

# **Willard H. Brownson Papers**

## **A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.  
2009**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81057455>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009076>

Prepared by Harry G. Heiss

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009  
Revised 2010 April

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Willard H. Brownson Papers

**Span Dates:** 1859-1932

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1867-1932)

**ID No.:** MSS57455

**Creator:** Brownson, Willard H. (Willard Herbert), 1845-1935

**Extent:** 75 items

**Extent:** 9 containers plus 1 oversize

**Extent:** 4.9 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English, with French.

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm81057455>

**Summary:** United States naval officer. Correspondence, letterpress books, diaries, cruise book, night order books, scrapbooks, and watch, quarter, and station bill documenting Brownson's naval career, including his official and personal dealings with President Theodore Roosevelt.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Brownson, Willard H. (Willard Herbert), 1845-1935.

Rixey, Presley Marion, 1852-1928.

Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919.

### Organizations

United States. Navy Department. Bureau of Navigation.

United States. Navy--Officers.

### Occupations

Naval officers.

## Provenance

The papers of Willard H. Brownson, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1977. The deposit was converted to a gift in 1998.

## Processing History

The papers of Willard H. Brownson were arranged and described in 1995. The finding aid was revised in 2009.

## Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Willard H. Brownson is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Willard H. Brownson 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.

## Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Willard H. Brownson Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1845, July 8	Born, Lyons, N.Y.
1865	Graduated United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1872	Married Isabella Roberts
1878	Served aboard <i>Tennessee</i> (screw frigate)
1893-1894	Commanded <i>Detroit</i> (protected cruiser)
1895	Commanded <i>Monongahela</i> (sloop of war)
1898	Commanded <i>Yankee</i> (auxiliary cruiser)
1905	Promoted to rear admiral
1907	Resigned from United States Navy
1935, Mar. 16	Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Willard H. Brownson span the years 1859-1932, with the bulk dating from 1867 to 1932, and consist of correspondence, letterpress books, diaries, a cruise book, night order books, scrapbooks, and a watch, quarter, and station bill. The papers chiefly relate to Brownson's naval career, but the scrapbooks also contain obituaries and newspaper clippings pertaining to members of his family. Included are letters, telegrams, and reports concerning the purchase and testing of warships for the United States Navy, as well as assorted log and cruise books for the ships *Detroit* (protected cruiser), *Monongahela* (sloop of war), *Tennessee* (screw frigate), and *Yankee* (auxiliary cruiser). The diaries and scrapbooks include numerous entries documenting Brownson's many official and personal dealings with President Theodore Roosevelt, including his resignation from the Bureau of Navigation over the Rixey Affair in 1907.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

# Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Letterpress books
BOX 1	1881, Dec. 31-1898, Sept. 19 (3 vols.)
BOX 2	1899, May 1-1902, Oct. 31 (2 vols.)
BOX 3	1902, Nov. 6-1903, Dec. 10 (2 vols.)
BOX 4	1903, Dec. 11-1905, May 10 (2 vols.)
BOX 5	1905, May 10-1907, Dec. 24 (2 vols.)
BOX 5	Unbound, 1898, undated (3 folders)
BOX 5	Cruise book, <i>Monongahela</i> (sloop of war), 1895
BOX 6	Diaries
BOX 6	1867-1917 (12 vols.)
BOX 7	1912-1932 (21 vols.)
BOX 7	Miscellany, 1902-1907, undated
BOX 7	Night order books
BOX 7	<i>Detroit</i> (protected cruiser), 1893-1894
BOX 8	<i>Yankee</i> (auxiliary cruiser), 1898
BOX 8	Report, "Description du croiseur colonial (cannonier rapide) 'Bascir,'" undated
BOX 8	Scrapbooks
BOX 8	"Navigation Hints," undated <a href="#"><i>See Oversize</i></a>
BOX 8	Vols. 1-2, 1859, 1880-1922, undated
BOX 9	Vols. 3-4, 1898-1932, undated
BOX 9	Watch, quarter, and station bill, <i>Tennessee</i> (screw frigate), 1878 (2 folders)
BOX OV 1	Scrapbooks
BOX OV 1	"Navigational Hints," undated (Container 8)