

John Archer Lejeune Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Audrey Walker



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2009

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

Finding aid encoded by Library of
Congress Manuscript Division, 2010

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010133>

Collection Summary

Title: John Archer Lejeune Papers

Span Dates: 1815-1950

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1900-1942)

ID No.: MSS29884

Creator: Lejeune, John Archer, 1867-1942

Extent: 6,000 items; 20 containers; 8 linear feet; 16 microfilm reels

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Marine corps officer and educator. Family and general correspondence, memoranda, speeches and writings, notes, military papers, and printed materials relating to Lejeune's education and his military career.

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

Ausland, John E.

Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937.

Barnett, George Ernest, 1873-1938.

Black, Hugo LaFayette, 1886-1971.

Butler, Smedley D. (Smedley Darlington), 1881-1940.

Craige, John Houston.

Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948.

Dorrance, Gordon, 1890-1957.

Harbord, James G. (James Guthrie), 1866-1947.

Keyser, R. S.

Kilbourne, Charles Evans, 1872-1963.

Lane, Rufus Herman, 1870-1948.

Lejeune, Augustine, d. 1931

Lejeune, John Archer, 1867-1942.

Long, Charles Grant, 1869-1943.

Pershing, John J. (John Joseph), 1860-1948.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945.

Russell, John Henry, 1872-1947.

Summerall, Charles Pelot, 1867-1955.

Trammell, Park, 1876-1936.

Trout, Hugh Henry, 1878-1950

Vinson, Carl, 1883-1981.

Waller, Littleton W. T., 1886-1967.

Organizations

Cincinnati (Cruiser)

Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, La.)

United States Naval Academy.

United States. Army--History--World War, 1914-1918.

United States. Army. American Expeditionary Forces.

United States. Marine Corps--Foreign service--Haiti.

United States. Marine Corps--Foreign service--Mexico--Veracruz--Llave (State)

United States. Marine Corps--Foreign service--Panama.

Vandalia (Ship)

Virginia Military Institute.

Subjects

Hurricanes--Samoan Islands.
Spanish-American War, 1898--Naval operations.
Universities and colleges--Virginia.
World War, 1914-1918--France.
World War, 1914-1918--Germany.

Occupations

Educators.
Marine Corps officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of John Archer Lejeune, marine corps officer and educator, were given to the Library of Congress by his daughters, Eugenia D. and Laura T. Lejeune, in 1961.

Processing History

The papers of John Archer Lejeune were arranged and described in 1961 and reprocessed for microfilming in 1980. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

Transfers

Photographs have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the John Archer Lejeune Papers.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Archer Lejeune is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of John Archer Lejeune 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on thirty reels. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition as available.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, John Archer Lejeune Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1867, Jan. 10	Born, Pointe Coupée Parish, La.

1881-1884	Attended Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La.
1888	Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1890	Commissioned second lieutenant, U.S. Marine Corps
1895	Married Ellie Harrison Murdaugh
1898	In command of marines aboard the <i>Cincinnati</i> (cruiser) during the Spanish-American War
1903-1904	Commanded battalion of marines, Isthmus of Panama
1908-1909	Commanded brigade of marines in the Philippines
1909-1910	Attended Army War College
1914	Commanded brigade of marines during capture of Vera Cruz, Mexico, and commanded regiment of marines as part of the army of occupation of that city
1915-1917	Assistant to the commandant, U.S. Marine Corps
1917	Commander, Marine Barracks, Quantico, Va.
1918	Commissioned major general
1918-1919	Commander, Second Division, American Expeditionary Force, World War I
1920-1929	Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps; retired, 1929
1929-1937	Superintendent, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.
1930	Published <i>The Reminiscences of a Marine</i> . Philadelphia: Dorrance
1942, Nov. 20	Died, Baltimore, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Archer Lejeune (1867-1942) span the years 1815-1950, with the bulk of the material concentrated between the years 1900-1942. The collection consists of correspondence, memoranda, miscellaneous notes, speeches and writings, military papers, and printed matter organized in five series: [Family Correspondence](#), [General Correspondence](#), [Speeches and Writings File](#), [Military Papers](#), and [Miscellany](#).

Although the correspondence is sparse for the years prior to 1920, the collection contains letters and papers that highlight major events in Lejeune's early military career such as his conduct aboard the *Vandalia* (screw sloop) in the 1889 hurricane at Apia, Samoa, his service on the *Cincinnati* (cruiser) during the Spanish-American War, and the landing and occupation of Vera Cruz by the marines. Several letters from Littleton W. T. Waller, Smedley D. Butler, and John Henry Russell relating to the situation in Haiti in 1915-1916, as well as a detailed report assessing conditions in

that country in 1920, are in the [General Correspondence](#). However, the largest group of military papers pertains to the operations of the Second Division, American Expeditionary Force, during World War I. In addition to letters in the [General Correspondence](#) series, the papers contain field orders, general orders, intelligence reports, and other documents in the [Military Papers](#) series and a history of the Second Division in the [Miscellany](#) series. Lejeune's military career reached its zenith with his appointment as commandant of the marine corps. From 1920 to his retirement in 1929, Lejeune's correspondence reveals his concern for establishing the corps on a permanent peacetime basis and for enhancing its public image. Lejeune told the story of his life in the marines in the autobiographical *Reminiscences of a Marine*, published in 1930.

Another view of Lejeune's military career can be discerned from the letters he wrote to his sister, Augustine L. Lejeune, between 1882 and 1931. Beginning with Lejeune's school days at Louisiana State University and at the United States Naval Academy, these letters often contain personal observations, details, and informal descriptions of military operations and tours of duty covered in the other series.

The most voluminous segment of correspondence in the Lejeune Papers covers the years 1929 to 1937, when he was superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute. Most of the letters are from admirers seeking photographs and autographs, from veterans or the families of marines who served under his command, and from various educational, religious, civic, and veterans' organizations inviting Lejeune to deliver speeches, visit their cities, or participate in their programs. Several letters are requests for assistance in securing promotions, commissions, and appointments or in having changes made in service records. Lejeune's continued dedication to the marine corps during his retirement years is also manifested in his letters supporting various naval appropriation bills, and in his responses to inquiries during the 1935 Senate Naval Committee's investigation of the marine corps.

A file of clippings at the end of the collection recapitulates Lejeune's career as depicted in newspapers and magazines. Loosely arranged by subject, the file covers his military assignments, his association with Virginia Military Institute, and other material relating to Lejeune, the marine corps, and World War I. In some cases, articles from several newspapers describing the same news event are included in the file.

Correspondents include John E. Ausland, Newton Diehl Baker, George Ernest Barnett, Hugo LaFayette Black, Smedley D. Butler, John H. Craige, Josephus Daniels, Gordon Dorrance, James G. Harbord, R. S. Keyser, Charles Evans Kilbourne, Rufus Herman Lane, Charles Grant Long, John J. Pershing, Franklin D. Roosevelt, John Henry Russell, Charles Pelot Summerall, Park Trammell, Hugh Henry Trout, Carl D. Vinson, and Littleton W. T. Waller.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in five series:

- [Family Correspondence, 1815-1942](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1889-1942](#)
- [Speeches and Writings File, 1912-1942](#)
- [Military Papers, 1912-1932](#)
- [Miscellany, 1888-1950](#)

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1-3 REEL 1-3	<u>Family Correspondence, 1815-1942</u> Letters between family members, mainly by Lejeune to his sister, Augustine L. Lejeune. Arranged alphabetically by name of person.
BOX 3-10 REEL 3-9	<u>General Correspondence, 1889-1942</u> Letters received, drafts and copies of letters sent, telegrams, memoranda, and attachments. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 11-12 REEL 9-10	<u>Speeches and Writings File, 1912-1942</u> Speeches, drafts and notes for speeches, articles, book reviews, and correspondence. Arranged by type of material and chronologically within each file.
BOX 13 REEL 11	<u>Military Papers, 1912-1932</u> Unit citations and decorations, field orders, general orders, reports, and miscellaneous official non-personal military papers. Arranged by military unit and within by type of material.
BOX 14-20 REEL 11-16	<u>Miscellany, 1888-1950</u> Awards, biographical data, correspondence, financial papers, military orders to duty, medical and scholastic records, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 18,062 and 18,062.1

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-3 REEL 1-3	Family Correspondence, 1815-1942 Letters between family members, mainly by Lejeune to his sister, Augustine L. Lejeune. Arranged alphabetically by name of person.
BOX 1 REEL 1	Close, Phillip H.
BOX 1 REEL 1	Drake, Kate A.
BOX 1 REEL 1	Glennon, James B.
BOX 1 REEL 1	Glennon, James B., Jr.
BOX 1 REEL 1	Lejeune, Augustine L.
BOX 1 REEL 1	1882-1907 (9 folders)
BOX 2 REEL 2	1908-1920 (10 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 2	1921-1931 (4 folders)
BOX 3 REEL 3	Lejeune, Ellie Murdaugh
BOX 3 REEL 3	Scott, William H.
BOX 3 REEL 3	Other family members
BOX 3-10 REEL 3-9	General Correspondence, 1889-1942 Letters received, drafts and copies of letters sent, telegrams, memoranda, and attachments. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 3 REEL 3	1889-1918 (4 folders)
BOX 4 REEL 4	1919-1929 (5 folders)

General Correspondence, 1889-1942

Container

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BOX 4 REEL 4	1930
BOX 4 REEL 4	Jan.-Apr.
	(3 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 4	May-Dec.
	(6 folders)
BOX 5 REEL 4	1931
BOX 5 REEL 4	Jan. - Mar.
	(3 folders)
BOX 6 REEL 4	Apr.-Dec.
	(5 folders)
BOX 6 REEL 5	1932
BOX 6 REEL 5	Jan.-May
	(4 folders)
BOX 7 REEL 6	June-Dec.
BOX 7 REEL 6	1933-1934
	(6 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 6	1935
BOX 8 REEL 6	Jan.-July
	(2 folders)
BOX 8 REEL 7	Aug.-Dec.
BOX 8 REEL 7	1936-1937
	(3 folders)
BOX 9 REEL 8	1938-1940
	(6 folders)
BOX 10 REEL 9	1941-1942, undated
	(6 folders)
BOX 11-12 REEL 9-10	Speeches and Writings File, 1912-1942
	Speeches, drafts and notes for speeches, articles, book reviews, and correspondence. Arranged by type of material and chronologically within each file.
BOX 11	Speeches

Speeches and Writings File, 1912-1942

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
REEL 9	
BOX 11	1921-1925
REEL 9	(2 folders)
BOX 11	1926-1938, undated
REEL 10	(6 folders)
BOX 12	Articles
REEL 10	
BOX 12	1919-1931
REEL 10	
BOX 12	New Orleans <i>Times-Picayune</i> , 1939
REEL 10	
BOX 12	Undated
REEL 10	
BOX 12	Fragments
REEL 10	
BOX 12	Correspondence relating to articles, 1931-1942
REEL 10	
BOX 12	Book, <i>The Reminiscences of a Marine</i> (1930)
REEL 10	
BOX 12	Book reviews
REEL 10	
BOX 12	Correspondence from readers, 1930, Aug.-1935, Apr.
REEL 10	(3 folders)
BOX 12	Correspondence with publisher, 1928-1932
REEL 10	
BOX 12	Miscellaneous
REEL 10	
BOX 13	Military Papers, 1912-1932
REEL 11	
	Unit citations and decorations, field orders, general orders, reports, and miscellaneous official non-personal military papers. Arranged by military unit and within by type of material.
BOX 13	First Army Corps
REEL 11	
BOX 13	Fifth Army Corps, field orders, 1918, 24 Oct.-12 Nov
REEL 11	
BOX 13	Second Division
REEL 11	
BOX 13	Citations and decorations
REEL 11	
BOX 13	Field orders, 1918, May-1919, June
REEL 11	(3 folders)
BOX 13	General orders, 1918-1919
REEL 11	

Military Papers, 1912-1932

Container

Contents

BOX 13 REEL 11	Reports on military operations
BOX 13 REEL 11	Miscellaneous
BOX 13 REEL 11	Miscellaneous, 1912-1932
BOX 14-20 REEL 11-16	Miscellany, 1888-1950 Awards, biographical data, correspondence, financial papers, military orders to duty, medical and scholastic records, and printed matter. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 14 REEL 11	Lejeune, John Archer
BOX 14 REEL 11	Appointment as superintendent of Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va., 1929
BOX 14 REEL 11	Awards, decorations, and tributes, 1909-1934
BOX 14 REEL 11	Biographical data
BOX 14 REEL 11	Financial papers
BOX 14 REEL 12	Letters of congratulations on appointment as commandant, U.S. Marine Corps, 1920, June 3-Oct. 9 (4 folders)
BOX 14 REEL 12	Medical records
BOX 14 REEL 12	Memorabilia
BOX 15 REEL 13	Messages on retirement from marine corps, 1929 (2 folders)
BOX 15 REEL 13	Obituaries
BOX 15 REEL 13	Orders to duty, 1888-1929 (4 folders)
BOX 16 REEL 13	Posthumous awards
BOX 16 REEL 13	Promotions
BOX 16 REEL 13	Retirement from Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.
BOX 16 REEL 13	Scholastic records
BOX 16 REEL 13	Shipwreck at Apia, Samoa, Mar. 1889
BOX 16 REEL 13	Other material

Miscellany, 1888-1950

Container

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BOX 16 REEL 13	"The Battle of Blanc Mont," by Ernst Otto, typescript
BOX 16 REEL 14	Letters to Ellie M. Lejeune and Eugenia Lejeune, 1918-1950
BOX 16 REEL 14	Messages of sympathy on the death of Lejeune, 1942-1943
BOX 16 REEL 14	Miscellaneous manuscripts and fragments
BOX 16 REEL 14	Papers of Augustine L. Lejeune
BOX 16 REEL 14	Second Division, American Expeditionary Force, history
BOX 16 REEL 14	Second Division Association
BOX 16 REEL 14	Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.
BOX 17 REEL 15	Printed matter
BOX 17 REEL 15	Clippings
BOX 17 REEL 15	Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn, N.Y
BOX 17 REEL 15	Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps
	(2 folders)
BOX 17 REEL 15	Cuba, 1912
BOX 17 REEL 15	Haiti and Santo Domingo
BOX 17 REEL 15	Lejeune miscellaneous
BOX 17 REEL 15	Marine Corps
	(1 folder)
BOX 18 REEL 15	(1 folder)
BOX 18 REEL 15	Mexico
BOX 18 REEL 15	Nicaragua
BOX 18 REEL 15	Norfolk, Va., 1939-1942
BOX 18 REEL 15	Quantico, Va.
BOX 18 REEL 15	Panama
BOX 18 REEL 15	Retirement from marine corps
BOX 18 REEL 15	Retirement from Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.

Miscellany, 1888-1950

Container *Contents*

BOX 18	Second Division Association
REEL 15	
BOX 18	Second Division parade
REEL 15	
BOX 19	Serialization of <i>The Reminiscences of a Marine</i>
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BOX 19	<i>New Orleans Item</i>
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	(2 folders)
BOX 19	Other newspapers
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BOX 19	Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.
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BOX 20	World War I
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BOX 20	Miscellaneous
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