

C Bright, Clarkson Joel (1888-), Papers, 1856, 1892-1966
3719 1.1 cubic feet

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

Correspondence, diaries, photographs, and related materials of a career U.S. Navy officer. Includes items on family history.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Frances Kerridge on 15 Apr 1983 (Accession No. 4502).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Clarkson Joel Bright was born in 1888, the second son of William Alexander Bright and Sallie Carter Bright. Clarkson grew up on the Bright family farm near Columbia, Missouri, and attended the local schools. In 1906 he entered the Naval Academy at Annapolis, Maryland. He graduated as a midshipman with the class of 1910. In 1912 he married Burton Monroe Starr of Annapolis. The Brights had no children. Clarkson Bright served in the U.S. Navy through both World Wars, retiring in 1946. He served on and commanded numerous ships during his career. In addition, he was twice on the teaching staff of the Naval Academy at Annapolis and twice on the staff at the Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island. In 1933 he received a master's degree in international law from Harvard University. Finally, in 1945 and 1946, he was in charge of decommissioning ships at San Diego, California. He was advanced from captain to rear admiral following his retirement. For much of his active service and during retirement, the Brights made their home in Annapolis, Maryland.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

These papers relate primarily to the forty year, 1906-1946, naval career of Rear Admiral Clarkson J. Bright. Diaries kept by Bright from 1923 to 1953 are supplemented by a brief autobiographical sketch and a small amount of miscellaneous personal information. Together, they present a good overview of Bright's naval service, his social life, and his routine, personal affairs. Copies of his naval orders and three volumes of receipt and expenditure journals, 1932-1948, complement the collection. The photographs pertain to Bright's service in the Navy, his wife, Burton, and his family in Missouri. The photographs are arranged in the order in which they were originally mounted in six numbered albums, with no regard to chronology or subject matter. Duplicates, unused postcards, and souvenirs have been discarded. The correspondence is very sketchy, much of it being notes on the backs of postcards. There are several charts and letters from his sister, Rella Bright Evans, pertaining to family history and genealogy. Included are the Bright, Carter, Haden, Talbott, Patterson, and McClung families. Also included is one folder of correspondence of William A. Bright, Clarkson's father, a prominent Columbia, Missouri, farmer and businessman. Other items of note include a scrapbook kept by Clarkson while he was in the Naval Academy, and a file of newspaper

clippings about the 1918 sinking of the USS San Diego on which he was serving. Copies of the testimonies of officers of the USS San Diego are also included in the naval orders.

FOLDER LIST

f. 1	Autobiographical Sketch and Miscellaneous Notes, 1918-1940. A brief account of Clarkson Bright's life written by him in 1924. Includes occasional entries made from 1918 to 1929, being primarily notes on his naval career. Other miscellaneous notes include data on his salary, changes of address, personal purchases of clothing and accessories, books read and studied, his life insurance, birth and death dates of family members, dates and locations of his naval service, and names of various overseas acquaintances.
f. 2-7	Correspondence, 1856, 1892-1966. Correspondence of Clarkson Bright is arranged chronologically in folders 2-6. Folder 7 contains correspondence and papers of his father, William A. Bright. Many of the letters and postcards concern Clarkson Bright's naval service and vacations taken in the U.S. and abroad. Also included are official Navy correspondence and several letters pertaining to genealogy and family history.
f. 2-5	Correspondence, 1915-1950.
f. 2	1915-1925. Letter of 3 August 1917 to Clarkson from William A. Bright. Letter of 2 February 1923 to Clarkson from his sister, Rella Bright Evans, about Bright, Carter, McClung, and Patterson family genealogies.
f. 3	1926-1931
f. 4	1933-1943. Typed transcript of telegrams from 9 August 1943 to 18 August 1943 pertaining to the illness and death of Sallie Carter Bright.
f. 5	1945-1950. Letter and enclosures of 27 December 1949 and 30 January 1950 about 1918 sinking of USS San Diego. Copy of 16 March 1950 press release about Bright's advancement to rear admiral.
f. 6	1951-1966. Letter of 22 July 1962 to Clarkson from Rella Bright Evans. Mentions Missouri 8th District congressional race between Richard Ichord and Bob Donnelly. Also mention of Phil Donnelly and Hilary Bush. Letter includes Bright family genealogical information. Copy of 6 February 1966 letter, which is a brief sketch of Clarkson Bright's naval career. Letter to Clarkson from Rella Bright Evans of 14 August 1966 containing family history.
f. 7	1856, 1892-1927. Correspondence of William A. Bright containing items about the Haden Building located at the State Lunatic Asylum in Fulton, Missouri, the 1912 presidential candidacy of William J. Bryan, and pensions for Confederate army soldiers. Also includes an

Title

	1856 tanning patent signed by George W. Hatch, and reminiscences of William Bright about General Sterling Price and Order Number 11.
f. 8-15	Diaries, 1923-1953. Diaries of Clarkson J. Bright arranged chronologically, one year per volume. Entries are made daily except for occasional gaps in the later years. There are no diaries for 1926 and 1932. The entries from 1947 to 1953 are generally more lengthy than in earlier years.
f. 8	1923-1925, 1927.
f. 9	1928-1931.
f. 10	1933-1936.
f. 11	1937-1940.
f. 12	1941-1944.
f. 13	1945-1947.
f. 14	1948-1950
f. 15	1951-1953
f. 16	Family History. Carter and Talbott family genealogies. Copies of newspaper clippings about William A. Bright, Rella Bright Evans, Margaret Bright Hunt, the Bright family farm near Columbia, Missouri, and Clarkson Bright. Copies of funeral memorials to William A. Bright and Sanford C. Hunt.
f. 17-27	Naval Orders, 1910-1946. A fairly complete collection of Clarkson Bright's naval orders and related correspondence, from his Naval Academy graduation in 1910 through his retirement in 1946. Arranged chronologically, these documents pertain to duty assignments, requests for leaves, payroll statements, and advancements in rank.
f. 17	1910-1912.
f. 18	1913-1915.
f. 19	1916, 1918. Includes testimonies concerning the sinking of the USS San Diego.
f. 20	1919-1921. Includes a report on the torpedoing of the USAT Finland.
f. 21	1922-1924
f. 22	1925-1929
f. 23	1931-1932
f. 24	1933-1936
f. 25	1937-1939, 1941
f. 26	1942-1944
f. 27	1945-1946. Includes annual officer's data cards showing dates and locations of service for the years 1936 to 1945 inclusive.
f. 28-32	Photographs. Selected photographs from albums kept by Clarkson and Burton Bright. The photographs are indexed by primary subject and arranged numerically in the order in which they were originally maintained, with no reference to chronology or topic. Selected for subject matter and historical interest, duplicate and unessential photos were discarded. The major subjects represented in the photographs

	include Clarkson's naval career and his attendant travels to many parts of the world, his ancestors, members of his immediate family, and various relatives. Examples of early photography include a tintype and two cyanotypes.
f. 33-35	Receipt and Expenditure Journals, 1932-1948. Daily ledger of receipts and expenditures kept by Clarkson and Burton Bright. Shows routine household expenses, including the price, type of purchase, and often the brand name of products. Also included are travel expenses. Clarkson's Navy salary, his stock and investment dividends, and similar receipts are recorded.
f. 33	25 September 1932-3 July 1936. Includes the captain's mess records for the USS Vega for 1935 and 1936.
f. 34	4 July 1936-14 September 1942.
f. 35	15 September 1942-3 August 1948.
f. 36	Scrapbook, 1906-1910. Collection of correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, and ephemera kept by Clarkson Bright while he was at the U.S. Navy Academy from 1906 to 1910. Correspondence is limited; often only the letterhead and salutation have been saved. Complete items include preparatory school and academy correspondence, and letters from his family in Missouri: his niece Mary Frances Hunt, his nephew Carson Prather, his brother-in-law Sanford C. Hunt, and his sister Margaret Bright Hunt. Several photographs show Clarkson's participation on academy athletic teams, but other photographs are unidentified. Types of ephemera include athletic rosters and schedules, greeting cards, calling cards, theatre and vaudeville programs, dance cards, gymnasium manual, and copies of Navy Academy songs.
f. 37	USS San Diego Newspaper Clippings, 1918. Copies of newspaper clippings, compiled by Clarkson Bright, pertaining to the 1918 sinking of the USS San Diego near New York harbor. Lieutenant Bright was serving as gunnery officer of the San Diego at the time. The clippings are dated 19 July 1918 to 6 August 1918 and are arranged according to Bright's ordering. The originals have been discarded.
f. 38	Yearbook, Naval War College, 1943. Bright's copy of the Naval War College yearbook for June 1943. Contains photographs and short biographies of the college staff members. Includes signatures of members of the preparatory class staff and a brief article about the duties of the preparatory class, which Bright wrote.
f. 39	Miscellaneous, 1912, 1913, 1929. Four items which include a printed timetable of U.S. Secretary of State Philander C. Knox's 1912 tour of the Caribbean aboard the USS Washington. Also, Bright's baptismal certificate of 19 May 1912, his confirmation certificate of 20 December 1913, and a 1929 passport to Japan, China, and Hong Kong.

INDEX TERMS

qry_megaie1_update_by_collection			
subject	folders	other	green
Alabama (Battleship)	1,19,27		
Architecture, Chinese	30		y
Black, John (-1923)	1		
Black, Nannie (-1923)	1,2		
Bright family	1,2,6,8,13		
Bright family	29		y
Bright Family Home, Columbia, Missouri	31		y
Bright, Burton S. (1888-)	28,29,30,31,32		y
Bright, Burton S. (1888-)	1-6,8-15,17		
Bright, Clarkson Joel (1888-)	1-39		
Bright, Clarkson Joel (1888-)	28,29,30,31,32		y
Bright, David	2,6		
Bright, Ed	2		
Bright, Haden H. (1884-)	1,4,8,14,15		
Bright, Haden H. (1884-)	28,29,31,32		y
Bright, Jane McClung	29		y
Bright, Jess	2		
Bright, Mary	31		y
Bright, Michael (1848-1922)	1,6		
Bright, Michael (1848-1922)	29		y
Bright, Mike	2		
Bright, Sallie Frances Carter (1855-1943)	1,2,4,6,8,9,12,17		
Bright, Sallie Frances Carter (1855-1943)	28,32		y
Bright, Shiley M. (1892-1940)	28,29,32		y
Bright, Shirley M. (1892-1940)	1,6,8,11		
Bright, Wash	2		
Bright, William Alexander (1850-1933)	32		y
Bright, William Alexander (1850-1933)	1,2,6-9,16,17		
Bryan, William Jennings (1860-1925)	7		
Bush, Hilary A. (1905-1992)	6		
Carter family	2,6,14,16		
Carter, Alcenior	32		y
Carter, Frances	32		y
Carter, Haden	32		y

qry_megaial_update_by_collection			
subject	folders	other	green
Carter, John W.	2,6		
Carter, John Wormley	29		y
Carter, Landon (1709-1788)	2,5		
Carter, Margaret	32		y
Carter, Margaret Haden (1833-1920)	6		
Carter, Maria Byrd	2		
Carter, Marie	32		y
Carter, Nelle	32		y
Carter, Robert	2		
Carter, Robert (1663-1732)	2		
Carter, Sarah Ludlow	2		
Carter, Wormley	6		
Children, c. 1900	28		y
China--Description and travel--Views	30		y
Christy, Harley Hannibal (1870-)	4,5,14		
Church architecture, Hawaii	30		y
Civil War--Missouri	7		
Civil War--Missouri--Order Number 11	7		
Costume--Philippine Islands	30		y
Cyanotypes, 1890s	32,36		y
Diaries, 1920s	8,9		
Diaries, 1930s	9-11		
Diaries, 1940s	11-14		
Diaries, 1950s	14,15		
Donnelly, Phil M. (1891-1961)	6		
Donnelly, Robert T. (1924-1999)	6		
Douglass, Joseph L., Columbia, Missouri (Photographer)	29, 32		y
Duncan, Alice	32		y
Duncan, David	31		y
Duncan, Delia Bright (1882-)	1		
Duncan, Delia Bright (1882-)	28, 31, 32		y
Duncan, Gertrude	31		y
Duncan, Haden	1		
Duncan, Harold	32		y
Duncan, Joe	31		y
Duncan, John	31		y

qry_megaiei_update_by_collection			
subject	folders	other	green
Duncan, Joseph (-1929)	1		
Duncan, Kenneth	32		y
Duncan, Marion	31		y
Duncan, Mary Alice	31		y
Duncan, Steve	31		y
Duncan, Wilma	32		y
Eclipses, Solar, 1932	29		y
Eclipses, Solar, 1932	23		
Ethnology--Phillipine Islands	30		y
Evans, Elgin E. (-1937)	28		y
Evans, Elgin E. (-1937)	1, 8		
Evans, Rella Bright (1878-1972)	28		y
Evans, Rella Bright (1878-1972)	1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 12, 14, 16		
Farm life--Australia	30		y
Fashion, 1900s	29		y
Fashion, 1920s	30, 31		y
Finland (Transport)	31		y
Finland (Transport)	1, 19, 20, 27		
Florida (Battleship)	1, 2, 18, 27		
Haden Building, Fulton, Missouri	7		
Haden family	2		
Haden, Anthony (1746-1828)	6		
Haden, Joel Harris	29		y
Haden, Joel Harris	6, 7		
Haden, Margaret	2		
Haden, Zurelda Kirtley	29		y
Hall, Joshua	6		
Hatch, George W.	7		
Helm, Lynaugh	6		
Historic buildings--Virginia	28		y
Hotels, Argentina	31		y
Hotels, Hawaii	30		y
Houses, Virginia	28		y
Houses--Missouri, 1950s	31		y
Hunt, Margaret Bright (1880-1934)	28		y
Hunt, Margaret Bright (1880-1934)	1, 4, 8, 16, 36		

qry_megaiei_update_by_collection			
subject	folders	other	green
Hunt, Mary Frances (1900-1976)	36		
Hunt, Sanford Conley (1867-1934)	1, 7, 16, 36		
Hunt, Virginia	28		y
Ichord, Richard Howard (1926-1992)	6		
Lansdale (Destroyer Minelayer)	1, 21, 27		
Luce (Destroyer Minelayer)	1, 21, 27		
Marcy, Katherine Monroe (1865-1939)	1-4, 8-11		
Marcy, Katherine Monroe (1865-1939)	31		y
Marcy, William L.	31		y
Marcy, William L.	1, 8		
McCave, John	6		
McClung family	2, 6		
McClung, Ellen	2		
McClung, John	6		
McClung, Joseph	6		
Miller, Laurance	7		
Missouri. Eleemosynary Institutions	7		
Mumford, Frederick Blackmar (1868-1946)	7		
Munroe family	3-6, 8-15		
Murillo, Columbia, Missouri, (Photographer)	31, #19		y
North Dakota (Battleship)	1, 20, 27		
Parades, U.S. Navy	30, #3		
Patterson family	2		
Patterson, David	2		
Patterson, Sarah Bright	2		
Pensions, Military (Confederate)	7		
Petrel (Patrol Gunboat)	1, 6, 17, 27		
Philadelphia (Merchant)	1, 20, 27		
Photographers, Kansas, Lawrence	31, #20		y
Photographers, Missouri, Columbia	29, #15; 31, #19; 32, #9		y
Photographers, Missouri, St. Louis	28, #10		y
Postcard photographs, 1910s	2		y
Postcard photographs, 1920s	2, 3		y
Postcard photographs, 1930s	3, 4		y
Postcard photographs, 1950s	5, 6		y
Postcards, 1920s	2		y

qry_megaial_update_by_collection			
subject	folders	other	green
Postcards, 1930s	3, 4		y
Postcards, 1940s	40		y
Postcards, 1950s	5, 6		y
Prather, Ada Bright (1876-1950)	1, 4, 14		
Prather, Ada Bright (1876-1950)	28, #17		y
Prather, Carson	36		
Prather, William R.	1		
Price, Samuel	6		
Price, Samuel	6		
Price, Sterling (1809-1867)	7		
Price, William Starr	31, #9		y
Psychiatric hospitals, Missouri	7		
Richmond (Light Cruiser)	1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 12, 21, 25, 27, 29 #10, #11, 32 #11		y
Robertson, Virginia Bright Hunt	1		
San Diego (Heavy Cruiser)	1, 4-6, 14, 19, 27, 37		
Saratoga (Aircraft Carrier)	1, 10, 24, 27		
Scholten, (I. A.), St. Louis (photographer)	28, #10		y
Ships	29, #10, 11; 31, #2, 4		y
Simpson (Destroyer)	1, 3, 9, 22, 27, 31 #2		y
Slavery--Missouri	7		
Squires, Lawrence, Kansas (Photographer)	31, #20		y
Stephens, Pate	6		
Talbott family	6, 14, 16		
Talbott, Edward	6		
Talbott, John	6		
Tanning	7		
Tintypes	29, #17		y
Todd, Robert	6		
U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland	1, 6, 8, 20, 22, 27, 36		
U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C., Eclipse Expedition, 1032	29, #18, 19		y
U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C., Eclipse Expedition, 1932	23		
U.S. Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island	10-13, 24-27, 38		
U.S. Navy	1-39		

qry_megaiei_update_by_collection			
subject	folders	other	green
U.S. Navy, Officers	28 #4-6; 29 #9, 10; 31 #5, 17, 18; 32 #11, 13		y
Vega (Cargo Ship)	1, 10, 24, 27, 33		
Washington (Heavy Cruiser)	1, 6, 17, 27		
Wilkerson, W. P.	7		
Young, D. H.	7		