



Guide to the George Hamilton Perkins Papers, 1837-1902

Administrative Summary

Title:

George Hamilton Perkins Papers, 1837-1902

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

M 1982.068

Creator of the Collection:

George Hamilton Perkins, 1835-1899

Author of Finding Aid:

Thomas E. Camden, October 1982

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

3 boxes and 2 bound volumes

Abstract:

The George Hamilton Perkins Papers, 1837-1902, consists of official correspondence, United States Navy circulars, and twelve bound volumes. Most of the materials date from Perkins' service during the United States Civil War.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The George Hamilton Perkins Papers were a gift of Mrs Larz Anderson, born Isabel Weld Perkins, in September 1923 and June 1924.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Thomas E. Camden in October 1982. The finding aid was updated by Sarah Galligan, December 2013, to follow the standards set-forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, NH.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Researchers are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, George Hamilton Perkins Papers, 1837-1902, M 1982.068. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

George Hamilton Perkins was born on October 20, 1835 in Hopkinton, NH, to Eliot and Clara Bartlett (George) Perkins. He attended schools in Hopkinton, NH, and Gilmanton, NH, and also had private tutors. From 1852 to 1856, Perkins served as midshipman at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. Perkins then served on the *Cyane*, sloop of war, from 1856 to 1858. In 1858, he was detached from the *Cyane* and ordered to the store ship, *Release*, where he served as Acting Master. Then, in January 1859, Perkins was transferred to the *Sabine* at Montevideo, Uruguay. Later that year, in August 1859, Perkins was ordered as Acting Master to the United States steamer *Sumpter* along the west coast of Africa. In September of 1859, he became Master of the *Sumpter*.

At the start of the American Civil War, in March 1861, George Hamilton Perkins was commissioned as a Lieutenant. In December of 1861, Perkins was made First Lieutenant to the gunboat *Cayuga* of the West Gulf Squadron under Commodore Farragut. The *Cayuga* led the attack on New Orleans, LA, in April 1862. Perkins was placed in command of the *New London* in June 1862 to convey powder to the Union troops at Fort

Hudson, LA. The next year, in July 1863, Perkins was given command of the gunboat, *Sciota*, on blockade duty off the coast of Texas. In April 1864, Perkins captured the Confederate blockade runner, *Mary Sorley*, loaded with cotton. On August 5, 1864, during the Battle of Mobile Bay, AL, Perkins was given command of the *Chickasaw* and played a prominent role in the attack on the *Tennessee*. After the battle, he shelled Fort Powell, Fort Gaines, and Fort Morgan, all located in Mobile Bay.

In November 1865, Perkins was appointed Superintendent of the Ironclads at New Orleans, LA. Then, in May 1866, Perkins was ordered as Executive Officer to the *Lackawanna*. Perkins was ordered to the Boston yard on ordinance duty in June 1869. On September 15, 1870, Perkins married Anna Minot Weld, daughter of William F. Weld of Boston, MA. Together, they had one daughter, Isabel Weld, in 1877. From 1871 to 1882, he commanded the *Relief* and the *Ashuelot* and also served as Lighthouse Inspector for the Second District. In March 1882, Perkins was appointed Captain of the Navy, which he held until his retirement in April 1891. In May 1896, Perkins was appointed Commodore by a special act of Congress. Perkins died on October 29, 1899 in Boston. The United States Navy named three destroyers after George Hamilton Perkins. A statue of George Hamilton Perkins by American sculptor Daniel Chester French stands outside the New Hampshire State House.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The George Hamilton Perkins Papers, 1837-1902, consists of official correspondence, United States Navy circulars, and twelve bound volumes. Most of the materials date from Perkins' service during the United States Civil War. The bulk of the official correspondence and United States Navy circulars are from the year 1864. The collection also includes two bound volumes entitled *Letters from George Hamilton Perkins to His Family*. These volumes are composed of correspondence which has been lightly adhered to a backing with adhesive. The items in this volume span the years 1856-1879. Another volume entitled *Naval Orders and Commissions, George Hamilton Perkins* covers the years 1856-1896. The collection also includes nine other bound volumes containing official journals, crew lists kept by Perkins, and letter books kept while at sea.

Contents List

Box 1

Folder 1	Correspondence, 1863
Folder 2	Correspondence, January 1864
Folder 3	Correspondence, February 1864
Folder 4	Correspondence, March 1864
Folder 5	Correspondence, April 1864
Folder 6	Correspondence, May 1864
Folder 7	Correspondence, July-August 1864

- Folder 8 Correspondence, September 1864
- Folder 9 Correspondence, October 1864
- Folder 10 Correspondence, November 1864
- Folder 11 Correspondence, December 1864
- Folder 12 Correspondence, 1865
- Folder 13 Correspondence, 1866
- Folder 14 Correspondence, not dated
- Folder 15 Printed Materials: Navy Circulars and Regulations, 1837-1862
- Folder 16 Printed Materials: Navy Circulars, General Orders, and Extracts, January-September 1863
- Folder 17 Printed Materials: Navy Circulars, General Orders, and Extracts, October-December 1863
- Folder 18 Printed Materials: Navy Circulars, General Orders, and Extracts, January 1864
- Folder 19 Printed Materials: Navy Circulars, General Orders, and Extracts, February-March 1864
- Folder 20 Printed Materials: Navy Circulars, General Orders, and Extracts, April 1864
- Folder 21 Printed Materials: Navy Circulars, General Orders, and Extracts, May 1864
- Folder 22 Printed Materials: Navy Circulars, General Orders, and Extracts, June 1864
- Folder 23 Printed Materials: Navy Circulars, General Orders, and Extracts, July-August 1864
- Folder 24 Printed Materials: Navy Circulars, General Orders, and Extracts, September 1864
- Folder 25 Printed Materials: Navy Circulars, General Orders, and Extracts, October- November 1864
- Folder 26 Printed Materials: Navy Circulars, General Orders, and Extracts, December 1864
- Folder 27 Printed Materials: Navy Circulars, General Orders, and Extracts, 1865
- Folder 28 Printed Materials: Navy Circulars, General Orders, and Extracts, 1884-1902
- Folder 29 Printed Materials: Miscellaneous, not dated

Box 2

- Volume 1 General Station Bill of *U.S.S. Brooklyn's* Class includes General and Quarter Bill of the *U.S.S. Brooklyn* and Watch Quarter and Station Bill of the *U.S.S. Lackawanna*, 1866-1869
- Volume 2 Letter book of the *Chickasaw, Relief, and Ashuelot*, 1864-1879

- Volume 3 Letter book of the *Ashuelot*, April 1877-March 1879
- Volume 4 Journal kept while on the *U.S.S. Hartford*; inserted letters; newspaper clippings; and calling cards, 1871-1885
- Volume 5 Journal kept while on the *Ashuelot*, 1879

Box 3

- Volume 6 Official journal of the U.S. Barque *Release*, January 27, 1858-March 18, 1859
- Volume 7 Letter book of the U.S. Gunboat *Sciota*, January-May 1864
- Volume 8 Watch Quarter and Station Bill of the U.S. Ship *Lackawanna*, contains colored illustrations and embellishments, 1866-1869
- Volume 9 Crew List of the *U.S.S. Lackawanna*, North Pacific Squadron, 1866-1869

(Unboxed Volumes)

- Volume 10 Naval Orders and Commissions, 1856-1896
- Volume 11 Letters from George Hamilton Perkins to his family, Volume 1, February 1856-January 1863
- Volume 12 Letters from George Hamilton Perkins to his family, Volume 2, February 1863-March 1879

Subject Terms

Subjects:

- Brooklyn (Ship)
- Hartford (Ship)
- Lackawanna (Ship)
- Mobile Bay, Battle of, Ala., 1864
- New Orleans (La.)—History—Capture, 1862
- Sciota (Gunboat)
- United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865
- United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Naval Operations

Locations:

- Boston, MA
- Chile
- China
- Contoocook, NH
- Hong Kong, China
- Honolulu, HI
- Hopkinton, NH
- Japan
- Manila, Philippines

Mexico
Mobile Bay, AL
New Orleans, LA
Peru
Siam, Thailand
Spezi, Italy
Texas

People:

Anderson, Isabel, 1876-1948
Farragut, David Glasgow, 1801-1870
Morton, Harriet (Perkins), 1834-1899
Parker, William A.
Perkins, Clara Bartlett (George)
Perkins, George Hamilton, 1835-1899
Perkins, Hamilton Eliot

Related Materials

The following are library materials related to George Hamilton Perkins housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society:

Alden, Carroll Storrs. *George Hamilton Perkins, Commodore, U.S.N.: His Life and Letters*. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Co., 1914.

Official Proceedings at the Dedication of the Statue of Commodore George Hamilton Perkins at Concord, New Hampshire, on the 25th day of April, 1902. Concord: Published by order of the Governor and Council, 1903.

Perkins, George Hamilton, Susan G. Perkins, ed. *Letters of Captain George Hamilton Perkins, U.S.N.: Also a sketch of his life by Commodore George E. Belknap, U.S.N.* Concord: Ira C. Evans, 1886.

Museum objects related to the life of George Hamilton Perkins: a badge (1957.059.01); two belt buckles (2003.015.02 and 2003.015.03); an engraving (2010.501.03); a sword (2003.015.01); three pieces of his U.S. Naval uniform (1978.030.49).