

# John Shaw 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.  
2011**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70053009>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011181>

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2011

## Collection Summary

**Title:** John Shaw Papers

**Span Dates:** 1798-1895

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1810-1822)

**ID No.:** MSS53009

**Creator:** Shaw, John, 1773-1823

**Extent:** 1,200 items

**Extent:** 4 containers

**Extent:** 2 linear feet

**Extent:** 1 microfilm reel

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70053009>

**Summary:** Naval officer. Correspondence, journal, notebooks, reports, biographical data, and other papers relating primarily to Shaw's command of the New Orleans Naval Station and the Boston Navy Yard.

## 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

Angus, Samuel, 1784-1840--Correspondence.

Bainbridge, William, 1774-1833--Correspondence.

Biddle, James, 1783-1848--Correspondence.

Binney, Amos, 1778-1833--Correspondence.

Chauncey, Isaac, 1772-1840--Correspondence.

Denison, Henry, 1782-1822--Correspondence.

Elliott, Jesse D. (Jesse Duncan), 1782-1845--Correspondence.

Fillebrown, Thomas Scott, 1834-1884--Correspondence.

Goldsborough, Charles W. (Charles Washington), 1779-1843--Correspondence.

Green, Moses--Correspondence.

Hambleton, Samuel, 1777-1851--Correspondence.

Hull, Isaac, 1773-1843--Correspondence.

Macdonough, Thomas, 1783-1825--Correspondence.

Murray, Alexander, 1754 or 1755-1821--Correspondence.

Porter, David, 1780-1843--Correspondence.

Renshaw, James, -1846--Correspondence.

Rodgers, John, 1773-1838--Correspondence.

Shaw, John, 1773-1823.

Shaw, Joseph B.--Correspondence.

Thomas, Benjamin--Correspondence.

Thompson, Smith, 1768-1843--Correspondence.

Wise, George A.--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Boston Navy Yard (Boston, Mass.)

United States. Navy. New Orleans Station.

### Subjects

Fortification--Louisiana--New Orleans.

Navy-yards and naval stations--Massachusetts--Boston.

### Places

Alabama--History--War of 1812.  
Louisiana--History--War of 1812.  
Mobile (Ala.)--History.  
New Orleans (La.)--History.  
United States--History--War of 1812.

### **Occupations**

Naval officers.

## **Provenance**

The papers of John Shaw, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1949-1950 and converted to a gift in 1998.

## **Processing History**

The papers of John Shaw were arranged and described in 1970. The letterbooks were microfilmed in 1992. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

## **Additional Guides**

In 1979 the Library published Nathan Sargent, *John Shaw, Montgomery Sicard, and Roger Wells: Registers of Papers in the Manuscript Division of the Library of Congress*.

## **Copyright Status**

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

## **Access and Restrictions**

The papers of John Shaw 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 part of these papers is available on one reel. Consult reference staff 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 number, John Shaw Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## **Biographical Note**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
1773	Born, Mountmellick, Queen's County, Ireland

1790	Emigrated to New York
1791	Duty in <i>SS Sampson</i> , East Indies
1793	Duty in <i>SS Sampson</i> , East Indies
1794	Served in the Macpherson Blues, a volunteer military organization
1795	Third officer, <i>SS Hero</i> , East Indies
1796	First officer, <i>SS George and Patty Washington</i> , East Indies
1798	Married Elizabeth Palmer (died 1814) Appointed lieutenant, U.S. Navy; duty in <i>USS Montezuma</i> , West Indies Squadron
1799	Commanded <i>USS Enterprise</i> , West Indies Squadron
1801	Commanded <i>USS George Washington</i> , Mediterranean Squadron
1805	Commanded <i>USS John Adams</i> , Mediterranean Squadron
1806	Duty at New Orleans Station
1807	Promoted to captain
1808	Commanded Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va.
1810	Commanded New Orleans Station
1814	Commanded Atlantic Naval Squadron
1815	Commanded Mediterranean Squadron
1819	Commanded Navy Yard, Boston, Mass.
1820	Married Mary Breed
1822	Court-martialed for unofficer-like conduct; returned to duty after six months
1823, Sept. 17	Died, Philadelphia, Pa.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Shaw (1773-1823) span the years 1798-1895, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1810-1822. Concerned principally with Shaw's command of the New Orleans Station, 1810-1813, and the Boston Navy Yard, 1819-1823, the papers consist of a journal, official and private letterbooks, correspondence, notebooks, reports, a biographical file, and miscellany.

Shaw's letterbooks contain detailed reports to the secretary of the navy concerning the fortification of New Orleans during the War of 1812 and the capture of Mobile. Together with the general correspondence, the letterbooks also relate to Shaw's duties as commandant of the Boston Navy Yard and to his court-martial in 1822.

Correspondents include Samuel Angus, William Bainbridge, James Biddle, Amos Binney, Isaac Chauncey, Henry Denison, Jesse D. Elliott, Thomas Scott Fillebrown, Charles W. Goldsborough, Moses Green, Samuel Hambleton, Isaac Hull, Thomas Macdonough, Alexander Murray, David Porter, James Renshaw, John Rodgers, Joseph B. Shaw, Benjamin Thomas, Smith Thompson, and George A. Wise.

## Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is organized by type of material.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, journal, and letterbooks
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1798-1821 (18 folders)
BOX 2	1822-1845, undated (7 folders)
BOX 2	Journal, USF <i>United States</i> , 1815, and USF <i>Constellation</i> , 1817
BOX 2	Letterbooks <i>Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 20,703</i>
BOX 2	To secretary of the navy, 1819-1823
BOX 2	USS <i>Independence</i> , 1821-1822
BOX 2	Private, 1819-1822
BOX 3	New Orleans Station
BOX 3	1810-1812
BOX 3	1812-1813
BOX 4	Miscellany
BOX 4	Biographical file, undated
BOX 4	Filing boards, 1819-1823
BOX 4	General (2 folders)
BOX 4	Handwritten signal book, undated
BOX 4	Letter patent for improvement in the mode of hanging rudders, 1818
BOX 4	Memoir of Shaw, by Lieutenant Henry Ward
BOX 4	Newspaper clippings (fragments)
BOX 4	Notebooks
BOX 4	Accounts, 1817
BOX 4	List of midshipmen and accounts, 1818
BOX 4	Memoranda of Shaw's court-martial, 1822
BOX 4	Printed matter, 1814-1823
BOX 4	Receipts, 1819-1866
BOX 4	Report, court of inquiry on the desertion of John W. Mitchel, 1816
BOX 4	Report, and investigation of the murder of Sharp D. Moore, 1816
BOX 4	Signal book, undated