

Register of the Charles H. Stockton Papers



Naval War College
Newport, RI



REGISTER OF THE PAPERS OF CHARLES H. STOCKTON

**Compiled by
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Manuscript Register Series

Every archival depository seriously committed to the support of scholarship is obliged to assist researchers in the use of holdings. One universally accepted means is the manuscript collection register. The register is a finding aid. It describes the collection in concise terms with particular emphasis on arrangement.

Ideally, registers should be prepared for all manuscript collections. Circumstances and good sense, however, dictate otherwise for most depositories. Limited professional personnel, routine operational demands and collateral responsibilities militate against comprehensive programs. Consequently, manuscript collection registers are prepared on a highly selective basis and when conditions will permit.

The publication of manuscript collection registers by the Naval War College Naval Historical Collection is in keeping with the policy of the College to encourage legitimate research in its historical source materials. Publication is supported, in part, by the Naval War College Foundation, Inc.

Anthony S. Nicolosi
Director
Naval Historical Collection

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BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

RADM Charles H. Stockton's naval career began in Newport, Rhode Island in 1861 as a midshipman at the Naval Academy, temporarily located there during the Civil War. While a student there he met faculty member Lieutenant Stephen B. Luce, whose text entitled *Seamanship* (1862) was part of the curriculum, Lieutenant Alfred Thayer Mahan, also a faculty member, and Midshipman William McCarty Little, a member of the class of 1866. All three played important roles in the reform and professionalization of the Navy during the latter part of the nineteenth century and influenced his thinking and his future naval career. Several decades later he joined them at the newly established Naval War College on Coasters Harbor Island.

Stockton returned to Newport during the summer of 1880, where he was assigned to the Torpedo School at the Naval Torpedo Station on Goat Island. In 1887, he was invited to lecture at the Naval War College on the political and military implications of an isthmian canal in Central America and made such a favorable impression on Luce and Mahan that he was invited back the next year.

After a two year assignment (1889-1891) as commanding officer of USS THETIS in arctic waters, he was ordered to the College on a special duty assignment which lasted four years. During this period he lectured on and developed an expertise in international law, supervised the construction of the College's first academic building (now Luce hall) in 1891-1892, and assisted Mahan in developing the course of 1892. He served as College President for six months in 1893 when Mahan was assigned as commanding officer of USS CHICAGO in European waters.

From 1893 to 1895, he ably assisted Naval War College President Henry C. Taylor inaugurate a new academic program and ward off attempts by the Naval Training Station command to abolish the College. With the publication of his first book, *A Manual Based Upon Lectures Delivered at the Naval War College by Freeman Snow*, in 1896, he began a notable career as a scholar in the field of international law.

After two years on the Asiatic Station as commanding officer of USS YORKTOWN, he returned to Newport where he served as President of the Naval War College from 1898-1900. During his tenure he vigorously supported the study of international law studies.

In 1899, Stockton was asked by the Secretary of the Navy to prepare a war code for use by the U.S. Navy in event of international crises. The U.S. Naval War Code was approved by President McKinley and issued to the naval service in June 1900. The propriety of presidential approval of the code, which established definite solutions to international law problems, was called into question by foreign nations, and it was revoked in 1904. Its importance, however, was recognized, and its content was incorporated in handbooks of international law for naval officers.

As president of the Navy's senior educational institution during its fledgling years, Stockton was also faced with the task of defending it against detractors, many of whom felt it should be abolished or moved elsewhere. A stalwart naval reformer of the same stamp as Luce and Mahan, he resolutely championed the College's *raison d'etre* and location and, through political persuasion, successfully ended a string of assaults from its powerful enemies.

Stockton's post-War College naval career was marked by several interesting assignments, including a two year tour on the Asiatic Station as commanding officer of USS KENTUCKY, a three year stint as U.S. naval attaché in London, and after his promotion to Rear Admiral in 1906, commander of a special service squadron sent to Bordeaux, France, for the Maritime Exposition. His naval ties continued after retirement. In 1908-1910, he represented the service at the Declaration of London Conference in England.

In 1910, Stockton accepted an appointment as president of George Washington University while concurrently holding the chair of international law there. He skillfully guided the university through difficult times, including a building program, fiscal problems and selection of a new campus site. During his presidency he continued to make valuable contributions to the study of international law. Along with a corpus of articles on international law topics, his seminal work, *Outlines of International Law*, was published in 1914. After retirement from the university in 1920, he remained in Washington, D.C., where he died in June 1924.

CHRONOLOGY OF NAVAL SERVICE

- 1845 Born, October 13, Philadelphia, Pa.
- 1865 Graduated from U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD.
- 1866 Promoted to Ensign.
- 1869 Promoted to Lieutenant.
- 1870 USS CONGRESS (ScSlp), Cruise to West Indies, Greenland and Mediterranean.
- 1874-1875 USS SWATARA (ScSlp), Cruise around the world.
- 1875 Hydrographic Office, Washington, D.C.
- 1876-1879 USS PLYMOUTH (ScSlp) North Atlantic Squadron.
- 1879-1880 Navy Yard, New York, N.Y.
- 1880 Naval Torpedo Station, Newport, R.I.
- 1881 Promoted to Lieutenant Commander.
- 1882-1885 USS IROQUOIS (StSlp), Executive Officer.
- 1887-1888 Naval War College, Newport, R.I., Lecturer.
- 1889-1891 USS THETIS (Aux. Str.), Commanding Officer, Cruise in Arctic Ocean.
- 1891-1892 Naval War College, Newport, R.I., Supervised construction of Luce Hall.
- 1892 Naval War College, Staff. Promoted to Commander.
- 1893 Naval War College, Acting President.
- 1894-1895 Naval War College, Staff.
- 1895-1897 USS YORKTOWN (Gunboat No. 1), Commanding Officer.
- 1898-1900 Naval War College, President.
- 1899 Promoted to Captain.

- 1901-1903 USS KENTUCKY (BB-6), Commanding Officer.
- 1903-1906 London, England, U.S. Naval Attaché.
- 1906 Board of Inspection and Survey, President. Promoted to Rear Admiral.
- 1907 Special Service Squadron, Maritime Exposition, Bordeaux, France, Commanding Officer. Retired from U.S. Navy.
- 1908-1909 London Naval Conference, London, England, Delegate.
- 1910-1918 George Washington University, Chair, International.
- 1924 Died, June 1, Washington, D.C.

Description of Papers

The Charles H. Stockton Papers form a small manuscript collection which documents several aspects of Stockton's naval career, including his presidency of the Naval War College, 1898-1900, and his post-war College naval service.

The papers consist of correspondence, unpublished writings and miscellany. The correspondence series contains revealing letters regarding College administrative policy and provides insights into the problems facing the fledgling institution from its detractors. The series also contains Stockton's official naval orders. Cruise journals kept on the Asiatic Station and in Alaskan waters comprise the greater part of the unpublished writings series. Photographs of the cruise of USS THETIS, Naval War College subjects and family members are included in the miscellany series, as well as newspaper clippings, books and certificates.

The papers comprise four boxes, about 1 ½ linear feet. They were presented as a gift to the Naval War College through the Naval War College Foundation, Inc., by Stockton's granddaughter, Mrs. Pauline Stockton Hoff, of Washington, D.C., in November 1981.

ARRANGEMENT OF PAPERS

Series I

Correspondence, 1866-1925 (1½ Boxes)

Box	Folder	
1	1	Official Correspondence, Letterbook Volume January 9, 1866—October 30, 1908.
	2	Letters received, August 14, 1898-February 6, 1908.
	3	Letters received, July 16, 1924.
2	1	Official Correspondence, Letterbook Volume, Letters sent, January 29, 1895 - October 8, 1907.
	2	Official Correspondence, Letterpress Volume, Letters sent, June 6, 1898-October 1900.
	3	Family Correspondence, Letter of Stockton's daughter, Helen Stockton Porter, January 1936, containing recollections of RADMS C.H. Stockton and A.T. Mahan.
	4	Miscellaneous Correspondence of Others, N.D. April 9, 1925.

Series II

**Writings, 1866-1904
(1½ Boxes)**

Box	Folder	
2	4	Writings. Unpublished. "Recollections of My Life Afloat and Ashore from the Beginning to my arrival in Rio de Janeiro in 1866 based on journals, letters, etc Parts I and II, 1866-1871.
2	5	Journal of Cruise of USS THETIS in Arctic Ocean, May 31, 1889-October 13, 1890.
3	1	Writings. Unpublished. Journal of the Cruise of USS YORKTOWN on the Asiatic Station, September 25, 1895—December 2, 1895.
	2	Journal of the Cruise of USS KENTUCKY on the Asiatic Station, March 11, 1901—March 8, 1903.
	3	Diary. London, England, 1904.

Series III

**Miscellany, 1897-1936
(1½ Boxes)**

Box	Folder	
3	4	Miscellany, Book. <i>Instruction to Diplomatic Officers of the United States</i> . Washington, D.C., 1897.
	5	Book. <i>Ship and Gun Drills</i> , U.S. Navy. Annapolis, Md., 1905.
	6	Newspaper Clippings, 1914-1918. World War I and International Law Topics.
	7	Newspaper Clippings, regarding RADM C. H. Stockton, Undated—September 28, 1910.

Box	Folder	
4	1	Miscellany. Certificates acknowledging receipt of Stockton's writings to famous libraries, 1897-1899.
	2	List of Stockton's writings in Library of Congress, 1924.
	3	Tinted prints of Luce Hall, Naval War College; torpedoes and naval views, n.d.
	4	Photographs. Group portraits, RADM C.H. Stockton and Herbert Winslow, Uncle.
	5	Photographs of cruise of USS THETIS in Arctic Ocean, 1889-1890.
	6	Photographs of views of Newport, R.I., 1891-1901.
	7	Resolution of Board of Trustees upon retirement of RADM C. H. Stockton as president, George Washington University, 1918.

APPENDIX

FURTHER RESEARCH SOURCE MATERIALS

Naval War College Archives

RG I Early Records

Box Folder

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|---|----|---|
| 2 | 5 | Letter from Arthur C. Walworth, June 9, 1892, regarding Naval War College contract for heating system. |
| | 7 | Letter from Horatio Storer, May 23, 1893.
Letter from Horatio Storer, May 25, 1893. |
| 3 | 4 | Letter to H. C. Taylor, June 20, 1896, regarding construction of Luce Hall. |
| | 10 | Letter from George C. Mason, August 26, 1898. |
| | 10 | Letter to Commandant, U.S. Naval Station, Newport, RI, August 24, 1898, regarding repair of steam launch. |
| | 10 | Letter from Ashton S. Tourison, August 29, 1898, regarding Luce Hall. |
| | 10 | Letter from George C. Mason, September 20, 1898. |
| | 12 | Memo from L.T. Safford, June 12, 1899. |
| | 12 | Letter from George E. Belknap, May 10, 1899, regarding visit of Ethel Bingham to Naval War College, Newport, R.I. |
| | 12 | Letter from Henry Romeike, June 2, 1899, regarding sale of scrapbook history of Spanish-American War. |
| | 14 | Letter from SecNav J.D. Long, October 11, 1900, naming French Chadwick, Naval War College President. |

Box	Folder	
5	4	Letter to Superintendent Coast and Geodetic Survey, March 19, 1900, regarding coaling station site.
	4	Letter to RADM R.B. Bradford, March 19, 1900, regarding coaling station site.
	4	Letter to F.B. Fiske, March 19, 1900, regarding coaling station site.
	4	Letter to Lewis Herreshoff, March 19, 1900, regarding coaling station.
	4	Letter from RADM R.B. Bradford, March 22, 1900, regarding coaling station.
	4	Letter to Lewis Herreshoff, March 23, 1900, regarding survey of Prudence Island property for coaling station.
	4	Note to Lewis Herreshoff, March 24, 1900.
	4	Letters from R. C. Derby, March 26, 1900, March 29, 1900 and April 4, 1900, regarding coaling station site.
	5	Letter to Lewis Herreshoff, March 29, 1900.
	5	Letter to Grosvenor Calkins, March 29, 1900, regarding Portsmouth Grove property.
	5	Letter from A.J. Menocal, April 3, 1900, with report on properties.
	5	Letter from Richard R. Macomber, April 4, 1900, regarding civil engineers' reports on property under consideration for coaling station.
	5	Letter from R.C. Derby, April 5, 1900, regarding land on Prudence Island for coaling station.
	5	Letter to Richard R. Macomber, April 6, 1900, regarding unsuitable property.

Box	Folder	
5	5	Letter to Lewis Herreshoff, April 7, 1900, regarding building stone.
	5	Letter to Lucien E. Kent, April 10, 1900, regarding property offer.
	5	Letter from Grosvenor Calkins, April 10, 1900, regarding possible sale of property.
	5	Letter to F.B. Fiske, April 11, 1900, regarding property offer.
	5	Letters from F.B. Fiske, March 5, 1900, March 7, 1900, March 21, 1900 and April 12, 1900 regarding property on Conanicut Island.
	5	Letter from N.M. Howe, April 12, 1900.
	5	Letter to RADM R.B. Bradford, April 12, 1900, regarding civil engineers' reports on property under consideration for coaling station.
	5	Letter from N.M. Howe, April 30, 1900, regarding Hog Island as site.
	6	Letter from Lucien Kent, April 9, 1900.
	6	Letter to F.B. Fiske, April 13, 1900.
	6	Letter to N. M. Howe, April 14, 1900, regarding non-use of Hog Island as a coaling station.
	6	Letters from Lewis Herreshoff, January 23, 1900, February 10, 1900, February 12, 1900, March 21, 1900, March 28, 1900, April 6, 1900 and April 22, 1900.
	6	Letter to Lewis Herreshoff, April 23, 1900.
	6	Letter from RADM R.B. Bradford, April 23, 1900.
	6	Letter from Lucien Kent, April 23, 1900.

Box	Folder	
5	6	Letter to Grosvenor Calkins, April 24, 1900.
	6	Letter to RADM R.B. Bradford, April 24, 1900.
	6	Letter to Chief, Bureau of Equipment, April 24, 1900.
	7	Letter from RADM R.B. Bradford, May 2, 1900.
	7	Letter to Grosvenor Calkins, May 11, 1900.
	7	Letter from Grosvenor Calkins, May 12, 1900.
	7	Telegram from RADM R.B. Bradford, May 26, 1900.
	7	Telegram from RADM R.B. Bradford, May 27, 1900.

RG 14 Faculty and Staff Presentations

- 1894 Commerce Destroying.
- 1894 Naval and Combined Operations in the Chesapeake Bay and Adjacent Waters During the War of 1812.
- 1894 Preparation for War.
- 1894 Sea Blockade and Naval Investments.
- 1894 The Formation of Maps or Charts for War or Coast Defense Purposes
- 1894 The Sea Power and Position of Great Britain at the Present Day.
- 1894 The Interoceanic Canal.
- 1894 The Sea Power and Position of France at the Present Day.
- 1899 An Account of some past Military Operations directed against Puerto Rico and Cuba.
- 1899 Notes on the Action Off Beach Head in 1690.
- 1899 Submarine Telephone Cables in Time of War.

RG 15 Lectures

- 1895 International Law, A Series of Lectures delivered at the NWC during the year 1895.

- Part I Introductory—Historical Sketch
- II Attributes of States.
- III Nationality—Protection to Citizens Abroad
- IV Declaration of War—Effect of War as to Persons

V	Effect of Laws of War as
VI	Commercial Domicile-Merchandise in Transit upon the Sea
VII	Neutrality—Rights and Duties of Neutrals
VIII	Hostile Expeditions from Neutral Territory
IX	Un-neutral Service or Persons and Dispatches as Contraband
X	Continuous Voyages
RG 16	NWC Addresses
1899	Opening Day Address.
RG 28	Presidents Files
N.D.	Memorandum on Barrienda Case.
1894	May 9. Letter from T. Stone.
1894	Memorandum on subjects for proposed Lectures on International Law at Naval War College drawn up as suggestion to Professor Freeman Snow.
1900	May 19. Letter to SecNav with draft of Naval War Code for U.S. Navy.
RG 30	Photographs
	2 8" x 10"
	3 5" x 7"
	2 4" x 5"
	1 3¾" x 6¼"
Naval War College Manuscript Collections	
1893	May 21. Letter to Horatio R. Storer, Newport, R.I., Ms. Coll. 4; Horatio Storer Papers.

Published Writings

Stockton, Charles H., Ed. *International Law: A Manual Based Upon Lectures delivered at the Naval War College by Freeman Snow*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Govt. Printing Office, 1895.

Comp. *International Law: Recent Supreme Court Decisions and other Opinions and Precedents*. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Govt. Printing Office, 1904.

A Manual of International Law for the Use of Naval Officers. Annapolis, Md: Naval Institute, 1911.

Outlines of International Law. New York: C. Scribner's Sons, (1914.)

Articles

Stockton, Charles H. "Origin, History, Laws and Regulations of the United States Naval Asylum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania". Washington, D.C.; U.S. Govt. Printing Office, 1886.

"Capture of Enemy Merchant Vessels at Sea," *North American Review*, February 1899, 206-211.

"Arctic Cruise of U.S.S. Thetis in the summer and autumn of 1889," *National Geographic*, 1890, 171-198.

"Reconstruction of the United States Navy," *Overland*, October 1890, 381-386.

"Laws and Usages of War at Sea," *Forum*, February, 1901, 706-709.

"United States Naval War Code of 1900" in *International Law Discussions*, 1903, Washington, D.C.: U.S. Govt. Printing Office, 1904, 101-104.

"Would Immunity from Capture During War of Non-Offending Private Property Upon the High Seas be in the Interest of Civilization?," *American Journal of International Law*, October 1907, 930-943.

"Use of Submarines, Mines and Torpedoes in Time of War," *American Journal of International Law*, April 1908, 276-284.

"International Naval Conference of London, 1908-1909," *American Journal of International Law*, July 1909, 596-618.

"Review of the Proceedings of the Conference in London," *American Society of International Law Proceedings*, 1909, 61-84.

"Codification of the Laws of Naval Warfare," *American Society of International Law Proceedings*, 1912, 115-123.

“Does the Expression ‘all nations’ in the Hay-Pauncefote Treaty include the United States?”, *American Society of International Law Proceedings*, 1913, 92-101.

“International Law of the Sea,” *World’s Work*, April 1915, Vol 29, 706-712.

“Historical Sketch of George Washington University Washington D.C.—formerly known as Columbian University and Columbian College, accompanied by a sketch of the Lives of Presidents,” Washington, D.C., 1916.

“Declaration of Paris,” *American Journal of International Law*, July 1920, 356-368.

“A Historical Sketch of George Washington University,” *George Washington University Bulletin*, Vol. 14, no. 2, 25 pp.

Unpublished Articles

Stockton, Charles H. “A History of the Naval War College, (1884-1899).”