Collection Summary
Title: Francis Asbury Roe Papers
Span Dates: 1842-1901
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1846-1869)
ID No.: MSS54437
Creator: Roe, Francis Asbury, 1823-1901
Extent: 500 items
Extent: 3 containers
Extent: 1 linear foot
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70054437
Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, journals, notebooks, and other papers pertaining to Roe's cruises and an engagement between the USS Sassacus (side-wheel steamer) and the CSS Albemarle (ironclad ram) in 1864.

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
Roe, Francis Asbury, 1823-1901.
Roe, Francis Asbury, 1823-1901. Naval duties and discipline: with policy and principles of naval organization. 1865.

Organizations
Albemarle (Ironclad ram)
Sassacus (Side-wheel steamer)
United States. Navy.

Places
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Naval operations.

Occupations
Naval officers.

Provenance
The papers of Francis Asbury Roe, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1949 and 1969 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History
The Roe Papers were processed in 1970. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Additional Guides
Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Francis Asbury Roe is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Francis Asbury Roe 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, Francis Asbury Roe Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1823, Oct. 4</td>
<td>Born, Elmira, N. Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841</td>
<td>Appointed acting midshipman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Duty in <em>John Adams</em> (frigate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1844</td>
<td>Duty in <em>Yorktown</em> (sloop)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846</td>
<td>Duty in <em>Boston</em> (sloop-of-war)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1849</td>
<td>Married Eliza J. Snyder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1852</td>
<td>Duty in <em>Porpoise</em> (brig), North Pacific and Bering Strait expedition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>Duty with United States Coast Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1858</td>
<td>Duty in <em>Macedonian</em> (frigate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Duty in <em>Pensacola</em> (screw steamer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>Commanded <em>Sassacus</em> (side-wheel steamer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>Published <em>Naval Duties and Discipline</em>. New York: D. Van Nostrand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867</td>
<td>Commanded <em>Tacony</em> (side-wheel steamer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commanded <em>Delaware</em> (side-wheel steamer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>Commanded Naval Rendezvous, San Francisco, Calif.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1873</td>
<td>Commanded <em>Lancaster</em> (screw sloop-of-war), Brazil Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1883</td>
<td>Governor, United States Naval Asylum for Retired Seamen, Philadelphia, Pa.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>Promoted to rear admiral</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Published <em>Historic Records of an Old Family: Ancestry of Francis Asbury Roe</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1893</td>
<td>Governor, Society of Colonial Wars of the District of Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1890</td>
<td>Published <em>An American Sea Captain of Colonial Times</em>. Washington: D.C.: Historical Papers of the Society of Colonial Wars in the District of Columbia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1901, Dec. 28</td>
<td>Died, Washington, D. C.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Francis Asbury Roe (1823-1901) span the years 1842-1901, with the bulk of the material from the period 1846-1869. The papers consist of journals, letterbooks, correspondence, and miscellaneous material.

Nearly all of Roe's cruises are documented in the collection, from his first cruise as a midshipman on the *John Adams* (frigate) in 1842 until his last as fleet captain in a cruise to Brazil in 1874. There is also an account of the fight between the *Sassacus* (side-wheel steamer) and the CSS *Albemarle* (ironclad ram) in 1864. For his role in that action Roe received
a letter of commendation from Gideon Welles, secretary of the navy. The collection also contains proof sheets of his book, *Naval Duties and Discipline*.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged by type of material.
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Journal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td><em>John Adams</em> (frigate), 1844 <em>[See also Container 2, same heading]</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td><em>Yorktown</em> (sloop), 1846</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td><em>Porpoise</em> (brig), 1853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td><em>Vincennes</em> (sloop-of-war), 1855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td><em>Macedonian</em> (frigate), private journal, 1859</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td><em>Lancaster</em> (screw sloop-of-war), 1874</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td><em>John Adams</em> (frigate), 1842-1844, containing oversize material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Letterbooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td><em>Madawaska</em> (screw frigate) and <em>Tacony</em> (side-wheel steamer), 1866-1867</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td><em>Delaware</em> (side-wheel steamer), 1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Miscellany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1866-1901</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Notebook on seamanship, 1843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Watch, quarter, station, and fire bills, <em>Madawaska</em> (screw frigate), 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Inspection book and notes on fleet matters, 1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Article on the 1864 fight between <em>Sassacus</em> (side-wheel steamer) and CSS <em>Albemarle</em> (ironclad ram), with Roe's corrections, 1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Proof sheets of <em>Naval Duties and Discipline</em>, 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings and printed matter, 1859-1872</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>