

Henry M. Robert Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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and David Mathisen



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

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

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R.
Gardner, 2010

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms010090>

Collection Summary

Title: Henry M. Robert Papers

Span Dates: 1853-1937

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1880-1923)

ID No.: MSS37952

Creator: Robert, Henry M. (Henry Martyn), 1837-1923

Extent: 5,000 items; 8 containers; 3.6 linear feet; 8 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Army officer, engineer, and parliamentarian. Diaries, memoranda books, correspondence, letterbooks, subject files, and other papers relating mainly to Roberts service as an engineer and parliamentarian.

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.

People

Collamer, Newton R.--Correspondence.

Denton, Mary Innis--Correspondence.

Frazer, Persifor, 1844-1909--Correspondence.

Hardie, James Allen, 1823-1876--Correspondence.

Haupt, Lewis M. (Lewis Muhlenberg), b. 1844--Correspondence.

Humphreys, A. A. (Andrew Atkinson), 1810-1883--Correspondence.

Judson, Edward, 1844-1914--Correspondence.

Mendell, George H. (George Henry), 1831-1902--Correspondence.

Robert, Henry M. (Henry Martyn), 1837-1923.

Robert, Henry M. (Henry Martyn), 1837-1923. Pocket manual of rules of order for deliberative assemblies. 1876.

Robert, Henry M. (Henry Martyn), 1837-1923. Robert's rules of order. 1876.

Robert, Joseph Thomas, 1835-1925--Correspondence.

Totten, Joseph Gilbert, 1788-1864--Correspondence.

Townsend, Edward T.--Correspondence.

Wilson, John M. (John Moulder), 1837-1919--Correspondence.

Organizations

S.C. Griggs & Co.--Correspondence.

United States. Army. Corps of Engineers.

Subjects

Baptists.

Engineering--Cumberland River (Ky. and Tenn.)

Engineering--Delaware River Valley (N.Y.-Del. and N.J.)

Engineering--Massachusetts--New Bedford.

Engineering--Mexico--Frontera.

Engineering--Texas--Galveston.

Engineering--Washington (D.C.)

Engineering--Wisconsin--Milwaukee.

Military engineering.

Parliamentary practice.

Occupations

Army officers.
Engineers.
Parliamentarians.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Henry M. Robert, army officer, engineer, and parliamentarian, were given to the Library of Congress by Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Sr., in 1950 and Mrs. Henry M. Robert, Jr., in 1951.

Processing History

The papers of Henry M. Robert were processed in 1951 and prepared for microfilming in 1986. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Henry M. Robert 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on eight reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Henry M. Robert Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1837, May 2	Born, Robertville, S.C.
1856-1857	Acting assistant professor, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1857	Graduated, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
1860	Explored military route from Vancouver, British Columbia, to Puget Sound Married Helen M. Thresher
1861	Engineer on defenses of Washington, D.C.
1861-1865	In charge of defenses of Philadelphia and New Bedford, Pa.
1865-1867	In charge of Department of Practical Engineering, United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.

1867-1871	Chief engineer, Military Division of the Pacific
1871-1895	In charge of various lighthouse districts and of improvements of rivers and harbors
1876	Published <i>Pocket Manual of Rules of Order for Deliberative Assemblies</i> . Chicago: S. C. Griggs
1890-1891	Engineer commissioner, District of Columbia
1894-1901	Member, Philadelphia Harbor Line Board
1895-1901	President, United States Board of Engineers for Fortifications Member, New York Harbor Line Board
1897-1901	Supervising engineer for twelve engineering districts from Pittsburgh, Pa. to Galveston, Tex.
1901	Promoted to brigadier general and appointed chief of engineers; then retired Married Isabel Livingstone Hoagland
1901-1915	Designed and supervised the building of a seawall, bridge, and causeway for Galveston, Tex.
1915	In charge of improvement of the Port of Frontera, Mexico
1921	Published <i>Parliamentary Practice, an Introduction to Parliamentary Law</i> . New York: Century
1923	Published <i>Parliamentary Law</i> . New York: Century
1923, May 11	Died, Oswego, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Henry Martyn Robert (1837-1923) span the years 1853-1937, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1880-1923. The collection has been organized into [Diaries and Memoranda Books](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Letterbooks](#), [Subject File](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The [Diaries and Memoranda Books](#) include engineering notes on New Bedford, Massachusetts, in the 1860s, the Delaware River in the 1880s, and the Cumberland River in the 1890s. There are also membership rosters of Baptist congregations in Milwaukee and Philadelphia in the 1880s.

Much of the [General Correspondence](#) consists of letters about *Robert's Pocket Manual of Rules of Order for Deliberative Assemblies*, commonly referred to as *Robert's Rules of Order*. There are letters from the publisher, S. C. Griggs & Company, and numerous letters of inquiry about points of order. Officials of many organizations, including women's organizations, wrote to Robert for guidance on parliamentary procedure. For the years that Robert served as engineer commissioner of the District of Columbia, 1890-1891, there are papers relating to the enforcement of laws pertaining to gambling, prostitution, and saloon-keeping. Among the engineering projects represented are the Delaware breakwater, chiefly in the 1880s, the seawall, causeway, and bridge at Galveston, Texas, principally 1906-1910, and the Port of Frontera, Mexico, about 1911-1914.

Corps of Engineer officers from whom Robert received letters include William P. Craighill, about 1895-1901 and John M. Wilson, about 1897-1901, both of whom served as chief of engineers. Beginning about 1899 are letters from Robert to his son Henry M. Robert, Jr.

The [Letterbooks](#) contain copies of letters sent. Items concerning rivers and harbors in the Corps of Engineers Milwaukee District are in the letterbook for 1875-1876; items revealing efforts to locate a site for a deep-water harbor on the northwest coast of the Gulf of Mexico are in the letterbook for 1889-1901. Transcript letterbooks dating 1885-1889 pertain largely to harbors on the Texas coast. In the letterbook for 1890-1899 are the constitution and bylaws of the Berean Baptist Church, West Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

Additional material on the Baptist Church, the government of the District of Columbia, and *Robert's Rules of Order* is in the [Subject File](#). The [Miscellany](#) includes reviews of *Robert's Rules of Order*, clipped from newspapers, as well as biographical information, maps, and photographs.

Correspondents include Newton R. Collamer, Mary Innis Denton, Persifor Frazer, James Allen Hardie, Lewis M. Haupt, A. A. Humphreys, Edward Judson, George H. Mendell, Joseph Thomas Robert, Joseph Gilbert Totten, Edward Thomas Townsend, John M. Wilson, and S.C. Griggs & Co.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Diaries and Memoranda Books, 1862-1908](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1853-1927](#)
- [Letterbooks, 1873-1901](#)
- [Subject File, 1870-1915](#)
- [Miscellany, 1853-1937](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1
REEL 1

Diaries and Memoranda Books, 1862-1908

Volumes that include diary entries as well as miscellaneous financial accounts and engineering notes.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 1-4
REEL 1-3

General Correspondence, 1853-1927

Mainly letters received, including military memoranda, reports, and other material.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 4-7
REEL 3-7

Letterbooks, 1873-1901

Copies, mainly typewritten, of letters sent.
Arranged chronologically in two sets.

BOX 6-7
REEL 7

Subject File, 1870-1915

Material concerning the Baptist Church, the Army Corps of Engineers, and Robert's Rules of Order.
Arranged alphabetically by subject.

BOX 7-8
REEL 7-8

Miscellany, 1853-1937

Scrapbook and scrapbook clippings, accounts, photographs, maps, and other material.
The scrapbook and clippings precede the rest of the series, which is arranged alphabetically.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 19,363

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1 REEL 1	Diaries and Memoranda Books, 1862-1908 Volumes that include diary entries as well as miscellaneous financial accounts and engineering notes. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1862-1880 (4 vols.)
BOX 1 REEL 1	1883-1908 (6 vols.)
BOX 1 REEL 1	1888-1897 (4 vols.)
BOX 1 REEL 1	1893-1899 (6 vols.)
BOX 1-4 REEL 1-3	General Correspondence, 1853-1927 Mainly letters received, including military memoranda, reports, and other material. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1853-1886 (8 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 2	1887-1899 (11 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2	1900-1920 (12 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 3	1921-1927, undated (4 folders)
BOX 4-7 REEL 3-7	Letterbooks, 1873-1901 Copies, mainly typewritten, of letters sent. Arranged chronologically in two sets.
BOX 4	Personal letters, 1873-1896, Feb. 12

Letterbooks, 1873-1901

Container

Contents

REEL 3	
BOX 4	Corps of Engineers, United States Army
REEL 3	
BOX 4	1875, May 10-1876, June 29
REEL 3	
BOX 5	1889, Apr. 1-1901, May 4
REEL 4-7	
BOX 5	Includes charter of Berean Baptist Church, West Philadelphia, Pa. 1890,
REEL 4-7	May 14-1899, Sept. 12
BOX 5	1898, Dec. 31-1901, Jan. 22
REEL 4-7	
BOX 5	1899, Oct. 28-1901, Apr. 26
REEL 4-7	
BOX 5	Transcripts, handwritten, 1885-1889
REEL 4-7	
	(2 folders)
BOX 6-7	Subject File, 1870-1915
REEL 7	
	Material concerning the Baptist Church, the Army Corps of Engineers, and
	Robert's Rules of Order.
	Arranged alphabetically by subject.
BOX 6	Baptist Church
REEL 7	
BOX 6	District of Columbia, business
REEL 7	
BOX 6	Engineering, United States Army
REEL 7	
BOX 6	Galveston, Tex., seawall
REEL 7	
BOX 6	Rivers and harbors
REEL 7	
BOX 6-7	<i>Robert's Rules of Order</i>
REEL 7	
	(4 folders)
BOX 7	(2 folders)
REEL 7	
BOX 7-8	Miscellany, 1853-1937
REEL 7-8	
	Scrapbook and scrapbook clippings, accounts, photographs, maps, and
	other material.
	The scrapbook and clippings precede the rest of the series, which is
	arranged alphabetically.
BOX 7	Scrapbook, 1876-1922
REEL 7	
BOX 7	Bound volume
REEL 7	

Miscellany, 1853-1937

Container

Contents

BOX 7 REEL 7	Clippings
BOX 8 REEL 7-8	Corps of Engineers account book, and notes on rules of order, 1878-1889, undated
BOX 8 REEL 7-8	Biographical file, undated
BOX 8 REEL 7-8	Insurance contract, 1937
BOX 8 REEL 7-8	Maps, 1866-1891, undated (2 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 7-8	Photographs, 1853-1901
BOX 8 REEL 7-8	Plans and diagrams, 1866-1904