Charles Goodwin Ridgely 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.
2016

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70053058

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms017005

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson
Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2017
Collection Summary
Title: Charles Goodwin Ridgeley Papers
Span Dates: 1813-1826
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1820-1822)
ID No.: MSS53058
Creator: Ridgely, Charles Goodwin, 1784-1848
Extent: 300 items
Extent: 1 container
Extent: .4 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70053058
Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, letterbook, and journal relating chiefly to Ridgely's naval career, especially his commands of the USS Erie (Sloop of war) during the War of 1812 and of the USS Constellation (Frigate) in the U.S. Navy Pacific Squadron. Subjects include the Latin American policy of the U.S. Navy, the wars of independence in Chile and Peru, and Ridgely's attitude toward Spain and Latin American revolutionaries.

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
Ridgely, Charles Goodwin, 1784-1848.

Organizations
Constellation (Frigate)
Erie (Sloop of war)
United States. Navy.

Subjects
Revolutionaries--Latin America.

Places
Chile--History--War of Independence, 1810-1824.
Latin America--Foreign relations--United States.
Peru--History--War of Independence, 1820-1829.
Spain--Colonies--America.
United States--Foreign relations--Latin America.
United States--History--War of 1812--Naval operations.

Occupations
Naval officers.

Provenance
The papers of Charles Goodwin Ridgely, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1949 and converted to a gift in 1998.
Processing History

The Charles Goodwin Ridgely Papers were processed in 1970. The finding aid was revised in 2016.

Additional Guides


Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Charles Goodwin Ridgely is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Charles Goodwin Ridgely 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, Charles Goodwin Ridgely 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>1784, Jul 21</td>
<td>Born, Baltimore, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1799</td>
<td>Appointed midshipman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1803</td>
<td>Duty in <em>USF Constitution</em>, Mediterranean Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1804</td>
<td>Duty in <em>USS Nautilus</em>, Mediterranean Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1812</td>
<td>Commanded <em>USS Erie</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1814</td>
<td>Commanded <em>USS Jefferson</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1815</td>
<td>Promoted to captain</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820</td>
<td>Commanded <em>USF Constellation</em>, Pacific Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1822</td>
<td>Married Cornelia L. Livingston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1827</td>
<td>Commanded West India Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>Commandant, New York Navy Yard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>Commanded Brazil Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1842</td>
<td>Commandant, Baltimore Naval Station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1848, Feb 4</td>
<td>Died, Baltimore, Md.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Scope and Content Note

The papers of Charles Goodwin Ridgely (1784-1848) span the years 1813-1826, with the bulk of the material concentrated between 1820 and 1822. The collection consists of a personal journal, a letterbook, and two letters. It relates chiefly to
Ridgely's naval career, especially his commands of the *USS Erie* (Sloop of war) during the War of 1812 and of the *USS Constellation* (Frigate) in the Pacific Squadron. Subjects include the Latin American policy of the United States Navy, the wars of independence in Chile and Peru, and Ridgely's attitude toward Spain and Latin American revolutionaries.

**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, <em>USF Constellation</em>, 1820</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Letterbook, <em>USS Erie</em> and <em>USF Constellation</em>, 1813-1822</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence, letter to Ridgeley from Aaron H. Palmer, 1826, Apr. 3, and unidentified letter, undated</td>
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