

Henry T. Mayo Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress



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

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Contact information:

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

Additional search options available at:

<http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms008058>

LC Online Catalog record:

<http://lcn.loc.gov/mm83060608>

Prepared by Kathleen M. Dondanville

Collection Summary

Title: Henry T. Mayo Papers

Span Dates: 1866-1972

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1900-1918)

ID No.: MSS60608

Creator: Mayo, Henry T. (Henry Thomas), 1856-1937

Extent: 5,250 items ; 15 containers ; 6 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, memoranda, speeches, memoirs, genealogical material, reports, orders, certificates, scrapbooks, photographs, and other papers pertaining mainly to Mayo's naval career.

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

Benson, William Shepherd, 1855-1932--Correspondence.

Caballero, Luis--Correspondence.

Creel, George, 1876-1953--Correspondence.

Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.

Eberle, Edward W. (Edward Walter), 1864-1929--Correspondence.

Greely, A. W. (Adolphus Washington), 1844-1935.

Guerra, José--Correspondence.

Mayo, Chester Garst, 1881-1975?--Correspondence.

Mayo, Henry T. (Henry Thomas), 1856-1937.

Miller, Clarence A.--Correspondence.

Morelos Zaragoza, Ignacio, 1860-1927--Correspondence.

Whitehill, Jane, 1902-1996--Correspondence.

Whitehill, Walter Muir, 1905-1978--Correspondence.

Organizations

Allied and Associated Powers (1914-1920)

United States. Navy--Officers.

United States. Navy--Sea life.

United States. Navy. Atlantic Fleet.

Yantic (Gunboat)

Subjects

Hydrographic surveying--Washington (State)--Puget Sound.

World War, 1914-1918--Naval operations, American.

Places

Arctic regions--Discovery and exploration.

Mexico--Foreign relations--1910-1946.

Mexico--Foreign relations--United States.

Puget Sound (Wash.)--Discovery and exploration.

Tampico (Tamaulipas, Mexico)

United States--Discovery and exploration.

United States--Foreign relations--1913-1921.

United States--Foreign relations--Mexico.

Veracruz Llave (Mexico)--History--American occupation, 1914.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Henry T. Mayo, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1982 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Henry T. Mayo were arranged and described in 1991. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Henry T. Mayo 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, Henry T. Mayo Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1856, Dec. 8	Born, Burlington, Vt.
1876	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1879-1889	Chief, hydrographic office branch, Port Townsend, Washington Territory
1881	Married Caroline Wing
1883	Served in the Greely Relief Expedition aboard the gunboat <i>Yantic</i>
1895-1898	Carried out first hydrographic survey of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii
1899	Promoted to lieutenant commander
1907-1908	Commanded the cruiser <i>Albany</i> in Central American waters
1908	Promoted to captain
1911	Commandant, Mare Island Navy Yard, Vallejo, Calif.
1913	Promoted to rear admiral Commanded fourth division of Atlantic Fleet

1914	Instigated military crisis by demanding apology and gun salute from President Victoriano Huerta after arrest of American marines, Tampico, Mexico
1915	Promoted to vice admiral
1916	Promoted to admiral and commander in chief of the Atlantic fleet
1917	Represented United States at naval conference of allied nations
1918	Inspector of United States naval activities in Great Britain, France, and Italy
1920	Retired from navy
1924-1928	Governor, United States Naval Home, Philadelphia, Pa.
1937, Feb. 23	Died, Portsmouth, N.H.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Henry Thomas Mayo (1856-1937) span the years 1866-1972, with the bulk of the items concentrated in the period from 1900 to 1918. The collection consists largely of correspondence and military records documenting Mayo's distinguished career in the United States Navy. The papers contain the following series: [Family Papers](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Military File](#), and [Miscellany](#).

The [Family Papers](#) are divided into correspondence and a biographical file. The correspondence contains Mayo's letters to his wife, sons, and sister during his frequent tours of duty. These letters provide accounts of his daily routines at sea, descriptions of foreign countries and inhabitants, and narratives of significant events and activities in his career. Notable topics include his exploration and hydrographic survey of Puget Sound and his operations as commander in chief of the United States Atlantic Fleet during World War I. Of special note are letters outlining his role in the "Tampico Incident," a military crisis that developed when Mayo demanded an apology and gun salute from dictator Victoriano Huerta after Mexican soldiers arrested American marines in Tampico, Mexico. These actions precipitated the occupation of Veracruz Llave and Tampico by the United States and catapulted Mayo to fame.

The correspondence also includes Mayo's daily letters to his wife describing his participation in the 1883 Arctic relief expeditions aboard the gunboat *Yantic*, searching unsuccessfully for Adolphus W. Greely's missing exploration party. Many of these early letters were transcribed in later years by Mayo's son Chester, who apparently disposed of numerous originals. The correspondence also includes Caroline Mayo's letters to family members, as well as some letters sent to the Mayos from various relatives.

The biographical file contains material relating to Mayo's personal life and naval career, including his unpublished memoirs, written with the help of his son Chester, recollections of specific events by Mayo and his wife, and some genealogical materials regarding the Mayo family. Also included are later biographical writings of Chester Mayo and Walter and Janet Whitehill, whose correspondence, 1953-1972, with Chester Mayo is responsible for the collection's extended date span.

The [General Correspondence](#) contains incoming and outgoing letters, primarily between Mayo and naval officers, colleagues, and family friends. Most of this correspondence relates to his military assignments, his role in the Tampico incident, and wartime operations. Also included are a few letters from foreign naval officials, thanking Mayo for his role in the Naval Allied Conference of 1917 and other activities during World War I. In addition, the series includes letters regarding personal business matters, invitations from friends and organizations, and correspondence with the public.

The [Military File](#) contains a variety of materials that document the significant events and activities of Mayo's naval career. Notable are reports, memoranda, and messages concerning Mayo's role at Tampico. Original correspondence with Mexican officials such as Ignacio Morelos Zaragoza, commander of the Mexican Federal Forces, are contained in these files. Also

included are official orders, memoranda, and correspondence, some of an unofficial nature documenting the routine activities Mayo performed as a naval officer. Letters from Mayo in the correspondence subseries of the Family Papers help to fill some of the gaps in the Military File.

The Miscellany series contains souvenirs and programs, printed materials, and transcripts of speeches given by Mayo. Also included are photographs of Mayo, naval officers, family and friends, and images of a defeated Italy during World War I. Of special note are scrapbooks, probably maintained by Caroline and Chester Mayo, filled with newspaper clippings, programs, invitations, and other materials documenting significant events in Henry Mayo's naval career and life.

Frequent and prominent correspondents not mentioned previously include William S. Benson, Luis Caballero, George Creel, Josephus Daniels, Edward W. Eberle, José Guerra, and Clarence A. Miller

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in four series:

- [Family Papers, 1866-1972](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1872-1937](#)
- [Military File, 1872-1928](#)
- [Miscellany, 1873-1946](#)

Description of Series

Container

Series

BOX 1-7

Family Papers, 1866-1972

Family correspondence of Henry and Caroline Mayo and other family members, and a biographical file of correspondence, notes, memoirs, recollections, writings, and other material regarding Mayo.

Correspondence arranged alphabetically by name of family member and chronologically therein; biographical file arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX 7-9

General Correspondence, 1872-1937

Incoming and outgoing correspondence, including some enclosures.
Arranged chronologically.

BOX 9-12

Military File, 1872-1929

Correspondence, memoranda, messages, reports, orders, passports, certificates, and other materials regarding Mayo's military career.

Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically therein.

BOX 12-15

Miscellany, 1873-1946

Scrapbooks, copies of speeches, printed matter, programs and souvenirs, and photographs.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-7	Family Papers, 1866-1972 Family correspondence of Henry and Caroline Mayo and other family members, and a biographical file of correspondence, notes, memoirs, recollections, writings, and other material regarding Mayo. Correspondence arranged alphabetically by name of family member and chronologically therein; biographical file arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Mayo, Caroline ("Carrie")
BOX 1	Mayo, Aida (daughter-in-law), 1913-1933, undated
BOX 1	Mayo, Chester (son), 1891-1935 (3 folders)
BOX 1	Mayo, Chester and Aida (son and daughter-in-law), 1908-1935
BOX 1	Mayo, Henry T. (husband), 1914
BOX 1	Mayo, Lucy ("Loulie") (sister-in-law), 1889-1929, undated (3 folders)
BOX 2	Wing family, 1880-1889, 1908-1914, undated
BOX 2	Mayo, Henry T.
BOX 2	Mayo, Caroline ("Carrie") (wife)
BOX 2	1881-1915 (8 folders)
BOX 3	1915-1918 (9 folders)
BOX 4	1918-1930 (5 folders)
BOX 4	Mayo, Chester (son)
BOX 4	1885-1924 (3 folders)
BOX 5	1925-1935 (2 folders)
BOX 5	Mayo, Chester and Aida (son and daughter-in-law), 1908-1935
BOX 5	Mayo, Chester and George (sons), 1898-1903
BOX 5	Mayo, George (son), 1895-1898
BOX 5	Mayo, Lucy ("Loulie") (sister)
BOX 5	1872-1915 (6 folders)
BOX 6	1916-1929, undated (2 folders)
BOX 6	Mayo family, 1866-1917
BOX 6	Miscellany, 1869-1937, undated
BOX 6	Biographical file
BOX 6	Genealogical materials, undated

Family Papers, 1866-1972

Container

Contents

BOX 6	Memoirs, undated (2 folders)
BOX 6	Notes and extracts from letters by Caroline Mayo, 1905-1932, undated
BOX 6	Recollections by Henry Mayo, undated
BOX 7	Writings
BOX 7	Mayo, Chester, 1931-1932, 1945, undated
BOX 7	Others, 1917, undated
BOX 7	Whitehall, Walter and Janet, 1953-1972, undated
BOX 7-9	General Correspondence, 1872-1937 Incoming and outgoing correspondence, including some enclosures. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 7	1872-1917 (6 folders)
BOX 8	1918-1927, undated (8 folders)
BOX 9	1928-1937, undated (2 folders)
BOX 9-12	Military File, 1872-1929 Correspondence, memoranda, messages, reports, orders, passports, certificates, and other materials regarding Mayo's military career. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 9	Appointments, 1872-1916
BOX 9	Congressional hearings
BOX 9	General, 1913-1914
BOX 9	Permanent rank of admiral, 1919 (2 folders)
BOX 9	Correspondence and memoranda
BOX 9	1887-1916 (3 folders)
BOX 10	1917-1925 (3 folders)
BOX 10	Letters of recommendation, 1909-1925
BOX 10	Fleet organization, 1916, undated
BOX 10	Mare Island, Calif., 1911-1914
BOX 10	Orders
BOX 10	1874-1909 (2 folders)
BOX 11	1910-1928
BOX 11	Passports, 1917-1918
BOX 11	Reports, 1904, 1919
BOX 11	Tampico incident, 1914
BOX 11	Correspondence
BOX 11	American and foreign consuls
BOX 11	Commercial vessels

Military File, 1872-1929

Container

Contents

BOX 11	Foreign naval officials
BOX 11	Mexican officials
BOX 11	Eyewitness accounts
BOX 11	Memoranda and orders from United States Atlantic Fleet
BOX 11	Messages (3 folders)
BOX 12	(3 folders)
BOX 12	Reports (2 folders)
BOX 12	World War I
BOX 12	Allied naval conference, 1917
BOX 12	Battleship efficiency, 1917-1918
BOX 12-15	Miscellany, 1873-1946 Scrapbooks, copies of speeches, printed matter, programs and souvenirs, and photographs. Arranged alphabetically by type of material and chronologically therein.
BOX 12	Drawings, undated
BOX 12	Humor file, undated
BOX 12	Magazine articles, 1914-1919
BOX 12	Miscellaneous cards and souvenirs, 1908-1945, n.d
BOX 13	Newspaper clippings, 1883-1946, undated
BOX 13	Photographs, 1873-1918, undated
BOX 13	Programs, 1904-1927 (2 folders)
BOX 13	Publications, 1914-1919
BOX 13	Scrapbooks
BOX 13	1876-1914 (2 folders)
BOX 13	1914 (2 folders)
BOX 14	1914-1916
BOX 14	1917-1918 (2 folders)
BOX 14	1919 (2 folders)
BOX 14	1920-1934 (1 folder)
BOX 15	(1 folder)
BOX 15	1937
BOX 15	Speeches, 1922-1934, undated (2 folders)