

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Microfilm Publication M124

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS RECEIVED

BY THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

1801-1884

Roll 246

Volumes 409 and 410

Aug. 1-Sept. 29, 1849



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON: 1947

INTRODUCTION

On the 647 rolls of this microfilm publication are reproduced the 823 bound volumes of miscellaneous letters received by the Secretary of the Navy, 1801-84, part of Naval Records Collection of the Office of Naval Records and Library, Record Group 45, in the National Archives of the United States.

The Department of the Navy was established by an act of April 30, 1798 (1 Stat. 553). The act provided for assumption of that total responsibility for naval affairs previously vested in the War Department. It created the office of Secretary of the Navy and gave him authority to appoint a chief clerk and such inferior clerks as he felt necessary. The first Secretary of the Navy, Benjamin Stoddert, entered on duty on June 18, 1798. To assist him in the management of fiscal affairs, the subordinate office of Accountant of the Navy was created on July 16, 1798 (1 Stat. 610). It was abolished on March 3, 1817 (3 Stat. 366).

Until 1815 the Secretary of the Navy had direct responsibility for all administrative functions of the Department, except those assigned to the Marine Corps and to navy yards. An act of February 7, 1815 (3 Stat. 202), established a three-man Board of Navy Commissioners, subordinate to the Secretary, but separate from his office, and charged it with performing such "ministerial duties" as assigned by the Secretary. He retained his direct control over personnel matters and the movement of ships, but delegated to the Board those functions relating to the procurement of stores and materials and to the construction, equipage, and repair of vessels.

A reorganization of August 31, 1842 (5 Stat. 579), abolished the Board and established in its stead five bureaus: Navy Yards and Docks; Construction, Equipment, and Repair; Provisions and Clothing; Ordnance and Hydrography; and Medicine and Surgery. A further reorganization, on July 5, 1862 (12 Stat. 510), increased the number of bureaus to eight: Yards and Docks, Equipment and Recruiting, Navigation, Ordnance, Construction and Repair, Steam Engineering, Provisions and Clothing, and Medicine and Surgery. The Bureau of Equipment and Recruiting assumed responsibility for personnel functions relating to enlisted men in 1862, and the Bureau of Navigation for the appointment and assignment of officers in 1865. The effect of the various reorganizations was gradually to reduce the direct role of the Secretary in naval operations and activities, leaving him free to deal increasingly with matters of broad policy and administration.

Although the Navy Department was created in 1798, the earliest letters in the series of miscellaneous letters received

date from January 1801. There are letters received by the Secretary's office between 1798-1800, similar in nature to those reproduced in this microfilm publication, in two other series of Record Group 45--the area file (reproduced as Microfilm Publication M625, *Area File of the Naval Records Collection, 1775-1910*) and the subject file. These letters may have come from two volumes of miscellaneous letters received for the period, which were "broken up and archived" by the Office of Naval Records and Library in 1931. (Miscellaneous letters received for 1847 are similarly missing from this series and are found in the area and subject file.)

Prior to about 1825 all letters received in the Office of the Secretary of the Navy, with the exception of those requesting appointments to civil or military positions in the Department and of those pertaining to a few specialized subject areas, were filed as a single correspondence series. The arrangement scheme is not known, although it was probably chronological.

On December 2, 1823, Secretary Samuel Southard introduced the registry system to handle all regular incoming letters. Letters received after that date were marked on the reverse of the final page with the initial letter of the surname of the correspondent (or the initial letter of the office of origin), the date received, and the name of the clerk in the Secretary's office to whom the correspondence was assigned. The letters were entered on registry forms (later bound into registers), alphabetically according to the initial letter of the surname of the writer or of his office and thereunder chronologically by date received. In addition, each entry included the correspondent's residence, the date of the letter, its subject, and the name of the clerk to whom it was assigned. Secretary Southard modified the system on August 1, 1825, to include a number following the initial letter of the author's surname, thus providing a unique file designation for each letter received in a given year.

The system was again modified on October 21, 1852, when the use of registry numbers was discontinued. Subsequently, letters were registered only by the initial letter of the surname of the correspondent and thereunder chronologically by date received. The registry system continued in this form until January 1, 1885, when it was dropped and the Navy Department began assigning serial numbers to its incoming correspondence in chronological sequence according to date received. Once the letters received were bound, these file designations ceased to have relevance.

As noted above, letters received were originally filed loose in one large series. The decision to bind them in volumes was apparently made in 1824, for on November 18 of that year Secretary Southard issued a circular to all naval officers announcing his intention to begin the periodic binding of "all Original Official documents" and requiring officers, after January 1, 1825, to submit all communications on paper of a uniform size. Special

clerks were employed in the Secretary's Office, 1825-27, to sort and arrange the letters received during the preceding quarter century.

About this same time it was decided to subdivide the earlier single series of letters received. Eventually, four major series of letters received were evolved based upon the identity of the correspondents. These included, in addition to the miscellaneous letters received, letters from captains, letters from masters commandants (styled commanders after 1837), and letters from officers below the rank of commander. There were, in addition, other series created at about this time for letters of appointment and resignation.

The series of miscellaneous letters received, reproduced here, consists of the rather extensive residue of incoming letters remaining after those pertaining to the more specialized series were removed. Included in this residue were large numbers of letters on a wide variety of subjects from a great many people, distinguishable from the other series of letters received in that they deal primarily with matters of personal or special interest to their authors. Families and friends of enlisted men wrote requesting information about their health or whereabouts, or asking for discharges. Seamen themselves often wrote requesting their own discharges. Young men wrote to solicit appointments as midshipmen, pursers, or surgeons; after 1845 men interested in naval careers wrote to inquire about appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. Members of Congress transmitted inquiries from their constituents; public figures, including Congressmen, sent letters of introduction or recommendation. Creditors of officers sought the intercession of the Secretary for the collection of debts. Inventors submitted drafts of their plans for naval vessels, ordnance, and equipment; manufacturers mailed samples of their cloth for uniforms and sails; and contractors submitted bids for supplying food and naval stores.

Routine communications from private citizens and public figures constitute the overwhelming majority of letters in this series. From time to time, however, letters from civilian and military members of the Navy Department and other branches of the Federal Government, often of a more substantive nature, found their way into this series. Letters from a given class of correspondent, predating the establishment of or postdating the abandonment of an appropriate series of letters received for that class, were filed among the miscellaneous letters. For example, letters from the Board of Navy Commissioners, 1815-26, are included in the miscellaneous letters received, while from 1827 to the termination of the Board in 1842, they form a separate series. Similarly, letters from navy agents, filed with the miscellaneous letters received through 1842, form a separate series in 1843. Letters from the President and other Executive departments dated prior to May 1837 are filed with the

miscellaneous letters received as are letters from Congress dated before 1826 and after 1861 that transmit resolutions and request information. Finally, the series of miscellaneous letters received includes a few letters from officers commanding squadrons dated before February 1841 and from commandants of navy yards and shore stations dated before 1848.

The absence of an appropriate series in which to file a letter received from a certain class of correspondent accounts for a large number, perhaps the majority, of these letters. Failures in the screening process also account for some of the letters in this series. Letters that should have been placed in other series were either overlooked by the clerks or were simply misfiled. For example, letters from naval officers of all ranks and from other Executive offices (including the President) continue to appear among the miscellaneous letters as late as the 1840's. Similarly, although a separate series for letters received dealing with Liberia and the question of African colonization had been established in 1819, correspondence on the subject dating as late as the Presidency of Andrew Jackson, 1829-37, can be found in the miscellaneous letters received.

The miscellaneous letters received are arranged generally chronologically by the date of the letter, with letters bearing only an approximate date filed at the end of the pertinent volume. In some cases, as the result of arranging or binding errors, letters of a given date are bound out of sequence; for example, the letters dated August 1, 1833, which are found after letters of August 31 of the same year. The date spans of some volumes overlap, while occasionally individual letters appear in volumes preceding or following the one in which they should be found. A single volume covering the period February 15, 1846, through November 8, 1853, is found at the end of the sequence for 1853.

After the letters had been bound, they were numbered sequentially by a clerk. A single number, annotated in or near the upper right corner of the first page of each letter, was supposed to apply to the letter and all of its enclosures as well. Sometimes, however, enclosures were given the succeeding numbers in the sequence, an error that was only infrequently corrected. Also some letters bear mixed numbers, combinations of whole numbers and fractions, such as "116 1/2," suggesting that they were initially overlooked in the numbering process.

In the front of each volume is a name index to correspondents, arranged alphabetically and keyed to the assigned letter number. The manuscript name index for September 1840 has been replaced by a typescript name and subject index prepared in the Office of Naval Records and Library. The volume for November-December 1884 includes a separate index for letters received from the Department of the Interior.

In the margins of some of the letters in the volumes for the period January 1827-October 1837 are cross-references to other letters in the same volume from the same correspondent. The cross-references are expressed as fractions, the numerator representing the number of the first preceding letter and the denominator signifying the number of the next following letter. The cross-references are not always reliable, however, because letters were frequently overlooked.

The volumes of miscellaneous letters received originally bore on their backstrips a separate sequence of volume numbers beginning with "1" for each calendar year. The table of contents and all title pages in this publication contain just one sequence for volume numbers - from 1 to 823. Special identification sheets ("targets") prepared at an earlier date for individual volumes filmed as part of multi-volume rolls continue to bear volume numbers from the earlier numbering system; new targets prepared to correct errors in the originals bear volume numbers from the new sequence.

A number of related series of letters received by the Secretary of the Navy, part of Record Group 45, have been filmed by the National Archives and Records Service. Some of these have been mentioned above. Among the other microfilm publications are *Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy From Navy Agents and Naval Storekeepers, 1843-1865*, M528; *Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy From Chiefs of Navy Bureaus, 1842-1885*, M518; *Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy From the President and Executive Agencies 1837-1886*, M517; *Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy From Commanders, 1804-1886*, M147; *Letters Received From Commissioned Officers Below the Rank of Commander and From Warrant Officers ("Officers' Letters"), 1802-1884*, M148; *Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy From Captains ("Captains' Letters"), 1805-1861, 1866-1885*, M125; and *Letters Received by the Secretary of the Navy From Commanding Officers of Squadrons ("Squadron Letters"), 1841-1886*, M89.

Microfilm publications of series of letters sent by the Secretary of the Navy are *Letters Sent by the Secretary of the Navy to Chiefs of Navy Bureaus, 1842-1866*, M480; *Letters Sent by the Secretary of the Navy to the President and Executive Agencies, 1821-1886*, M472; *Letters Sent by the Secretary of the Navy to Commandants and Navy Agents, 1808-1865*, M441; *Miscellaneous Letters Sent by the Secretary of the Navy, 1798-1886*, M209; and *Letters Sent by the Secretary of the Navy to Officers, 1798-1868*, M149.

In addition, letters sent and received bearing on African colonization have been filmed as *Correspondence of the Secretary of the Navy Relating to African Colonization, 1819-1844*, M205.

Robert B. Matchette wrote these introductory remarks and prepared the table of contents.

Springfield, Mass. Aug: 3, 1849
Hon: Secretary of the Navy
Dear Sir:

A friend of mine, residing here, has a son whom he wishes to put into the Navy: He is a well grown boy in his thirteenth year. I know not what terms your commission boys are admitted then - I should be obliged if you will inform me.

Yours Obedt Servant
A. J. S. Smith

Charleston August 18. 1844

On the 21st July 1844 I was honorably discharged from the service of the United States, having previous to that date served as captain's steward and on board the United States frigates Cumberland & Porpoise during the war. I was told when I was discharged that I was entitled to prize money and could obtain it by writing to the Secy of the Navy. Since my discharge I have been absent from the United States until the present time, and now write to enquire whether I am entitled to any prize money and if so how I am to obtain it.

Will you please direct an answer to me, to the care of Sawyer & Stone Alley No 3 Chelsea st. Charleston Massachusetts

Very Respectfully
Yours &c
Clemente Villalonga

To the Hon Secy of the Navy

New York Aug^l 20. 1849

To The Honorable
The Secretary of
U.S. Navy -

Sir.

I take the liberty to address you
in behalf of a Coloured man - formerly in the
U.S. Service - His wounds are visible - and
he claims to be entitled to a pension since
"The victory of New Orleans" - His story is
briefly told on the other side - The deities
I will see to it - I will therefore esteem it
a favor if The Honorable the Secretary of the Navy
will at his Early Convenience - direct me
by in the premises, from papers in the Archives
at the Seat of Government - and direct me
in the further proceedings in the premises -

I have the honor to sub-
scribe very Respectfully
Your Obedt. Servant

J. J. NORTON

98 Broadway
Notary Public

Commissioner
of Lots of the U.S. Navy
under Com^d. DeCatur

JOSEPH B. NONES,
NOTARY PUBLIC,
OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,
AND
COMMISSIONER
OF THE STATES OF

Pennsylvania,
Rhode Island,
Maine.
Ohio,

Connecticut,
Vermont
Tennessee,
South Carolina,

Michigan,
Illinois,
Wisconsin,
Kentucky.

Passports from the Government of the United States issued by J. B. NONES.
N. B. POWERS OF ATTORNEY, WILLS, DEEDS, BONDS AND MORTGAGES, AND ALL OTHER
writings, neatly and legally executed.

98 BROADWAY.

Money procured on Mortgage.

Thomas Johnson, Coloured man - now aged
about 65 years - has been a long time ~~previously~~ previous to
the English war ¹⁸¹² in the U.S. Service - was under the
Command of Commodore Paterson - as a Black
Smith - at New Orleans - at the time of The
Battle of New Orleans - under Genl. Jackson
and was in that action - under command of
Capt. John F. Miller - ^{to which he was assigned} of the Artillery - Mr.
Wm. Kennedy Clerk at the ^{N.O.} Navy Yard for
Commodore Paterson - took a full description
of said Johnson - said Johnson signed a
roll then & there by making his cross - He was
very seriously wounded at the battle of
New Orleans, as aforesaid, by a slug entering
his right thumb - and a sabre cut across
the forehead - His wounds were dressed by
Dr. Sherman of the U.S. Navy - He never has
received any pension, but being now in very
indigent circumstances, requires it -

88-1205 - Ship Papers
1811 to 1817

Ans^d Aug. 24th

~~From the [unclear]
of [unclear]~~

Referrals to the 4th
Auditors to furnish the
information

Navy Dept
Aug 22. 1844

I respectfully state that
the Rolls of the N. Orleans Station
which Commodore Patterson com-
menced them, from 1816 to 1817
have been carefully examined,
and that the name of Thomas
Johnson does not appear
upon them.

4th Aud. Office

Aug. 23rd 1844

Ans^d accordingly

[Signature]

N 18 Aug 21 Wash

[Signature]



Boston,

May 3, 1848.

His is to Certify, That

No. 63, William Bennett De Witt
is regularly discharged from the United States Ship Franklin
and from the Naval Service of the

United States.

APPROVED,

W. P. Handy,

Comdr. & Officer.

Wm. Blair

APPROVER.

149
Savannah August 22nd 1849

Hon^{ble} William B. Preston
Secretary of the Navy

Sir,

I beg your permission to place before you the case of my son "Perry Hope" He entered the service of the United States for a term (I think) of three years - He writes me from Norfolk on the 16th inst that he has been "26 Months Carpenters Mate of the United in States Steam Ship Allegahany" and that he fears a longer continuance in the Service, will soon terminate his life. He is not Capable in his present state of health to do full duty, and my anxiety to see him before I am called to another world is very great. I am an aged man & cannot expect, in the course of nature to live long, & I pray you therefore to order the discharge of my Son His name was entered on the Books as "Perry Hope" the way in which my name is pronounced but otherwise spelt

I have the honor to be your most
Obedient Servant

Thos Haupt Sew

Savannah August 22nd 1849

We respectfully & earnestly recommend, that the above application of Thos Haupt Sew: be granted

Sir,

I beg your permission to place before you the case of my son "Perry Hope" He entered the service of the United States for a term (I think) of three years - He writes me from Norfolk on the 16th instant that he has been "26 Months Carpenter State of the United States Steam Ship Alleghany" and that he fears a longer continuance in the Service, will soon terminate his life. He is not Capable in his present state of health to do full duty, and my anxiety to see him before I am called to another world is very great. I am an Aged man & cannot expect, in the course of nature to live long, & I pray you therefore to order the discharge of my Son His name was entered on the Books as "Perry Hope" the way in which my name is pronounced but otherwise spell

I have the honor to be your most
Obedient Servant

Bro. Haupt Senr

Savannah August 22^d 1849

We respectfully & earnestly recommend, that the above application of Mr. Geo Haupt Senr. be granted

Robert W. Crisp
Chas. W. Anderson

A. Foster

Francis S. Bartow

W. Meyer

Joseph W. Jackson

W. Habersham

Thos C. Lloyd

W. Home Williams

Charles S. Army

John Smith

~~Wm. D. Lupton~~

Wm. Hunter

Octavius L. Brown

William Roberts

Hampt Aug 22

On the return of the
alleged to will be
discharged -

Sam^r.

RR RR



Hon. Wm. P. Foster
Secretary of the Navy
Washington City

H 109 Aug. 28. Allen

Phila. 22^d Aug 1849

Dear Sir

This will be handed to you by A. McHaffey Esq who at a cost of more than fifty thousand dollars has established one of the largest and best machine shops in this country at Portsmouth Virginia having been first assured by Judge Mason & Commodore Skinner that the Department would do all that could with propriety be done to sustain him.

The importance of this establishment as a place for repairing government Steamers, and the saving to the Department by preserving its efficiency were considerations which induced your predecessor to give pledges without which it would not have been erected, and which I hope you will cheerfully comply with.

Mr. McHaffey undertakes the construction of the machinery for the Vessel building at Gosport at rates lower than were given for other work, and will be left without employment unless he can get other vessels to repair, and hopes that, as he will do the work on terms as favorable to the States, you will order such repairs as are required to the Service to be done at his establishment

Yours truly

Duffless

How W. Prescott
Sec. Navy

See Commr Skinner's Report dated
8 Sep 1849.

M 119 Sep 8 Harv

Consulate of the United States
Havana August 27. 1809.

To the Honourable
The Secretary of the Navy
Washington City.
Sir.

I have the honor to inform
you that on the morning of the 25th
last the frigate *Raritan*, and sloop of
war *Saratoga*, were off this port, and
that I was informed in a note from
Commodore Parker that officers and
crew were all well. As there exists
much yellow fever in Havana, it
was not deemed advisable by the
Commodore to expose his command
to the danger of disease by entering
the port; and he sailed immediately
for New York after communicating
with me through *Lieut. Atwood*.

I have the honor to be, Sir

with great respect

Your obt. servt.

Robert Blauphaes

Executive Chambers
Jackson Miss September 13th 1849

Sir
Enclosed you will find the Proclamation of
V. M. Randolph Com. of Ship Albany and the
letter of Lieut. Sotter. I request that a copy of the
instructions under which they acted be furnished
me as soon as convenient.

With sentiments of high consideration
I am Sir your obt. servt

J. M. Matthews

Wm William P. Preston
of the United States Navy

The Round Island Expedition

The correspondence was transmitted to the steamer from Round Island. It relates to the receipt, on the part of the naval force stationed in that neighborhood, to interfere with the persons who have encamped on that island. We are surprised at the tone of Lieutenant Totten's communication. It is more in the style of a Russian ukase, or of one of the Austrian General Haynau's proclamations, than of a document such as an officer of our forces should address to a body of citizens. The notification of the President's proclamation is all very well, but when Lieutenant Totten, or his commander, undertakes to construe the provisions of this proclamation for himself, and to assume that every assemblage of unarmed, unorganized citizens, who may be passing the summer on any of the islands in the Gulf or Lake, are conspirators, banded together to violate the peace and dignity of the nation, by lawless enterprises, he undertakes a responsibility, which much wiser, cooler, and more experienced men would hesitate in assuming.

There is no warrant in the Proclamation of the President for any such course. The men on Round Island want the first essential to constitute an "armed expedition"—to which alone the President's Proclamation refers—they have not a stand of arms on the island! Of that fact General Twiggs, whose head-quarters are not four miles from the island, satisfied himself some time ago. We hold that any body of men have the right to assemble for any purpose in any part of the United States, unless such assemblage be accompanied by positive overt proofs of an unlawful intent. The intent, which we by no means admit to be the case in regard to the Round Island Expedition, may be unlawful, and yet the Executive cannot interfere until such intent be indicated in a certain manner. No proofs have been given which bring the assemblage on Round Island within the provisions of the President's Proclamation. The letter, therefore, of Lieutenant Totten, and his interference with an assemblage presumed to be unlawful, is a clear usurpation of power, which if done without full authority from his superior officer, should expose him to the censure of the Department.

The manner, too, of this letter is no less improper and unbecoming, than the assumption of power of the writer, is opposed to law and the rights of citizens. If an armed expedition to any foreign country, with which we are at peace is apprehended, from Round Island, let the naval force be on the alert, and prevent as far as it can, the sailing of such expedition. Such is the duty of our vessels of war. But, when they go to the extent threatened by Lieutenant Totten, of cutting

off the supplies and provisions of an assemblage of men, presumed to be lawful, they greatly exceed their powers, and show a zeal in their task much beyond the law.

Such interferences on the part of our Army and Navy, with the actions of citizens, are very repulsive to our republican instincts, and should not be resorted to on light grounds. The style of Lieutenant Totten's letter is not of the most dignified, and we trust it may turn out, that he has proceeded further than he was ordered. Still, however, we think this appeal to the naval power, in the presence of an ample civil power, in the officers of the United States courts, to suppress any unlawful expedition, is both unusual and improper. Our ships of war were not built to be "dodging" citizens, who may encamp on any of the islands, in our bays and harbors. Their duty is to watch foreigners, and cut off the supplies of our enemies, and not be annoying, persecuting, and browbeating the citizens of our own country.

To the Officers and men of the Expedition at rendezvous on Round Island:

U. S. steamer WATER WITCH, off Round Island, }
August 27, 1849.

I am directed by the officer in command of the Naval forces assembled in this neighborhood, to call your attention to the Proclamation of the President of the Republic, made with regard to the expedition for which you are assembled, and I warn you to disperse at once, or abide the certain infliction of the penalty of the law.

In case you do not disperse by Tuesday (to-morrow) night, I am ordered to cut off your supplies of provisions, for which purpose ample means have been supplied.

You will find it impossible to depart on the expedition. Your steamers will be captured, or sunk in the attempt, if they are even permitted to leave New Orleans, which is very doubtful.

All outlets to the Gulf are watched, and a force is rapidly collecting round you that you cannot dodge.

You are therefore advised, as well as warned, to disperse at once, with the solemn assurance, that however unpleasant it may be to be called upon to act against our own countrymen, our sense of duty is so strong that all feeling will unhesitatingly be laid aside, and that nothing shall deter us from carrying out the orders given, in the strictest manner.

I am, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

GEO. M. TOTTEN, Lt. Com'dg.

To Lieut. TOTTEN, com'dg. steamer Water Witch:
ROUND ISLAND, Aug. 27, 1849.

Sir: Your communication of this morning was duly received. In answer, we have entirely to disclaim any intention such as is embodied in the Proclamation of the President of this Republic, to which you have called our attention. We are a body of men unarmed, un-armed, and unwilling to do aught that would in any manner compromise our citizenship or liberty.

Circumstances may prevent our departure from this island as early as you suggest, as means must be provided which are not immediately at hand. Till such provision is made, there will be no attempt to transport to us further supplies. Respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN HASKINS, President.

W. JOHNSTON, Secretary.

Enclosed in Lieut. Totten's letter, was the President's Proclamation, which, in order that its exact terms may be understood, we republish:

The following proclamation will be found posted this morning, in conspicuous portions of the city. It speaks for itself:

TO THE PERSONS ENCAMPED ON ROUND ISLAND, NEAR PANGAGOOLA—

Friends and Fellow-Countrymen: The Proclamation of the President of the United States, and other instructions which I have received from the Government at Washington, make it imperative and proper that I should immediately take measures to break up your unlawful assemblage and send you back to your homes; and when I have said a few words to you, in proof of your assemblage being unlawful, and of the utter impossibility of your evading the vigilance of our squadron, and getting out of our waters to proceed upon your contemplated wild expedition, to make war against nations at peace with our own, I feel sure you will at once disperse, and seek honest and peaceful occupations.

First—The very mystery which marks the movements and actions of your officers, and the blind ignorance of the means to the destination of the enterprise, clearly show that the objects and purposes of those at the head of your affairs are known to be unlawful, and that plainly is the inducement held out to all who embark in this reckless expedition.

Second—We have proof that some of you have acknowledged that your destination was Cuba—and that others of your number have said that the expedition was fitting out for the invasion of the Sierra Madre States of Mexico, showing conclusively that your expedition is one of a military character.

And lastly—You are regarded in the eyes of the law and in fact—and therefore cannot be allowed to occupy your present position, and must immediately disperse.

I will now prove to you that we have the means of not only preventing your embarkation to foreign parts, but that we can force you to abandon your present headquarters.

I shall employ all the vessels now in this vicinity, or which may hereafter arrive, in such manner as will most effectually bring about the ends desired.

First—I shall certainly prevent the steamers *Fanny*, *Maria Bart*, or any other steamer or steamers, vessel or vessels, of whatever description, from furnishing the adventurers on Round Island with arms, or other munitions of war.

Second—If said steamers or vessels have arms or other munitions of war on board, I shall take possession of said arms, etc., and detain said steamers or vessels until the men congregated on Round Island are dispersed.

Third—I shall prevent the band of men on Round Island from embarking on board of said steamers or vessels, or from holding any communication with them at all.

Fourth—I will make said steamers or vessels anchor within range of our guns.

Fifth—After to-day (28th August), in accordance with a notice before given them, I shall cut off all supplies of provisions which may be intended for the persons on Round Island, and shall rigidly enforce this blockade or embargo, until they abandon the spot and go home.

Sixth—I shall gladly give the persons on Round Island every facility to get away—taking particular care, however, that they do not embark in sea-going vessels.

V. M. RANDOLPH, Com. U. S. ship *Albany*,
Senior Officer Afloat in the Gulf of Mexico.
U. S. Ship *Albany*, off Pangagoela, August 27, 1849.

NATIONAL ARCHIVES MICROFILM PUBLICATIONS

Microfilm Publication M124

MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS RECEIVED

BY THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY

1801-1884

Roll 247

Volumes 411 and 412

Oct. 1-Nov. 30, 1849



THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON: 1947

Washington City

October 13th 1849

To the

Hon. Wm. Ballard Preston,

Secy of the Navy,

Sir:

The undersigned a citizen of Wakulla Co. Florida, has the honor respectfully to represent that, for nearly two years past, he has been engaged in developing the value of the Pine forests in that region, by the gathering of Turpentine.

In the progress of his experiment, he has, in addition to his own, used a small portion of the public lands, and this he has been led to do, under the belief that, Congress, through the influence of his Representative, would grant his application so to use them. Being the pioneer in this experiment, the result of which, if successful, must greatly increase the Revenue of the Country, by bringing into market large bodies of the public pine lands in the State, and his application being still before Congress, he has the honor to request that, the Timber Agents may be instructed not to interfere with him until after the action of Congress shall have been had. - The township in which his small operations have been conducted, is one continuous forest of unsaleable ^{pine} lands, and the success of the experiment he has attempted, can alone bring them into

market and thereby increase the Revenue
of the Country. - In making this applica-
tion he has the honor to assure the Hon.
Secretary of the Navy that, he has the cor-
dial wishes of the people of the whole State
for ^{its} success; - It is a subject in which they
take a deep and lively interest, for if he
is permitted to carry out this experiment,
and it should prove successful, it will
attach to the pine lands in Florida a
value, and develop a source of wealth
to her people which will greatly add
to the commerce of the State and make
its people both prosperous and happy.

May I be permitted to ask the early
action of the Department in this matter.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt Servt
A. P. Dennis

Reference to the Bureau
of Navy, Smalls & Docks
Navy Dept.
Oct 13, 1844.

Paper to Genl. & Doct.
J. P. P.

The timber agent in middle
Florida has been instructed
by the Bureau, to warn
the contractor of the
not to extend his opera-
-tions, upon the public
lands us by
Oct 18 1844

Hill -

Reference
Dr. N. B. B. B.
13. Oct. 1845.
your letter - ask
permission to use
public lands etc.

B244 Oct 15 Harris

Boston 19th Nov. '49

Sir,

I ask respectfully to be informed whether the Department of which you are the head - contemplate proposing any change in the present Law governing the U.S. Navy - particularly in the withholding of the liquor portion of the ration and the abolition or restriction of the present system of enforcing discipline by flogging,

An answer at your earliest convenience

will much oblige

Your obedt. humble servt
Watson G. Hayes

To

the Hon. W. B. Preston

Secretary U.S. Navy

To the Commissioners
of United States at Washington
America

Post Office, Warwick Rhode Island 21st Nov 1844

132

Gentlemen I make bold to write these lines to you
In respect of my Son, Thomas Leach who now in
my old age, has left me to mourn, in not hearing
from him, The last Letter I received from him, he was
on Board the U. S. Brig Wagon at Port-au-Prince
the 24th December 1846, he has been in your Service
since he left me 27th June 1844, and he fought many
Battles, with your Service at the Rocks and several
other Places, which now is the cause of my troubles,
and uneasy Mind now in the latter end of my days
where I am, hardly able to do for myself, and my
Good Gentlemen your answer to this relative to him
will ease my Mind and by your Goodness, in
Complying with the above, I ever will be in duty
Bound to Obedy, Your Obedt. Amble Servt.

X
Thos Leach Postmaster
of Warwick Rhode Island

March Nov. 21

Give the information
Prep

minutes
The Comd. of the
M. Carpenter being
sent to the Dept.
and will get the
papers within
named & return
this.
Dec. 20, 1849

The information



Commissioner James G. Thompson

States, Washington
America

WASHINGTON CITY



To Mr. O'Neal
Please endorse what
roll of Boxes
Hartwell was
purchased



Thos. Leech (private) on board
the Boxer - was transferred to the
Frigate United States on the 21st Oct 1849
and he appeared on board the S. S. ...
22 Oct 49 - from which he was sent
to the Barracks on the 27th Feb 7, 1849 -
his term of service to expire Oct 16th 1851
H. Bridge

Senial Chamberlain
Middlebury Geo.

Nov. 23. 1847

Sir,

Resolutions are pending before the Legislature
granting swords to officers of the Army, from Georgia, for their
gallant services in Mexico. Capt. Fitts of the Army, was
killed, and most deservedly with a sword, but no other
officer of the Army from this State has received notice. It is
my desire to see justice done to both branches of the
Service.

The Gallant conduct of the Naval Officer in the man-
agement of the Naval Battery at the bombardment of Boca
Chica, was noticed by the President of the U. S. in his letter-
of commendation of Dec. 1847, and also by the Secretary
of War yet any in their reports of that date.

Among the officers who served in the Naval Battery
was Passed Midshipman Richard M. Cuyler of Georgia,
native of Savannah in the county of Chatham from
which County I have the honor to represent as Quaker
He was attached to the Potomac Regt. and is mentioned
as being attached to an Captain's Regt. of the Operations -
his officers at Boca Chica.

Mr. Cuyler is a meritorious young officer, and there
may be, possibly, to young to receive a sword, but
it a compliment - a vote of thanks, is due to him
in the Legislature of his native State.

May I ask of you the favor to furnish me

with a certificate, a City of Gal. Arbut's Parish,
showing the services of Mr Taylor at the Battery.
I think he served with ~~and~~ at the time of the death
of another gallant young midshipman - I should be
most happy to know if there is any other officer
of the Army junior who should be noticed

I have the honor to be
Yr Obedt Servt

Sir.

Wm Bullard Boston

Secretary of the Army
Washington City

J. H. P. Pinto