

Archives Branch
Naval History and Heritage Command
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Joseph Scherf Papers

COLL/471

Creator: Chief Commissary Steward Joseph Scherf, USN

Extent: 3 boxes
1 cubic feet

Date Range: 1907-1933

Classification: Unclassified

Access: Open

The Papers of Joseph Scherf are comprised of correspondence, photographs, services records, publications, and personal effects of Joseph Scherf.

This collection is organized into six series. Series I is a personal file. The folders are divided by subject and arranged alphabetically. Located within these files is Scherf's request for and copy of his birth certificate from Cape Girardeau, Missouri. Personal documents regarding pension and insurance plans can also be found here, along with personal letters written to and by Joseph Scherf.

Series II, Commissary, contains a variety of documents from the ships Scherf was stationed on. Among the items in this series are menus from USS *Saratoga*, *Helena*, *North Carolina*, *Colorado*, *Florida*, and Pensacola Naval Air Station. Included also is material regarding the organization of the Supply Department on USS *Colorado*, which outlines the duties of such figures as the Chief Commissary Steward, Shopkeeper, and the assistant to disbursing. Documents concerning food standards and daily rations have also been placed in this series. This series is also a subject file and is arranged alphabetically.

Series III, Service, contains letters of recommendation written for Scherf, several of these letters tell of his exemplary service on USS *Colorado* and *Saratoga*. Scherf's original service records along with several Petty Officer Appointment certificates, letters of appointment to the Supply Department, and items regarding his Veteran's affairs are also contained within this series.

Series IV, Publications, holds publications on USS *Colorado*. Included are numerous church bulletins from several holidays and regular masses. A press release from Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

gives news briefs from major world cities including baseball scores and officer orders. Several newspaper articles detail *Colorado's* trip to Norfolk and Manhattan from the Pacific for repairs.

Series V, Miscellaneous, contains personal items including a hand-written recipe, several liberty cards issued to Scherf, Duke University Athletic Association tickets from 1930, and receipts.

Series VI, Pictures, contain a variety of photographs arranged by subject. The majority is from Scherf's time in Shanghai and the China Sea. There are many photographs of ships and various locations in Asia. Locations and dates have, in most cases, been provided by Scherf, who has written on the front of the photos. This series continues in an oversized box, which contains wedding photographs of Scherf and his wife, Beulah Anderson Scherf, and a 1924 photograph of USS *Colorado*.

Subject Headings (LCSH)

United States. Navy-Stewards.

Cookery, Military.

United States. Navy-Messes.

Colorado (Battleship : BB-45).

Helena (Gunboat).

Saratoga (Ex-U.S.S. New York) (Armored Cruiser No.2).

North Carolina (Armored Cruiser: ACR-12).

California (Battleship : BB-44).

United States. Navy-Religious life.

Biographical Note

Joseph Scherf was born on 24 October 1886 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He was the second child born to his parents, Henry Scherf and Caroline Herbst Scherf. He enlisted in the United States Navy on 9 August 1907 at a recruiting station in St. Louis, Missouri.

Scherf's first assignment was that of a commissary man on USS *Franklin* from 6 December 1907 until his transfer to USS *Alabama* on 3 November 1908. He remained on *Alabama* for less than two months, and was serving on USS *Hancock* by 22 December. He remained on *Hancock* until 7 February of the following year, when he reported to USS *Constellation*. His services on *Constellation* lasted slightly more than a year, and on 12 April 1910 he began a brief tour on USS *Dixie*. 8 August 1911 marked Scherf's first shore duty at Pensacola Navy Yard, after which he was stationed at the Navy Recruiting Station in New Orleans, Louisiana.

On 11 December 1911 he returned to *Franklin* for slightly more than a month before being assigned to USS *Buffalo* on 21 January 1912. On 1 April 1912 Scherf began service on USS *Saratoga*, which was stationed in Shanghai, China from August 1913 until 12 December 1915. During this time Scherf was advanced to the rate of Ship's Cook First Class, and the following year he was appointed Commissary Steward. Scherf was assigned briefly to USS *Helena*, also in Shanghai, in December 1915. He then returned to USS *Saratoga*, where he was awarded the title of Commissary Steward. In June 1916 Scherf extended his enlistment for an additional four years and commenced duty on USS *North Carolina*. He served these four years on *North Carolina* before again reenlisting in 1920.

Scherf was next stationed at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida from 7 June 1920 until 6 July 1921, where he was awarded the Good Conduct Bar. He reported to USS *Colorado* on 3 July 1924, and while serving on *Colorado* was given several more awards for excellent conduct and performance.

After retiring from active duty, Joseph Scherf was employed as a civilian in the Supply Department of the U.S. Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida as Stockman, Class Din charge of the appropriation of Maintenance, Supplies, and Accounts.

Box and Folder Listing

Box 1

Series I: Personal, 1913-1939

1. Birth Certificate	1913
2. Civil Service/Voting	1925-1929
3. Insurance	1920-1939
4. Letters from Joseph Scherf	1924-1925
5. Letters to Joseph Scherf	1919-1929
6. Lewis Hotel Training School	1925
7. Menu-Seattle, WA	
8. Pensions	1926

Series II: Commissary, 1912-1931

9. USS <i>Colorado</i> Menus	1923-1927
10. USS <i>Colorado</i> Mess	1927
11. USS <i>Colorado</i> Organization	
12. Daily Rations	1922-1931
13. USS <i>Florida</i> General Mess	1923-1928
14. Food Standards	1919
15. USS <i>Helena</i> Menus	1914-1915
16. Naval Training Station	1924
17. USS <i>North Carolina</i> Menus	1916-1920
18. USS <i>Saratoga</i> General Mess	1912
19. Supply Department	
20. Treatise on Baking	

Series III: Service, 1907-1936

21. USS <i>Colorado</i> Duty Selections	1924
22. Eighth Naval District	1928-1933
23. USS <i>North Carolina</i> Records	1918
24. Petty Officers Appointment	1911
25. Reserve Certificate	1918
26. Recommendations	1914-1926
27. Service Record	1907-1919
28. Temporary Appointment	1919
29. Veteran's Affairs	1927-1936

Series IV: Publications, 1924-1927

30. USS <i>Colorado</i>	1924-1927
31. USS <i>Colorado</i> Ball	1924
32. USS <i>Colorado</i> Christmas Program	1926-1927
33. USS <i>Colorado</i> Church Service	1924-1927
34. <i>The Colorado Look Out</i>	1927
35. USS <i>Colorado</i> Mother's Day	1926

Box 2

Series V: Miscellaneous, 1925-1932

36. Bank of Opportunity	1925-1927
37. Crossing the Line Ceremony	1925
38. Duke University Athletic Association Ticket Book	1930
39. Liberty Passes	
40. Navy Relief Society Card	1927
41. Recipe-Hop Yeast	
42. Sheridan Plaza Restaurant	1932

Series VI: Pictures, 1913-1925

43. USS <i>California</i> at Her Mooring	1925
44. China Sea	1913
45. China Sea and Egypt	1915
46. Military, Joseph Scherf	
47. Military, Unknown	
48. USS <i>North Carolina</i>	1919-1920
49. Ships and Cities	
50. Unidentified	

Box 3 (Oversize)

Series VI: Pictures, 1913-1925

51. USS <i>Colorado</i>	1924
52. Scherf, Beulah Anderson-In Garden	
53. Scherf, Beulah Anderson-Portrait	1918
54. Scherf, Joseph	1918