



Officers in the United States Navy, 1789–1925

Service Records of Naval Officers

___M330, *Abstracts of Service Records of Naval Officers (“Records of Officers”)*, 1789–1893. 19 rolls. This series is arranged chronologically by date of appointment. Gives the name of the officer, the date of his appointment, the date and nature of changes in his rank, and, where pertinent, the date and nature of termination of service. The abstracts describe cover letters sent conveying appointments, orders and letters accepting resignation, and applications for appointments as midshipmen or cadets. Most of the rolls have a name index.

___M1328, *Abstracts of Service Records of Naval Officers (“Records of Officers”)*, 1829–1924. 18 rolls. DP. Arranged alphabetically by date, and, briefly, by rank. Summarizes the personal and professional lives of Naval Officers. Generally provides place and date of birth, date of commissioning, dates of all promotions and assignments, date of discharge, and date and place of death. The descriptive pamphlet (DP) has a name index.

___T829, *Miscellaneous Records of the U.S. Navy. Naval Records and Library*. 461 rolls. The records include acceptances and resignations of commissions covering the years approximately 1804–1842 (rolls 367–394); muster and payrolls for Navy vessels prior to the Civil War (rolls 1–140); and officers letters during the Mexican War, 1845–47 (rolls 262–284).

Correspondence Relating to Officers

___M89, *Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy From Commanding Officers of Squadrons (“Squadron Letters”)*, 1841–1886. 300 rolls. DP. Arranged by squadron, and then by date. The letters describe operations by ships and are more likely to provide information about an entire crew rather than individual officers. Most of the volumes have a name index, but a few are unindexed.

___M125, *Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy From Captains (“Captains’ Letters”)*, 1805–1861, 1866–1885. 413 rolls. DP. This series reproduces reports written to the Secretary of the Navy whenever American vessels engaged with foreign vessels, typically during a conflict. Each volume is indexed, and many of the indexes provide an abstract of the letter.

___M147, *Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy From Commanders, 1804–1886*. 124 rolls. DP. Arranged chronologically. An index is included in the Descriptive Pamphlet.

___M148, *Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy From Commissioned Officers Below the Rank of Commander and From Warrant Officers (“Officers’ Letters”)*, 1802–1884. 518 rolls. DP. These letters contain material about personnel matters, duties, furloughs, desertions, resignations, and courts-martial. With only a few exceptions, each volume has an index either in the beginning or at the end of the volume.

___M149, *Letters Sent by the Secretary of the Navy to Officers, 1798–1868*. 86 rolls. DP.

These letters contain instructions to commanders, responses to reports, and other matters relating to the general operation of the Navy. Each volume is indexed alphabetically by the name of the correspondent, except those officers commanding squadrons or stations, which are indexed by the name of the station or squadron.

United States Naval Academy

___M949, *Letters Received by the Superintendent of the USNA, 1845–1887*. 11 rolls. DP.

___M1018, *Registers of Letters Received and Letters Received by the Superintendent of the USNA, 1888–1906*. 89 rolls. DP. These letters concern reports, recommendations, copies of orders for midshipmen and cadets, and other naval personnel at the academy. M949 does not have any finding aids, but the first four rolls of M1018 include the register of letters found in the preceding rolls.

___M991, *US Naval Academy Registers of Delinquencies (1846–1850, 1853–1882) and Academic and Conduct Records of Cadets (1881–1908)*. 45 rolls. DP. The volumes are indexed by surname.

General Courts-Martial and Courts of Inquiry of the Navy

___M273, *Records of General Court Martial and Courts of Inquiry of the Navy Department, 1799–1867*. 198 rolls. The rolls contain an alphabetical name index for the periods 1799–1861 and 1861–1867. The case files contain name, rank, ship or station, charges, date of the trial, and the sentence of the court.

Published Sources

These publications are available at the National Archives as well as at larger public, college, or university libraries. The citations in parentheses are Library of Congress call numbers.

___Callahan, Edward W. *List of Officers of the Navy of the United States and of the Marine Corps from 1775 to 1900*. New York, L. R. Hamersly & Co., 1901. (V11.U7 C2).

___Hamersly, Lewis R. *The Records of Living Officers of the U.S. Navy*. Philadelphia, J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1870-1878. (V61 .H2). There are four editions published from 1870 to 1878. The books provide short biographies of Naval and Marine Corps officers living at the date of publication.

___United States Dept. of the Navy. *Navy Directory: Officers of the United States Navy and Marine Corps*. Washington, DC, Bureau of Navigation, 1898-1986. (N 1.24 :1918 – 1941). The National Archives has the *Directory* for 1898, 1918, 1950-1956, 1972, 1978-1979, and 1986.

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