William Crawford Gorgas Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2013

Contact information:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms013094

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm78023143

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
Collection Summary
Title: William Crawford Gorgas Papers
Span Dates: 1857-1919
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1904-1913)
ID No.: MSS23143
Creator: Gorgas, William Crawford, 1853-1920
Extent: 12,000 items ; 39 containers ; 16 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Army medical officer. Correspondence, reports, addresses, articles, financial and miscellaneous records, medical papers, charts, clippings, photographs, and printed material dealing primarily with the fight against yellow fever in Cuba and Panama.

Selected Search Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Barbour, Thomas, 1884-1946--Correspondence.
Bevans, James L. (James Lung), 1869-1944--Correspondence.
Bowles, James Ten Broeck--Correspondence.
Carter, Henry Rose, 1852-1925--Correspondence.
Doughty, William M. (William McDowell), 1881-1944--Correspondence.
Ferris, F. A. (Frank A.), -1918--Correspondence.
Finlay, Carlos Juan, 1833-1915--Correspondence.
Gorgas family--Correspondence.
Guiteras, John, 1852-1925--Correspondence.
Keen, William W. (William Williams), 1837-1932--Correspondence.
McCulloch, C. C. (Champe Carter), 1869-1928--Correspondence.
Mitchell, S. Weir (Silas Weir), 1829-1914--Correspondence.
Plummer, G. R. (George R.)--Correspondence.
Schilling, Claus Karl, 1871-1946--Correspondence.
Sternberg, George Miller, 1838-1915--Correspondence.
Stevens, George T. (George Thomas), 1832-1921--Correspondence.

Organizations
Confederate States of America. Army--Officers.
Rockefeller Foundation. Yellow Fever Commission.
United States. Army--Medical care.
United States. Army--Surgeons.

Subjects
Medicine--Cuba.
Medicine--Florida.
Medicine--Latin America.
Medicine--Panama.
Public health--Cuba.
Public health--Florida.
Public health--Latin America.
Public health--Panama.
Reconstruction (U.S. history, 1865-1877)
Yellow fever--Cuba.
Yellow fever--Florida.
Yellow fever--Latin America.
Yellow fever--Panama.

Places
Southern States--History--1865-1877.
United States--History--1865-1898.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations
Army officers.
Physicians.

Administrative Information

Provenance
The papers of William Crawford Gorgas, army medical officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by Mrs. William Gorgas in 1921 and converted to a gift by Aileen G. Wrightson in 1947.

Processing History
The papers of William Crawford Gorgas were processed in 1961. The finding aid was revised in 2013.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of William Crawford Gorgas is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of William Crawford Gorgas are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, William Crawford Gorgas Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>1854, Oct. 3</td>
<td>Born, Mobile, Ala.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1875</td>
<td>Graduated, University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1879</td>
<td>Awarded doctor of medicine degree, Bellevue Hospital Medical College of New York, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880</td>
<td>Commissioned lieutenant, United States Army Medical Corps and assigned to duty in Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1885</td>
<td>Promoted to captain</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
1888 Transferred from Fort Randall, N.Dak., to Fort Barrancas, Fla., to aid in control of yellow fever epidemic

1898 Promoted to major
   Appointed medical officer in Cuba during Spanish-American War

1899 Assumed duties as sanitation officer of Havana, Cuba, with American occupation forces

1903 Promoted to colonel in recognition for services in Cuba

1904 Appointed chief sanitation officer of the Panama Canal Zone during period of canal construction

1907 Named member of Isthmian Canal Commission

1914 Appointed surgeon general of United States Army with rank of brigadier general

1915 Promoted to major general

1916 Chief of Yellow Fever Commission, Rockefeller Foundation

1918 Official retirement from United States Army

1920, July 4 Died, London, England; buried in Arlington Cemetery

Scope and Content Note

The papers of William C. Gorgas (1853-1920) relate mainly to his work combating yellow fever in Florida and Latin America, particularly Cuba, and Panama. The collection spans the years 1857-1919, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1904-1913. Included are correspondence, reports, addresses, articles, financial and miscellaneous records, medical papers, charts, clippings, photographs, and printed material organized into seven series: General Correspondence and Other Papers; Subject File; Addresses, Articles, and Reports; Account Books; Medical Papers; Miscellany; and Photographs.

The chronological file of the General Correspondence and Other Papers series contains many items of a routine nature. Prior to 1904 the documentation is largely miscellaneous in nature including personal account books and medical papers relating to patients and yellow fever as well as some family, military, and business correspondence. Following 1913, Gorgas's activities are represented by a minimum of correspondence, a few miscellaneous subject folders, and a small group of papers used to prepare a report on Latin America by the Rockefeller Foundation's Yellow Fever Commission of 1916. There is no material covering his activities as surgeon general of the United States Army.

Rounding out the collection are drafts and reprints of speeches, articles, reports, miscellaneous printed matter, and photographs of Gorgas and scenes of Cuba, Mexico, Panama, and the United States. Included in the Miscellany series are extracts of a journal of Josiah Gorgas (1818-1883) that chronicles the Civil War and Reconstruction from the perspective of a Confederate officer who served on the headquarters staff and during the Appomattox Campaign.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in seven series:

- General Correspondence and Other Papers, 1885-1919
- Subject File, 1880-1918
- Addresses, Articles, and Reports, 1901-1912
- Account Books, 1881-1910
- Medical Papers, 1894-1901
- Miscellany, 1857-1903
- Photographs, 1900-1913
## Description of Series

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<td>BOX 1-23</td>
<td><strong>General Correspondence and Other Papers, 1885-1919</strong></td>
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<td>BOX 1-6</td>
<td><strong>Chronological File, 1885-1919</strong></td>
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|           | Family, business, and military correspondence with notes, reports, invitations, and programs.  
|           | Arranged chronologically.             |
| BOX 7-23  | **Alphabetical File, 1904-1913**      |
|           | Personal letters and other papers sent and received as Sanitary Officer of the Panama Canal Zone.  
|           | Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or subject. A card index precedes the file. |
| BOX 24-29A| **Subject File, 1880-1918**           |
|           | Reports, memoranda, correspondence, charts, patient records, and mounted clippings.  
|           | Arranged according to topic or type of material. |
| BOX 30    | **Addresses, Articles, and Reports, 1901-1912** |
|           | Drafts and final copies of speeches, writings, and reports.  
|           | Arranged chronologically.             |
| BOX 31    | **Account Books, 1881-1910**          |
|           | Personal and household account books.  
|           | Arranged chronologically.             |
| BOX 32-34 | **Medical Papers, 1894-1901**         |
|           | Lists and miscellaneous medical record books.  
|           | Arranged chronologically.             |
| BOX 35    | **Miscellany, 1857-1903**             |
|           | Printed matter and general miscellany.  
|           | Arranged by type of material.         |
| BOX 36-38 | **Photographs, 1900-1913**            |
|           | Positive photographic prints of Gorgas, friends, and places he visited.  
|           | Arranged by topic.                    |
# Container List

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</table>
| BOX 1-6   | Chronological File, 1885-1919  
Family, business, and military correspondence with notes, reports, invitations, and programs. Arranged chronologically.  
BOX 1  
1885, Sept.-1894  
BOX 2  
1894, Oct.-1899, Aug.  
BOX 3  
1899, Sept.-1901, Dec. 10  
BOX 4  
1901, Dec.-1902, Apr. 30  
BOX 5  
1902, May 19-Aug. 27  
BOX 6  
1902, Aug. 28-1919 |
| BOX 7-23  | Alphabetical File, 1904-1913  
Personal letters and other papers sent and received as Sanitary Officer of the Panama Canal Zone. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or subject. A card index precedes the file.  
BOX 7  
Index  
BOX 8  
Adamson-Bass  
BOX 9  
Bastedo-Carbejal  
BOX 10  
Carbo-Davis, O. F.  
BOX 11  
Davis, T. A.-Faget  
BOX 12  
Fairchild-Grunsky  
BOX 13  
Guayaquil-Hillsman  
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Hobson-Jastron  
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Jennings-Los Santos  
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Loud-Mayo  
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Mears-Murphy Mfg. Co.  
BOX 18  
Murphy, Orr-Panamenian  
BOX 19  
Pan-American-Reno  
BOX 20  
Reprints-Skinner  
BOX 21  
Slaughter-Stevens, F. C.  
BOX 22  
Stevens, G. T.-Warren  
BOX 23  
Warriner-Zalinski |
| BOX 24-29A | Subject File, 1880-1918  
Reports, memoranda, correspondence, charts, patient records, and mounted clippings. Arranged according to topic or type of material.  
BOX 24  
Medical Corps at Vladivostok, Siberia; Panama Canal; United States Ambulance Section in Genoa, Italy, 1918  
BOX 25  
Yellow fever report, discussion of and report on USS Plymouth, 1878-1879  
BOX 25  
Yellow Fever Commission, 1916  
BOX 25  
Yellow fever  
BOX 25  
Miscellaneous |

William Crawford Gorgas Papers
Subject File, 1880-1918

Container | Contents
--- | ---
BOX 25 | Gorgas’s cases, 1899-1900
BOX 26-28 | Patient charts, 1900
BOX 29-29A | Scrapbooks of newspaper clippings, 1900, Oct. 26-1902, May 6

BOX 30 | Addresses, Articles, and Reports, 1901-1912
Drafts and final copies of speeches, writings, and reports.
Arranged chronologically.
BOX | 1901-1912, undated

BOX 31 | Account Books, 1881-1910
Personal and household account books.
Arranged chronologically.
BOX 31 | Notebook, 1881-1887
BOX 31 | Account book
BOX 31 | 1880, Jan.-1910, June
BOX 31 | 1887, Feb.7-1897, Sept.

BOX 32-34 | Medical Papers, 1894-1901
Lists and miscellaneous medical record books.
Arranged chronologically.
BOX 32 | Visiting lists, Fort Barrancas, Fla. 1894-1896
BOX 32 | Medical history of patients treated by Gorgas, 1890-1897
BOX 33 | Copies of special cases, studies, and reports, 1880-1897
BOX 33 | Disbursement and register book, Post Hospital, Fort Reno, Indian Territory, 1883-1897
BOX 33 | Medical disbursement book, Havana, Cuba, 1899-1902
BOX 33 | Reports of vital statistics, Havana, Cuba, 1899-1901
BOX 34 | Medical lists, Camp Voorhees, N.J., 2nd, 3rd, and 6th Regiments, 1898

BOX 35 | Miscellany, 1857-1903
Printed matter and general miscellany.
Arranged by type of material.
BOX 35 | Printed matter
BOX 35 | Senate bills and reports
BOX 35 | Samples of forms and circulars used by the sanitary officer of Havana, Cuba
BOX 35 | \textit{Catastro de la Propiedad}
BOX 35 | Notes to self, circa 1901-1903
BOX 35 | Journal of Josiah Gorgas, typed extracts from ordnance notes, biography by T. L. Bayne, 1857-1877

BOX 36-38 | Photographs, 1900-1913
Positive photographic prints of Gorgas, friends, and places he visited.
Arranged by topic.
BOX 36 | Gorgas, William Crawford
BOX 36 | People
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## Photographs, 1900-1913

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<td>United States</td>
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<td>BOX 38</td>
<td>Miscellaneous postcards</td>
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