Guide to the Ellsworth Hults diary aboard the U.S.S. "Galena," February 1864-November 1864
mss.3735

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July 31, 2013

Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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## Summary Information

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<tr>
<th><strong>Repository</strong></th>
<th>University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator</strong></td>
<td>Hults, Ellsworth, 1841-1902</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Creator - Collector</strong></td>
<td>Williams, A.S., III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title</strong></td>
<td>Ellsworth Hults diary aboard the U.S.S. <em>Galena</em>, February 1864- November 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date</strong></td>
<td>1864 February - November</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Extent</strong></td>
<td>0.2 Linear feet (diary in phase box)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Language</strong></td>
<td>English</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Abstract</strong></td>
<td>The diary of the paymaster's clerk aboard the U.S. Steamer <em>Galena</em> from February through November 1864. There is also a transcription of the diary and a photograph of Admiral James Forsyth &quot;the tallest man in the American Navy, 6 ft 6.&quot;</td>
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</tbody>
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### Preferred Citation note

Ellsworth Hults diary aboard the U.S.S. *Galena*, February 1864-November 1864, University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama
Biographical/Historical note

Ellsworth Holman Hults, son of David and Deborah Phillips Hults, was born in August 1841, in Mount Holly, Burlington, New Jersey. By 1850, the family had moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. In November 1863, he enlisted in the United States Navy and was paymaster's clerk aboard the U.S. Steamer *Galena* during the Battle of Mobile Bay in August 1864.

After the war, on 1 December 1869, Hults married Ann Eliza Bullock in Philadelphia. The couple had two children, Jessie Bullock Hults and Ellsworth Hults II. His career after the war was primarily as an insurance broker. Hults died on 6 February 1902.

U.S. Steamer *Galena* was a wooden-hulled broadside ironclad built for the United States Navy during the American Civil War. The ship was initially assigned to the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron and supported Union forces during the Peninsula Campaign in 1862. She was damaged during the Battle of Drewry's Bluff because her armor was too thin to prevent Confederate shots from penetrating. Widely regarded as a failure, *Galena* was reconstructed without most of her armor in 1863 and transferred to the West Gulf Blockading Squadron in 1864. The ship participated in the Battle of Mobile Bay and the subsequent Siege of Fort Morgan in August. She was briefly transferred to the East Gulf Blockading Squadron in September before she was sent to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania for repairs in November. They were completed in March 1865 and *Galena* rejoined the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron in Hampton Roads the following month. After the end of the war, the ship was decommissioned at Portsmouth, New Hampshire in June. She was transferred to Hampton Roads in 1869, condemned in 1870, and broken up for scrap in 1872.

Scope and Contents note

The collection contains the "Diary of events - both public and private, on board U.S. Steamer "Galena" during her cruise from Philadelphia, commencing February 18th 1864. Ellsworth Hults, paymaster's clerk, 1506 So. 2nd St., Philadelphia" It includes descriptions of the Battle of Mobile Bay (with diagrams of the Bay showing the positions of the various ships, as well as the locations of Forts Morgan and Gaines, islands and shoals) and a photograph of Admiral James Forsyth, "the tallest man in the American Navy - 6 ft 6, great friend of my fathers & mentioned in this log". There is also a transcription of the diary.

Administrative Information
Publication Information
University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama July 2013

Conditions Governing Access note
None

Conditions Governing Use note
None

Provenance
purchased from Hughes Books, New Orleans, LA, 2013

Processed by
Martha Bace, 2013

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

• Galena (Steamer).

Genre(s)

• Diaries

Geographic Name(s)

• United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Naval operations--Union.
• United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives

Personal Name(s)
• Williams, A.S., III

Subject(s)

• Civil War
• War and Military
## Collection Inventory

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<thead>
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<th>Diary</th>
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