

Offley Family Papers

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1818-1916

Title Statement

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

Mss. Acc. 2008.164

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/8604

Unit Date

1818-1916

Language

English

Creator

Offley, John Holmes, 1802-1845

Creator

Corr, L.P.

Creator

Hobson, R.P.

Creator

Offley, Cleand Nelson, 1869-1930

Creator

Offley, David, d. 1838

Creator

Offley, Edward Murray

Creator

Offley, John Marbury, 1877-1932

Creator

Offley, Robert S.

Creator

Priestly, Deborah Heaton Remsen, 1801-1887

Extent

0.60 Linear Feet

Extent

76 items

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access:

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Acquisition Information:

Purchased from Hamilton's Rare Books. Acquisition information for material received after 7/13/2009 is available by consulting a Special Collections Research Center staff member.

Processing Information:

Acc. 2012.431 accessioned and minimally processed by Benjamin Bromley in December 2012. Folders marked 2008.164

Preferred Citation:

Offley Family Papers, Special Collections Research Center, Swem Library, College of William and Mary.

Biographical Information:

John Holmes Offley, the son of David Offley and Mary Ann Greer Offley, was born at Brooke Court-House, Virginia on 13 October 1802. Educated in Philadelphia, he first traveled to Smyrna (Izmir), Turkey in 1815 where his father, David Offley, had established the first American commercial firm, Woodmans and Offley, in the Levant. John Holmes Offley later entered into a commercial partnership at Trieste with his brother Richard Jones Offley (Richard & John Holmes Offley Co.). He later served as a ship chandler, contracted to provide provisions for the American squadron then stationed in the Mediterranean. John Holmes Offley returned to the United States with his family in 1835. He served, for a time, as the Inspector of Customs for the port of New York City. He moved to Georgetown in Washington, D.C. in 1838. After serving on special assignment for the U.S. War Department, he was appointed as Corresponding Clerk in the U.S. War Department, and later saw service as the Acting Chief Clerk of the U.S. War Department. He served as vestryman for St. Johns Episcopal Church of Georgetown from 1840 until the time of his death. It was at that church that he married Catherine Van Rensselaer Heaton (1806-1887) on 22 September 1823. John Holmes Offley died on 20 December 1845. Further information about this individual or organization may be available in the Special Collections Research Center Wiki:

http://scdbwiki.swem.wm.edu/wiki/index.php/John_Holmes_Offley.

Scope and Contents

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This collection details the history of the Offley Family from 1826 to 1916 through correspondences, diaries, photographs and personal effects. Its creators include multiple generations of Offleys and their associates. The papers provide insight into the daily life of the era as well as major geopolitical events such as the Greek War of Independence, the Spanish-American War, the Philippine-American War, the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, and World War I. Many of the Offleys served in the United States armed forces. The collection also includes photographs of individuals unrelated to, but, of the same era as, the Offley Family. Finally, there is a letter from Richard Offley to Mary Offley Sharpless about the health of a family member and a letter from David Offley to Mary Offley about his understanding of the theology and practice of Islam as he has seen it in Turkey, including his admiration for the religion.

Keywords

Correspondence
Diaries
Photographs
California--History--1850-1950
Greece--History--War of Independence, 1821-1829
Diplomatic and consular service
Islam
Muslims
Philippines--History
Spanish-American War, 1898
United States. Army--Appointments, promotions, salaries, etc
United States. Navy--History--19th century
United States. Navy--History--20th century
World War, 1914-1918

Accruals:

Acc. 2012.351 was added to this collection in November 2012 and did not come in with the original set of papers.

Arrangement of Materials:

The collection is organized chronologically within three boxes, with undated material at the back of box three.

Description of Subordinate Components

David Offley to Mary Offley

Unit ID id262370

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339244

Unit Date 1818 July

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

Offley Family Photographs and Portraits; A Painting of the Bay of Smyrna

Unit ID id262371

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339245

Unit Date 1818

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Portrait of John Holmes Offley (1826), picture of John Holmes Offley (1842), portrait of David Offley, picture

of Catharine V.R.H. Offley and painting of town and bay of Smyrna.

Family Letters of John Holmes Offley

Unit ID id262372

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339246

Unit Date 1826-1831

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Correspondences between Catharine V.R.H. Offley, Mary Heaton, Deborah Heaton, and Richard Jones Offley covering the following subjects: life in Smyrna, Turkish customs, adjusting to life in Smyrna, Christmas in Smyrna, visiting with Turkish official, events in America, cost of living in Smyrna, Greek War of Independence, plans for evacuation, pirates, trip from Constantinople, mutual acquaintances, treaty, education in Greece, and illness.

Baptismal Record of Jane Offley and Nomination of David Offley as Consul to Smyrna by Andrew Jackson

Unit ID id262373

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339247

Unit Date circa 1828-1832 March

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Baptismal record of Helen Jane Offley, daughter of J.H. Offley and Catherine Offley, signed by J.H. Wolf, dated 1929 May 23. President Jackson's nomination of David Offley to serve as U.S. Consul to Smyrna, dated 1832 March 21.

Family Letters of John Holmes Offley

Unit ID id262374

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339248

Unit Date 1833-1842

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Correspondences between Catharine V.R.H. Offley, Deborah Heaton, Ann Powell Offley, Helen Jane Offley, John Holmes Offley covering the following subjects: fever, illness, children, supplying naval frigates, socializing with naval officers, family members, mutual acquaintances, baptism, temperance, banking, and introduction of new acquaintances.

Richard Offley to Mary O. Sharpless

Unit ID id262375

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339249

Unit Date 1839 July

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Diary of Deborah H. R. Priestly

Unit ID id262376

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339250

Unit Date 1857-1861

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Diary with brief and irregular entries concerning acquaintances and relatives such as the Offleys.

Description of Minorca during Christmas (from Offley?), With Song Lyrics(?)

Unit ID id262377

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339251

Unit Date circa 1866

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Photographs of Young Family

Unit ID id262378

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339252

Unit Date 1860's

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Photographs of Zapley West Young, Robert West Young, Anne Robinson Young, Eliza Ann Moore Young, Kate Most Young, Nathaniel Young and Tapley West Young.

Photograph of Rev. Cleland Kinloch Nelson

Unit ID id262379

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339253

Unit Date 1890

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

Military Correspondence on Troop Transfers, One of which Includes Robert S. Offley

Unit ID id262380

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339254

Unit Date 1891, 1900

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Membership card for the Society of the Army of Santiago de Cuba. Order for transfer from Fort Stanton Nm. to Fort Riley Kansas., signed by Captain Robert Craig, 1891 September 17. Order for trip from Fort McPherson Ga. to Seattle Wa. En route to Alaska, Company "B" 7th Infantry, 1900 May 25.

Cleland Nelson Offley to H.E. Offley (His Mother) about Naval Battle of Santiago de Cuba

Unit ID id262381

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339255

Unit Date 1898 July

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Account of 1898 battle of Santiago de Cuba with descriptions and drawings of the engagement, dated 1898 July 7.

E.N.(?) Kellogg to Robert S. Offley (Lt.)**Unit ID** id262382**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/339256**Unit Date** 1898 November**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 13 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Letter from .N. Kellogg, Cleveland to R.S. Offley, responding to previous correspondence, expresses admiration for the officers under his command, congratulates him on recent promotion.

Photograph of Marines in New Hampshire (Post-Spanish-American War?)**Unit ID** id262383**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/339257**Unit Date** 1898**Mixed Materials** 1 (Box)**Container** 14 (Folder)**Photos of E.M. Offley in South Dakota and Texas. Description of USS St. Louis****Unit ID** id262384**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/339258**Unit Date** 1899-1901**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 1 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Photograph of Corporal E.M. Offley, Troop G 1st U.S. Cavalry at Fort Meade, South Dakota. Photograph of Company G 1st U.S. Cavalry taken at Fort Meade, South Dakota. Photograph of 2nd Lt. E.M. Offley at Fork Clark Texas, 12th U.S. Cavalry. Photograph of Carter Hill. Reproduction of photograph of USS St. Louis, Civil War Ironclad commanded by L. Paulding, uncle of E.M. Offley.

E.M. Offley (1st Sgt.) Diary**Unit ID** id262385**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/339259**Unit Date** 1900**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 2 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Diary and Memorandum; 1st Sergeant in Troop G 1st Cavalry; brief but regular entries, crossed out sections, pay day information, various rosters, hand-drawn street map, various drawings of landscapes, individuals, and buildings.

Scrapbook of Miscellany**Unit ID** id262386**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/339260**Unit Date** ~1900**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 3 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Scrapbook: pictures of wildlife, stamps, clippings, meal menus, description of Offley and various other families, family tree, short story(original work?)

E.M. Offley (1st Sgt.) Diary**Unit ID** id262387**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/339261**Unit Date** 1901**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 4 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Diary; many crossed out sections, sporadic and undated entries, notes on geography, history, army regulations, price list, and various drawings.

Unknown Letter and Obituary**Unit ID** id262388**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/339262**Unit Date** 1906**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 5 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Letter from R.P. Hobson to "Mr. Offley", responding to previous correspondence.

Letters from Edward to His Mother. Talks to about San Francisco Earthquake, Manilla, and China**Unit ID** id262389**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/339263**Unit Date** 1906-1908**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 6 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Five correspondences between E.M. Offley, J.M. Offley and their mother (Mary C.N. Offley) written from California and the Philippines covering the following subjects: aftermath of 1906 San Francisco Earthquake, involvement of army in recovery effort, wife and daughter, arrival of mail from States, wedding, box of valuables, army affairs, weather in Philippines, raising a child in the Philippines, Offley family, life in Philippines, declining status of army, cavalry horses, arrival of new troops, and bridge.

Letters from Edward to His Mother and Father, Pampanga, Philippines**Unit ID** id262390**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/339264**Unit Date** 1908**Mixed Materials** 2 (Box)**Container** 7 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Five correspondences between E.M. Offley, his father (Holmes E. Offley), and his mother (Mary C.N. Offley) covering the following subjects: daily life in the Philippines (routines, weather, etc.), target practice, incident involving five casualties, children, rainy season, horses, social life in Philippines, movement of the fleet, birthday, and rank advancement of acquaintances.

Letters from Edward Stotenburg to Mother and Brother, Pampanga, Philippines**Unit ID** id262391**Unit ID** /repositories/2/archival_objects/339265**Unit Date** 1908-1909**Mixed Materials** 3 (Box)**Container** 1 (Folder)**Scope and Contents**

Correspondence between E.M. Offley, his mother (Mary C.N. Offley), Sally Offley (wife of E.M. Offley), and

J.M. Offley covering the following subjects: family matters, cholera, collar bone injury, children, Christmas celebrations, patrol, court martial, inauguration, possible career change, horses, labor strikes, comments on native population, weather, and Chinese language.

E.M. Offley to Mother. Picture of Mount Arayat

Unit ID id262392

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339266

Unit Date 1909

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Correspondence between E.M. Offley and his mother (Mary C.N. Offley) covering the following subjects: future plans, weather (rainy season), wedding, hospital, birth of son (Willoughby Newton Offley), baptism, education, possible promotion, illness (dhubie itch), and possible reassignment.

Edward Offley to His Mother. Talk of Coming Home

Unit ID id262393

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339267

Unit Date 1909-1910, 1915

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Correspondence between E.M. Offley and his mother (Mary C.N. Offley) covering the following subjects: illness, weather (dry season and rainy season), imminent departure from Philippines, movement of the fleet, preferences in new station, cavalry, horsemanship, children, uniform, packing for move, Christmas, and health.

Diary of L.P. Corr (Cobb?)

Unit ID id262394

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339268

Unit Date 1911-1912

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Diary concerning personal and academic life.

E.M. Offley ID, Christmas, 1915. Guide to Panama. Court Marshall Schedule

Unit ID id262395

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339269

Unit Date 1915

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Identity card for American Expeditionary Forces, includes photograph, lists information such as name, rank, and duty. Program for Troop C 12th Cavalry Christmas celebration at Panama Canal Zone; includes menu, history of the Troop, roster of the company, 1916. Order for court martial, 1909 July 26.

Diary and Almanac of J.M. Offley

Unit ID id262396

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339270

Unit Date 1916

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

Information about eclipses, church calendar, barometer and various tables, etc., brief and sporadic entries, cash account at end, covers topics such as: traveling, weather, state of health, meeting with acquaintances.

Copies and Drawings of the Heaton Coat-of-Arms by John Holmes Offley and Family Business

Unit ID id262397

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339271

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Misc. Postcards

Unit ID id262398

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339272

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

Photo Portrait of Captain Cleland Nelson Offley (USN)

Unit ID id262399

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/339273

Unit Date undated

Mixed Materials 3 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)