David Glasgow Farragut Papers: Finding Aid

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Overview of the Collection

Title: David Glasgow Farragut Papers

Dates (inclusive): 1826-1913

Bulk dates: 1862-1864

Collection Number: mssHM 26687-26867

Creator: Farragut, David Glasgow, 1801-1870.

Extent: 285 pieces in 4 boxes

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Abstract: This collection contains official and personal correspondence of United States Naval officer David G. Farragut (1801-1870) primarily covering his Civil War career, but also touching upon family affairs, including his children; personal business; naval politics; Farragut's efforts for promotion, and his conflict with Oliver Hazard Perry; Mexican War, visit to Haiti.

Language: English.

Access

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Preferred Citation

[Identification of item]. David Glasgow Farragut Papers, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California.

Provenance

180 pieces of personal and official correspondence, purchased from Abraham Lincoln Book Shop, 1962.

Letters to Thornton A. Jenkins (102 letters) were purchased from Charles Baker, 1918.

Biographical Note

American admiral David G. Farragut (1801-1870) joined the United States Navy in 1810 as a midshipman. He was with Commodore David Porter during the War of 1812, served in the Mediterranean from 1815 to 1820, 1838, and in Mexican and South American waters through the forties. After working in Washington, D.C., and Norfolk, Va., from 1850 to 1854, and in California from 1855-1859, he took command of the Union blockade of the South in the Gulf of Mexico in 1862. From 1862-1864, he commanded the West Gulf Blockading Squadron. From December 1861 to 1862 he commanded New Orleans expedition, then operations on the Mississippi (1862-1863), and the assault on Mobile Bay (1864). He was promoted Vice-Admiral (1864) and Admiral (1866).

Scope and Content

Official and personal correspondence of David G. Farragut, primarily covering his Civil War career. Included are: Farragut's letters to his wife Virginia Loyall Farragut and son Loyall Farragut, his subordinates Thornton A. Jenkins and Henry Haywood Bell, and others; letters to Farragut from Nathaniel P. Banks, Gustavus V. Fox, Gideon Welles, and others. Also included are letters addressed to Mrs. Farragut, a few orders and other documents, and a typewritten manuscript.

Subjects include: Farragut's activities during the Union blockade of the South, family affairs, including his children; personal business; naval politics; Farragut's efforts for promotion, and his conflict with Oliver Hazard Perry; Mexican War, visit to Haiti.

Letters from David G. Farragut to members of his family:

• ALS, 4pp., 4to., Pensacola, June 22, 1838. U. S. Frigate Constellation. To his wife.
• ALS 4pp., 4to., U. S. S. Pennsylvania. Norfolk, July 23, 1845. To his sister, Mrs Clara A. Gurlie
• ALS, 34pp., 4to. Mare Island Navy Yard. February 18, 1856. To William Loyall.
• ALS 1 p., 4to., San Francisco, June 24 [1856] To his wife.
• Al initialled twice, but main signature cut out. 4pp., 4to., Norfolk, Dec. 3, 1858. To his brother, Dr. R. P. Ashe
• ALS 4pp., 4to., U. S. S. Brooklyn, Port au Prince, Feb. 29, 1859. To his wife.
• ALS, 1 p., 8vo., Mobile Bay, Sept. 5, 1859. To his wife.
• ALS 3pp., 8vo., New York, April 22, 1861. To Dr R. P. Ashe, his brother.
• ALS, pencil, 2pp., 8vo., Willards Hotel, Dec. 21, 1861. To his wife
• ALS 3pp., 8vo., Willards Hotel, Washington, Dec. 23, 1861. To his wife.
• ALS 3pp., 8vo., Willards Hotel, Jan. 5, 1862. To his wife.
• AL signature lacking. 2pp., 8vo., Hartford March 15 [1862] Pilot Town on the S. W. Pass of the Mississippi River. The first page of a letter to his wife.
• Last two pages, 4to., of an ALS [1862] to his wife.
• ALS, 2pp., 4to., New Orleans, Flagship Hartford, Apr. 25, 1862. To his wife and son.
• ALS 1 p., 4to., Flagship Hartford, New Orleans, April 29, 1862 To his wife.
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, Below Vicksburg, July 22, 1862. To his wife and son.
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, Pensacola Navy Yard, Sept. 9, 1862. To his wife and son.
• ALS, 8pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, Pensacola, Oct. 10, 1862. To his wife.
• AL, 2pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, New Orleans. Jan. 18, 1862. First two pages of a letter to his wife, completed by his son, Loyall Farragut, who mentions that his father's eyes have given out.
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, New Orleans, January 26 [1863] To his wife.
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, New Orleans, Feb. 1, 1863. To his wife.
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, March 19, 1863. To his wife.
• ALS 2pp., 4to., U. S. Flagship Hartford, Below Vicksburg, March 27, 1863. To his son.
• ALS 2pp., 4to., U. S. Flagship Hartford, Above Port Hudson on Mississippi, April 25, 1863. To his wife.
• ALS 4pp., 4to., U. S. Flagship Hartford, Mouth of Red River, April 17, 1863. To his wife.
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, Off Red River, April 30, 1863. To his wife.
• ALS 4pp., 4to., U. S. Flagship, New Orleans, May 20, 1863. To his wife.
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., Flagship M. below Port Hudson, June 13, 1863. To his wife.
• ALS 4 pp., 8vo., Astor House, Jan. 4, 1864. To his son.
• ALS 3pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, Western Gunf Blockading Squadron. Off New Orleans, Jan. 30, 1864. To his son, Loyall Farragut.
• ALS 3pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, Off New Orleans, Feb. 1, 1864. To his wife.
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, New Orleans, Feb. 4, 1864. To his wife.
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, Off Ship Island, Feb. 19, 1864. To his son.
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, Off Ship Island, Feb. 21, 1864. To his son.
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, Pensacola, March 30, 1864. To his son.
• ALS 2pp., 4to., Flagship Tennessee, New Orleans, April 9, 1864. To his wife.
• ALS 2pp., 8vo., U. S. Flagship Hartford, Pensacola, May 7, 1864. To his wife.
• ALS 4 pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, Off Mobile, May 30, 1864. To his wife.
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, Off Mobile, June 3, 1864. To his wife.
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., U. S. Flagship Hartford, Off Mobile, July 6, 1864. To his wife.
• ALS 3pp., 8vo., U. S. Flagship Tennessee, Off Mobile, July 12, 1864 To his wife.
• ALS 2pp., 8vo., Flagship Hartford, Off Mobile, Aug. 4, 1864. To his wife.
• ALS 2pp., 8vo., U. S. Flagship Hartford, Mobile Bay, Nov. 10, 1864. To his son.
• Four pages of a long letter in Farragut's hand, probably to his father in-law. 4to., (pages 5[8)
• ALS, pencil, 2pp., 8vo., Washington 1865 [April 19] To his wife.
• ALS 3pp., 8vo., New York, No. 113 E. 36th St., Jan. 12, 1869. To his son.
Letters from Farragut to individuals other than his family.

- ALS 4pp., 4to., Miss. above Port Hudson, April 22, 1863. To Admiral Theodorus Bailey.
- ALS 2 pp., 4to., U. S. Flagship Hartford, Off New Orleans, March 5, 1863. To H. H. Bell.
- LS 1 p., 4to., Hartford, Above Vicksburg, July 1, 1862. To H. H. Bell.
- LS 1 p., 4to., Hartford, Above Vicksburg, July 2, 1862. To H. H. Bell.
- LS 1 p., folio, Hartford, Above Vicksburg, July 10, 1862. To H. H. Bell.
- LS 1 p., 4to., Hartford, Pensacola Bay, Nov. 3, 1862. To H. H. Bell.
- LS 2 pp., 4to., Hartford, Pensacola Bay, Nov. 4 [1862] To H. H. Bell.
- LS 3 pp., 4to., Hartford, Off New Orleans, Nov. 13, 1862. To H. H. Bell.
- LS 1 p., 4to., Hartford, New Orleans, Nov. 21, 1862. To H. H. Bell.
- LS 1 p., 4to., Hartford, New Orleans, New Orleans, Dec. 16, 1862. With ANS of H. H. Bell, to whom Farragut is writing, on same page.
- LS 2 pp., folio, Hartford, Off New Orleans, Jan. 6, 1863. To H. H. Bell
- LS 1 p., 4to., Hartford, Off New Orleans, Jan. 7, 1863. To H. H. Bell
- LS 3 pp., folio, Hartford, Off New Orleans, Jan. 17, 1863. To H. H. Bell
- LS 2 pp., folio, Hartford, New Orleans, Jan. 20, 1863. To H. H. Bell
- LS 2 pp., 4to., Hartford, Pilot Town, Feb. 7, 1863. To H. H. Bell.
- LS 1 p., folio, Hartford, New Orleans, Feb. 16, 1863. To H. H. Bell
- LS 2 pp., 4to., Off New Orleans, March 5, 1863. To H. H. Bell
- LS 3 pp., 4to., Flag Steamer Tennessee, New Orleans, July 13, 1863. To H. H. Bell
- LS 1 p., 4to., Flag Steamer Tennessee, Ship Island, July 27, 1863. To H. H. Bell
- LS 4pp., 4to., Flagship Tennesseeee, New Orleans, July 29, 1863. To H. H. Bell
- LS 1 p., 4to., Hartford, New Orleans, Aug. 1, 1863. To H. H. Bell
- LS 4 pp., 4to., Hartford, N. Y., Oct. 15, 1863. To H. H. Bell
• LS 1 p., 4to., Hartford. Below Vicksburg, March 26, 1863. To his son, Loyall Farragut (official paper)
• LS 3pp., folio, New York, April 30, 1866. Copy of an original To James W. Grimes.
• LS 3 pp., 4to., Flagship Tennessee, New Orleans, July 22, 1863. To Commodore Henry W. Morris (copy of no. 96)
• LS 1 p., 4to., Hartford, Above Vicksburg, July 8, 1862. To Commodore D. D. Porter.
• LS 4pp., folio, New York, Feb. 20, 1848. Signed with initials. To John Y. Mason, Sec. of Navy
• ALS 1 p., folio, June 5 [1862] Signed with initials. To General Stone
• Two incomplete drafts, each four folio pages, of Farragut's report to the Secretary of the Navy on the Battle of New Orleans. The entire first page of the first draft is in the hand of Farragut.
• Rough draft, 4pp., 4to., of Farragut's letter to the Secretary of the Navy about duty at Mobile. With corrections in Farragut's hand. Not signed by him.
• DS 2pp., folio, Flagship Hartford, Below Vicksburg, June 25, 1862. General order. Signed twice by Farragut.
• DS 1p., 4to., Flagship Hartford, Above Vicksburg, Miss., July 3, 1862. General Orders.

Some additional outgoing letters include:

• Nov. 18, 1844 - To: Charles Morris (1 letter)
• Feb. 16, May 8, May 25 and June 13, 1863 - To: Nathaniel P. Banks (4 letters)
• May 8, July 16, 1863 and Jan. 24, 1864 - To: David Dixon Porter and May 7, 1864 and Jan. 17, 1864 (3 letters)
• Fragment dated March 4, 1863 with reference to D. D. Porter (1 letter)
• To: Thornton Alexander Jenkins - Dated from July 3, 1863 through Jan. 15, 1870. (85 letters)
• To: Mrs. John M. Holmes - Dated Dec. 17, 1863 (1 letter)
• To: William R. Sherwood (military orders) Dated June 22, 1864. (1 letter)
• To: Engineers Kellogg, Hunt & Latch - Dated June 24, 1864 (1 letter)
• To: Samuel B. Wylie Mitchell - Feb. 16, 1866 (1 letter)
• To: Thomas Haines Dudley - Oct. 9, 1867 (London) (1 letter)
• To: Gideon Welles - Dec. 7, 1869 (1 letter)
• General Orders No. 11, and No. 13 - July 29, 1864 and Aug. 7, 1864. (2 items)
• Military Order of Loyal Legion of U.S. Pennsylvania Commandery Apr. 7, 1870 (1 item)

Letters to Admiral Farragut

• BANKS, GEN. N. P., ALS 2pp., 8vo., New Orleans, February 23, 1863.
• ALS 1 p., 8vo., Steamer Sykes, April 30, 1863
• ALS 3pp., 8vo., Alexandria, May 8, 8 a. m., 1863
• ALS 1 p., 8vo., Alexandria, May 11, 1863
• ALS 1 p., 8vo., Before Port Hudson, 6 a.m., July 8, [UNK]
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., Before Port Hudson, July 8, 1863
• BORIE, A. E., LS, 3pp., folio, Navy Department, Washington, April 29, 1869.
• BROOKS, SIDNEY. ALS 4pp., 8vo., Newport, Nov. 20, 1868.
• BUTLER, GEN. BENJAMIN F., DS 2pp., 8vo., New Orleans, Dec. 8, 1862
• CHOATE, JOSEPH H. ALS 2 pp., 8vo., New York, Dec. 20, 1864
• DIX, GEN. JOHN A. ALS 3pp., 8vo., Paris, Jan. 6, 1868. Endorsed by Farragut.
• DOBBIN, F. C. LS 1p., 4to., N; vy Department, June 21, 1864. Endorsed by Farragut.
• DRAPER, HENRY. ALS 3pp., 8vo., Hastings, N. Y., Aug. 31, 1864
• DRAPER, HENRY. ALS 7pp., 8vo., Hastings, N. Y., Aug. 29, 1864
• DUPOINT, ADMIRAL S. F. ALS 4pp., 4to., Near Wilmington, April 3, 1850.
• FOX, GUSTAVUS V., LS 1p., 4to., Navy Dept. May 16, 1862. Endorsed by Farragut.
• LS 4pp., folio, Navy Dept., May 17, 1862 Endorsed by Farragut.
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., Washington, D. C., Oct. 20, 1863
• ALS 4pp., 8vo., Portsmouth, N. H., Aug. 18, 1864 Endorsed by Farragut.
• ALS 3pp., 8vo., Washington, Dec. 15, 1864
• ALS 3pp., 8vo., Washington, Dec. 20, 1864
• HOLMES, OLIVER W. ALS 2pp., 8vo., Boston, Jan. 13, 1865
• JAY, JOHN. ALS 3pp., 8vo., New York, Dec. 3, 1868.
• LEE, GEN. FITZ HUGH. ALS 4pp., 8vo., Richland Mill P. Office, Stafford Co., Va., July 31, 1869.
• JOHNSON, PRESIDENT ANDREW. LS 1 p., 4to., Executive Mansion Feb. 17, 1866.
• MORGAN, GOVERNOR E. D. ALS 1p., 8vo., U. S. Senate Chamber, Washington, D. C., Dec. 20, 1864
• MORRIS, COMMODORE CH. ALS 2pp., 4to., U. S. S. Delaware Mahon, Nov. 3, 1843.
• PEABODY, GEORGE. ALS 2pp., 8vo., Oct. 10, 1867.
• PORTER, COM. DAVID D. ALS 2pp., 4to, Key West, Mar. 3, 1862.
• ALS 3pp., 4to, Apr. 25, 1862.
• ALS 2pp., folio, Octorara, June 28, 1862[?]  
• PORTER, MRS. EVE. ALS 3pp., 4to, Chester, Dec. 30, 1826.
• SHERMAN, GEN. WILLIAM T. ALS 2pp., 8vo, St. Louis, Dec. 2, 1868.
• ALS 3pp., 8vo, St. Louis, Dec. 23, 1868.
• TERRY, D.L. ALS 2pp., 8vo, Sacramento, Aug. 11, 1856.
• WEED, THURLOW. ALS 4pp., 8vo, N.Y., Nov. 2, 1864.
• ALS, 8vo, New York, Sept. 30.
• WELLES, GIDEON. ALS 2pp., 8vo, Washington, July 30, 1862.
• ALS 6pp., 8vo, Navy Dept., Washington, Oct. 5, 1863
• ALS 2pp., 8vo, Washington, Aug. 22, 1866.
• ALS 3pp., 8vo, Washington, Oct. 2, 1866.
• ALS 4pp., 8vo, Washington, D.C., Nov. 10, 1868.
• LS 2pp., 4to, Navy Dept., May 19, 1862. Endorsed by Farragut.
• LS 2pp., 4to, Navy Dept., May 19, 1862. Endorsed by Farragut.
• LS 3pp., folio, Navy Dept., Aug. 19, 1862. Endorsed by Farragut.
• LS 2pp., 4to, Navy Dept., Feb. 16, 1863. Endorsed by Farragut.
• WELLES, GIDEON. LS 1p., 4to, Navy Dept., June 2, 1863. Endorsed by Farragut.
• LS 2pp., folio, Navy Dept., June 15, 1863. Endorsed by Farragut.
• LS 3pp., folio, Navy Dept., June 15, 1863. Endorsed by Farragut.
• LS 1p., 4to, Navy Dept., Apr. 26, 1864.
• LS 2pp., folio, Navy Dept., Sept. 6, 1864.
• LS 3pp., folio, Navy Dept., Sept. 5, 1864.
• LS 2pp., folio, Navy Dept., Washington, June 6, 1867.
• WINTHROP, ROBERT C. ALS 3pp., 8vo, Brookline, Mass., Jan. 3, 1870.

Letters to Virginia Loyall Farragut

• CISCO, JOHN J. ALS 1p., 8vo, N.Y., Mar. 7, 1868.
• DALY, CHARLES P. ALS 4pp., 8vo, New York, Sept. 22, 1870.
• DRAYTON, CAPTAIN PERCIVAL. ALS 4pp., 4to, Flagship Hartford, Off Mobile Bay, Oct. 20, 1864.
• FOX, GUSTAVUS V. ALS 1p. 8vo, Washington D.C. Nov. 7, 1864.
• HENRY, JOSEPH. ALS, [UNK] p., 8vo., Smithsonian Institution, May 6, 1863.
Letters to Loyal Farragut

- DEWEY, ADMIRAL GEORGE. ALS 3pp., 8vo., Washington, Feb. 12, 1900
- ALS 4pp., 8vo., Washington, Oct. 6, 1908
- HIGGINSON, FRANCIS J. ALS 2pp., 8vo., New York, Dec. 12, 1909

Notable miscellaneous items

- Printed register of the Vessels and Officers of the Western Gulf Blockading Squadron. 4to., wrappers. Dated off Mobile, June 15, 1864, and signed by Admiral Farragut three times. His personal copy.
- ADS 3pp., 4to., of Henry Howard Brownell. About the fight off Mobile Bay.
- ALS 3pp., 8vo., New York, Nov. 20, 1874, of J. A. A. Ward. To Secretary of the Navy George M. Robeson
- Typewritten manuscript, author unknown, 104 pp., 4to.
- Copy of a letter sent by Farragut to Charles T. Chase, July 13, 1863

In addition, there is also a typewritten copy of letter from Farragut to Richard P. Ashe - in Wm.G. Cohen's Scrapbooks; 7 letters Letters to D.G. Farragut from Gideon Welles, U.S. Grant, T.A. Jenkins, J.S. Shedden; 4 letters from Loyall Farragut to T.A. Jenkins (1865-1880); and 1 letter from L.C. Smith to Helen Huntingt - Aug. 10-17, 1855 re: Virginia (Loyall) Farragut.

Arrangement
Arranged chronologically.

Indexing Terms
The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Huntington Library's Online Catalog.

Subjects
Banks, Nathaniel Prentiss, 1816-1894 -- Correspondence.
Bell, Henry Haywood, 1808-1868 -- Correspondence.
Farragut, Virginia Loyall -- Correspondence.
Farragut, David Glasgow, 1801-1870 -- Archives.
Farragut, Loyall, 1844- -- Correspondence.
Fox, Gustavus Vasa, 1821-1883 -- Correspondence.
Jenkins, Thornton A. (Thornton Alexander), 1811-1893 -- Correspondence.
Welles, Gideon, 1802-1878 -- Correspondence.
United States. Navy -- Officers -- Archives.
Admirals -- United States -- Archives.
Mobile Bay, Battle of, Ala., 1864 -- Sources.
New Orleans (La.) -- History -- Capture, 1862 -- Sources.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Sources.
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Naval operations -- Sources.

Forms/Genres
Letters (correspondence) -- United States -- Civil War, 1861-1865.
Military records -- United States -- Civil War, 1861-1865.
Personal papers -- United States -- 19th century.
Professional papers -- United States -- 19th century.

Alternate Authors
Banks, Nathaniel Prentiss, 1816-1894.
Bell, Henry Haywood, 1808-1868, correspondent.
Farragut, Virginia Loyall, correspondent.
Farragut, Loyall, 1844- correspondent.
Fox, Gustavus Vasa, 1821-1883.
Jenkins, Thornton A. (Thornton Alexander), 1811-1893, correspondent.
Welles, Gideon, 1802-1878.

| Box 1 | 1826-1862 |
| Box 2 | 1863      |
| Box 3 | 1864      |
| Box 4 | 1865-1913 |