

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://lcn.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 Ridgely 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--Foreign service--Pacific Area.

United States. Navy.

United States. Navy. Pacific Squadron.

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

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 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

Date	Event
1784, July 21	Born, Baltimore, Md.
1799	Appointed midshipman
1803	Duty in <i>USF Constitution</i> , Mediterranean Squadron
1804	Duty in <i>USS Nautilus</i> , Mediterranean Squadron
1812	Commanded <i>USS Erie</i>
1814	Commanded <i>USS Jefferson</i>
1815	Promoted to captain Commanded <i>USS Erie</i> , Mediterranean Squadron
1820	Commanded <i>USF Constellation</i> , Pacific Squadron
1822	Married Cornelia L. Livingston
1827	Commanded West India Squadron
1834	Commandant, New York Navy Yard
1840	Commanded Brazil Squadron
1842	Commandant, Baltimore Naval Station
1848, Feb. 4	Died, Baltimore, Md.

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

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Journal, <i>USF Constellation</i> , 1820
BOX 1	Letterbook, <i>USS Erie</i> and <i>USF Constellation</i> , 1813-1822
BOX 1	Correspondence, letter to Ridgeley from Aaron H. Palmer, 1826, Apr. 3, and unidentified letter, undated