

John Adolphus Bernard Dahlgren

A Register of His Papers at the Library of Congress

Prepared by Michael Spangler



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2007

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
Manuscript Division, 2007**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms007060>

Latest revision: 2008 May

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of John Adolphus Bernard Dahlgren

Span Dates: 1794-1889

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1826-1870)

ID No.: MSS17624

Creator: Dahlgren, John Adolphus Bernard, 1809-1870

Extent: 10,000 items; 39 containers plus 1 oversize; 15.6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: United States naval officer, inventor, and author. Correspondence, letterbooks, journals, reports, logbooks, orders, notebooks, nautical charts and calculations, scrapbooks, and design drawings related to Dahlgren's activities in the development of ordnance for the United States Navy and as chief of the Bureau of Ordnance.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Personal Names

Dahlgren, John Adolphus Bernard, 1809-1870.

Dahlgren, Ulric, 1842-1864--Correspondence.

Du Pont, Samuel Francis, 1803-1865--Correspondence.

Foote, Andrew H. (Andrew Hull), 1806-1863--Correspondence.

Fox, Gustavus Vasa, 1821-1883--Correspondence.

Welles, Gideon, 1802-1878--Correspondence.

Organizations

United States. Navy Dept. Bureau of Ordnance.

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

United States. Navy--Ordnance and ordnance stores.

Subjects

Ordnance--Design and construction.

Locations

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

Occupations

Authors.

Inventors.

Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of John Adolphus Bernard Dahlgren, United States naval officer, inventor, and author, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1931 and 1939.

Processing History:

The papers of John Adolphus Bernard Dahlgren were arranged and described in 1962. The finding aid was revised in 1998, and the collection was partially reorganized in 2007.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Adolphus Bernard Dahlgren is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Preferred Citation:

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, John Adolphus Bernard Dahlgren Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1809, Nov. 13	Born, Philadelphia, Pa.
1826	Appointed acting midshipman, United States Navy
1833	Assigned to naval station, Philadelphia, Pa.
1834	Ordered to duty, United States Coast Survey
1839	Married Mary C. Bunker
1847	Ordered to Washington, D.C., for ordnance duty, United States Navy
1861	Took command of the Washington Navy Yard
1862	Appointed chief, Bureau of Ordnance, United States Navy
1863	Relieved Samuel Francis Du Pont in command of the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron
1866	Assigned command of the South Pacific Squadron
1869	Returned as chief of the Bureau of Ordnance
1870, July 12	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Adolphus Bernard Dahlgren (1809-1870) span the years 1794-1889, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1826-1870. The collection includes correspondence, letterbooks, journals, ordnance records, reports, official memoranda, notebooks, nautical charts and calculations, design drawings, logbooks, scrapbooks, and printed matter and is organized in the following series: [General Correspondence](#), [Letterbooks](#), [Naval Ordnance Records](#), [Miscellany](#), and [Oversize](#). The papers document chiefly Dahlgren's pioneering career in the development of ordnance for the United States Navy and as chief of the Bureau of Ordnance. Notable in the collection is correspondence between Dahlgren and his son, Ulric, journals kept by Dahlgren on early cruises as a midshipman, and ships' logs recording his activities in the South Atlantic during the Civil War. Correspondents include Samuel Francis Du Pont, Andrew H. Foote, Gustavus Vasa Fox, and Gideon Welles.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- General Correspondence, 1824-1889
- Letterbooks, 1859-1870
- Naval Ordnance Records, 1826-1870
- Miscellany, 1794-1889
- Oversize, 1846-1868

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-7

General Correspondence, 1824-1889

Letters received and copies of letters sent.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 8-19

Letterbooks, 1859-1870

Primarily copies of letters sent.
Organized alphabetically by type of file or subject and therein chronologically.

BOX 20-31

Naval Ordnance Records, 1826-1870

Reports, memoranda, notes and calculations.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 32-39

Miscellany, 1794-1889

Journals, notebooks, logbooks, orders, reports, charts, designs, drawings, scrapbooks, clippings, receipts, and printed matter.
Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.

BOX OV 1

Oversize, 1846-1868

Letter, charts, designs, and drawings.
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which they were removed.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-7	General Correspondence, 1824-1889 Letters received and copies of letters sent. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1824-1849 (25 folders)
BOX 2	1850-1855 (7 folders)
BOX 3	1856-1858, June (4 folders)
BOX 4	1858, July-1861, Aug. (6 folders)
BOX 5	1861, Sept.-1863, July (7 folders)
BOX 6	1863, Aug.-1867 (5 folders)
BOX 7	1868-1889, n.d. (9 folders)
BOX 8-19	Letterbooks, 1859-1870 Primarily copies of letters sent. Organized alphabetically by type of file or subject and therein chronologically.
BOX 8	Chronological file
BOX 8	1863, June-Nov. (4 vols.)
BOX 9	1863, Nov.-1864, Apr. (3 vols.)
BOX 10	1864, Apr.-June (2 vols.)
BOX 11	1864, June-Sept. (2 vols.)
BOX 12	1864, Sept.-Dec. (3 vols.)
BOX 13	1864, Dec.-1865, Mar. (3 vols.)
BOX 14	1865, Mar.-June (2 vols.)
BOX 15	Dahlgren, Ulric (1842-1864) (son), 1859, Mar.-1864, Feb. <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 16	Extracts from consular dispatches, 1864, Mar.-1867, Jan.
BOX 16	Ironclad reports, 1863, July-1864, Feb. (2 vols.)
BOX 16	Letters and general orders, 1866, Sept.-1867, Mar.

Letterbooks, 1859-1870

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 16	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1864, Dec.-1870, July (3 vols.)
BOX 17	Naval correspondence
BOX 17	1863, June-1864, Aug. (4 vols.)
BOX 18	1864, Aug.-1865, June (3 vols.)
BOX 19	South Pacific Squadron, 1866, Sept.-1868, Apr.
BOX 20-31	Naval Ordnance Records, 1826-1870 Reports, memoranda, notes and calculations. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 20	1826-1848 (2 folders)
BOX 21	1849-1851 (5 folders)
BOX 22	1852-1854 (5 folders)
BOX 23	1855-1856 (3 folders)
BOX 24	1856-1857 (3 folders)
BOX 25	1858-1860 (5 folders)
BOX 26	1860-1861 (4 folders)
BOX 27	1862-1864 (4 folders)
BOX 28	1865-1866 (3 folders)
BOX 29	1867-1870, n.d. (5 folders)
BOX 30	Undated (3 folders)
BOX 31	(3 folders)
BOX 32-39	Miscellany, 1794-1889 Journals, notebooks, logbooks, orders, reports, charts, designs, drawings, scrapbooks, clippings, receipts, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.
BOX 32	Admiral's logs, 1863-1865, n.d. (6 vols.)
BOX 33	Charts, designs, and drawings, 1846-1868, n.d. <i>See also Oversize</i> (3 folders)
BOX 34	Clippings, 1834, 1854-1870, n.d.
BOX 34	Journals

Miscellany, 1794-1889

Container

Contents

BOX 34	Dahlgren, John Adolphus Bernard, 1826-1828, 1847, 1861 (2 folders)
BOX 34	Dahlgren, Ulric, 1863-1864
BOX 35	Navy registers, 1826-1834, 1865-1869
BOX 35	Notebooks, 1865-1867, n.d.
BOX 35	Notes on seamanship, celestial navigation, and government, 1826-1833 (2 folders)
BOX 35	Orders, 1844, 1864-1868 (3 vols.)
BOX 36	Printed matter
BOX 36	1820-1889, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 37	(1 folder)
BOX 37	Prizes taken, 1863-1865 (2 vols.)
BOX 37	Range practice and other ordnance reports
BOX 37	1848-1849 (1 vol.)
BOX 38	(1 vol.)
BOX 38	1857-1858
BOX 38	Receipts, 1830s-1850s
BOX 38	Register of documents received and forwarded, 1865-1868
BOX 38	Scrapbooks
BOX 38	Dahlgren, John Adolphus Bernard, 1863-1870
BOX 39	Dahlgren, Ulric, 1861-1865
BOX 39	Staff logs, 1863-1864 (3 vols.)
BOX 39	Unidentified fragments, 1794, 1863, n.d.
BOX OV 1	Oversize, 1846-1868 Letter, charts, designs, and drawings. Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which they were removed.
BOX OV 1	Letterbooks
BOX OV 1	Dahlgren, Ulric
BOX OV 1	Letter, 1864 (Container 15)
BOX OV 1	Miscellany
BOX OV 1	Charts, designs, and drawings, 1846-1868, n.d. (Container 33)