

Wm. Oland Bourne Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Prepared by Bradley Gernand and Patrick
Kerwin



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2002

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

Finding aid encoded by Library of
Congress Manuscript Division, 2009

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms009056>

Latest revision: 2012 February

Collection Summary

Title: Wm. Oland Bourne Papers

Span Dates: 1841-1885

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1856-1867)

ID No.: MSS13375

Creator: Bourne, Wm. Oland (William Oland), 1819-1901

Extent: 1,500 items; 6 containers plus 2 oversize; 2.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Clergyman and journalist. Letters, verse, and narratives submitted in a contest sponsored by Bourne, chaplain at Central Park Hospital, New York City, during the Civil War, and editor of the periodical *The Soldiers Friend*. Other correspondence pertains to slavery, economic conditions of the working man, and *The Soldiers Friend*, edited by Bourne.

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

Bourne, Wm. Oland (William Oland), 1819-1901.

Organizations

Central Park Hospital.

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

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

Workingmen's Democratic Republican Association.

Subjects

Amputees.

Penmanship.

People with disabilities.

Slavery--United States.

Places

United States--Economic conditions.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Medical care.

United States--History--Civil war, 1861-1865--Periodicals.

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

United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Titles

The soldier's friend.

Occupations

Clergy.

Journalists.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Wm. Oland Bourne, clergyman and journalist, were given to the Library of Congress by Gabriel Wells in 1931.

Additional Guides

Inventories compiled by Charles Cooney including an alphabetical listing of each soldier and sailor who participated in the two penmanship contests, and a select list, organized by battle, referencing battles described by their accounts, are available for use in the Manuscript Reading Room. Also available is a list of photographs in the collection. Both are available in a [PDF](#) document.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Wm.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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Wm. Oland Bourne 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, Wm. Oland Bourne Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William Oland Bourne (1819-1901) span the years 1841-1885, with the bulk concentrated in the period, 1856-1867. Bourne, editor of the periodical *The Soldiers Friend*, sponsored a contest in 1866 in which Union soldiers and sailors who lost their right arms by disability or amputation during the Civil War were invited to submit samples of their penmanship using their left hands. The contest, which awarded \$1,000 prizes for the winning entries, was succeeded by a second contest which awarded \$500 prizes. Bourne's papers contain correspondence and broadsides concerning the contests, the entries submitted, and photographs of the participants.

Bourne, who served as chaplain of Central Park Hospital, a military hospital in New York City, also collected Civil War reminiscences recorded by his patients in autograph books. The reminiscences generally include information concerning places and dates of enlistment, descriptions of major battles, wounds suffered, and the dates and circumstances of the patients' admittance to the hospital.

Bourne also was interested in politics and active in the New York affiliate of the Workingmens Democratic Republican Association, and his correspondence documents the history of the association from 1841 through 1885.

Arrangement of the Papers

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

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Civil War reminiscences by soldiers and sailors in Central Park Hospital, New York, N.Y., 1864-1865
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1866-1867
BOX 1	Left-hand Penmanship Contest
BOX 1	Broadsides, undated
BOX 1	List of contributors, their residences, and date of wounds, undated
BOX 1	Soldier and sailor contributions
BOX 1	Series 1 (\$1,000 prize)
BOX 1	Nos. 1-12 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Nos. 13-90 (no files for entries 61 and 88) (8 folders)
BOX 3	Nos. 91-180 (no files for entries 122, 157-159, 166, and 173) (9 folders)
BOX 4	Nos. 181-270 (9 folders)
BOX 4	Series 2 (\$500 prize)
BOX 4	Nos. 1-10
BOX 5	Nos. 11-80 (no files for entries 11, 57, and 67) (7 folders)
BOX 6	Nos. 81-114 and unidentified (5 folders)
BOX 6	Photographs of participants, circa 1861-1865 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 6	Periodicals, 1841-1885 <i>See Oversize</i>
BOX 6	Workingmens Democratic Republican Association
BOX 6	Broadsides, 1856-1865, undated <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX 6	Correspondence, 1856-1884
BOX OV 1	Oversize (Container 6)
	Left-hand Penmanship Contest
	Photographs of participants, circa 1861-1865
BOX OV 2	Periodicals
BOX OV 2	<i>American Brotherhood</i> , New York, N.Y., 1845
BOX OV 2	<i>American Patriot</i> , New York, N.Y., 1841
BOX OV 2	<i>Boston Commonwealth</i> , Boston, Mass., 1885
BOX OV 2	<i>Christian Intelligencer</i> , 1843
BOX OV 2	<i>Evening Mirror</i> , New York, N.Y., 1850
BOX OV 2	<i>Independent</i> , 1859
BOX OV 2	<i>Iron Platform</i> , [1856?], 1872
BOX OV 2	<i>New England Loyal Publication Society</i> , Boston, Mass., 1864
BOX OV 2	<i>New York Recorder</i> , New York, N.Y., 1854
BOX OV 2	<i>Protestant Vindicator</i> , New York, N.Y., 1842-1845
BOX OV 2	<i>Soldiers Friend</i> , New York, N.Y., 1869

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX OV 2	<i>Visitor and Advertiser</i> , New York, N.Y., 1846
BOX OV 2	[Unidentified fragment] - <i>Intelligencer</i> , 1860
BOX OV 2	Workingmen's Democratic Republican Association, broadsides
BOX OV 2	A Challenge! undated
BOX OV 2	A Great Fraud, 1863
BOX OV 2	A Traitors Peace! undated
BOX OV 2	Address on the School Question, by the Ninth Ward Committee, 1842
BOX OV 2	Attention: Discussion of the Tariff and Slavery Questions, Clay Club County Committee, 1844
BOX OV 2	Danl OConnell on Democracy! 1863
BOX OV 2	To the Laboring Men of New York, 1863
BOX OV 2	Dont Unchain the Tiger! 1872