

Philip C. Van Buskirk papers, 1851-1902

Overview of the Collection

Creator	Van Buskirk, Philip C. (Philip Clayton), 1833-1903
Title	Philip C. Van Buskirk papers
Dates	1851-1902 (inclusive) 1851 1902
Quantity	2.52 cubic feet plus 18 microfilm reels
Collection Number	3621
Summary	Diaries describing experiences of a sailor, soldier and Washington State pioneer
Repository	University of Washington Libraries, Special Collections Special Collections University of Washington Libraries Box 352900 Seattle, WA 98195-2900 Telephone: 206-543-1929 Fax: 206-543-1931 speccoll@uw.edu
Access Restrictions	Open to all users.
Languages	English

Biographical Note

Philip Clayton Van Buskirk was an American sailor, soldier, and pioneer. Born in 1833 to upper-class parents, one of which was the Maryland Secretary of State, Van Buskirk was well-off and educated but spent much of his life as part of the, mostly illiterate, maritime working-class. In 1846, at the age of 12, Van Buskirk joined the U.S. Marines following his father's suicide. In 1852, he spent time as a drummer on Admiral Matthew C. Perry's expedition to open Japan to foreign trade. In 1853, he sailed to the Bonin Islands to claim them for the U.S. aboard the USS Plymouth. He also served as a Confederate soldier during the Civil War but was captured by Union soldiers and sent to a prison camp in Ohio in 1862. Van Buskirk eventually made the journey to Washington to settle on the Snohomish River. He died in Bremerton, WA in 1903. In 1851, Van Buskirk began an extensive record of his life in journals, which soon grew to many volumes. His incredible writings provide a unique and vivid picture of everyday life among the American working class of the 1800s.

See also Microfilm no. A799 in Newspapers-Microcopy.

Content Description

Consult the scope and content information for each of the accessions listed below.

Use of the Collection

Alternative Forms Available

Transcriptions of the first five years of Philip C. Van Buskirk's diaries can be accessed through [CUNY Academic Commons](#)

Restrictions on Use

Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Administrative Information

Arrangement

Organized into 4 accessions.

- Accession No. 3621-001, Philip C. Van Buskirk diaries, 1851-1902
- Accession No. 3621-002, Philip C. Van Buskirk papers, 1853
- Accession No. 3621-003, Philip C. Van Buskirk papers, 1851-1902
- Accession No. 3621-004, Philip C. Van Buskirk papers, 1851-1901

Processing Note

Processed by Deborah Hamilton. Processing completed in 2011

Detailed Description of the Collection

Accession No. 3621-001: Philip C. Van Buskirk diaries, 1851-1902

2.52 cubic feet (37 volumes)

Scope and Content: Diaries describing Van Buskirk's experiences as a sailor in the U.S. Navy, including: those as a member of the Perry expedition which opened Japan to foreign trade, service as a Confederate soldier in the Civil War, and as a settler in Snohomish County, Washington.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Nellie Heffner, 10/18/1905.

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Bound Volumes		

Container(s)	Description	Dates
Box	Accession	
1	3621-001 1851-1855	1851-1855
1	3621-001 1853	1853
1	3621-001 1855-1857	1855-1857
1	3621-001 1858-1862	1858-1862
1	3621-001 1863-1866	1863-1866
2	3621-001 1867	1867
2	3621-001 1868-1869	1868-1869
2	3621-001 1870	1870
2	3621-001 1871 <u>Scope and Content:</u> Boston to China.	1871
2	3621-001 1872-1874	1872-1874
2	3621-001 1875 <u>Scope and Content:</u> Peru.	1875
2	3621-001 1876	1876
2	3621-001 1877	1877
2	3621-001 1878	1878
3	3621-001 1879-1880	1879-1880
3	3621-001 1881-1882	1881-1882
3	3621-001 1881-1882 <u>Scope and Content:</u> Log "U.S.S. Alert"	1881-1882
3	3621-001 1883-1884	1883-1884
3	3621-001 1885-1886	1885-1886

Container(s)	Description	Dates
3	3621-001 1885-1889 <u>Scope and Content:</u> "U.S.S. Adams" - I. Abstract of Log.	1885-1889
3	3621-001 1885-1889 <u>Scope and Content:</u> "U.S.S. Adams" - II. Notes.	1885-1889
4	3621-001 1887-1889	1887-1889
4	3621-001 1890-1891 <u>Scope and Content:</u> Mare Island, CA.	1890-1891
4	3621-001 1892 <u>Scope and Content:</u> Mare Island, CA and Seattle, WA	1892
4	3621-001 1893 <u>Scope and Content:</u> Mare Island, CA.	1893
4	3621-001 1894 <u>Scope and Content:</u> Mare Island, CA.	1894
4	3621-001 1895 <u>Scope and Content:</u> Mare Island, CA.	1895
5	3621-001 1896 <u>Scope and Content:</u> Mare Island, CA; Seattle, WA; Snohomish, WA; Bellingham, WA; and San Francisco, CA.	1896
5	3621-001 1897 <u>Scope and Content:</u> Diary	1897
5	3621-001 1897 <u>Scope and Content:</u> Notes	1897
5	3621-001 1898	1898
5	3621-001 1899	1899
5	3621-001 1899 <u>Scope and Content:</u> Rough log	1899
5	3621-001 1900	1900
6	3621-001 1901	1901

Container(s)	Description	Dates
6	3621-001 1902	1902
6	3621-001 Chinese Scrapbook	circa 1870-1880
Unbound Items		
Box	Accession	
6	3621-001 Bonin Island settlers and their descendents - Rev. A.F King	1898
6	3621-001 Crew list for the U.S.S. Plymouth	undated
6	3621-001 Negatives - reproductions from diaries	undated
6	3621-001 Journal of a cruise "Alert" - ports visited	circa 1870-1880
6	3621-001 Alphabetical list of ports visited by the "Adams"	1885-1889
6	3621-001 Personal documents	1859-1892
6	3621-001 Letter of donation from Mrs. Nellie Heffner	1905

Accession No. 3621-002: Philip C. Van Buskirk papers, 1853

circa 35 pages

Scope and Content: Robert D. Monroe's typewritten transcription of the 1853 Van Buskirk personal diary "Journal of the Cruize." It is not a complete transcription, but it is nearly so.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Robert D. Monroe, 1/8/1985.

Accession No. 3621-003: Philip C. Van Buskirk papers, 1851-1902

9 microfilm reels (neg.)

Scope and Content: Microfilm of papers. Accession filmed in its entirety, except for the 1853 diary which was unavailable at the time of filming.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Filmed from originals in UW Library, 5/1/1985.

Accession No. 3621-004: Philip C. Van Buskirk papers, 1851-1901

9 microfilm reels (pos.)

Scope and Content: Accession filmed on positive microfilm in its entirety, except for the 1853 diary, which was unavailable at the time of filming.

Restrictions on Access: Open to all users.

Restrictions on Use: Creator's literary rights not transferred to the University of Washington Libraries.

Acquisition Info: Donated by Friends of the Library grant, 3/24/2003.

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Frontier and pioneer life--Washington (State)--Snohomish County
Soldiers--Confederate States of America--Diaries

Personal Names :

Van Buskirk, Philip C. (Philip Clayton), 1833-1903--Diaries

Corporate Names :

Confederate States of America. Army. Virginia Infantry Regiment, 13th--Biography
United States Naval Expedition to Japan (1852-1854)
United States. Navy--Sea life--History--19th century

Geographical Names :

Japan--Description and travel
Japan--Foreign relations--United States
United States--Foreign relations--Japan
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Personal narratives, Confederate
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Social aspects

Form or Genre Terms :

Diaries
Typescripts

Names and Subjects

Subject Terms :

Personal Papers/Corporate Records (University of Washington)

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