

Coll/492

Collection of Paymaster General
Horatio Bridge

1791-1845

0.5 cubic feet

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Operational Archives Branch
Naval Historical Center
805 Kidder Breese St SE
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374

Biographical Note

Horatio Bridge was born in Augusta, Maine, on April 8th, 1806, to James Bridge and his wife. Entering in 1821, Bridge graduated from Bowdoin College in the class of 1825 along with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and Bridge's life-long friend, Nathaniel Hawthorne. Although trained as a lawyer, Bridge joined the U.S. Navy in 1838 and served as Paymaster General during the Civil War. He retired in 1868 with the rank of Commodore.

Scope and Content Note

This collection consists of letters gathered by Paymaster General Horatio Bridge. The letters are chiefly correspondence to and from several Secretaries of the Navy, including Paul Hamilton, William Jones, Benjamin W. Crowninshield, Smith Thompson, John Branch, Levi Woodbury, Mahlon Dickerson, and George Bancroft. Correspondents include such prominent Navy officers as Isaac Chauncy, Oliver Hazard Perry, Hugh L. Campbell, David Porter, Thomas Macdonough, Thomas A.C. Jones, and Matthew C. Perry.

The collection is organized in two series. Series I contains the bulk of the letters in a chronological arrangement. Series II holds several oversize items. In this series are an 1823 certificate of guardianship of Stephen Borders signed by the Governor of Georgia; an 1814 letter to President James Madison concerning Lieutenant William S. Cox, signed by Richard Dale and several Navy officers; letters from the Mayor and City Council of Savannah and petitions from the District of Maine seeking protection during the War of 1812.

Due to the high intrinsic value and the historical significance of the documents in this collection, the documents have been digitized and made available as reference copies on the Operational Archives CD #130. These reference copies are to be used for any patron research requests. Any exceptions to this requirement must be approved by the Head, Operational Archives Branch.

Preferred Citation

Collection of Horatio Bridge, Operational Archives Branch, Naval Historical Center, Washington, D.C.

Subject Headings (LCSH)

United States. Navy—History—19th century.
United States—History—War of 1812.
United States. Navy—Officers—Correspondence.
United States. Dept. of the Navy.

Related Materials

The George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections and Archives of the Bowdoin College Library holds a collection of Horatio Bridge's papers.

Box and Folder List

Box 1

Series I: Letters, 1791-1845

1. 1791-1796
 - a. Deed, Isham Thompson to Collin Mud January 1791
 - b. Letter regarding the Peace Treaty with Algiers 1796
2. 1802-1809
 - a. Report on the fortifications and garrison at Portofarina, Tunisia February 1803
 - b. Letter to Secretary of the Navy Paul Hamilton regarding the resignation of his appointment by Midshipman Charles Chaveaux 24 October 1809
3. 1810-1819
 - a. Letter from Secretary of the Navy Paul Hamilton to Dr. Ewell 9 June 1811
 - b. Letter from Captain Isaac Chauncey to Lieutenant James E. McDonald 18 June 1811
 - c. Letter to Secretary of the Navy Paul Hamilton from W. Stephens regarding the appointment of Midshipman Josiah Tattnall 17 February 1812
 - d. Letter to Colonel Fenwicke from E. Jackson regarding the appointment of Midshipman Josiah Tattnall [enclosure to item I.3.c.] 19 February 1812
 - e. Letter to the Secretary of the Navy Paul Hamilton from Speaker of the House Henry Clay petitioning for John Barney's appointment as Naval Storekeeper 16 November 1812
 - f. Letter to the Secretary of the Navy Paul Hamilton from Oliver Hazard Perry regarding a Midshipman appointment 18 November 1812
 - g. Letter to the Secretary of the Navy Paul Hamilton from Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States Joseph Story regarding a Midshipman appointment 8 December 1812
 - h. Letter to the Secretary of the Navy Paul Hamilton from Oliver Hazard Perry regarding a Midshipman appointment 30 December 1812
 - i. Letter to the Secretary of the Navy William Jones from Commodore Oliver Hazard Perry regarding a command for Captain William Cornett 2 February 1813
 - j. Letter from the Commanding Officer of USS *United States* to Acting Midshipman Price 9 September 1813
 - k. Captain David Porter, USS *Essex*, to the Secretary of the 19 July 1814

- Navy William Jones regarding Midshipman John M Maury
- l. Letter to the Secretary of the Navy regarding appointment of a Midshipman 18 November 1814
 - m. Letter from Oliver Hazard Perry to the Secretary of the Navy Benjamin W. Crowninshield 28 May 1815
 - n. Letter from Thomas MacDonough, Commandant of the Portsmouth Navy Yard, to the Secretary of the Navy Benjamin W. Crowninshield regarding a Midshipman appointment 8 September 1815
 - o. Letter from David Porter to B. Homans, Esq., regarding a Midshipman warrant for Benjamin Clapp 11 October 1815
 - p. Letter from Daniel D. Tompkins to the Secretary of the Navy Benjamin W. Crowninshield regarding a promotion to Sailing Master 7 February 1816
 - q. Letter from Thomas MacDonough to the Secretary of the Navy Benjamin W. Crowninshield from a Midshipman on board USS *Washington* 10 March 1816
 - r. Envelope for forwarded correspondence from David Porter to the Secretary of the Navy Benjamin W. Crowninshield 13 September 1816
 - s. Letter from Secretary of State James Monroe to James Mustin 8 November 1816
 - t. Letter to the Secretary of the Navy Benjamin W. Crowninshield regarding a Midshipman 26 January 1817
 - u. Letter from Speaker of the House Henry Clay to the Secretary of the Navy Benjamin W. Crowninshield regarding appointment of a Midshipman 7 February 1817
 - v. Letter from Captain Isaac Hull to the Secretary of the Navy regarding a subordinate 17 November 1818
 - w. Letter from R. Henley to the Secretary of the Navy Smith Thompson regarding a promotion 27 February 1819
4. 1820-1826
- a. Letter from Thomas MacDonough to the Secretary of the Navy Smith Thompson regarding the reappointment of a Midshipman 15 February 1820
 - b. Letter from David Porter to the Secretary of the Navy Smith Thompson regarding W. Spence 10 May 1820
 - c. Letter to the Secretary of the Navy Smith Thompson regarding Midshipman warrant for W. Kirk 30 August 1821
 - d. Letter from William Towndes to the Secretary of the Navy Smith Thompson regarding a Midshipman warrant 19 February 1822
 - e. Letter from T. Clayton to W. Van Dyke regarding a Midshipman appointment 27 February 1822

- f. Letter from David Porter to the Secretary of the Navy Smith Thompson regarding a Midshipman appointment for W. Wattle 8 March 1822
 - g. Navy Department, H.R. 46, 19th Congress, Appropriations Bill, with corrections 13 January 1826
 - h. Letter to the Secretary of the Navy Samuel Southard from Colonel Francis Kinloch Huger, U.S. Army, of Charleston, South Carolina, regarding the application for an appointment of his son, Francis Huger, as a Midshipman 20 June 1826
5. 1831-1838
- a. Letter to the Secretary of the Navy John Branch regarding a Midshipman appointment 1 May 1831
 - b. Letter from A. Stevenson to the Secretary of the Navy Levi Woodbury regarding a Midshipman appointment 20 July 1831
 - c. Letter to the Secretary of the Navy Levi Woodbury regarding a Midshipman appointment 24 October 1831
 - d. Letter from the Secretary of the Navy Mahlon Dickerson to S. Smith regarding the appointment of Purser 10 July 1834
 - e. Letter from U.S. Representative Henry Alexander Wise of Virginia to the Secretary of the Navy Mahlon Dickerson regarding the appointment of B. Franklin Hudgins as a Midshipman 24 February 1835
 - f. Letter from a Mr. Marcy to the Secretary of the Navy Mahlon Dickerson regarding a Midshipman appointment for George Forsyth 24 February 1835
 - g. Letter from U.S. Representative John Young Mason of Virginia to Secretary of the Navy Mahlon Dickerson regarding a recommendation for an appointment 3 March 1835
 - h. Letter from U.S. Representative Isaac Toucey of Connecticut to Secretary of the Navy Mahlon Dickerson regarding inquiries from Judge Hooker of Connecticut 14 April 1836
 - i. Letter from S. A. Street to President Andrew Jackson regarding an appointment as a Purser, forwarded by President Jackson to the Navy Department (President Jackson's initials on back of letter) 22 June 1836
 - j. Letter from the Second Comptroller of the Treasury, A. K. Parris, to the Secretary of the Navy Mahlon Dickerson (missing fragment not found with collection) 24 August 1836
 - k. Letter from the Commandant of the Charlestown Navy Yard to the Secretary of the Navy Mahlon Dickerson regarding the appointment of Isaac Whitney as a Sailmaker 20 October 1836

- l. Letter from a Mr. Johnson to the Secretary of the Navy Mahlon Dickerson regarding an appointment to the Marine Corps 29 August 1837
 - m. Letter from the Commandant of the Philadelphia Navy Yard, Charles Stewart, as former Commander of USS *Franklin*, to the Secretary of the Navy Mahlon Dickerson regarding appointment of Captain Harris, USMC 5 March 1838
6. 1840-1845
- a. Letter from the Commandant of the Philadelphia Navy Yard, Charles Stewart, as former Commander of USS *Constitution*, to John Candler, regarding the latter's service on board USS *Constitution* 3 December 1840
 - b. Letter from J. Hamline to the Secretary of the Navy George E. Badger regarding a Midshipman appointment 26 April 1841
 - c. Letter from the Commander of the U.S. Pacific Squadron, Commodore Thomas Catesby Jones, to Mr. C. Lipscomb regarding transfer of his son 21 March 1842
 - d. Letter from Commandant of the New York Navy Yard, Matthew C. Perry, to the Secretary of the Navy Abel P. Upshur regarding the appointment of Nicholas Vincent as a Master Spar Maker 4 April 1842
 - e. Letter from Jefferson Davis to the Secretary of the Navy George Bancroft regarding the commission of James Kemp Sprague in the US Marine Corps 13 June 1845
 - f. Letter from C. Cushing to Horatio Bridge, Navy Department 29 August 1845
 - g. Letter to President Tyler regarding the promotion of Midshipman Wallace W. Dowd 15 October 1845
7. Undated
- a. Letter regarding Midshipman appointment

Box 2 (Oversize)

Series II: Oversize, 1803-1834

- 8. Report by William Eaton, U.S. Consul at Tunis, regarding Tunisian forces 1 June 1803
- 9. Letter from the Committee of Safety of Bristol, Rhode Island, to the Secretary of the Navy William Jones regarding the removal of Navy gunboats from Rhode Island 17 March 1813
- 10. Letter from City Council of Savannah to the Secretary William Jones of the Navy 20 March 1813
- 11. Letter from City Council of Savannah to the Secretary of the Navy William Jones 24 March 1813

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| 12. Letter from George Jones, Mayor of Savannah, to the Secretary of the Navy William Jones | 25 March 1813 |
| 13. Letter from George Jones, Mayor of Savannah, to the Secretary of the Navy William Jones | 24 April 1813 |
| 14. Letter from the City of Portland, District of Maine, to the Secretary of the Navy William Jones | 8 May 1813 |
| 15. Letter from S. Hambleton, Prize Agent, to the Secretary of the Navy William Jones regarding prize money for capture of British Fleet on Lake Erie | 18 May 1814 |
| 16. Letter from the Secretary of the Navy William Jones to Dr. Edward Cutbush, Surgeon of the Navy Hospital, regarding Navy pensioner | 29 June 1814 |
| 17. Memorial from various citizens of Philadelphia to President Madison regarding William S. Cox | 1 December 1814 |
| 18. Letter from Captain Charles Morris, Commander of USS <i>Crowninshield</i> regarding ship's officers | 26 November 1815 |
| 19. Letter from Senator Elijah Hunt Mill of Massachusetts to the Secretary of the Navy Smith Thompson regarding a Midshipman warrant for Joseph George Blake | 15 January 1821 |
| 20. Letter from Lieutenant Matthew C. Perry to Secretary of the Navy Smith Thompson, regarding the West African Squadron | 11 August 1822 |
| 21. Certificate of Guardianship for Stephen Borders, Superior Court of Jackson County, Georgia | 1823 |
| 22. Letter from Treasury Department to the Secretary of the Navy Samuel Southard regarding Captain David Porter | 31 October 1825 |
| 23. Letter from Commodore J. D. Elliot to the Secretary of the Navy Levi Woodbury, request for harbor charts | 24 December 1832 |
| 24. Letter from Thomas Jones of Charleston, South Carolina, to the Secretary of the Navy Levi Woodbury | 22 June 1833 |
| 25. Letter from Commodore J. D. Elliot to Secretary of the Navy Levi Woodbury | 8 July 1833 |
| 26. Letter from J. Watson to Secretary of the Navy Levi Woodbury | 3 May 1834 |
| 27. Letter from Commodore J. D. Elliott to Secretary of the Navy Levi Woodbury | 27 June 1834 |
| 28. Petitions (x2) from the District of Maine to President James Madison | Undated |
| 29. Letter | Undated |
| 30. Manuscript | Undated |