1935
BOX 8 REEL 6	Jan.-July (2 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 7	Aug.-Dec.
BOX 8 REEL 7	1936-1937 (3 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 8	1938-1940 (6 folders)
BOX 10 REEL 9	1941-1942, undated (6 folders)
BOX 11-12 REEL 9-10	<b>Speeches and Writings File, 1912-1942</b> Speeches, drafts and notes for speeches, articles, book reviews, and correspondence. Arranged by type of material and chronologically within each file.
BOX 11 REEL 9	Speeches
BOX 11 REEL 9	1921-1925 (2 folders)
BOX 11 REEL 10	1926-1938, undated (6 folders)
BOX 12 REEL 10	Articles
BOX 12 REEL 10	1919-1931
BOX 12 REEL 10	New Orleans <i>Times-Picayune</i> , 1939
BOX 12 REEL 10	Undated
BOX 12 REEL 10	Fragments
BOX 12 REEL 10	Correspondence relating to articles, 1931-1942
BOX 12 REEL 10	Book, <i>The Reminiscences of a Marine</i> (1930)
BOX 12 REEL 10	Book reviews
BOX 12 REEL 10	Correspondence from readers, 1930, Aug.-1935, Apr. (3 folders)
BOX 12 REEL 10	Correspondence with publisher, 1928-1932
BOX 12 REEL 10	Miscellaneous
BOX 13 REEL 11	<b>Military Papers, 1912-1932</b> Unit citations and decorations, field orders, general orders, reports, and miscellaneous official non-personal military papers. Arranged by military unit and within by type of material.
BOX 13 REEL 11	First Army Corps
BOX 13 REEL 11	Fifth Army Corps, field orders, 1918, 24 Oct.-12 Nov
BOX 13 REEL 11	Second Division
BOX 13 REEL 11	Citations and decorations
BOX 13 REEL 11	Field orders, 1918, May-1919, June (3 folders)
BOX 13 REEL 11	General orders, 1918-1919
BOX 13 REEL 11	Reports on military operations



## Military Papers, 1912-1932

Container	Contents
BOX 13 REEL 11	Miscellaneous
BOX 13 REEL 11	Miscellaneous, 1912-1932
BOX 14-20 REEL 11-16	<b>Miscellany, 1888-1950</b> Awards, biographical data, correspondence, financial papers, military orders to duty, medical and scholastic records, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 14 REEL 11	Lejeune, John Archer
BOX 14 REEL 11	Appointment as superintendent of Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va., 1929
BOX 14 REEL 11	Awards, decorations, and tributes, 1909-1934
BOX 14 REEL 11	Biographical data
BOX 14 REEL 11	Financial papers
BOX 14 REEL 12	Letters of congratulations on appointment as commandant, U.S. Marine Corps, 1920, June 3-Oct. 9 (4 folders)
BOX 14 REEL 12	Medical records
BOX 14 REEL 12	Memorabilia
BOX 15 REEL 13	Messages on retirement from marine corps, 1929 (2 folders)
BOX 15 REEL 13	Obituaries
BOX 15 REEL 13	Orders to duty, 1888-1929 (4 folders)
BOX 16 REEL 13	Posthumous awards
BOX 16 REEL 13	Promotions
BOX 16 REEL 13	Retirement from Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.
BOX 16 REEL 13	Scholastic records
BOX 16 REEL 13	Shipwreck at Apia, Samoa, Mar. 1889
BOX 16 REEL 13	Other material
BOX 16 REEL 13	“The Battle of Blanc Mont,” by Ernst Otto, typescript
BOX 16 REEL 14	Letters to Ellie M. Lejeune and Eugenia Lejeune, 1918-1950
BOX 16 REEL 14	Messages of sympathy on the death of Lejeune, 1942-1943
BOX 16 REEL 14	Miscellaneous manuscripts and fragments
BOX 16 REEL 14	Papers of Augustine L. Lejeune
BOX 16 REEL 14	Second Division, American Expeditionary Forces, history
BOX 16 REEL 14	Second Division Association
BOX 16 REEL 14	Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.
BOX 17 REEL 15	Printed matter
BOX 17 REEL 15	Clippings
BOX 17 REEL 15	Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn, N.Y
BOX 17 REEL 15	Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps (2 folders)
BOX 17 REEL 15	Cuba, 1912
BOX 17 REEL 15	Haiti and Santo Domingo
BOX 17 REEL 15	Lejeune miscellaneous
BOX 17 REEL 15	Marine Corps (1 folder)
BOX 18	(1 folder)

## Miscellany, 1888-1950

### Container

### Contents

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REEL 15

BOX 18 REEL 15

Mexico

BOX 18 REEL 15

Nicaragua

BOX 18 REEL 15

Norfolk, Va., 1939-1942

BOX 18 REEL 15

Quantico, Va.

BOX 18 REEL 15

Panama

BOX 18 REEL 15

Retirement from marine corps

BOX 18 REEL 15

Retirement from Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.

BOX 18 REEL 15

Second Division Association

BOX 18 REEL 15

Second Division parade

BOX 19 REEL 15

Serialization of *The Reminiscences of a Marine*

BOX 19 REEL 15

*New Orleans Item*

(2 folders)

BOX 19 REEL 15

Other newspapers

BOX 19 REEL 15

Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.

BOX 20 REEL 15-16

World War I

(3 folders)

BOX 20 REEL 15-16

Miscellaneous

BOX 21 not filmed

#### **2022 Addition, 1918-1919**

Letters from Lejeune to Ellie, his wife, while commanding the 2nd Division, American Expeditionary Forces, United States Army, during World War I. Arranged chronologically.

BOX 21 not filmed

1918, June-1919, Nov.