



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Letter books of the U.S.S. Saratoga, U.S.S. New Ironsides, and Pacific fleet

1858-1870

MssCol 3049

Summary

Creator: Turner, Thomas, 1808-1883

Title: Letter books of the U.S.S. Saratoga, U.S.S. New Ironsides, and Pacific fleet

Date: 1858-1870

Size: 1.46 linear feet (15 volumes)

Abstract: This collection consists of 15 volumes of letter books and indexes kept by Thomas Turner, Commander, Commodore, and Rear Admiral of the United States Navy on board the U.S.S. Saratoga, the U.S.S. New Ironsides, and various ships in the Pacific fleet. The Saratoga letter book dates from June 18, 1858 to June 22, 1860, and includes correspondence while cruising the West Indies and coast of Mexico relating to guano on Navassa Island, affairs at Tampico, relations with British and French, protection of Americans at Vera Cruz, blockade of the Mississippi River, and capture of two armed ships near Vera Cruz. The New Ironsides letter book dates from August 19, 1862 to July 6, 1863, with letters dated at Philadelphia, Newport News, and off Charleston relating to New Ironsides, her serviceability, defects in design and equipment, orders of senior officers at Newport News and of blockading squadron off Charleston, actions of H.M.S. Petrel, report on attack against Charleston, and efficiency of the ship in battle. The remaining letter books relate to the Pacific fleet, dating from August 6, 1868 to July 27, 1870, and include official correspondence on relief work after the 1868 Peru earthquake; report on defects of the Navy due to the administration of Gideon Welles; politics in Hawaii; controversy with Admiral Farragut; U. S. relations with Mexico, Central and South America; and General Orders of Admirals T. T. Craven, T. Turner, and of the Navy Department

Preferred citation: Letter books of the U.S.S. Saratoga, U.S.S. New Ironsides, and Pacific fleet, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Letter books

Geographic Names

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Naval operations

Names

Turner, Thomas, 1808-1883

New Ironsides (Ironclad)

Saratoga (Sloop of war)

United States. Navy

United States. Navy. Pacific Squadron