

Guide to the Emmons Family Papers

WA MSS S-1306



by Susie R. Bock

1991 September

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
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<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-1306

CREATOR: Emmons family

TITLE: Emmons family papers

DATES: 1821-1925

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 14.5 linear feet (32 boxes) + 1 broadside

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The papers, consisting of the personal and official papers of George Foster Emmons and George Thornton Emmons, document the history of the United States Navy in the nineteenth century and of early ethnological research on the native peoples of Alaska. The papers contain extensive correspondence of naval officers and the Emmons's family, ship's journals and captain's letterbooks, naval orders and reports, research notes and publications on Alaska, scrapbooks, and artwork by the Emmons family.

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

- b. box
- f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The papers of George Foster Emmons and the letters of Francis Anthony Thornton were purchased from Edward Eberstadt and Sons. In 1953 Charles Eberstadt donated the 1909 diplomas of George

Thornton Emmons; the rest of the George Thornton Emmons papers were donated to The Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library by Lindley Eberstadt in 1973.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research. Box 32: Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use

The Emmons Family Papers are the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

Emmons Family Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Associated Materials

Additional George Foster Emmons manuscripts came to Yale in the 1940s as part of William R. Coe's gift of his collection. Chiefly documenting Emmons's involvement in the Wilkes expedition of 1838-42, this material has been cataloged as follows: Western Americana Ms. 166, three journals of the cruise of the sloop of war *Peacock*; Western Americana Ms. 167, two sketchbooks from the same cruise; Western Americana Ms. 168, letterbook of official correspondence for 1828-50; Western Americana Ms. 169, scrapbook of material regarding court martials of 1842.

GEORGE FOSTER EMMONS (1811-1882)

George Foster Emmons, a career officer, began training at the Brooklyn naval school in 1828. Upon completing his studies in 1834, he married Antonia Thornton, daughter of Francis Anthony Thornton, who was head purser of the United States Navy.

From 1830-33, Emmons served on the frigate *Brandywine* cruising in the Mediterranean. His next assignment took him to South America where Emmons would spend most of his career. He served on several ships before 1838 when he joined the Wilkes expedition exploring Antarctic. He returned to South America for most of the 1840s, although in 1847 he was sent to the Pacific division to patrol the California coast. In the 1850s Emmons alternated between commanding the frigate *Savannah* off South America and serving in the naval Bureau of Construction and Equipment, Washington, D.C. During the Civil War, Emmons guarded the Texas coast as part of the West Gulf Blockade Squadron. In 1866 he became captain of the U.S.S. *Ossipee* in the North Pacific Squadron and the following year escorted the American commissioners to take official possession of Alaska.

Emmons last duty was commandant of the Navy Yard in Philadelphia in 1870-72. He attained the rank of commodore in 1868; in 1872 he was promoted to rear admiral and retired from active service.

Emmons spent the early part of his career gathering data on the navy which was published *The Navy of the United States, from the commencement, 1775 to 1853; with a brief history of each vessel's service and fate as appears upon record* (1853).

GEORGE THORNTON EMMONS (1852-1945)

George Thornton Emmons, son of George Foster Emmons, was a career officer who graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1874. His first posts were aboard ships attached to the European Station. Emmons attained the rank of master in 1881 and became a lieutenant in 1883.

In 1882, Emmons was transferred to the U.S.S. *Pinta*, which was stationed in Alaska. He continued on duty in Alaska until 1891 and served there again in 1894-96. In Sitka, Alaska, he met and married Kittie Baker in 1886. During this period, Emmons collected artifacts and compiled notes on the natives of southeastern Alaska, especially the Tlingit and Tahltan Indians. From 1891-93 Emmons was assigned to the Interior Department as a special agent to accompany the Alaskan exhibit in the World's Columbian Exposition. Most of Emmons's subsequent duty was determined by his Alaskan experience.

Emmons was retired from active service in 1899 and ordered on a series of special projects for various branches of the federal government. The State Department sent Emmons to Alaska in 1901 to locate Russian stone markers which were crucial to the resolution of a boundary dispute between Canada and the United States. He gathered evidence from Indians and white settlers through 1904. In 1902 the Department of Agriculture asked for Emmons's advice regarding Alaskan game and forests, while the Treasury Department requested information on Alaskan salmon fisheries. Starvation among the Copper River Indians led Emmons in 1904 to ask President Roosevelt for permission to investigate conditions among Alaskan natives. Roosevelt supported him, and in 1905 Emmons's report was presented to Congress.

Emmons's interest in Alaskan Indians brought him into close association with the American Museum of Natural History. He had amassed a large collection of Alaskan Indian artifacts which he sold to the museum in the 1890s, and continued to sell, donate, or exchange items with the museum for the next three decades. In 1896 F. W. Putnam, curator of the American museum, asked the navy for Emmons's help on a report about the Alaskan Indians. The following year the museum repeated its request, and this time the navy not only acquiesced, but officially ordered Emmons to write "Ethnological report on the Native tribes of Southeastern Alaska, elaborated from the museum collections" and detached him from active service. Emmons became a regular contributor to *The American Museum Journal* (forerunner of *Natural History*) and other scholarly periodicals. He corresponded regularly with Franz Boas, a member of the museum's anthropology department, and with P. E. Goddard, curator of ethnology.

Scope and Contents

The Emmons Family Papers, consisting of the personal and official papers of George Foster Emmons and George Thornton Emmons, document the history of the United States Navy in the nineteenth century and of early ethnological research on the native peoples of Alaska. The material spans the period 1821-1925, but the majority of the papers fall in the period 1830-1900.

The Emmons Family Papers have been arranged into seven series. Series I-III contain letters to George Foster Emmons. Series IV, *Family Correspondence*, consists of letters to and from Francis Anthony Thornton, George Foster Emmons, Antonia Emmons, and other members of the extended family as well as the personal and professional letters to George Thornton Emmons. Records of their naval careers kept by George Foster Emmons and George Thornton Emmons are arranged in Series V, *Naval Service Material*. Series VI, *Alaskan Papers of George T. Emmons*, is divided into four sections: *Scrapbooks*, *Photographs*, *Subject Files*, and *Writings*. Series VII, *Family Papers*, contains material related to George Foster Emmons, George Thornton Emmons, and Kittie Emmons, arranged according to person.

Series I-IV contain the contents of twenty or more letterbooks which were assembled by George Foster Emmons and George Thornton Emmons. The volumes have been dismantled to preserve individual letters and to permit a more accurate chronological arrangement of their contents, but the distinct identity of each letterbook has been maintained. The original arrangement of the letterbooks is laid out in lists prepared by the Eberstadt firm (See folders labeled "Dealer's listing of material"). The titles of the letterbooks are those assigned by the two Emmons. George Foster Emmons identified his letterbooks as either "personal-official" or "official," and this distinction is the basis of Series I and II. Series III, *Additional*

Correspondence of G. F. Emmons, consists of material removed from letterbooks some years ago by persons unknown. It is difficult to discern from which volumes these letters came or who arranged the letters into "court martials" and "California real estate." In Series IV the letterbook "1821-5- Letters of F. A. Thornton, U.S. Navy" was probably constructed by George Thornton Emmons, whose grandmother had given him Thornton's letters (See Box 14, folder 246, note on front cover of letterbook). The other volumes in Series IV were probably assembled by George Foster Emmons. The only correspondence which was not originally in letterbook format is that of George Thornton Emmons. Most of the letterbooks contain sporadic annotations by both Emmonses, although there are more notes by the son. Additional material, such as reports on ships and congressional bills, are scattered throughout the letters. (A portrait of George's brother F. W. Emmons can be found in Box 3, folder 56.)

[Series I, G. F. Emmons Personal Correspondence](#) (Boxes 1-7), consists of letters to Emmons from family, friends, and naval colleagues. George Foster Emmons married into the Thornton family, a navy family, as were many of Emmons's blood relatives. George Emmons had cousins named Sawyer, Cummings, and Emmons, who were naval officers. His wife's sister, Betty Thornton, married Thornton Jenkins, who would become head of the Washington Navy Bureau, and Emmons was related by marriage to John B. Marchand, also of the United States Navy. The letters of these correspondents, therefore, contain a mixture of family and naval news, with some discussion of national politics and events. Topics include South America, the Civil War, and the North Pacific Squadron of the late 1860s.

Thornton Jenkins and John B. Marchand were constant sources of news, particularly about pay which depended on federal legislation. Since both were stationed in Washington during the 1850s and 1860s, they were often privy to information before it was publicly announced. Samuel Mercer and Daniel Ammen discussed naval politics with Emmons, while H. B. Sawyer tended to focus on his own career. Although many correspondents touched on family affairs, the letters of F. W. Emmons, George Foster Emmons's brother, are the best source on such matters throughout the 1850s and 1860s.

Emmons, when stationed in Washington and South America, corresponded with officers of the fleet. Daniel Ridgely was in the south Atlantic 1855-56, while Mercer served there in 1856 and 1860-61. Ammen and Jenkins also touched on South America in their letters. Correspondents comment on naval expeditions in the south Atlantic, South American politics, and relations with the United States.

The Civil War is a major topic in Series I. Jenkins was in Washington at the beginning of the war and passed information from the Navy Bureau to Emmons. Most of Emmons's colleagues commented in their letters on the resignation of southern officers and the effect of the war on the navy. F. W. Emmons wrote regarding the Fugitive Slave Law, the Emancipation Proclamation, and national politics.

During the Civil War the navy set up a blockade in the Gulf of Mexico. Emmons, Marchand, Ammen, and Mercer all served on the West Gulf Blockade Squadron or the South Atlantic Blockade Squadron. Starting in 1861, Emmons's correspondents discussed daily life in the blockade fleet, court martials, prize ships, and prize money.

From 1866 to 1869, Series I contains information on the North Pacific Squadron serving off the California coast. Emmons commanded the U.S.S. *Ossipee* and received letters from officers of the squadron. By the 1870s, Emmons was near retirement, as were most of his friends, and his correspondence concerns social invitations, death notices of naval colleagues, and requests for Emmons's help in promotion.

[Series II, G. F. Emmons Official Correspondence](#) (Boxes 8-12), contains letters from naval officers, many of whom were friends or relatives, writing on official business. The letters can be divided into four periods: 1856-60 and 1866, duty off the South American coast; 1861-65, blockade squadron; 1867-68, duty off the California coast; 1872, Philadelphia Navy Yard. Printed circulars (general naval orders), newspaper clippings, and ship records, can be found throughout the correspondence. There are also some letters concerning Emmons's private business investments.

The official letters covering Emmons's South American tour of duty focus on supplying and maintaining the frigate *Savannah*, which he commanded. Many of the 1857 letters from the purser's office and the navy bureau discuss Emmons's pay. With his letters for 1858, Emmons bound newspaper clippings and printed notices regarding the case of Henry Morris, who brought suit in the Court of Claims in Washington, D.C.

over the rate of pay for officers promoted in 1857. The letters from Emmons's return to the South American waters in 1866 again discuss supplies, but also comment on Peruvian politics and prize ships.

Starting in 1863, when Emmons served on the blockade squadrons, his official correspondence contains orders from Gideon Welles, secretary of the navy, and from successive commanders of the squadron, William Kean, D. G. Farragut, J. S. Palmer, and H. K. Thatcher. Most of the letters are to Emmons, although there are a few copies of letters by him. Supplies, crew, court martials, and prize ships are the major topics of discussion.

In 1867, Emmons joined the North Pacific Squadron, based at Mare's Island and under Thatcher's command. The bulk of the letters consist of inter-ship communication, as was often the case when Emmons was on active duty. Desertions posed a serious problem and many letters report breaches of discipline. Emmons added clippings from California newspapers to his letters for 1867-68.

The last group of letters in Series II date from 1872 when Emmons was commandant of the Philadelphia Navy Yard. The letters, which concern daily business, are a mixture of copies of Emmons's outgoing letters along with the incoming mail. Also included are newspaper clippings regarding contemporary Philadelphia.

[Series III, *Additional Correspondence of G. F. Emmons*](#), (Box 13) consists of letters from family and colleagues arranged chronologically and covering the same period as Series I and II.

[Series IV, *Emmons Family Correspondence*](#) (Boxes 14-17), contains correspondence involving Francis A. Thornton, George Foster Emmons, Antonia Emmons, and George Thornton Emmons. Francis Thornton, who was a purser, received letters from Edward Fitzgerald and Samuel Hambleton concerning the purser's department, naval ordinance, and congressional bills. George Foster Emmons wrote to his father-in-law frequently, keeping him abreast of the latest naval news, as well as family affairs. After 1850, the correspondence becomes increasingly personal.

The second and third letterbooks in Series IV contain family letters to George Foster and Antonia Emmons along with correspondence between husband and wife. The letterbook "1828-58 Personal Letters Thornton & Emmons Family" contains letters exchanging family news, commenting on the Mexican War, and chronicling Emmons's early career. The third letterbook, "1860-67 Letters, G.F.-A. Emmons, During Rebellion," documents Emmons's role in the blockade of the Gulf of Mexico. It enhances the picture of blockade duty sketched by Emmons's official letters in Series II and other personal letters in Series I.

The last two sections of Series IV consist of the official and personal correspondence of George Thornton Emmons. These letters, which were not bound in a letterbook, have been divided into official orders or communications from the navy and letters from colleagues and friends. The orders document Emmons's career, while professional letters focus on his Alaskan activities. Although there is correspondence with American and British naval officers, the bulk of the personal-official correspondence are from scholars and government civil servants. These letters discuss Alaskan native peoples, wildlife, and environment, especially in relation to Emmons's special projects for the United States government. Letters for 1901-03 discuss the Alaskan boundary affair and include affidavits from natives and white settlers.

[Series V, *Naval Service Material*](#) (Boxes 18-22), contains naval records compiled by George Foster Emmons and George Thornton Emmons. The first subseries, Ship Journals and Letterbooks, houses chronologically arranged journals and captain's letterbooks. The journals begin with a brief autobiographical sketch of Emmons's career and a list of officers, followed by a daily log. The log recounts shipboard events, Emmons's duties, weather conditions, and nautical measurements; sometimes the last two elements are recorded in tables accompanying the text. Letterbooks contain copies of Emmons's letters to other officers and some miscellaneous material. These records complement Emmons's correspondence in Series I, II, IV.

The two journals of the frigate Brandywine span the ship's Mediterranean cruise 1830-33 and the South American expeditions of the barques Consort and Pioneer in 1836-38. There are notes on the naming of Gibraltar in the first volume, while newspaper clippings regarding the South American expeditions can be found in the second volume.

From 1843-46, Emmons served on the sloop of war Boston and the frigate Raritan, again on duty in South American waters. His journal follows the usual format, with newspaper clippings on the fleet and some

notes on Paraguay. In the back of the volume there are two lists of nautical measurements for the cruises of the Consort and Pioneer. Emmons also kept an account of his correspondence for 1843-54 and 1847-64 at the back of the volume, noting the date, to whom he was writing, where he was, where they were, and how he sent the letter.

The cruise of the frigate Savannah is documented by Emmons's journal, 1853-56, and then his letterbook, 1856-58. The journal has detailed information on the crew and supplies. Emmons used the back of this volume to note missing letters, the letters he wrote 1853-57, and information on crew who were injured and sent home. There are also official letters and reports, obviously cut out of a letterbook, which have been placed within the journal. The letterbook contains copies of Emmons's letters to the fleet commander Samuel Mercer, other officers of the fleet, and junior officers of the Savannah. There are also copies of letters he received. The letters record the daily affairs, especially the equipment and condition of the ship, and problems with the crew.

The letterbook of the U.S.S. Lackawanna has copies of letters from and to Emmons in 1865. Gideon Welles figures prominently among the correspondents, although there are copies of letters from various fleet commanders. Newspaper clippings regarding prize ships can be found, as well as a section labeled "samples of circulars and Blockade Instructions," and about twenty pages of notes on the navy. The letterbook of the U.S.S. Ossipee follows the usual pattern and documents Emmons service in the North Pacific Squadron under H. K. Thatcher. There are copies of Welles's instructions and thoughts on the transfer of Alaska as well as two hand-drawn maps recording the Ossipee's route through Alaskan waters.

George Thornton Emmons served as an executive officer on the U.S.S. Pinta. At the beginning his journal are lists labeled "Ordinance Receipt Book," noting what supplies the Pinta received and from where. The bulk of the journal contains nautical readings for the ship's explorations of the inland passages along Alaska's coast. Occasionally, the cruises are illustrated with a hand-drawn maps.

The second subseries of Series V, Orders and Reports, is arranged chronologically, except for the printed navy regulations which are located at the end of the series (See Box 22, folders 390-91). "Circulars and Orders" is a scrapbook kept by George Foster Emmons of newspaper clippings, printed general orders, and photoreproduced and hand-written documents regarding military and civil law, especially court martials. "Reports on Navy Vessels, Prizes," also by George Foster Emmons, is a detailed account of the history of naval vessels for the Civil War period. Listed alphabetically, information regarding a ship's missions, weaponry, and if it was a prize vessel is recorded in hand notes and newspaper clippings. Emmons recorded the daily business of his command in "Reports from the Navy Yard, Philadelphia," chronologically arranged with notes for each day listed under the naval office or bureau which was involved.

George Thornton Emmons kept some records of the navy's administration of Alaska at the turn of the century. His "Accounts of the Government of the District of Alaska" include records of garrison supplies, a register of visitors, and a listing of government acts. A journal for 1900-01 details the administration of justice amongst the native Alaskans. Also included is a glossary of "Terms or Words in Current use in Alaska."

[Series VI, Alaskan Material of George T. Emmons](#) (Boxes 23-27), contains George Thornton Emmons's research material concerning Alaskan Indians, environment, and wildlife. The material is divided into four sections: Scrapbooks, Photographs, Subject Files, and Writings.

The first scrapbook "Alaska Work, Writings, Letters and Notes" contains a variety of material, from newspaper clippings documenting his marriage and Alaskan visits to correspondence with institutions such as the American Museum of Natural History. Newspaper clippings, letters, and a typescript article for the Department of Agriculture, "The Woodlands of Alaska," contain information on the special projects he undertook for the government. Emmons's investigation in 1901-04 of the Alaskan boundary markers is well documented in this scrapbook. There is even material related to his report on the conditions of the Alaskan natives, the focus of the second scrapbook.

The second scrapbook relates to Emmons's 1904 mission to assess the welfare of Alaskan Indians. Material includes letters, clippings, and a copy of his report to the United States Senate (*Conditions and Needs of the Natives of Alaska*. 58th Cong., 3d sess., 1905, S. Doc. 106) as well as correspondence showing his concern for the regulation of the salmon fisheries.

The subseries Photographs contains prints and some negatives of Alaskan Indians and artifacts, many of which were used in his publications.

Subject Files is divided into General Files and Tlingit Qwans. The General Files consist of notes, a few draft prose pieces, sketches, and other material relating to Tlingit and possibly the Tahltan Indians; the inter-relationships between these two groups makes it difficult to judge. The distinction is particularly difficult in regards to the folders labeled "Chapter...." Emmons published a lengthy article on the Tahltan in 1911, but he also wrote a sizable article about the Tlingit, which is being published for the first time from the manuscript held by the American Museum of Natural History. (The museum, in conjunction with University of Washington Press, is publishing Emmons's manuscript under the title *The Tlingit Indians* by George Thornton Emmons with annotations and additions by Frederica de Laguna.)

Tlingit Qwans, the second section of Subject Files in Series VI, contains research material on the qwans, a tribal sub-grouping, and the smaller family units within qwans. A list of Tlingit qwans is followed by information on each qwan, arranged alphabetically by name, which includes a list of families, notes on the origin and history of the qwan, and information on villages and houses. This material is followed by more detailed data about individual families, including a list of Wolf and Raven families (a common division of a qwan).

George Thornton Emmons's printed articles are arranged chronologically at the end of Series VI. He has inserted notes, correspondence, extra illustrations, and other material into his copies of "The Basketry of the Tlingit," "Extract from the New York Times," and "Tahltan Indians."

[Series VII, Family Papers](#), consists primarily of artwork by George Foster Emmons, George Thornton Emmons, and his wife Kittie M. Emmons.

There are more extensive papers in Series VII for George Foster Emmons. Emmons's compiled a scrapbook of newspaper clippings regarding the land battles of the Civil War. One of the earliest documents for Emmons is a volume on "Seamanship," a combination of notes and sketches, which he composed after finishing his training at the Brooklyn naval school. A scrapbook of invitations for 1869-73 gives evidence of his social position toward the end of his career. Finally, the collection includes drawings he made while serving on the frigate Brandywine.

George Thornton Emmons, like his father, was an artist. His "Christmas Pamphlet" for 1886 contains a series of oil paintings depicting Alaskan scenery. The only other material related to George Thornton Emmons are two diplomas noting his involvement with a 1909 "Alaskan-Yukon-Pacific Exposition." The collection also holds a watercolor by Kittie Emmons.

Collection Contents

Series I: G. F. Emmons Personal Correspondence, 1828-81

2.75 linear feet (7 boxes)

Series I, *G. F. Emmons Personal Correspondence*, housed in Boxes 1-7, contains letters to Emmons, which he arranged into bound letterbooks and labeled "Personal-Official." This organization has been preserved.

1828-51 LETTERS FROM SHIPMATES, OFFICERS, & FAMILY

b. 1, f. 1	Dealer's listing of material	n.d.
b. 1, f. 2-4	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 1, f. 5	Description of letters by George Thornton Emmons	n.d.
b. 1, f. 6	Letters	1828-29
b. 1, f. 7	Letters	1833-37
b. 1, f. 8-19	Letters	1842-52

1851-56 PERSONAL & OFFICIAL

b. 1, f. 20	Dealer's listing of material	n.d.
b. 1, f. 21-23	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 1, f. 24-30	Letters	1851-52
b. 1, f. 31-32	Letters	1853 Jan-May
b. 2, f. 33-34	Letters	1853 Jul-Dec
b. 2, f. 35-39	Letters	1854-56

1856-59 PERSONAL LETTERS FROM RELATIVES & OTHERS

b. 2, f. 40	Dealer's listing of material	n.d.
b. 2, f. 41-43	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 2, f. 44-51	Letters	1856-57
b. 2, f. 52-53	Letters	1858 Jan-Sep
b. 3, f. 54	Letters	1858 Oct-Dec
b. 3, f. 55-59	Letters	1855-60

1860-62 PERSONAL LETTERS & OFFICIAL

b. 3, f. 60	Dealer's listing of material	n.d.
b. 3, f. 61-63	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 3, f. 64-65	Letters	1860
b. 3, f. 66-70	Letters	1861 Jan-Jul

1860-62 PERSONAL LETTERS & OFFICIAL (continued)

b. 4, f. 71-73	Letters	181 Aug-Dec
b. 4, f. 74-75	Letters	1862
1863-65 OFFICIAL & PERSONAL, CIVIL WAR		
b. 4, f. 76	Dealer's listing of material	n.d.
b. 4, f. 77-79	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 4, f. 80-87	Letters	1862-63
b. 5, f. 88-96	Letters	1864-65
1865-70 PERSONAL & SOME FAMILY		
b. 5, f. 97	Dealer's listing of material	n.d.
b. 5, f. 98-100	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 5, f. 101-106	Letters	1865-67
b. 6, f. 107-115	Letters	1868-70
b. 6, f. 116	Letters	1881
1870-71 OFFICIAL & PERSONAL		
b. 6, f. 117	Dealer's listing of material	n.d.
b. 6, f. 118-20	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 6, f. 121	Miscellaneous material, inside front cover	n.d.
b. 6, f. 122-25	Letters	1870-71
b. 6, f. 126	Letters	1871 Feb
b. 7, f. 127-35	Letters	1871 Mar-Dec

Series II: G. F. Emmons Official Correspondence, 1856-76*2 linear feet (5 boxes)*

Series II, *G. F. Emmons Official Correspondence*, housed in Boxes 8-12, contains letters to Emmons, which he arranged into letterbooks and labeled "Official." This organization has been preserved.

1828-50 [OFFICIAL LETTERS]

See: Manuscript 168, Yale Collection of Western Americana

1850-63 OFFICIAL LETTERS

b. 8, f. 136	Dealer's listing of material	n.d.
b. 8, f. 137-39	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 8, f. 140-46	Letters	1856-60
1862-1864 OFFICIAL		
b. 8, f. 147-49	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 8, f. 150	Miscellaneous material, inside front cover	n.d.
b. 8, f. 151-55	Letters	1861-63
b. 8, f. 156	"Specifications for Building a Revenue Cutter"	n.d.
1862-1865 OFFICIAL, CIVIL WAR		
b. 8, f. 157-59	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 8, f. 160	Miscellaneous material, inside front cover	n.d.
b. 8, f. 161	Letters	1862
b. 9, f. 162-73	Letters	1863-65
1865-68 OFFICIAL LETTERS		
b. 9, f. 174-76	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 9, f. 177	"Directions for Taking Deep Sea Soundings"	1850 May 1
b. 9, f. 178	Letters	1861
b. 10, f. 179-88	Letters	1862-66
b. 10, f. 189-93	Letters	1868-70
1866-68 OFFICIAL LETTERS		
b. 10, f. 194	Dealer's listing of material	n.d.
b. 10, f. 195-97	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 11, f. 198-213	Letters	1866-68
b. 12, f. 214	Index	n.d.

1866-68 OFFICIAL LETTERS (continued)

b. 12, f. 215	Newspaper clippings and miscellaneous papers	1864, 1867, n.d.
<hr/>		
[1872] OFFICIAL		
b. 12, f. 216-18	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 12, f. 219	Index	n.d.
b. 12, f. 220-29	Letters	1872
<hr/>		
	<i>Sunday Dispatch</i> : Philadelphia newspaper, vol. XXVIII, no. 42 See: Oversize, Box 29, folder 542	1876 January 23
<hr/>		

Series III: Additional Correspondence, G. F. Emmons, 1821-73

0.25 linear feet (1 box)

Series III, *Additional Correspondence, G. F. Emmons*, housed in Box 13, contains letters to Emmons, which were removed from letterbooks. The letters are arranged chronologically and some have been separated into subject groupings.

1841-1873 LETTERS

b. 13, f. 230	Letters	1821
b. 13, f. 231-34	Letters	1844-48
	"South Fork of the American River, California:" map See: Oversize, Box 30, folder 545	
b. 13, f. 235-36	Letters	1849-50
b. 13, f. 237	[Report to the Senate Committee on the U.S. Navy]	ca. 1850
b. 13, f. 238-39	Letters	1851-54
b. 13, f. 240-41	Letters	1871-73
	1849-1850 LETTERS REGARDING COURT MARTIALS	
b. 13, f. 242	Letters	1848-50
	1850 LETTERS REGARDING CALIFORNIA REAL ESTATE	
b. 13, f. 243-44	Letters	1850-51
b. 13, f. 245	Letters	1852-68

Series IV: Family Correspondence, 1821-1925*1.5 linear feet (4 boxes)*

Series IV, *Family Correspondence*, housed in Boxes 14-17, contains correspondence between the Francis A. Thornton family, the George Foster Emmons Family, and other relations of the two families. The original arrangement and titles of the letterbooks have been preserved. Letters to George Thornton Emmons from colleagues, navy officers, and friends are at the end of the series.

1821-5- LETTERS OF F. A. THORNTON, U.S. NAVY

b. 14, f. 246	Dealer's listing of material	n.d.
b. 14, f. 247-49	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 14, f. 250-52	Letters	1821-30
b. 14, f. 253-58	Letters	1833-45
b. 14, f. 259	Letters	1849
b. 14, f. 260-61	Letters	1851-52
b. 14, f. 262	Letters	1880

1828-58 PERSONAL LETTERS THORNTON & EMMONS FAMILY

b. 14, f. 263	Dealer's listing of material	n.d.
b. 14, f. 264-66	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 14, f. 267	Letters	1828-34
b. 14, f. 268-71	Letters	1843-46
b. 15, f. 272-85	Letters	1847-57
b. 15, f. 286	Letters and index	1858, n.d.

1860-67 LETTERS, G.F.-A. EMMONS, DURING REBELLION

b. 15, f. 287	Dealer's listing of material	n.d.
b. 15, f. 288-90	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 15, f. 291-93	Letters	1860-61
b. 15, f. 294	[Reports on U.S. Navy]	n.d.
b. 16, f. 295-305	Letters	1862-65

1874-1905 OFFICIAL LETTERS TO GEORGE T. EMMONS

b. 16, f. 306	Letters	1874-78
b. 16, f. 307-08	Letters	1880-88
b. 16, f. 309-10	Letters	1891-99
b. 16, f. 311-12	Letters	1900-05

1874-1905 OFFICIAL LETTERS TO GEORGE T. EMMONS (continued)

b. 16, f. 313	Letters	1917
1887-1925 PERSONAL-OFFICIAL TO GEORGE T. EMMONS		
b. 16, f. 314	Letters	1887, 1889
b. 16, f. 315	Letters	1890-96
b. 17, f. 316	Letters	1897-98
b. 17, f. 317	Letters	1900-01
b. 17, f. 318-19	Letters, court papers, and newspaper clippings	1902
b. 17, f. 320-22	Letters	1903-10
b. 17, f. 323	Letters	1914-25
b. 17, f. 324	Letters	n.d.

Series V: Naval Service Material, 1818-1901*2 linear feet (5 boxes)*

Series V, *Naval Service Material*, housed in Boxes 18-22, is divided into *Ship Journals (Logbooks)* and *Letterbooks*, which chronicles navy cruises, and *Orders and Reports*, which contains materials gathered by George Foster and George Thornton Emmons that document naval affairs. The material is arranged in rough chronological order.

SHIP JOURNALS (LOGBOOKS) AND LETTERBOOKS

George Foster Emmons

b. 18, f. 325	Journal of a Cruise on the frigate <i>Brandywine</i>	1830-33
b. 18, f. 326-28	<i>Brandywine</i> , vol. 1: detached material	1831-32
b. 18, f. 329	Journal of Homebound Cruise the frigate <i>Brandywine</i> , and Exploration Cruises in South America	1833-38
	[Journals of Cruise on the sloop of war <i>Peacock</i>], 1838-42 See: Manuscript 166, Yale Collection of Western Americana	
b. 18, f. 330	Private Journal of a Cruise in the sloop of war <i>Boston</i>	1843-46
b. 18, f. 331	<i>Boston</i> : detached material	1833-38
b. 19, f. 332-35	<i>Boston</i> : detached material	1833-38
b. 19, f. 336	Journal of a Cruise in the frigate <i>Savannah</i>	1853-56
b. 19, f. 337-44	<i>Savannah</i> : detached material	1853-56
	Letterbook of U.S.S. <i>Savannah</i>	
b. 19, f. 345	Dealer's listing of material	n.d.
b. 19, f. 346	Letterbook	1856-1858
b. 19, f. 347-48	Detached material	1856, 1859, n.d.
b. 20, f. 349	Letterbook of U.S.S. <i>Lackawanna</i>	1865
b. 20, f. 350-52	<i>Lackawanna</i> : detached material	1865, n.d.
	Letterbook of U.S.S. <i>Ossipee</i>	
b. 20, f. 353-54	Cover of letterbook	n.d.
b. 20, f. 355-66	Letterbook pages	1866-69
	Detached material: two maps of Alaskan coast See: Oversize, Box 31, folder 548 See: Oversize, 33 (Broadside)	
	George Thornton Emmons	
b. 20, f. 367	Cruise of the U.S.S. <i>Pinta</i> , Inland Passage, Alaskan Waters	1883-91

ORDERS AND REPORTS

George Foster Emmons

Circulars and Orders

b. 20, f. 368-69	Cover of the letterbook	n.d.
b. 21, f. 370-77	Letterbook pages	1840-66
b. 21, f. 378	Reports on Navy Vessels, Prizes	1860-76
b. 21, f. 379-84	Navy Vessels: detached material, p. 5-121	1860-76
b. 22, f. 385-87	Navy Vessels: detached material, p. 191-end	1860-76
b. 22, f. 388	Reports from the Navy Yard, Philadelphia	1870-72
b. 22, f. 389	Navy Yard: detached material	1870 Dec

George Thornton Emmons

b. 22, f. 390	Accounts of the Government of the District of Alaska	1888-1901
Navy Regulations		
b. 22, f. 391	<i>Rules, Regulations, and Instructions, for the Naval Service of the United States</i>	1818
b. 22, f. 392	<i>Rules of the Navy Department, Regulating the Civil Administration of the Navy of the United States</i>	1832

Series VI: Alaskan Papers of George T. Emmons, 1872-1925

1.5 linear feet (5 boxes)

Series VI, *Alaskan Papers of George T. Emmons*, housed in Boxes 23-27, contains two scrapbooks representing Emmons's research; photographs documenting Alaskan Indians; subject files, divided into general files arranged alphabetically and files on the Tlingit qwans and families; and printed works arranged chronologically.

SCRAPBOOKS

"Alaska Work, Writings, Letters and Notes"

Scrapbook

[See: Oversize, Box 30, folder 546](#)

b. 23, f. 393-407	Material detached from scrapbook	1869-1930
"Conditions and Needs of the Natives of Alaska"		
b. 23, f. 408	Scrapbook	1896-1905, n.d.
b. 23, f. 409-21	Material detached from scrapbook	1872-1906, n.d.

PHOTOGRAPHS

[See also: Box 24, folder 437](#)

b. 23, f. 422	Tlingit Indians	1885-1902, n.d.
b. 23, f. 423-24	Tlingit artifacts	1902, 1905, n.d.
b. 23, f. 425-27	Chilkat blankets	n.d.
b. 23, f. 428-29	Women weaving Chilkat blankets	n.d.
b. 23, f. 430-31	Tlingit Indian designs on wood	n.d.
b. 23, f. 432	Alaska	1888, n.d.
b. 23, f. 433	British Columbia	n.d.
b. 23, f. 434	Officers of the H.M.S. <i>Pheasant</i>	1896
b. 23, f. 435	Miscellaneous	n.d.

SUBJECT FILES

General

b. 24, f. 436	Age	
b. 24, f. 437	Alaskan stone boundary markers	1902
b. 24, f. 438	Armor and weapons	n.d.
b. 24, f. 439	Arts and industry	1885, 1888, n.d.
b. 24, f. 440	"Chapter IV: Villages, houses..."	1888, 1902, n.d.
b. 24, f. 441-44	"Chapter V: Domestic life"	1900, n.d.

SUBJECT FILES > General (continued)

b. 24, f. 445	"Chapter V: The People"	n.d.
b. 24, f. 446	"Chapter IX: War and Peace"	n.d.
b. 24, f. 447	Chieftanship	n.d.
b. 24, f. 448	Childbirth	n.d.
b. 24, f. 449	Children's songs	n.d.
b. 24, f. 450	Confinement of young women	n.d.
b. 24, f. 451-52	Dances, feasts, potlatches	1888-1901, n.d.
b. 24, f. 453	Death customs	1882, n.d.
b. 24, f. 454	Division of property	n.d.
b. 24, f. 455	Dogs	1900, n.d.
b. 24, f. 456	Family emblems or totems	n.d.
b. 24, f. 457	Family relationships	n.d.
b. 24, f. 458	Fishing and hunting	n.d.
b. 24, f. 459	Gambling	1902, n.d.
b. 25, f. 460	Indemnity	n.d.
b. 25, f. 461	"The Legend of the [Tahlka]"	n.d.
b. 25, f. 462	Marriage	n.d.
b. 25, f. 463	Names and naming	n.d.
b. 25, f. 464	Packing and trading	n.d.
b. 25, f. 465-66	Peace customs and dance	1890-91, n.d.
b. 25, f. 467	Salmon	1891, n.d.
b. 25, f. 468	Seasons	n.d.
b. 25, f. 469-72	Shamanism	1888, n.d.
b. 25, f. 473	"Slate Mirrors of the Tsimshian"	1920, n.d.
b. 25, f. 474	Slaves	n.d.
b. 25, f. 475	Spirits	1882, n.d.
b. 25, f. 476	Tobacco cultivation and snuff making	n.d.
b. 25, f. 477-78	War customs	n.d.
b. 25, f. 479	Miscellaneous notes	n.d.

Tlingit Qwans

SUBJECT FILES > Tlingit Qwans (continued)

b. 25, f. 480	List of Tlingit Qwans	n.d.
b. 25, f. 481	Auk Qwan	n.d.
b. 25, f. 482	Chilkat Qwan	1891, 1911, n.d.
b. 25, f. 483	Gunahho Qwan	n.d.
b. 25, f. 484	Hennek Qwan	n.d.
b. 25, f. 485	Hoolzak Tai Qwan	1907, n.d.
b. 25, f. 486	Hoonah Kow Qwan	1882, n.d.
b. 26, f. 488	Kehk Qwan	ca. 1890, n.d.
b. 26, f. 489	Klawak Qwan	n.d.
b. 26, f. 490	Kuyu Qwan	ca. 1890, n.d.
b. 26, f. 491	Sitka Qwan	ca. 1890, n.d.
b. 26, f. 492	Sonnak Qwan	ca. 1880, n.d.
b. 26, f. 493	Stickheen	n.d.
b. 26, f. 494	Sum Dum Qwan	ca. 1890, n.d.
b. 26, f. 495	Taku Qwan	ca. 1889, n.d.
b. 26, f. 496	Thlarharyeet Qwan	n.d.
b. 26, f. 497	Tonta Qwan	ca. 1890, n.d.
b. 26, f. 498	Miscellaneous Qwan	1891-1916, n.d.
b. 26, f. 499	List of Raven and Wolf families	n.d.
b. 26, f. 500	Raven Families	1911, n.d.
b. 26, f. 501	Wolf Families	1911, n.d.
b. 26, f. 502	Miscellaneous families	1911, n.d.

WRITINGS

"The Basketry of the Tlingit," Memoirs of the American Museum of Natural History. vol. III

[See: Oversize, Box 30, folder 547](#)

b. 26, f. 503	Basketry: detached material	n.d.
b. 26, f. 504	Extract from the <i>New York Times</i> , "Details of Lieutenant George T. Emmons' Discoveries Sustaining the United States Contention," in <i>Alaska Boundary. Various Documents Bearing on the Question of the Alaska Boundary</i>	1903
b. 26, f. 505-06	Extract: detached material	1903-04

WRITINGS (continued)

"The Chilkat Blanket," *Memoirs of the American Museum of Natural History*.
vol. III.

[See: Oversize, Box 30, folder 547a](#)

b. 26, f. 506a-06b	Chilkat Blanket: detached material	1908, n.d.
b. 26, f. 507	"Petroglyphs in Southeastern Alaska," <i>American Anthropologist</i> . vol. 10, no. 2. (reprint)	1908
b. 26, f. 508	[Review of]"The Chilkat Blanket," <i>American Anthropologist</i> . vol. 10, no. 2. (reprint)	1908
b. 26, f. 509	"The Use of the Chilcat Blanket," <i>The American Museum Journal</i> . vol. VIII, no. 5.	1908 May
b. 26, f. 510	"The Potlatch of the North Pacific Coast," <i>The American Museum Journal</i> . vol. X, no. 8.	1910 Dec
b. 26, f. 511	"Native Account of the Meeting Between La Perouse and the Tlingit," <i>American Anthropologist</i> . vol. XIII, no. 2. (reprint)	1911
b. 26, f. 512	"The Tahltan Indians," <i>University of Pennsylvanis. The Museum Publications</i> . vol. IV, no.1: copy with material inserted	1911
b. 26, f. 513-16	Tahltan Indians: detached material	1909, n.d.
b. 26, f. 517	"The Kitselas of British Columbia," <i>American Anthropologist</i> . vol. XIV, no. 3. (reprint)	1912
b. 26, f. 518	"Some Kitksan Totem Poles," <i>The American Museum Journal</i> . vol. XIII, no. 8.	1913 Dec
b. 27, f. 519	"Portraiture Among North Pacific Coast Tribes," <i>American Anthropologist</i> . vol. 16, no. 1. (reprint)	1914
b. 27, f. 520	"Tsimshian Stories in Carved Wood," <i>The American Museum Journal</i> . vol. XV, no. 7.	1915 Nov
b. 27, f. 521	"Slate Mirrors of the Tsimshian," <i>Indian Notes and Monographs</i> .	1921
b. 27, f. 522	"Jade in British Columbia and Alaska, and its Use by the Natives," <i>Indian Notes and Monographs</i> .	1923
b. 27, f. 523	"The Kitikshan and their Totem Poles," <i>Natural History</i> . vol. XXV, no. 1	1925 Jan-Feb

Series VII: Family Papers, 1830-86*0.5 linear feet (1 box)*

Series VII, *Family Papers*, housed in Box 28, contains scrapbooks and artwork by George Foster Emmons, George Thornton Emmons, and Kittie Emmons.

GEORGE FOSTER EMMONS

Scrapbook regarding naval court martial on U.S.S. *North Carolina*, of Wilkes and others, 1842

See: Manuscript 169, Yale Collection of Western Americana

Civil War scrapbook of newspaper clippings

[See: Oversize, Box 29, folder 543](#)

b. 28, f. 524-30	Civil War scrapbook: detached material	1861-63
b. 28, f. 531	Seamanship of Robert K. Wyman, by George Foster Emmons	[pre-1835]
b. 28, f. 532	Dealer's list of drawings	n.d.
b. 28, f. 533-35	Drawings while on the <i>Brandywine</i> : pencil sketches	1830-33
b. 28, f. 536	Scrapbook and drawings: pencil sketches, black-white and hand-colored prints	1830-36, n.d.
	Sketchbooks of drawings while on South Seas Surveying and Exploring Expedition on the sloop of war <i>Peacock</i> : two sketchbooks, pencil drawings	
	See: Manuscript 168, Yale Collection of Western Americana	
b. 28, f. 537	Invitations	1869-73
b. 28, f. 538	Miscellaneous papers	1835-72, n.d.

GEORGE THORNTON EMMONS

b. 28, f. 539	Christmas pamphlet: scenes of Alaska, oil paint	1886
	Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition: two diplomas for "Valuable Services Rendered" and "Grand Prize for Exhibit"	1909
	See: Oversize, 33 (Broadside)	
b. 28, f. 540	Miscellaneous papers	n.d.

KITTIE M. EMMONS

b. 28, f. 541	"Old Russian Blockhouse at entrance of Indian Village, Sitka, Alaska:" watercolor	1886
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Oversize

3.75 linear feet (3 boxes)

Oversize material contains oversize material from Series I, II, IV, VI, and VII, in a parallel arrangement.

G. F. EMMONS OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

1872 [Official]

b. 29, f. 542 [empty folder]
See: Oversize, 33 (Broadside)

FAMILY PAPERS

George Foster Emmons

b. 29, f. 543 Civil War scrapbook of newspaper clippings 1861-63

G. F. EMMONS PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE

1863-65 Official & Personal, Civil War

b. 30, f. 544 Letters 1864 Mar-Apr

ADDITIONAL CORRESPONDENCE, G. F. EMMONS

1841-73 Letters

b. 30, f. 545 "South Fork of the American River, California:" map 1848 Jul 20

ALASKAN PAPERS OF GEORGE T. EMMONS

Scrapbooks

"Alaska Work, Writings, Letters and Notes"

b. 30, f. 546 Scrapbook 1882-1906

WRITINGS

b. 30, f. 547 "The Basketry of the Tlingit," *Memoirs of the American Museum of Natural History*. vol. III 1903 Jul

b. 30, f. 547a "The Chilkat Blanket," *Memoirs of the American Museum of Natural History*. vol. III. 1907 Dec

NAVAL SERVICE MATERIAL

Ship Journals and Letterbooks

George Foster Emmons

b. 31, f. 548 Letterbook of the U.S.S. Ossipee. Detached material: map of the Alaskan coast n.d.
No Subnote Content

FAMILY PAPERS

George Thornton Emmons

FAMILY PAPERS > George Thornton Emmons (continued)

b. 31, f. 549 Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition: two diplomas for "Valuable Services Rendered" and "Grand Prize for Exhibit" 1909

OTHER OVERSIZE PAPERS

G. F. EMMONS OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE

1872 [Official]

b. 33 (Broadside) *Sunday Dispatch*: Philadelphia newspaper, vol. XXVIII, no. 42 1872 January 23

NAVAL SERVICE MATERIAL

Ship Journals and Letterbooks

George Foster Emmons

b. 33 (Broadside) Letterbook of the U.S.S. Ossipee. Detached material: map of the Alaskan coast 1867

Restricted Fragile Papers*0.25 linear feet (1 box)*

Box 32, *Restricted Fragile Papers*, contains fragile originals. The material is arranged in folder order.

Restricted fragile material. Reference surrogates have been substituted in the main files. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

b. 32, f. 550	Box 7, folder 135
b. 32, f. 551	Box 8, folder 141
b. 32, f. 552	Box 9, folder 168
b. 32, f. 553	Box 10, folder 180
b. 32, f. 554	Box 11, folders 202, 210, 212
b. 32, f. 555	Box 12, folder 215
b. 32, f. 556	Box 13, folders 231, 237, 238
b. 32, f. 557	Box 14, folders 250, 259-60
b. 32, f. 558	Box 15, folders 278, 282, 286
b. 32, f. 559	Box 16, folder 304
b. 32, f. 560	Box 17, folders 317-323
b. 32, f. 561	Box 19, folder 335
b. 32, f. 562	Box 22, folder 390
b. 32, f. 563	Box 23, folders 394, 401, 403, 407, 413, 415

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.

Subjects

Chilkat Indians
Courts-martial and courts of inquiry -- United States
Desertion, Naval -- United States
Indians of North America -- Alaska
Indians of North America -- Northwest, Pacific
Navy spouses
Tahltan Indians
Tlingit Indians
Warships -- United States

Geographic Names

Alaska -- History -- 1867-1959
Canada -- Boundaries -- United States
United States -- Boundaries -- Canada
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Blockades
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Naval operations

Genres / Formats

Drawings (visual works)
Photoprints
Ships' logs

Occupations

Seamen -- United States

Names

Ammen, Daniel, 1820-1898
Emmons, Antonia
Emmons, F. W.
Emmons, George F. (George Foster), 1811-1884
Emmons, George Thornton
FitzGerald, Edward
Hambleton, Samuel, 1777-1851
Jenkins, Thornton A. (Thornton Alexander), 1811-1893
Marchand, John B., b. 1808
Mercer, Samuel, d. 1862
Sawyer, H. B.

Thorton, Francis Anthony
Welles, Gideon, 1802-1878

Families

Emmons family
Thornton family

Corporate Bodies

Boston (Ship)
Brandywine (Ship)
Lackawanna (Ship)
Ossipee (Ship)
Savannah (Ship)
United States. Navy. North Pacific Squadron
United States. Navy. West Gulf Squadron
United States. Navy (History Civil War, 1861-1865)
United States. Navy (Officers)