

# Guide to the Cornelius Vanderbilt Papers

MS 1181



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

September 1982

Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441

[beinecke.library@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.library@yale.edu)

<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Collection Contents .....	5
Selected Search Terms .....	7

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
(203) 432-7441  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 1181

**CREATOR:** Vanderbilt, Cornelius, 1873-1942

**TITLE:** Cornelius Vanderbilt Papers

**DATES:** 1776-1953

**BULK DATES:** 1901-1928

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 3 linear feet (6 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Chiefly correspondence, memoranda, a notebook, and memorabilia relating to Vanderbilt's service as an officer in the U.S. Engineers during World War I. Also included are technical notebooks on mathematics, chemistry, and engineering (1897-1926). Of particular note are two illustrated manuscript volumes: one by Joseph Lyddell Peyton outlining a course of instruction for British naval officers, and the second by John Burnell showing the headlands of various coastlines in Europe and Africa. Also in the papers are checkbooks, guestbooks, a nurse's record of Vanderbilt's case of typhoid fever (1902-1903), and inventories of the Vanderbilt library in New York City, and of his yacht.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1181>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1181>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

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

b.      box  
f.      folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt and the Vanderbilt estate, 1944-1945; and Donald Wing, 1968.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

### Conditions Governing Use

Unpublished materials authored or otherwise produced by the creator(s) of this collection are in the public domain. There are no restrictions on use. Copyright status for other collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

---

### Preferred Citation

Cornelius Vanderbilt Papers (MS 1181). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library

---

## Biographical / Historical

Cornelius Vanderbilt: capitalist; A.B., Yale, 1895, Ph.B., 1898, M.E., 1899; officer in the U.S. Engineers, 1917-1918.

---

## Scope and Contents

This collection contains a miscellany of papers relating to Cornelius Vanderbilt III. There is a small amount of general correspondence dealing mainly with business matters, and a larger selection of military correspondence, memoranda, and a notebook, all stemming from Vanderbilt's service as an officer in the U.S. Engineers during World War I. There are in addition a few items of memorabilia, two inventories, and five photographic copies of commissions issued by the U.S. Continental Congress and other Revolutionary-era bodies.

The remainder of the papers consists of bound volumes, the most interesting of which are two lavishly illustrated manuscripts: *A Plan Executed At the Royal Naval Academy*, by Joseph Lyddell Peyton (1803); and *Martimagraphy or A Discription [sic] of the Sea Coast*, by John Burnell (n.d.). The first provides a complete course of instruction for British Naval Officers, while the second contains drawings of headlands of various coastlines. The other volumes in the papers include a nurse's report of Vanderbilt's bout of typhoid in 1902-1903, twenty-three notebooks on topics such as engineering, mathematics, and chemistry, six checkbooks, an engagement book, and four guestbooks.

These papers were donated to Yale University by Mrs. Vanderbilt and the Vanderbilt estate in 1944-1945, and by Donald Wing in 1968.

## Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1 - 2	General correspondence	1901-1933, undated
b. 1, f. 3 - 9	Military correspondence and memoranda	1912-1918, undated
	Notebooks	
b. 1, f. 10	"Notes from Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers" English	1880
b. 1, f. 10	"Notes III" [re: engineering and mathematics] English	1897 September
b. 1, f. 11	"Notes IV" and "Notes V" [re: engineering and mathematics] English	1898-1899
b. 1, f. 12	"North Star" [Yacht], I and II English	1903-1904 August
b. 1, f. 13	"North Star" III English	1904
b. 1, f. 13	"Paper Technology" English	1910
b. 2, f. 14	"Patent References" English	1910
b. 2, f. 14	"Cellulose" English	1910
b. 2, f. 15	Mathematics and engineering	1910
b. 2, f. 15	"Chemistry Experiments" English	1910
b. 2, f. 16	"Chemistry Experiments" IV and V English	1911
b. 2, f. 17	Chemistry	1913, 1926
b. 2, f. 17	World War I	1917-1918
b. 2, f. 18	"Calculus" I and II English	undated
b. 2, f. 19	"Calculus III" English	undated
b. 2, f. 19	Miscellaneous	undated
b. 3, f. 20	Two miscellaneous notebooks	undated
b. 3, f. 20	Poetry	undated

b. 3, f. 21 - 23	Checkbooks	1900-1906, 1909
b. 3, f. 24	Engagement book	1926-1928
b. 4, f. 25 - 28	Guestbooks	1943-1953
b. 5, f. 29	Memorabilia	1900-1919, undated
b. 5, f. 30	Inventory of books	undated
b. 5, f. 31	Inventory of N.Y. <i>Atlantic</i> [yacht]	undated
b. 5, f. 32	<i>Martimagraphy or a Discription [sic] of Sea Coasts...</i> , by John Burnell English	undated
b. 5, f. 33	"Report on the Green Gobbler Mine," by C.E. Julihn English	1908 February 19
b. 6, f. 34	<i>A Plan Executed at the Royal Naval Academy</i> , by Joseph Lyddell Pey English	1800-1803
b. 6, f. 35	"Typhoid Fever, 1902-1903," nurse's record English	1902 December- 1903 July
b. 6, f. 36	Photographic copies of commissions from U.S. Continental Congress and other bodies	1776-1797

## **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**

Chemistry  
Coasts  
Engineering  
Landscape drawing  
Libraries -- Inventories  
Mathematics  
Nautical charts  
Navies -- Officers  
Navigation  
Shipping  
Typhoid fever  
World War, 1914-1918 -- United States  
Yachting  
Yachts

### **Geographic Names**

New York (State)

### **Occupations**

Soldiers

### **Names**

Burnell, John  
Peyton, Joseph Lyddell  
Vanderbilt, Cornelius, 1873-1942

### **Corporate Body**

Old Royal Naval College Greenwich