

**Guide to the Barna Cook Papers, 1863-1865  
MS0078**

**The Mariners' Museum Library  
at  
Christopher Newport University**

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## **DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY**

**Repository:** The Mariners' Museum Library

**Title:** Barna Cook Papers, 1863-1865

**Catalog number:** MS0078

**Physical Characteristics:** 14 items

**Language(s):** English

**Creator(s):** Barna Cook

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection relates to Barna Cook's naval career between 1863 and 1865. It contains military orders appointing and detaching him from various ships and letters from Cook to his commanders accepting appointments or providing requested information. Cook served as both acting 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> assistant engineer on board four vessels during this period. Included also is a map drawn by Cook showing the blockade of Fort Fisher in Wilmington, N.C.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

### **Accession number**

CL 79

### **Accession date**

1956

### **Restrictions**

Collection is open to all researchers.

### **Publication Rights**

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### **Preferred Citation**

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### **Note to Users**

Due to the fragile and rare nature of the collection, researchers are requested to handle the materials with caution and in accordance with prescribed archival practices. When using these materials, please preserve the original order of the collection.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH**

What is known about Barna Cook is limited and is provided primarily by Cook himself. He wrote his name as Barna Cook, although some of the documents refer to him as

Berna. He was born on September 21, 1838 in Vermont. He served as acting 3rd assistant engineer and was promoted to acting 2nd assistant engineer in early 1865. He listed his home state as New Hampshire.

### **SERIES DESCRIPTION**

The Papers are in a single series. The material is arranged in ascending chronological order.

**Series I: Military Documents.** Consists of correspondence, letters of recommendation, orders, and a neatly hand drawn ink on linen map of the ironclad attack on the battery at Wilmington NC.

### **FILE GUIDE**

#### **BOX 1**

**Folder 1** Finding Aid/Background

**Folder 2** Map

[1864] The map is hand drawn in ink on linen signed by B. Cook U.S.A. It is titled PLAN OF ATTACK ON THE DEFENCES OF WILMINGTON. It shows the Federal Point mound battery along a coast, the miles markers out to sea and the names of each ironclad ship's position.

**Folder 3** Military Documents: Correspondence September 10, 1864

A letter and its envelope from the Treasury Department in response to Cook's inquiry indicating that he was not awarded either of the two prize's for *Antona* but that he was on the list for one for the *Aroostook* for which he was paid.

**Folder 4** Military Documents: Correspondence February 15, 1865

A letter and its envelope from the Treasury Department in response to Cook's inquiry indicating that he was awarded \$174.40 for the capture of the *Mary Ann* by the U.S.S. *Antona*.

**Folder 5** Military Documents: Letters of Recommendation

March 31, 1864.

Letter addressed to Berna Cook from William D. Adair, the acting 1<sup>st</sup> assistant engineer expressing satisfaction with Cook's work as watch engineer and recommending him for position as engineer or mechanic. February 8, 1865.

Letter signed by John Johnson, Chief Engineer of the Frigate *Susquehanna* noting Cook's prompt and efficient service in his duties and recommending him for promotion.

**Folder 6** Military Documents: Orders October 16, 1863

Orders from H.H. Bell, Commodore appointing Cook as Acting 3<sup>rd</sup> assistant engineer on board the steamer *Antona*.

**Folder 7** Military Documents: Orders October 17, 1863

Letter from Cook to Commodore Bell accepting his appointment aboard the *Antona*.

**Folder 8** Military Documents: Orders December 7, 1863

Letter from Cook to Alfred L. B. Terega, Acting Master listing some biographical pieces of information: his name, office, date of appointment, state where born, state from which appointed, state of which a citizen, and state where born.

- Folder 9** Military Documents: Orders June 16, 1864  
Orders detaching Cook from the Steamer *Antona* and assigning him to the *Susquehanna*.
- Folder 10** Military Documents: Orders February 18, 1865  
Order to report for his examination for the position of 2nd assistant engineer.
- Folder 11** Military Documents: Orders February 22, 1865  
Order promoting Cook to acting 2nd assistant engineer. Also detaching him from the *Susquehanna* and assigning him to the *Huntsville*.
- Folder 12** Military Documents: Orders June 12, 1865  
Orders detaching Cook from the Steamer *Huntsville* and assigning him to the *State of Georgia*.

#### **MATERIALS REMOVED**

None

#### **SOURCES CONSULTED**

None

#### **SUBJECTS**

Cook, Barna (Berna), b. 1838

*Antona* (Screw steamer : 1863)

*Huntsville* (Screw steamer : 1861)

State of Georgia (Sidewheel steamer : 1861)

*Susquehanna* (Sidewheel steamer : 1850)

United States-History-Civil War, 1861-1865-Personal narratives