



Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
Guide to the Clarence Lyons papers
1899-1953
MC/18

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
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Finding aid produced on: 2018-05-25
Description is in English.

Descriptive Summary

Title: Clarence Lyons collection

Creator: Lyons, Clarence

Date(s): 1899-1953

Quantity: 1 folder

Language of Materials: English

Call Number: MC/18

Administrative/Biographical History

The Brooklyn Navy Yard, officially known as the New York Naval Shipyard, has its origins in the Federal government's purchase of the land adjacent to Wallabout Bay for \$40,000 in 1801, and the subsequent conversion of the land into an active U.S. Navy shipyard five years later in 1806. Over the course of its history, more than 230 naval warships and auxiliary vessels were built at the Yard. Additionally, during World War II alone, more than 5,000 ships were repaired, overhauled, or converted at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The first ship built was the USS Ohio, launched in 1820, while the last ship launched was the USS Duluth (LPD-6) in 1965. Other historic vessels constructed or launched at the Navy Yard include Robert Fulton's steam frigate, the Fulton, the USS Arizona, the USS Missouri, and the USS Antietam.

In 1824, the Navy purchased an additional 25 acres near the Yard on which it established the Brooklyn Naval Hospital. The main hospital building was completed in 1838, and functioned until it was eventually closed in 1948. By 1850, the Hospital Annex was a self-contained parcel of land, walled-in, with a

gatehouse, a laboratory, and a cemetery. In 1864, the Surgeon's Residence was constructed. When the shipyard expanded during World War II, it took over the land of the former Wallabout Market and the physical separation between the Yard and the Hospital was eliminated.

During the Civil War, the Navy Yard employed about 6,000 people and by 1938 it provided jobs for over 10,000 people. During World War II nearly 70,000 people were employed at the Yard. By the end of the war, it had grown to encompass 291 acres with 270 major buildings, 24 miles of railroad tracks, 23,278 linear feet of crane tracks, 18 miles of paved roads, 16,495 feet of berthing space, 9 piers, 6 dry docks, and 22 shops housing 98 different trades.

In 1966, the Navy decommissioned the Yard and closed its active shipbuilding presence in Brooklyn, but retained residual administrative support functions as part of Naval Station New York, which occupied the former Hospital Annex and some adjacent buildings until it too was closed in 1989. In 1967, the City of New York acquired the Brooklyn Navy Yard for private commercial use.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of one folder containing the professional papers of Clarence Lyons. These papers include discharge papers from the United States Navy, pension information, as well as information from the Veterans Administration regarding burial procedures for Mr. Lyons.

Related Materials

Location of Copies: Items in this collection may have been digitized and if so, are featured in [BNY Collections](#), the BNYDC Archives' digital library. Only those items that have digital reproductions contain an Object ID listed in the Container List below. Use the Object ID or title of the item when searching BNY Collections.

Access Points

New York Naval Shipyard
Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation
Brooklyn Navy Yard
Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.)
Industrial buildings
Laborers
Navy-yards and naval stations--United States
New York Naval Shipyard
Sailors--United States
Ships
Ships--Launching
Shipbuilding--United States
Shipbuilding industry--Employees
United States. Navy
Waterfronts

Administrative Information

Accession Number(s): N/A

Acquisition Notes: This collection was donated by Joann Lyon McLennon, the granddaughter of Clarence Lyons. This collection has a collection documentation file.

Processing Notes: This collection was processed by Chelsea Reil in May 2018. This collection has a collection documentation file.

Access and Use

Access Restrictions: This collection is open for research.

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Container List

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Arrangement Note: This collection is arranged chronologically.

Box # MC2 (3-B-1-9)	Title	Date	Object ID
Folder 1	Professional papers	1899-1953	
	• Discharge papers	1899-03-31	17574
	• Pension increase letter	1929-08-22	17575
	• Pension increase letter	1931-10-05	17576
	• Pension increase letter	1922-02-13	17577
	• Letter regarding Clarence Lyons' burial funds	1953-07-09	17578
	• Letter regarding Clarence Lyons' pension funds	1953-07-20	17579