

Correspondence

Location: A/Correspondence

- 1795 January 27 John Perke to Mr. Buell; re: Merry Christmas.
(Catalog# 353.1a-b)
- 1797 July 22 Robert Liston to Timothy Pickering; re: Intentions of English Men of War at Norfolk.
(Catalog# 1771.2)
- 1797 September 26 Rachel Bradford to Elias Boudinot; re: Launching of the frigate CONSTITUTION.
(Catalog# 985.1)
- 1798 March 23 Henry Knox to John Adams; re: Recommendation of Edward Preble for first Lieutenantcy of the frigate CONSTITUTION.
(Catalog# 1412.1)
- 1798 June 22 John Lowell to Secretary of Navy; re: Marine officers.
(Catalog# 1145.1)
- 1798 December 23 Timothy Pickering, Secretary of State to Captains Eaton and Cathcart; re: armed vessels for Tunis and Tripoli.
(Catalog# 1797.1)
- 1799 January 7 J. Brace to Jana Brau; re: Quasi-War with France.
(Catalog# 1771.1)
- 1800 October 17 Silas Talbot to Habac Bowditch; re: Teaching celestial navigation on board CONSTITUTION.
(Catalog# 202.1)
- 1802 Dr. Peter St. Medard; Manuscript Copy Book: Handwritten and hand bound copy-book, of Dr. Medard aboard the United States Frigate NEW YORK where he was surgeon. Includes letters to ships' commanders and the Secretary of the Navy, lists of food and supplies, and reports of disease on board ship.
(Catalog# 259.7)
- 1803 August 13 Edward Preble to James Deering; re: financial arrangements while at sea.
(Catalog# 953.1)
- 1804 May 10 Edward Preble to General Acton; re: request for ships and arms for action in Tripoli.
(Catalog# 1417.1a-b)
- 1805 June 14 Joseph Woodbury to Thomas Whittredge, later typed copy; re: Impressment of sailors.
(Catalog# 767.1)
- 1806 May 22 John Rodgers to Robert Smith; The letter was written on board USS CONSTITUTION while at Gibraltar. The letter reads in full: "U.S. Ship Constitution, Gibraltar 22nd May 1806. Sir, I regret extremely that I have been under the necessity of consenting to Mr. Thomas Johnston's (Purser of this Ship) return to America, in the Argus, in consequence of his ill state

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- of health, particularly as I considered his services, an object of no small importance to this ship, and his general conduct such, in every instance, as to merit my entire approbation. I have to honor to be with the utmost respect, Sir, Your obedient humble servant, John Rodgers."
(Catalog# 2091.2)
- 1810 July 27 Paul Hamilton to Isaac Hull; re: Cleaning CONSTITUTION'S bottom.
(Catalog# 1534.1)
- 1811 January 30 Isaac Hull to Commodore John Rodgers; re: Court of Inquiry opened into loss of REVENGE.
(Catalog# 2008.1)
- 1812 September 2 Isaac Hull to John Rodgers; re: Request for repair of CONSTITUTION after action with HMS GUERRIÈRE.
(Catalog# 352.1)
- 1812 September 13 John Contee to Lewis Bush; re: death of William Bush
(Catalog# 1649.1)
- 1813 April 18 Captain John Marshall to William Phillips; re: British account of the battle between USS CONSTITUTION and HMS JAVA.
(Catalog# 2052.1)
- 1813 June 6 Isaac Hull to James Monroe; re: Letter of reference for former purser.
(Catalog# 1717.1)
- 1814 June 13 William Bainbridge to John Brooks; re: Presence of British in Boston Bay.
(Catalog# 202.3)
- 1817 October 28 William Bainbridge to George Harrison (Navy Agent); re: the reverse image on his medal. Bainbridge was dissatisfied because *Java's* flag was not shown as having been struck.
(Catalog# 1947.6)
- 1815 November 20 Benjamin Crowninshield from Isaac Hull; re: Commodore Bainbridge.
(Catalog# 359.1)
- 1817 November 17 Isaac Hull to Cadwallader Colden; re: Paintings sent from France to arrive in New York via U.S. Schooner LYNN.
(Catalog# 1451.1)
- 1818 May 29 Isaac Hull to Benjamin Crowninshield; re: Letter of reference for Lieut. W. H. Allen.
(Catalog# 1085.1)
- 1819 June 19 William Bainbridge to Benjamin P. Kissam; re: Letter of introduction and reference for Cyrus Perkins.
(Catalog# 376.1)

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- 1820 February 10 Thompson to Charles Morris; re: Award of silver medal for gallantry in battle with Frigate GUERRIÈRE.
(Catalog# 293.1)
- 1820 May 29 Isaac Hull to William Tudor; re: Bill of Lading for provisions.
(Catalog# 202.2)
- 1820 November 13 Isaac Hull to Samuel W. Dana dated November 13, 1820. The letter was written in Boston and reads in full: "My Dear Sir, I yesterday had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 9th instant and herewith enclose the bond with the sun received inclosed. I believe your calculation of interest is correct. Have you the deed I forgot. Here the business was transacted. I have that on every other paper in my possession that you require I will send it to you. What is the matter with our friend Magill. Can it be possible that he has been doing what he ought not. I hope he will not be found in the back ground. I have rec'd orders to fit out the Constitution. Where she is bound I cannot say. Very truly & respectfully, I am yours, Sir Isaac Hull." There is an accompanying envelope (.b).
(Catalog# 2091.1)
- 1821 February 16 John P. Newhall to Asa Newhall; re: letter home.
(Catalog# 382.1)
- 1822 May 29 Samuel G. Marshall to Benjamin P. Kissam; re: Recommendation for Kissam regarding a position at City Hospital (New York).
(Catalog# 375.1)
- 1823 April 15 Isaac Hull to [unnamed]; re: Service in Norfolk.
(Catalog# 373.1)
- 1823 November 19 William Bainbridge to Amos Binney; re: Request for recruitment funds.
(Catalog# 1290.1)
- 1824 June 9 Isaac Hull to William Tudor; re: Disappointment over absence.
(Catalog# 326.1)
- 1824 October 18 To Philip A. Stockton from his mother "ECS" RE: news from home.
(Catalog# 1976.1)
- 1825 March 30 Thomas MacDonough to Sam Southard; re: Bills of exchange.
(Catalog# 1267.1)
- 1825 October 13 Thomas MacDonough to [unnamed]; re: Bills of exchange.
(Catalog# 1423.1)
- 1827 February 26 To Philip A. Stockton from his sister, Mrs. R.A. Howell; re: News from home.
(Catalog# 1977.1)
- 1827 June 20 William Bainbridge to Samuel Southard (Secretary of the Navy); re: requesting command of the Philadelphia Naval station.
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- 1827 November 27 William Bainbridge to Dr. Barton; re: Thanks for medicine volumes.
(Catalog# 1741.1)
- 1828 March 4 John Rodgers to Henry A. Dearborn; re: Thanks for Massachusetts Journal article.
(Catalog# 384.1a-b)
- 1835 March 3 Balie Peyton to Isaac Hull; re: Acknowledgement of receipt of a cane made of USS CONSTITUTION wood.
(Catalog# 2092.1)
- 1835 August 25 Captain Jesse Elliott to Hon. Dickerson (Secretary of the Navy); re: requesting appointment as midshipman for Edward Martin, NY.
(Catalog# 1816.3)
- 1837 June 15 Midshipmen to Commodore Jesse Duncan Elliott; re: complaining about poor treatment they have received from Captain William Boerum.
(Catalog# 1961.1)
- 1839 March 21 Alexander Claxton to Daniel Turner; re: advising him to ready *Constitution* for war because of strained relations between the United States and Britain.
(Catalog# 1903.1)
- 1840 April 11 [illegible] to L.S. Carpender; re: South American Cruise.
(Catalog# 1678.1)
- 1841 September 5 Daniel Carr to Caroline Carr; re: Visit to Charlestown Navy Yard.
(Catalog# 1091.1)
- 1841 October 30 Daniel Turner for Midshipman McFarland; re: Recommendation letter.
(Catalog# 1628.1)
- 1842 August 30 Thomas Tyler to "dear cousin;" re: sailor who left the Navy for a brief time then signed on USS CONSTITUTION and was waiting for the ship's sailing orders.
(Catalog# 2067.1)
- 1844 January 9 John Southwick (carpenter) to Daniel Neushaus (Secretary of the Navy); re: attesting that he has checked the wood on the ship and that the ship is in good condition without rot and decking that will withstand a three-year cruise.
(Catalog# 2002.3)
- 1844 February 9 John Dunham, Jr. to John Percival; re: assuring that the USS CONSTITUTION has been well repaired and is a tight ship.
(Catalog# 2002.4)
- 1844 May 24 Midshipman Dominick H. Lynch to his grandfather John L. Norton; re: Plea to send money before CONSTITUTION sails.
(Catalog# 1707.1)

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- 1844 August 8 Isaac Washburn to his sister Abigail "Abby" Keyes Hill. The letter was written from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil while USS CONSTITUTION was on the World Cruise. Contents of the letter include the "bill of fare...Monday is Pork + beans, day Tuesday is Banyan day, we have beef, rice, butter, cheese, pickles, Wednesday is Beans and Pork day again, Thursday is duff day, perhaps you don't know what duff is, I'll tell you, take 4 lbs Flower a pint Hog's fat and mix it then add 2 lbs Raisins, and water to make the consistency of batter, put into bag and boil it 5 or 6 Hours or until done and you have Duff. Put on molasses and eat it if you like it. Friday is another banyan day, Saturday Pork, beans and Sunday duff and Prayers, Quarters + (Leisure). But in port we have plenty Fresh Meat vegetables and fruit in abundance of all kinds except apples."
(Catalog# 2088.1)
- 1845 April 9 W.C. Chaplin to John Percival; re: Description of visit with Sultan of Borneo, discussions of trade negotiations, and descriptions of city.
(Catalog# 688.1)
- 1845 June 7 Midshipman W. Patterson Jones to his sister Martha; re: Angry he had not received any other letters from his family.
(Catalog# 1961.2)
- 1845 August 13 Isaac Washburn to his sister Abigail "Abby" Keyes Hill. The letter was written from USS CONSTITUTION while the ship was at Boga Tigres, China during the World Cruise. Contents of the letter include the health of the crew, "We have lost but three men since we layd here but Eleven since we sailed from the U.S. but we have had a great many Sick, as many ninety on the Sick list at a time, Our sick list is forty two today and decreasing if any thing...I am in the capacity of Hospital Steward." The post script contains an apology about his spelling, "I am so careless and think so much faster that I write that I generally leave half of my letter out besides all these difficulties. I have so many ways to spell a word that I always spell it wrong if there is any such thing, and Grammar, don't mention it. How I've undertaken to write so much to you is a mystery, I wouldn't to any one else."
(Catalog# 2088.2)
- 1846 March 25 Charles Stewart to Howard L. Morris while Stewart was Commandant of the Philadelphia Navy Yard.
(Catalog# 1961.3)
- 1846 September 30 T. M. Taylor, purser, to George Loyall; re: Pay for CONSTITUTION'S crew.
(Catalog# 1611.1)
- 1849 April James Stillwell to [unnamed]; re: Description of Gibraltar, Malta, the Nile, and Cairo.
(Catalog# 1664.1)

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- 1849 December 11 Captain Thomas Conover to Niles, U.S. Charge d' Affairs at Sardinia; re: Concerning state of affairs with France, republicanism. Lists type of vessels and number in the Mediterranean Squadron. Written aboard USS CONSTITUTION.
(Catalog# 1816.4)
- 1860 October 28 Midshipman Phillip Cooper to parents; re: Life onboard CONSTITUTION and why haven't you written?
(Catalog# 1533.1)
- 1861 April 23 David Low to his wife. Low was a member of the 8th Massachusetts Volunteer infantry.
(Catalog# 1957.1)
- 1861 April 24 Henry Shaw Briggs to Molly. Briggs was a Captain in the 8th Massachusetts Infantry assigned to sail with USS CONSTITUTION from Annapolis to New York during the Civil War.
(Catalog# 1951.1)
- 1861 May 3 Sarah H. Carlton to "my dear friends;" re: family news and her husband John brought USS CONSTITUTION to New York. Includes envelope and calling card for Mary A. Carlton.
(Catalog# 1806.1, .2, .3)
- 1861 December 16 "Ben" to "My dear brother." Ben describes a prank on board of fired quarter deck guns by dropped lanyard into gun deck. Discusses a crewmember, Jim, who received 18 demerits for giving an officer a false name. Mentions the "Study Room" and asks for Christmas presents and newspapers to be sent to him.
(Catalog# 1990.1)
- 1862 June 17 Samuel A. Allen to John McCarty; re: presenting a hand carved quill pen made of USS CONSTITUTION wood.
(Catalog# 1882.2) See also quill pen (Catalog# 1882.1)
- 1864 September 7 David G. Farragut to James S. Palmer; re: The price of labor in New Orleans.
(Catalog# 377.1)
- 1865 October 13 J. C. Johnson to John Crawley; re: Appointment of John Crawley as Yeoman of USS CONSTITUTION.
(Catalog# 1692.1)
- 1865 October 29 J. Louis Stickney to his sister; re: relates what his has been doing on board USS CONSTITUTION.
(Catalog# 1685.1-12, includes 11 envelopes)
- 1880 June 16 General James Wilson to Rev. Samuel Jarvis; re: Isaac Hull letters for possible biography.
(Catalog# 1819.1)

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- 1887 September 13 Navy Department Chief Clerk to Sidney D. Shattuck; re: Abstract of the naval service of Benjamin F. Shattuck.
(Catalog# 361.1a-c)
- 1901 June 17 John Lincoln Barry to Notes & Queries Editor, Boston Transcript; re: List of items taken from HMS JAVA by CONSTITUTION that were in the hands of the Barry Family.
(Catalog# 575.2)
- 1905 December 11 M. H. Gulesian to Charles J. Bonaparte, and reply; re: Offer to buy USS CONSTITUTION.
(Catalog# 354.1-2)
- 1905 December 11 Constance Rosa Merrill to Charles J. Bonaparte, and reply; re: Fate of USS CONSTITUTION.
(Catalog# 355.1-2)
- 1912 November 6 D.W. Coffman to David G. Haskins; re: letter to Haskins of Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati regarding burial information of Commodore Samuel Nicholson.
(Catalog# 1054.3)
- 1913 February 12 Letter to David G. Haskins; re: Letter detailing of record of service of Samuel Nicholson in the US Navy.
(Catalog# 1054.4)
- 1925 November 17 Raymond A. Grant to C.A. Lindeberg, and reply; re: "Save 'Old Ironsides'" campaign committee contributions from Phon, Montana.
(Catalog# 1588.1a-b)
- 1929 March 15 Elliot Snow to Arthur C. Watson; re: In response to a request for information about George Claghorn (builder of USS CONSTITUTION. Copies of correspondence to Claghorn from the War Office with instructions are attached to the letter and a memorandum about Claghorn's life.
(Catalog# 1901.1)
- 1926 October 3 Daniel A. Chamberlain to William S. Powers; re: Campaign to save "Old Ironsides."
(Catalog# 739.1)
- 1928 May 11 LT T.E. Renaker to Frederick T. Aldridge; re: thanking Aldridge for ordering souvenirs and asking him to distribute enclosed "souvenir folders" to help raise money for the "OLD IRONSIDES fund."
(Catalog# 1830.5)
- 1928 July 1 Philip Andrews to National Society, Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America; re: "Save 'Old Ironsides' Campaign."
(Catalog# 746.1)

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- 1929 April 6 W. Johnson to R. Ellis Wales; re: Formation of "Save 'Old Ironsides' Committee" Beverly Hills chapter.
(Catalog# 744.1a-b)
- 1929 May 27 Rear Admiral Philip Andrews to John Howell; re: asking Howell to make a sail for USS CONSTITUTION, May 7, 1929 plus two attachments: b) "Complete list of sails and firms who have agreed to assist in manufacturing of same;" c) List of firms still to be written by Andrews for their cooperation.
(Catalog# 1509.2)
- 1930 July 30 John A. Lord to the Save the Constitution Fund Office; re: dimensions of Hull, Heights of masts etc.
(Catalog# 1911.1)
- 1931 January 17 Permission memorandum signed by M. Hazard, Chief Boatswain, Assistant Captain of the Yard, permitting - by order of Captain Johnson, Captain of the Yard - Mr. French and his party to go aboard USS CONSTITUTION.
- 1931 June 17 Louis J. Gulliver to Mrs. Haskins; re: letter of thanks for gift of print "Cyane and Levant" and describing its hanging in CONSTITUTION.
(Catalog# 1054.5)
- 1931 July 10 Louis J. Gulliver to Stephen Decatur; re: Thank you for photographic copy of Stephen Decatur portrait.
(Catalog# 1829.1)
- 1933 January 31 Ingram Lee to Louis J. Gulliver; re: mentioning the ship traveling through the Canal Zone and Gulliver's note to Lee and the time he spent on board the ship in Boston.
Louis J. Gulliver to Ingram Lee; re: response to Ingram Lee mentioning the warm response from the population of Texas to the visit of USS CONSTITUTION to Texas.
(Catalog# 1917.1 and 1917.2)
- 1933 April 26 Louis J. Gulliver to Rene Kuhn; re: Thanks for support during national cruise.
(Catalog# 1473.1)
- 1933 April 28 Louis J. Gulliver to Charles F. Wettach; re: Feeling earthquake on board CONSTITUTION during national cruise.
Catalog# 1063.1)
- 1933 October 23 Louis J. Gulliver to Mr. R.M. Cantwell; re: apology for USS CONSTITUTION having to cancel its port call at San Luis Obispo due to dense fog.
(Catalog# 1855.1)
- 1934 March 7 Louis J. Gulliver to Miss Bowen; re: Grace Gulliver's wedding.
(Catalog# 1820.1)

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- 1947 May 16 Report of historical information on USS CONSTITUTION from January 1940 to May 1947. Information about the command structure and personnel; became flag ship of a two star admiral, the commandant of the First Naval district, August 24, 1940; information about the visitors to the ship; a list of special events; a list of celebrities who visited the ship. (Catalog# 1917.5)
- 1962 July Edward J. Ludwig to J. H. Wellings, and reply; re: Visits to and respect for CONSTITUTION, with article clipping. (Catalog# 773.1-2)
- 1965 October 4 Telegram from Michael Molnar, Secretary Fleet Reserve Association Branch 3 to Pope Paul VI while visiting the United Nations in New York, care of Cardinal Spellman reminding the pope about his predecessor's visit of USS CONSTITUTION in 1849. (Catalog# 2039.1)
- 1965 November 17 Secretary of State office of the Vatican to Michael Molnar, Secretary Fleet Reserve Association Branch 3, MA, in response to Mr. Molnar's telegram of October 4 to Pope Paul VI. (Catalog# 2039.2)
- 1970 March 18 Commandant, First Naval District to Chief of Naval Operations; re: Public reaction to Feb. 1970 *American Heritage Magazine* article. (Catalog# 749.1)
- 1974 October 3 Gerald Ford to John W. McCormack; re: Establishment of Boston Historical Park. (Catalog# 208.2a-b)
- 1976 June 15 Gerald Ford Form Letter to foreign sailors, with case; re: International Bicentennial Sail. (Catalog# 262.1a-b)
- Undated CDR Messier to Mr. Hulsman (USS Constitution Museum) outlining his basic biography. Written after his retirement in 1968.