

# David Glasgow Farragut 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.  
2004

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70053769>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010187>

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson  
Revised by Patrick Kerwin

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2010

## Collection Summary

**Title:** David Glasgow Farragut Papers

**Span Dates:** 1816-1869

**ID No.:** MSS53769

**Creator:** Farragut, David Glasgow, 1801-1870

**Extent:** 400 items

**Extent:** 1 container

**Extent:** 0.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English, with some Spanish

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70053769>

**Summary:** Naval officer. Correspondence, letterbooks, biographical file, invitations, and other material relating primarily to Farragut's naval activities, especially his role in the protection of American interests in Mexico during the pre-Civil War period.

## 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

Barron, James, 1769-1851--Correspondence.

Baudin, Charles, 1784-1854--Correspondence.

Dahlgren, John Adolphus Bernard, 1809-1870--Correspondence.

Dallas, Alexander James, 1759-1817--Correspondence.

Draper, Lyman Copeland, 1815-1891--Correspondence.

Farragut, David Glasgow, 1801-1870.

Folsom, Charles, 1794-1872--Correspondence.

Ingraham, Duncan N. (Duncan Nathaniel), 1802-1891--Correspondence.

Jones, William D.--Correspondence.

Lenthall, John, 1807-1882--Correspondence.

Mallory, Stephen R. (Stephen Russell), 1813-1873--Correspondence.

Mauzy, Matthew Fontaine, 1806-1873--Correspondence.

McLane, Robert M. (Robert Milligan), 1815-1898.

Morris, Charles, 1784-1856--Correspondence.

Paulding, James Kirke, 1778-1860--Correspondence.

Santa Anna, Antonio López de, 1794?-1876--Correspondence.

Toucey, Isaac, 1796-1869--Correspondence.

Woolsey, Melancthon B. (Melancthon Brooks), 1817-1874--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Boxer (Brig)

Erie (Sloop of war)

### Subjects

Ordnance, Naval.

### Places

France--Foreign relations--Mexico.

Mexico--Foreign relations--France.

Mexico--Foreign relations--United States.

Mexico--History--1821-1861.

United States--Foreign relations--Mexico.

### Occupations

Naval officers.

## Provenance

The papers of David Glasgow Farragut, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1969. The collection was converted to a gift in 1998.

## Processing History

The papers of David Glasgow Farragut were arranged and described in 1974. The finding aid was revised in 2003.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of David Glasgow Farragut 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, David Glasgow Farragut Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1801, July 5	Born, Campbell's Station, Tenn.
1810	Appointed midshipman, United States Navy
1811-1814	Duty on the <i>Essex</i> (frigate)
1815-1820	Duty on the <i>Independence</i> (ship-of-the-line), <i>Washington</i> (ship-of-the-line), and <i>Franklin</i> (ship-of-the-line), Mediterranean Station
1823	Executive officer, <i>Sea Gull</i> (side wheel gunboat), West India Squadron
1824	Married Susan C. Marchant (died 1840)
1825-1826	Duty on the <i>Brandywine</i> (frigate)
1828-1830	Duty on the <i>Vandalia</i> (sloop-of-war), Brazil Station
1833	Executive officer, <i>Natchez</i> (sloop-of-war)
1834	Returned to the United States with the <i>Boxer</i> (schooner)
1838	Commanded the <i>Erie</i> (patrol gunboat), Home Squadron
1841	Promoted to commander
1842	Commanded the <i>Decatur</i> (sloop-of-war), South American Station
1843	Married Virginia Loyall
1847	Commanded the <i>Saratoga</i> (sloop-of-war), Home Squadron
1850-1852	Ordnance duties, United States Navy Yards, Washington, D.C., and Norfolk, Va.
1854	Ordered to California to establish United States Navy Yard at Mare Island, Vallejo, Calif.

1858-1860	Commanded the <i>Brooklyn</i> (screw sloop), Home Squadron
1862	Commanded the West Gulf Blockading Squadron
1862	Attacked and passed Forts Jackson and St. Philip and captured New Orleans, La. Promoted to rear admiral
1863	Passed the batteries at Port Hudson
1864	Attacked the defenses of Mobile Bay, entered the bay, and dispersed the Confederate fleet Received the surrender of Fort Morgan Promoted to vice admiral
1866	Promoted to admiral
1867-1868	Commanded the European Squadron
1870, Aug. 14	Died, Portsmouth, N.H.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of David Glasgow Farragut (1801-1870), span the years 1816-1869 and consist of correspondence, letterbooks, a biographical file, invitations, and a copy of an 1867 act of the municipal government of Ciudadela, Minorca, honoring Farragut. The correspondence includes three letters to Farragut from Charles Folsom, American consul in Tunis, a photostatic copy of a personal letter from Farragut to Lyman Copeland Draper, and a letter from Farragut to Melancthon B. Woolsey.

The letterbooks contain copies of letters sent and received, general orders, and circulars. The first letterbook, kept initially on the *Boxer* (schooner), contains copies of letters, general orders, and circulars dated 1816-1840, but consists largely of autobiographical and genealogical notes. Most of the entries in the second letterbook, 1829-1839, were made on the *Erie* (patrol gunboat). Farragut commanded the *Erie* with orders to proceed to Mexican waters in order to protect American citizens and property endangered by the war between Mexico and France. The second letterbook contains copies of letters to William D. Jones, American consul in Mexico, James Barron, and Alexander James Dallas describing the attack and capture of the castle of San Juan de Ulloa by the French. There are also letters to James Kirke Paulding, Antonio López de Santa Anna, and Charles Baudin concerning this war.

The third letterbook, 1852-1853, kept while Farragut had ordnance duties, includes memoranda on Dahlgren's lock and on the testing of batteries, remarks on various types of naval weapons, and copies of letters to Charles Morris and John Adolphus Bernard Dahlgren. In the fourth letterbook, 1859-1861, are Farragut's orders to proceed to Mexico, then in revolution. His chief duty was to transport Robert M. McLane, the new American minister to Mexico. There are also copies of letters to Duncan N. Ingraham, John Lenthall, Stephen R. Mallory, Matthew Fontaine Maury, and Isaac Toucey.

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Biographical file, 1867
BOX 1	Copie del Acta del Ayuntamiento de la ciudad de Ciudadela declaranda hijo de la misma al Almirante de Los Estados-Unidos de America David G. Farragut, 1867
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1818-1819, 1858, 1864 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Invitations, 1869
BOX 1	Letterbooks
BOX 1	1816-1840
BOX 1	<i>Natchez</i> (sloop-of-war) and <i>Erie</i> (schooner), 1829-1839
BOX 1	Ordnance inspector, 1852-1853
BOX 1	<i>Brooklyn</i> (screw sloop), 1859-1861