Guide to the Henry Roland Godson genealogy
MSS.4035

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September 12, 2014
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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## Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Repository</strong></th>
<th>University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
<td>Henry Roland Godson genealogy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>1995</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent</strong></td>
<td>0.05 Linear feet (photocopies)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Abstract</strong></td>
<td>Genealogy and family history of this C.S.S. <em>Alabama</em> sailor</td>
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</tbody>
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### Preferred Citation note

Henry Roland Godson genealogy, University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama
Biographical/Historical note

Henry Roland Godson, was born in Warwick, England, on October 30, 1845. He immigrated to the United States when he was almost four years old with his father Thomas, sister Anna Maria (aged five or six), and his uncle William. They settled in Newark, New Jersey (there is no record that his mother, Elizabeth Linell Godson, and a younger sister ever joined the family in America).

Rather than follow in his father’s footsteps as a tailor, Henry ran away to sea at an early age. He was an ordinary seaman on the Henry B. Wales, an American clipper ship. The Henry B. Wales was returning to Boston, Massachusetts, from a voyage to Calcutta, India, which it was captured by the C.S.S. Alabama August 11, 1862. Godson enlisted at sea in the Confederate Navy as an ordinary seaman on November 8, 1862, and remained aboard the Alabama until she was sunk on June 19, 1864, by the U.S.S. Kearsarge. He was rescued by the Kearsarge and taken to Cherbourg, France, where was paroled. He eventually made it back to Southampton, England, where he was honorably discharged, four months short of his nineteenth birthday.

There is no record of Godson after his discharge from the Alabama, but family lore said he joined the English merchant navy and was lost at sea.

Scope and Contents note

The collection contains photocopies of the genealogy and family history of Henry Roland Godson, a C.S.S. Alabama sailor.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama September 2014

Conditions Governing Access note

None
Conditions Governing Use note
None

Provenance
unknown

Processed by
Martha Bace, 2014

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

• Alabama (Screw sloop).

Genre(s)

• Genealogies

Personal Name(s)

• Godson, Henry Roland, 1845-
• Godson, John Edmund

Subject(s)

• Sailors
Collection Inventory

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