

***USS Ontario and USS Dolphin Journals and Logbooks***

**A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Washington, D.C.**

**2014**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm83084251>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms014077>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2014

Revised 2022 October

## Collection Summary

**Title:** USS Ontario and USS Dolphin Journals and Logbooks

**Inclusive Dates:** 1817-1821

**ID No.:** MSS84251

**Creator:** Ontario (Sloop of war)

**Creator:** Dolphin (Schooner)

**Extent:** 8 items

**Extent:** 1 container plus 1 oversize

**Extent:** .2 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm83084251>

**Summary:** *USS Ontario* and *USS Dolphin*. Journals and logbooks, mainly of the *Ontario*, relating to cruises in defense of American shipping in the Pacific during political upheaval in South America.

## 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

Biddle, James, 1783-1848.

Conner, David, 1792-1856.

### Organizations

Dolphin (Schooner : 1821-1835). USS Ontario and USS Dolphin journals and logbooks. 1817-1821.

Franklin (Ship of the line)

Ontario (Sloop of war)

United States. Navy--Foreign service--Pacific Area.

United States. Navy--Foreign service--South America.

United States. Navy. Pacific Squadron.

### Subjects

Blockade.

Shipping--United States.

Voyages and travels.

### Places

Chile--Description and travel.

Chile--History--War of Independence, 1810-1824.

Chile--Politics and government--1810-1824.

Chile--Social life and customs.

Ecuador--Description and travel.

Lima (Peru)--Description and travel.

Peru--Description and travel.

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)--Description and travel.

South America--Description and travel.

South America--History--19th century.

Valparaíso (Chile)--Description and travel.

### Titles

*USS Dolphin journals and logbooks*

*USS Ontario and USS Dolphin records*

*USS Ontario journals and logbook*

## Acquisition Information

The journals and logbooks of the sloop of war *Ontario* and schooner *Dolphin* were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1914.

## Processing History

The records of the sloop of war *Ontario* and schooner *Dolphin* were processed in 1985. The finding aid was revised in 2014.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings in the records of the sloop of war *Ontario* and schooner *Dolphin* is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The journals and logbooks of the *Ontario* and *Dolphin* 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, *USS Ontario* and *USS Dolphin* Journals and Logbooks, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The journals and logbooks of the sloop of war *Ontario* and schooner (1821-1835) *Dolphin* span the years 1817-1821 and consist mainly of accounts relating to the *Ontario* under the command of Captain James Biddle, with first lieutenant David Conner, on a pioneer mission to the Pacific in defense of American shipping in early 1818, from New York to Rio de Janeiro, around Cape Horn to Valparaiso, Chile, and Lima, Peru, during the Chilean War of Independence and a Spanish blockade. The *Ontario* journals describe in detail the political situation in Chile as well as the geographical and cultural setting. The journal for the *Dolphin*, dated September 30-December 30, 1821, is a four-page insertion in an otherwise undated fragment of a journal relating to the *Ontario*. The *Dolphin* sailed to the coasts of Ecuador, Peru, and Chile in December 1821 as part of the newly organized Pacific Squadron under the command of Lieutenant David Conner, in company with ship-of-the-line *Franklin*.

## Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is organized by type of volume or account and therein chronologically.

## Container List

| Container | Contents                                                                                             |
|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| BOX 1     | Journals                                                                                             |
| BOX 1     | 1817 Oct. 4-1818 Apr. 21, <i>Ontario</i> (sloop of war)                                              |
| BOX 1     | 1818 Jan. 26-Apr. 7, <i>Ontario</i>                                                                  |
| BOX 1     | 1818 Apr. 12-Oct. 22, <i>Ontario</i>                                                                 |
| BOX 1     | Undated, fragment, <i>Ontario</i> ; and 1821, Sept. 30-Nov. 30, <i>Dolphin</i> (schooner, 1821-1835) |
| BOX 1     | Logbooks, <i>Ontario</i>                                                                             |
| BOX 1     | 1817, Nov. 20-Dec. 6; 1818, June 14-28 <a href="#"><i>See Oversize</i></a>                           |
| BOX 1     | 1818 Apr. 13-June 28                                                                                 |
| BOX 1     | 1818 Dec. 31-1819 Feb. 19                                                                            |
| BOX OV 1  | Oversize                                                                                             |
| BOX OV 1  | Logbooks, <i>Ontario</i>                                                                             |
| BOX OV 1  | 1817, Nov. 20-Dec. 6; 1818, June 14-28                                                               |