

**Guide to the Charles H. Eldredge Papers, 1861-1916
MS0098**

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

Contact Information:

The Mariners' Museum Library

100 Museum Drive

Newport News, VA 23606

Phone: (757) 591-7782

Fax: (757) 591-7310

Email: library@MarinersMuseum.org

URL: <http://www.MarinersMuseum.org/library>

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DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

Repository: The Mariners' Museum Library

Title: The Charles H. Eldredge Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1861-1916

Catalog number: MS0098

Physical Characteristics: 119 items, including orders (military records), fliers (printed matter), typescripts, telegrams, and clippings

Language: English

Creator: Eldredge, Charles Henry, 1839-1916

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH

Charles Henry Eldredge was born in Massachusetts in 1839 and grew up in New York. When the Civil War broke out, he joined the United States Navy as assistant paymaster on the USS *Supply*, where he remained until he was promoted to paymaster in February 1862. Assigned to the South Atlantic Blockading Squadron, Eldredge served on the USS *Canandaigua*, the ship that rescued the crew of the USS *Housatonic* after it was struck by the CSS *H. L. Hunley* on February 17, 1864.

Following the war, Eldredge's career as paymaster took him to many locations, where he served both on shore duty and on ships. He was often called for duty on examining boards. He served on the USS *Idaho* briefly before being assigned to the Navy Yard at Pensacola FL. He was promoted to pay inspector in July 1871 during his tour of duty as storekeeper for the Asiatic Fleet. This was followed by three years at the Navy Pay office in Portsmouth, NH. As fleet paymaster for both the South Pacific Squadron and the South Atlantic Squadron, his home was the USS *Richmond* from August 1875 to September 1877. While serving as Inspector of Provisions & Clothing at the Norfolk Navy Yard he was promoted to pay director in August 1881. He moved between Norfolk, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore in the last years of his career serving in increasing important positions of responsibility and finally earned the rank of rear-admiral. He retired on his sixty-second birthday, September 21, 1901. He died on July 16, 1916 at the age of seventy-five.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection relates to Charles H. Eldredge's career in the United States Navy between 1861 and 1916. Mostly, it consists of military orders: Board of Examination assignments, correspondence, leave of absence requests, medical examination, assignments and detachments. Also included are a record of service and fifty-three obituaries from newspapers across the country.

The Papers are organized into two series: Military Documents; and Biographical Materials. They are arranged alphabetically by genre.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Accession number

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Accession date

1995

Restrictions

Collection is open to all researchers.

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SERIES DESCRIPTION

Series 1: Biographical Materials, 1900-undated

This series is arranged chronologically. It consists of records of Eldredge's military service, the notice of his retirement, and clippings from a clippings service of his obituaries.

Series 2: Military Documents, 1861-1895

This series is arranged chronologically. It consists of letters of recommendation and military orders, transferring Eldredge from one duty station or assignment to another over the course of his career.

FILE GUIDE

BOX 1

Folder 1 Finding Aid/Background

SERIES 1: Biographical Materials

Folder 2 1900-1916

Photocopied article:

"Charles H. Eldredge, Pay Director, United States Navy, in Charge of the Norfolk Pay Office." *Virginian-Pilot Supplement* (Norfolk, VA), June 1900.

July 21, 1916: Washington, Navy Department

Secretary of the Navy Daniels to Mrs. Kate G. Eldredge. 1 page letter of sympathy on death of Pay Director Charles H. Eldredge on July 16, 1916.

Obituaries: 53 clippings from newspapers across the country.

Folder 3

Undated

Service Record: not titled, one page typed service record with positions and dates.

Service Record: two-sided handwritten copy of Charles Eldredge's entry in Lewis R. Hamersly's *Records of Living Officers of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps*. [1901]

SERIES 2: Military Documents**Folder 4**

1861

July 10, 1861: Navy Department

Gideon Welles to Acting Paymaster Charles H. Eldredge. Appointment as Acting Paymaster in the U.S. Navy. Ordered to report for duty on board the USS *Supply*.

July 13, 1861: Navy Yard, New York

Charles Eldredge to Gideon Welles. Secretary of the Navy.

Acknowledgment and acceptance of appointment as Acting Paymaster in the U.S. Navy on temporary service.

October 11, 1861: Navy Department

Gideon Welles to Eldredge. Appointment as Assistant Paymaster in the U.S. Navy.

October 21, 1861: Navy Department

Gideon Welles to Eldredge. Notice that Eldredge's official bond was received.

Folder 5

1862

February 24, 1862: Navy Department

Gideon Welles to Eldredge. Orders detaching Eldredge from the USS *Supply*.

March 4, 1862: Navy Yard, New York

Charles Eldredge to Welles. Acknowledges receipt of his commission as Paymaster in the U.S. Navy. Gives his address as No. 102 West Warren St. Brooklyn, L.I.

June 3, 1862: Navy Department

Gideon Welles to Eldredge. Orders to report on board the US Sloop of War *Canandaigua*.

Folder 6

1864-1865

June 28, 1864: USS *Philadelphia*, Port Royal Harbor, FL.

Dahlgren to Eldredge, Lawrence and Burbank. Orders to form a board for examining qualifications of Acting Assistant Paymaster Horace Tuttle for a promotion.

October 29, 1864: Navy Department

Gideon Welles to Eldredge. Orders detaching Eldredge from the USS *Canandaigua*.

May 26, 1865: Bureau of Navigation & Office of Detail

P. Drayton to Eldredge. Orders to report to Commodore Bell as a member of a Board.

Folder 7

1866

January 31, 1866: Bureau of Navigation & Office of Detail
Orders to report for duty on board the USS *Idaho*.

May 23, 1866: Bureau of Navigation & Office of Detail
Orders to settle accounts for the USS *Idaho* and consider himself detached.

August 1, 1866: Bureau of Navigation & Office of Detail
Jenkins to Charles Eldredge. Orders to proceed to Pensacola, FL for duty as Paymaster of the Navy Yard and Station.

October 10, 1866: Bureau of Navigation & Office of Detail
Orders granting Eldredge 30 days leave of absence.

Folder 8

1867-1868

January 14, 1867: Navy Department
Gideon Welles to Charles Eldredge. Notice that Eldredge's bond will expire and needs to be renewed.

February 7, 1867: Navy Department
Gideon Welles to Charles Eldredge. Notice that Eldredge's official bond was received.

July 20, 1868: Navy Department
Orders detaching Eldredge from the Pensacola Navy Yard.

Folder 9

1871-1872

May 25, 1871: Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail
Orders detaching Eldredge from duty as Store Keeper of the Asiatic Fleet.

June 13, 1872: Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail
Orders to proceed to Portsmouth, NH for duty as Purchasing Paymaster.

March 6, 1872: Brooklyn, NY
Charles H. Eldredge to Daniel Ammen, Chief of Bureau of Navigation.
Notification that the public stores, accounts, and money in his charge were transferred to Paymaster Charles F. Guild and that he has returned home.

Folder 10

1875, June-August

June 11, 1875: Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail
Orders to transfer duties to Paymaster A. J. Clark, detach from duties as Paymaster at the Portsmouth, N.H. Navy Yard and await orders.

August 20, 1875: Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail
Orders sending Eldredge to South Pacific Station duty on board the USS *Richmond*. He is to take passage in a mail steamer which leaves on the 30th.

August 25, 1875: Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail
Orders delaying departure date; sending Eldredge on next steamer, date of departure unknown yet.

August 28, 1875: Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail
Orders sending Eldredge to South Pacific Station on the steamer leaving September 15th.

Folder 11

1875, September

September 3, 1875: Washington, Navy Department

Acting Secretary of Navy to C.H. Eldredge. Permission granted to negotiate Bills of Exchange in London. Urged to comply with April 12th flier relating to bills of exchange, a copy of which is enclosed.

Folder 12

1877, September 3-21

September 3, 1877: Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail

Orders discharging Eldredge from the USS *Richmond* and awaiting orders.

September 21, 1877: forwarded from Charleston, MA

Telegram from J. C. Howell, Acting Secretary of the Navy to Charles Eldredge. Re-open the USS *Richmond* accounts. Twenty-thousand dollars issued.

September 21, 1877: Washington, Navy Department

Acting Secretary of the Navy to Charles Eldredge

As per telegram, order to re-open Richmond accounts and further orders to pay men in Boston, and then to proceed to New York and Philadelphia, contact and pay men there.

Folder 13

1877, September 28 – October 11

September 28, 1877: Washington,

Telegram from John C. Howell, Acting Secretary of the Navy to C. H. Eldredge. Orders stating that after paying the crew in Boston, to go and pay the crew found at the sailors home in NY. Then transfer the accounts back to his office.

October 4, 1877: Brooklyn, NY

To J. C. Howell from F.O.S. Letter in response to September 28th orders stating that orders to pay men in Boston and New York lately discharged from the USS *Richmond* were accomplished and that the accounts of those remaining were transferred to the Fourth Auditor. Also copies the text of his orders to clerks William McMurray and Richard Norris.

October 11, 1877: Washington, Navy Department

R.W. Thompson, Secretary of the Navy to Eldredge. Orders to proceed to Boston to settle accounts of the USS *Richmond* and await orders.

Folder 14

1878, July

July 5, 1878: Washington, Navy Department

Orders to report on July 15 in Washington, D.C. to serve on a board for examination of candidates for the position of Assistant Paymaster.

July 13, 1878: Washington, Navy Department

Notice that J. D. Murray will be president of the Examining Board, not Pay Director Looker as previously indicated.

December 9, 1878: Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail

Preliminary orders to Eldredge for duty as Inspector of Provisions & Clothing at the Norfolk Navy Yard.

Folder 15

1878, December – 1879, January

December 10, 1878: Brooklyn, NY

Eldredge to William Whiting, Chief of Bureau, acknowledging preliminary orders for duty as Inspector of Provisions & Clothing.

December 13, 1878: Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail

Orders to proceed to Norfolk, Va. and report to Commodore Creighton on the 1st of January, 1879 for duty as Inspector of Provisions & Clothing.
January 7, 1879: Treasury Department, Fourth Auditor's Office
S. J. W. Tabor to Eldredge. Acknowledges the receipt of Eldredge's orders dated December 13, 1878.

Folder 16

1880

September 21, 1880: Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail
Orders granting Eldredge a month's leave of absence.

November 3, 1880: Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail
Orders extending Eldredge's leave of absence by two weeks as per his request.

December 10, 1880: Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail
Orders granting Eldredge a leave of absence up to 30 days beginning January 27, 1881 as per his request.

Folder 17

1881-1882

September 27, 1881: Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail
Orders granting Eldredge a month's leave of absence as per his request.

November 5, 1881: Washington, Navy Department
Orders to Eldredge to report to Medical Director John M. Browne for physical examination at 10:00 a.m. on November 8.

November 5, 1881: Washington, Navy Department
Orders to Eldredge to report to Pay Director J. S. Cunningham at noon on November 8 for the examination preliminary to promotion.

August 14, 1882: Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail
Orders to transfer duties as Inspector of Provisions & Clothing to replacement and to await orders.

Folder 18

1883-1884, April

June 11, 1883: Washington, Navy Department
Orders to report on June 16 in Washington, D.C. to serve as a member of a Naval Examining Board until June 30th.

January 3, 1884: Washington, Navy Department
Orders to report on January 8th in Washington, D.C. to serve as a member of a Naval Examining Board until February 1st.

April 3, 1884: Bureau of Navigation and Office of Detail
Orders to report on April 15 for duty as Pay Inspector at the New York Navy Yard. Employment is until April 15, 1887.

April 4, 1884: Brooklyn, NY
Charles Eldredge to Commodore J. G. Walker, Chief of Bureau Navigation. Acknowledges receipt of April 3rd orders to report at the New York Navy Yard.

Folder 19

1884, August-1886

August 16, 1884: Washington, Navy Department
Orders to report on August 20th in Washington, D.C. to serve as a member of a Naval Examining Board until September 1st.

August 18, 1884:

Telegram from Pearson to Eldredge indicating that orders from Secretary of the Navy were received.

August 18, 1884:

Telegram from Eldredge to Secretary of the Navy indicating that he is too ill to report for duty on the Examining Board.

August 19, 1884:

Telegram from Earl English, Acting Secretary of the Navy revoking order of August 16th.

July 24, 1885: Washington, Navy Department

Orders granting Eldredge a month's leave of absence as per his request.

January 11, 1886: Washington, Navy Department

Orders detaching Eldredge from the New York Navy Yard and assigning him to the Navy Pay Office in Philadelphia. Employment is until February 1889 unless otherwise ordered.

Folder 20 1889-1890

January 29, 1889: Washington, Navy Department

Orders detaching Eldredge from the Navy Pay Office, Philadelphia and awaiting orders.

April 11, 1890: Washington, Navy Department

Orders transferring Eldredge from General Store Keeper at the Norfolk Navy Yard to Director of Navy Pay Office, Norfolk.

July 17, 1890: Bureau of Provisions and Clothing

Paymaster General to Eldredge. Notice that his accounts as General Store Keeper at the Norfolk, Navy Yard from April 1 to 25 have been audited.

Folder 21 1893

March 31, 1893: Washington, Navy Department

Orders to transfer and settle accounts as Norfolk Navy Pay Director and to await orders.

May 8, 1893: Bureau of Navigation

Orders to report on May 11th in Washington, D.C. to serve as a member of a Naval Examining Board.

May 26, 1893: Washington, Navy Department

Orders to assume charge of the Navy Pay Office in Baltimore, MD by May 31st.

Folder 22 1894-1895

Envelope

C. H. Eldredge Record of Service 1894

January 10, 1895: Bureau of Navigation

Orders appointing Eldredge President of a Naval Examining Board convening on January 12th.

SUBJECTS

Welles, Gideon, 1802-1878

Supply (Ship : 1846)

Canandaigua (Steamship : 1862)

Idaho (Steamship : 1866)

Richmond (Steamship : 1861)

United States. Navy-Pay, allowances, etc.

United States. Navy-Personnel records