



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**William Van Buren United States Sanitary Commission correspondence**  
1861-1878  
MssCol 23350

Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2016.

## Summary

**Creator:** Van Buren, W. H. (William Holme), 1819-1883

**Title:** William Van Buren United States Sanitary Commission correspondence

**Date:** 1861-1878

**Size:** .25 linear feet (1 box)

**Source:** Donated by Museum of the City of New York, 2015.

**Abstract:** Dr. William H. Van Buren was a member of the Executive Committee of the United States Sanitary Commission (USSC), as well as its Medical Committee. Other members of the executive committee were Henry W. Bellows, C. R. Agnew, Wolcott Gibbs, Frederick Law Olmsted, and George T. Strong. This collection of correspondence consists 103 items, most of which are letters sent to Van Buren by other members of the executive committee and by the U.S. Army Surgeon General's office. Some of Van Buren's outgoing letters are present. The correspondence includes discussion of the appointment of William A. Hammond as the U.S. Army Surgeon General, and subsequent tensions between Hammond and the Secretary of War, Edwin McMasters Stanton. Other subjects in the correspondence include the USSC's floating hospital, the Euterpe; hospital inspections; and requests for nurses, dressers, surgeons, and other medical personnel. The collection includes a "list of wounded for the engagement of October 21, 1861" (the Battle of Ball's Bluff), and a form recording wounds and injuries of John Smith of the 79th New York regiment, illustrated with figure drawings.

**Preferred citation:** William Van Buren United States Sanitary Commission correspondence, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Processing note:** Compiled by Kit Fluker, 2016.

## Custodial History

The Museum of the City of New York received this collection from the grandson of Dr. William H. Van Buren.

## **Key Terms**

### **Subjects**

Hospital ships

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Letters (correspondence)

### **Geographic Names**

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Civilian relief

### **Names**

Agnew, Cornelius Rea, 1830-1888

Bellows, Henry W. (Henry Whitney), 1814-1882

Gibbs, Wolcott, 1822-1908

Hammond, William A. (William Alexander), 1828-1900

Strong, George Templeton, 1820-1875