

**Guide to the James Dunwody Bulloch Collection, 1847-1954  
MS0283**

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

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Processed by Jay Moore, 2011

## DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

**Repository:** The Mariners' Museum Library

**Title:** James Dunwody Bulloch Collection

**Inclusive Dates:** 1847-1954

**Catalog number:** MS0283

**Physical Characteristics:** 5 folders and 2 bound items, including 1 scrapbook, 1 bound contract, reports, clippings, military commissions, letters, and envelopes

**Language:** English

**Creators:** Bulloch, James Dunwody, 1823-1901; Maguire, Matthew, 1815-1896; Robinson, Daniel S.

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

James Dunwody Bulloch (1823-1901) was born in Savannah, Georgia to a noteworthy family living in Georgia at the time. His half-sister Martha married Theodore Roosevelt Sr., making Bulloch the uncle of the president-to-be. He began his service in the United States Navy on June 21, 1839 as a Midshipman, after his graduation from the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Bulloch was promoted to a Lieutenant on October 18, 1853 and resigned about a year later, on October 5, 1854. During his time in the navy, Bulloch served aboard ships including the *United States*, the *Decatur*, and the *Delaware*. There is a discrepancy involving Bulloch's service as captain aboard the *USS Georgia*, a mail steamer. The article on Bulloch in the *New Georgia Encyclopedia* asserts that he served as *Georgia's* civilian captain in as early as 1851. In 1860, Bulloch transferred to a privately owned transportation company which hauled passengers as well as cargo back and forth along the east coast, from New York to New Orleans. After only one year of this job, Bulloch volunteered his services for the Confederate Navy at the start of the Civil War. Bulloch was appointed commander and stationed abroad in Liverpool, England in January of 1862. He was given the task of supplying and purchasing ships that were to be used to interfere with the Union Navy blockade of the South and offer assistance to the Confederate troops. Due to the fact that Great Britain had a neutral stance during the Civil War, Bulloch had to conduct his business in secret so he would not be found violating the kingdom's neutrality.

He is well-known for his acquisition and supervision of the construction of the *CSS Alabama* in 1862. Bulloch was intended to have been the commander of this vessel. However he was reassigned to the role of acquiring Confederate vessels. The *CSS Alabama* was a powerful vessel that captured and/or destroyed over four hundred Union trade and supply ships prior to its own sinking off the coast of France in 1864 by the *USS Kearsarge*. Bulloch also oversaw the construction of other ships such as the *CSS Florida*, *CSS Shenandoah*, and the ironclad *Stonewall*. Bulloch retired in Liverpool after the Civil War with his daughter and her husband. While retired, he completed and published his memoirs, *The Secret Service of the Confederate States in Europe*, and later died at the age of 77 on January 7, 1901.

Matthew Maguire was born in Dublin September 1815. He opened a private detective agency in Liverpool at 6 Doran's Lane after leaving the Liverpool police force, a position

he held until his retirement in 1888. During the American Civil War he was employed by U.S. consul in Liverpool, Thomas H. Dudley as early as 28 March, 1862. Thereafter, he took great interest in the movements of James Dunwoody Bulloch and Confederate agents while abroad. He was described as having red hair receding, with great pork chop side burns, and yet honest to a degree according to the people who did business with him. He died at Dryden Villa, 11 Dryden Lane, on September 22nd 1896 aged 81, and was buried at Saint Anne's Churchyard, Edge Hill, Liverpool.

Daniel S. Robinson of Washington, DC assembled the collection.

### **SCOPE AND CONTENT**

This collection consists of spy reports, commissions, correspondence, a scrapbook of obituaries, and the "Original Contract for the Building of the Confederate States Steamship *Alabama*."

The spy reports by Matthew Maguire include specific information pertaining to the *CSS Alabama*. The correspondence in this collection shows the relationship between Bulloch and members of his family as well as other officers including the names Francis Lawley, R. J. Armstrong, and Neil Harrison. These letters span from Bulloch's time serving in the Navy in 1847 to after his death in 1901. Also included are Bulloch's U.S. naval commission as master and his Confederate States naval commission as commander. The commission as master is dated 17 January 1853 and is signed by President Millard Fillmore; Bulloch's Confederate commission is dated 17 January 1862 and is signed by President Jefferson Davis.

The papers are organized into 2 boxes and 5 folders. They are arranged by genre.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

#### **Accession Number**

CK116

#### **Accession Date**

1985

#### **Restrictions**

Due to its fragile nature, access to the scrapbook is restricted. Patrons are asked to use the photocopies when possible. Physical access to the scrapbook, when approved by the Archivist, must be overseen by Library staff.

Physical access to the military commissions is also restricted. Staff and patrons must wear new nitrile gloves before handling.

#### **Publication Rights**

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### **Preferred Citation**

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### **Other Finding Aids**

Full records and electronic reproductions of the 3-dimensional items in this collection can be found in Museum's collections database. Patrons should search for accession numbers 1985.0024 and 1985.0025.

### **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.

### **RELATED MATERIALS**

The materials from the collector included 6 3-dimensional objects currently managed and stored by the Collections Management department of the Museum.

Photocopies of the scrapbook and of the Maguire spy report have been placed in folders with the collection.

### **FILE GUIDE**

#### **BOX 1**

**Folder 1** Scrapbook

**Folder 2** Spy report, 1861-1863

Spy report created by Matthew Maguire for U.S. Consul on the construction of "'290" S.S. (Gunboat) now "Alabama" Confederate States Cruiser.' Reports are dated from Mar. 2, 1862 to Mar. 3, 1863.

**Folder 3** Miscellaneous papers, 1847-1954

Aug. 5, 1847: Fredericksburg, VA

Letter from Lieutenant Neil Howison to Bulloch's father, James F. Bulloch, commending his son who, as a midshipman, provided Howison in the U.S. Schooner *Shark* with great assistance as navigator and as the facilitator of the rescue of the crew from the stranded vessel.

Nov. 25, 1848: Dayton, OH

Letter to Bulloch's father from Lieut. Findlay Schenck, replying to a request for information about his son's whereabouts. Schenck testifies to Bulloch's good character and heroism on the occasion of the *Shark's* stranding on the bar at the mouth of the Columbia River.

Jan. 13, 1901: Kent, England

Letter to Mr. Taylor from Francis Lawley on the death of Bulloch.

Mar. 5, 1901: Halifax, Nova Scotia  
Letter to Mrs. M.H. Maxwell, Bulloch's daughter, from R. J. Armstrong with an elegy on the death of Bulloch. Envelope included.

Oct. 21, 1954: Portsmouth, England  
Letter from the Confederate Research Club to Mrs. Helen Roosevelt Robinson, requesting information on Bulloch. Her name was given to the club because Bulloch's daughter had sent her a model of the CSS *Alabama*. Envelope included

Nov. 15, 1954: Portsmouth, England  
Letter from the Confederate Research Club to Mrs. Helen Roosevelt Robinson, thanking her for her response and asking her to send papers that might help in the creation of a new biography for Bulloch.

Newspaper clipping of a photograph of the late Mr. Stephen Bulloch.

**Folder 4** Photocopies  
Photocopies of the obituaries from the Scrapbook (see Folder 1)

**Folder 5** Photocopies  
Photocopies of the spy report by Matthew Maguire (see Folder 2)

## **BOX 2**

**Unfolded** Contract, 1861  
Bound contract for the Building of the Confederate States Steamship *Alabama*

**Folder 1** Commission, 1862  
Bulloch's commission as commander in the Confederate Navy, signed by President Jefferson Davis.

**Folder 2** Commission, 1853  
Bulloch's commission as master in the United States Navy, signed by President Millard Fillmore.

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

McKenna, Joseph. *British Ships in the Confederate Navy*. Jefferson, NC: McFarland & Co., 2010.

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## **SUBJECTS**

Alabama (Steamship : 1862)

Shark (Schooner : 1821)

Confederate States of America. Navy-Officers

United States. Navy-Officers

Spies-United States-19<sup>th</sup> century

Shipbuilding contracts-Confederate States of America

Bulloch, James Dunwoody, 1823-1901