

Francis Asbury Roe 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.
2010**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70054437>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010317>

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Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2011

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

In 1970, the Library published *Charles Goodwin Ridgely, Francis Asbury Roe, and John Grimes Walker: A Register of Their Papers in the Library of Congress*.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Francis Asbury Roe is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

Date	Event
1823, Oct. 4	Born, Elmira, N. Y.
1841	Appointed acting midshipman Duty in <i>John Adams</i> (frigate)
1844	Duty in <i>Yorktown</i> (sloop)
1846	Duty in <i>Boston</i> (sloop-of-war)
1849	Married Eliza J. Snyder
1852	Duty in <i>Porpoise</i> (brig), North Pacific and Bering Strait expedition
1855	Duty with United States Coast Survey
1858	Duty in <i>Macedonian</i> (frigate)
1861	Duty in <i>Pensacola</i> (screw steamer)
1863	Commanded <i>Sassacus</i> (side-wheel steamer)
1865	Published <i>Naval Duties and Discipline</i> . New York: D. Van Nostrand
1867	Commanded <i>Tacony</i> (side-wheel steamer) Commanded <i>Delaware</i> (side-wheel steamer)
1872	Commanded Naval Rendezvous, San Francisco, Calif.
1873	Commanded <i>Lancaster</i> (screw sloop-of-war), Brazil Station
1883	Governor, United States Naval Asylum for Retired Seamen, Philadelphia, Pa.
1884	Promoted to rear admiral
1890	Published <i>Historic Records of an Old Family: Ancestry of Francis Asbury Roe</i>
1893	Governor, Society of Colonial Wars of the District of Columbia
1900	Published <i>An American Sea Captain of Colonial Times</i> . Washington: D.C.: Historical Papers of the Society of Colonial Wars in the District of Columbia
1901, Dec. 28	Died, Washington, D. C.

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

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