

Benjamin Franklin Fuller Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2019

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm2017086182>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms019012>

Prepared by Jake Bozza

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2019

Collection Summary

Title: Benjamin Franklin Fuller Papers

Span Dates: 1856-1971

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1861-1899)

ID No.: MSS86182

Creator: Fuller, Benjamin Franklin, 1839-1904

Extent: 35 items

Extent: 1 container

Extent: 0.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm2017086182>

Summary: Union army soldier and clerk in the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Correspondence, photographs, and miscellaneous material relating to Fuller's military service and family.

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

Fuller family--Correspondence.

Fuller family--Genealogy.

Fuller family.

Fuller, Benjamin Franklin, 1839-1904.

Fuller, Emma Williams, 1839-1897--Correspondence.

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865--Correspondence.

Lowe, T. S. C. (Thaddeus Sobieski Coulincourt), 1832-1913.

McClellan, George B. (George Brinton), 1826-1885.

Organizations

Bellevue Hospital.

United States. Army of the Potomac.

United States. Army--Pay, allowances, etc.

United States. Army. New York Light Artillery Regiment, 1st (1861-1865)

Virginia (Ironclad)

Subjects

Fair Oaks, Battle of, Va., 1862.

Military intelligence--Virginia--Warwick.

Peninsular Campaign, 1862.

Sieges--Virginia--Yorktown.

Williamsburg, Battle of, Williamsburg, Va., 1862.

Places

New York (State)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Newport News (Va.)--History.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Aerial operations.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Balloons.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Naval operations.

Virginia--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Yorktown, Va.--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations

Clerks, U.S. Department of the Treasury.
Soldiers.

Provenance

The Benjamin Franklin Fuller papers were given to the Library of Congress by Lynn Fuller in 2017.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Benjamin Franklin Fuller is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Benjamin Franklin Fuller 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, Benjamin Franklin Fuller Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1839, June 20	Born, Rome, N.Y.
1856	Married Emma Williams (died 1897)
1861	Enlisted into Company A, 1st New York Light Artillery Regiment as a sergeant
1864	Mustered out of Company A, 1st New York Light Artillery Regiment as a second lieutenant
1870-1903	Clerk, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Washington, D.C.
1899	Married Arabella Virginia Porter
1904, Jan. 30	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Benjamin Franklin Fuller, a Union artilleryman who served in Company A, 1st New York Light Artillery Regiment, span the years 1856-1971, with the bulk of the material dated between 1861 and 1899. The papers consist of correspondence, photographs and miscellaneous material. The correspondence consists of fifteen letters written by Fuller to his wife Emma while he served in the Union army during the Civil War. The letters cover a breadth of topics ranging from military activity to the couple's two children, Robert and John. The letters written between 1861 and 1862 describe the Army of the Potomac's preparation for the Peninsular Campaign of 1862 under General George Brinton McClellan, as well as major battles including the Siege of Yorktown, Virginia, the Battle of Williamsburg, Virginia, and the Battle of Seven Pines, Virginia (also known as the Battle of Fair Oaks). In two letters from 1862, Fuller describes the ascension of Lowe's reconnaissance balloon at Warwick, Virginia, and the threat posed by the Confederate warship CSS *Virginia* (formerly USS *Merrimack*) near Newport News, Virginia. In 1863, Fuller wrote a letter to President Lincoln from Bellevue Hospital in New York requesting pay he had not received and a leave of absence to visit his family. Fuller's original letters within the collection are accompanied by transcripts from the book, *A Slice of American History, 1623-1956: Personalized by Stories*

and Letters of Benjamin F. (Frank) Fuller and His Family with Attention to the Recurring Search for a Moral Compass, written by Carol M. Fuller in 1999.

In addition to Fuller's Civil War letters, the collection also includes family correspondence consisting of letters written by Emma Fuller, her sister Lavina, and her daughter-in-law Phebe Fuller. Two letters, one written by Emma to her son Robert in 1882 and the other from Robert's wife, Phebe, to her son in 1941, refer to a family Bible they passed down to their sons. The last remaining page of the Bible describes the Fuller genealogy and is included with the letters. Additionally, the collection contains a Fuller family tree and several photographs of Benjamin Fuller and various family members.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Civil War letters, 1861, Nov.-1863, Dec. (2 folders)
BOX 1	Family letters, 1868-1889, 1941
BOX 1	Photographs, 1894-1899, undated
BOX 1	Miscellany, 1856, 1869, 1904, 1971, undated