GEORGE C. MARSHALL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

COLLECTION SUMMARY SHEET

COLLECTION: John Marston Family Collection

ACCESSION NUMBER: 293

INCLUSIVE DATES: 1944 – 1949

DONORS: J.S. Letcher, 1978
         Mary Marston Curry, 1996

RESTRICTIONS: None

DATE OF GIFT: December 1978
              November 1996

LOCATION:

SIZE: 3.5 linear feet

COLLECTION GUIDE
AVAILABLE: Yes

BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL FEATURES: The Marston family was originally from Boston, Massachusetts. John Marston II fought in the Revolutionary War and became a prosperous merchant. He was also friends with John Adams. John Marston III participated in the War of 1812 and was captain of the USS Roanoke during the Civil War. He also served as senior officer of the Union Blockade at Hampton Roads, Virginia. He retired a Commodore in 1866 but was made a Rear Admiral by an Act of Congress in 1881. John Marston IV was born in Philadelphia in 1833 and died in 1910. John Marston V graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1875 as a civil engineer. He later moved to Lexington, Kentucky to work on the railroads. John Marston VI was the collector of his family’s papers and the one most represented in the collection. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1908 and served in the Marine Corps. He participated in the campaigns of Vera Cruz, Mexico and in Haiti. In 1937 Marston was the Commanding Officer of the U.S. Marine Forces in North China. He was promoted to Brigadier General in 1940. During the war years he served in Iceland, San Diego, the South Pacific, and San Francisco. He ended his military career as Commanding General, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina and retired in August 1946. He died November 25, 1957.

SUBJECT: Colonial life; Revolutionary War; 19th century life; antebellum South; Civil War; USS Roanoke; World War I; World War II; U.S. Marines

FORMS OF MATERIAL: The collection spans six generations of the Marston family and consists of official and personal correspondence of the Marstons; journals and diaries; newspaper clippings; photographs and engravings; wills; miscellaneous publications; and two scrapbooks.

DONORS: John Seymour Letcher is the husband of Elizabeth Marston, the first child of John Marston VI. Mary Marston Curry is the second child of John Marston VI.

ARRANGEMENT: 5 document boxes/4 oversize folder
Genealogical Sketch

John Marston II, the first child of John Marston I and Elizabeth Greenwood Marston, was born in Boston March 27, 1756. He fought in the Revolutionary War as a Major for the colonial cause. After the war, he became a prosperous merchant. Marston married Anna Randall on August 4, 1784. They had 17 children, but only 8 survived infancy. After settling in Quincy, Marston renewed an earlier friendship with John Adams. John Marston died in 1846.

John Marston III, ninth child of John Marston II and Anna Randall Marston, was born in Boston February 26, 1796. Marston joined the Navy, by an appointment of former President John Adams, as a midshipman April 15, 1813. He participated in the War of 1812. At the beginning of the Civil War, he was Captain of the USS Roanoke and senior officer of the Union Blockade at Hampton Roads, Virginia. There on March 8, 1862, after having been attacked by the Confederate iron clad the Merrimack, Marston ordered Lieutenant Worden, Commander of the Union iron clad the Monitor, to attack the Merrimack. The battle which took place following Captain Marston's order remains one of the most historic naval battles of all time. John Marston retired as Commodore in 1866, but was made a Rear Admiral by an Act of Congress, February 27, 1881. He married Elizabeth Brackett Wilcox on November 9, 1830. They had five children. John Marston III died in 1885.

John Marston IV, the second child of John Marston III and Elizabeth Brackett Marston, was born in Philadelphia December 15, 1833. He married his cousin, Annie Randall Marston, October 15, 1855. They had five children. John Marston IV died January 31, 1910.

John Marston V, the first child of John Marston IV and Annie Randall Marston, was born in Philadelphia September 13, 1856. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1875 as a civil engineer. Later he moved to Lexington, Kentucky, to work as an engineer for the railroads. Marston married Mary Roberts June 19, 1883. They had three children. John Marston V died in 1940.

John Marston VI, the first child of John Marston V and Mary Roberts Marston, was born in Somerset County, Pennsylvania August 3, 1884. John Marston VI was the collector of and the most represented person in these papers. Marston graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1905 with a degree in engineering. He began his military career in 1908 when he was commissioned Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. In 1914 and 1915 he participated in the campaigns of Vera Cruz, Mexico and in Haiti. Major Marston commanded three posts between 1918-1924: U.S. Marine Barracks, Naval Academy; the American Legation Marine Guard, Nicaragua; Engineer Battalion, Quantico, Virginia. After returning to Nicaragua as Commander of the Eastern area, Marston was promoted to Colonel in 1931. For the next six years, Colonel Marston participated as a member of the Presidential Electoral Commission to Nicaragua; Director, Marine Corps Schools, Quantico; and the Director of Personnel, Washington, D.C.

Beginning in 1937, Marston was the Commanding Officer of the U.S. Marine Forces in North China. After returning from China, John Marston was promoted to Brigadier General in 1940. He then became Chief of Staff, Department of the Pacific, San Francisco.
During the years 1941-1942, John Marston was the Commanding General, First Marine Brigade, Iceland. After his promotion to Major General in 1942, Marston became the Commanding General, Second Marine Division, San Diego and the South Pacific. In 1943, John Marston was made Commanding General, Department of the Pacific, San Francisco. Marston ended his military career as Commanding General, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Major General John Marston retired from active duty August 1, 1946.

John Marston VI married Elizabeth Worthington June 8, 1910. They had three children. Their first child, Elizabeth, married John Seymore Letcher USMC. Their second child, Mary, married Manly Lamar Curry USMC. Their youngest child, John VII, was commissioned into the U.S. Marine Corps. John Marston VI died November 25, 1957.

John Marston VII, third child of John VI and Elizabeth Marston, was born in Annapolis, Maryland July 24, 1917. He was commissioned into the U.S. Marine Corps in 1941.
Scope and Content

This collection contains material from the early 19th century through the middle of the 20th century spanning six generations of John Marstons. The collection is divided into nine series: Marston Family Papers 1823-1884, John Marston II papers 1808-1826, John Marston III papers 1816-1866, John Marston V papers 1885-1932, John Marston VI papers 1909-1957, John Marston VII papers 1935-1955, publications, scrapbooks, and photographs.

The bulk of the papers are official and personal correspondence. Diaries, journals, 3rd party correspondence, official orders, military reports, newspapers, newspaper clippings, biographical material, wills, medals, awards, club and society memberships, publications, scrapbooks, and photographs make up the rest of the material. Also included is a bound genealogy which is an invaluable resource in tracing the complicated family line.

There are two diaries in this collection; one written by John Marston II and the other by his son Henry Marston. John Marston II’s diary is dated April 12-June 10, 1808; it gives a vivid account of a merchantman’s business trip to the island of Cuba and the “shameful” city of Havana. Henry Marston’s diary is dated 1825-1884; it gives an account of Louisiana plantation life in the antebellum South, Civil War, and Reconstruction South. His obituary is included. There are also two journals with these papers; both were written by midshipman John Marston III in 1816 and 1817. These journals give daily descriptions of the ships voyages.

The second series contains John Marston II’s papers, 1808-1826. Two letters of note include one from Thomas Jefferson and one from John Quincy Adams. The addressee of the Jefferson letter, dated November 13, 1818, is unknown. It is a note of condolence for a death – possibly that of Abigail Adams. The Adams correspondence, addressed to John Marston and dated December 1818, is a thank you letter for taking care of his father, John Adams, after the death of his mother, Abigail Adams. (These two letters were appraised and deemed to be contemporary copies)

The bulk of the next series, John Marston III papers 1816-1866, contains official correspondence, orders to duty, and circulars. These papers relate to Marston’s duties as Captain of the USS Roanoke and senior official of the North Atlantic Blockade Squadron Hampton Roads, VA, during the War Between the States. Other material in this series includes third party correspondence from some major Civil War figures including Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles, Secretary of State Seward, Secretary of Treasury Salmon P. Chase, and General George B. McClellan. Newspaper clippings relating to the Civil War and the death of Admiral John Marston are also part of this series.

John Marston V’s papers, 1885-1932, are for the most part personal letters to his parents, John Marston IV and Annie Randall Marston, and to his son John Marston VI. Other materials include a letter to Elizabeth Marston, correspondence with Christ Church of Lexington, Kentucky, letters from the Massachusetts Historical Society, and an obituary written about his wife Mary Roberts Marston.

John Marston VI’s papers are split into two groups: professional and personal. The largest group is John Marston’s professional papers which relate to the years he spent in the United States Marine Corps. These papers include official correspondence, reports, and orders dealing with Marston’s military career.
Marston’s personal papers consist of letters written by different members of the Marston family. Noteworthy among them are his correspondence with his son-in-law Manly Lamar Curry, an officer in the Marines, and his Uncle H. Goodwin Green, Sussex, England, during and after World War II. Other materials in the series are medals, awards, letters and publications from clubs and societies, a passport, newspaper clippings, a play, and a church program.

John Marston VII’s papers include a copy of his birth certificate, letters written to his father John Marston VI, and three awards he received while in high school.

All the publications that came with this collection belonged to General John Marston VI. These include six pamphlets about Iceland and his command there, The Garnet and White, a book called The Art of War, a booklet written by Private William Rowan for General Marston, excerpts from wartime speeches by Winston Churchill, two wildlife publications, a pamphlet from the California Historical Society, and a pamphlet published by the New Zealand Guard.

The two scrapbooks contain newspaper clippings from the late 19th century and the photographs are of the Marston family. The bulk of the photographs are of John Marston VI’s military career. Some rare tintypes and glass plates are included with the photographs. One of the tintypes is a picture of a black Union soldier.

Oversize material, maps, newspapers, and encapsulated papers are listed on the separation record.
### Marston Family Papers

#### Container List

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<td>Copy of Manuscript: Descendents of John Marston, Master Mariner</td>
<td>1628-1936</td>
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<td>Diary: Henry Marston; map of plantation</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Helen Marston: correspondence and journal extracts</td>
<td>1823-1841</td>
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<td>Ward Marston: correspondence and military history</td>
<td>1850-1882</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Mary Marston: correspondence</td>
<td>1839-1843</td>
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<td>Matthew Randall Marston: correspondence and drawing</td>
<td>1835-1869</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Frank Marston: correspondence and contract</td>
<td>1863-1880</td>
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<td>C. Dallas Marston: letter from</td>
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<td>E.C. Adams: letter from</td>
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#### John Marston II Papers 1808-1826

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<td>Letter from Thomas Jefferson</td>
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<td>John Quincy Adams to Marston</td>
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<td>James Thatcher to Marston</td>
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#### John Marston III Papers 1816-1866

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<td>Matthew Randall to Marston</td>
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<td>Logs, records, correspondence while Captain U.S.S. Cumberland</td>
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<td>3rd Party correspondence while Commodore U.S.N. Boston</td>
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<td>Secretary of State Seward, letter copies</td>
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<td>Secretary of Treasury Chase, letter copy from</td>
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<td>General George B. McClellan, letter copy to</td>
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<td>Correspondence with Parents 1885</td>
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<td>Correspondence with John VI 1918-40</td>
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<td>Correspondence with Elizabeth Marston 1933</td>
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<td>Christ Church 1934</td>
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<td>Massachusetts Historical Society 1934</td>
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<td>Obituary: Mary Roberts Marston (wife of John Marston V) 1932</td>
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<td>Official Orders 1940 - Brigadier General, 1944 - Major General 1940-1944</td>
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<td>Correspondence with John Seymour Letcher (son-in-law) 1944-1949</td>
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<td>Correspondence with Manly Lamar Curry (son-in-law) 1933-37</td>
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<td>3.9</td>
<td>Correspondence with Mary Marston Curry (daughter) 1941-1957</td>
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<td>3.10</td>
<td>Correspondence with Anna Marston Green (sister) 1943-1952</td>
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<td>Correspondence with H. Goodwin Green (great uncle) of Sussex, England</td>
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<td>Correspondence with Louis J. Kohlmer (restored 4 family portraits) 1946</td>
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<td>Correspondence with Henry Marston (cousin) of Louisiana 1933-1934</td>
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<td>Correspondence with Henry Ward Marston (uncle) 1947</td>
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<td>Last will and correspondence about the will of K.L.G. Marston (aunt) 1941</td>
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<td>Correspondence with Aunt May 1950's</td>
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<td>Correspondence with Abbie M. McLelland (cousin) 1948-49</td>
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<td>Correspondence with Louise M Sturtevant (cousin) 1944-50</td>
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<td>Will of Mary Warden (cousin) about 1940</td>
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**Papers re Memberships and Awards**

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<th>Section</th>
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<tr>
<td>4.1</td>
<td>Medals earned by John Marston VI 1963</td>
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<td>4.2</td>
<td>letter to Elizabeth Marston Letcher (daughter) 1963</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.3</td>
<td>Clubs and Societies of which John Marston VI was a member</td>
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</table>
Awards - Red Cross and Diploma (officer's field course) and Printed Material

Newspaper Clippings and other miscellaneous papers

Special Passport - John Marston VI

Play - "Double Exposure"

Church Program - Camp Lejeune

Club Publication and Membership Cards

**John Marston VII Papers 1935-1955**

1. Birth Certificate (copy) [born in 1917] 1940
2. Letters to John VI (father) 1935-1940
3. Letters to John VI (father) 1940-1955
4. Awards

Publications

1. Iceland: pictured with Churchill while inspecting the troops
2. Fraternity: the Garnet and the White (publication of Alphi Chi Rho)

China

Winston Churchill - excerpts from wartime speeches (booklet)

Wildlife

California Historical Society

New Zealand Home Guard publication with comic illustrations

**Correspondence Additions**

1. The family at Quincey & Taunton, 1740 - 1802
2. the family at Quincey & Taunton, 1843 - 1922
3. John Marston of Quincey
4. Letters: Admiral John Marston
5. Letters to Admiral John Marston
6. Letters, John & Amie Marston
7. Genealogical Information on Marston Family
8. Old letters & documents, prior 1800
9. John Marston--Log of European trip, 1897
10. Recollections--John Marston--Rear Admirals, USN 1813-1862
11. Marston Family Tree
12. Miscellaneous documents
13. Handmade booklets
14. Unknown Correspondence
15. Correspondence
16. Copy of diary from John Marston, Sr., 1816

**Photographs**

**Marston Family - People**

1. John III 1864
1A. Ward Marston (brother to John III)
2. Unidentified people: 3 photos - 2 boys, 1 young girl
3. Unidentified people: 4 photos - 1 soldier, 1 man, 2 young boys, 3 boys and dog
4. Unidentified Union soldiers - Susquehanna Depot March 1874
5. Unidentified Black Union soldier
6. Unidentified Black Woman 1875
7. Unidentified group of civilian men
8. John Marston I
9. Elizabeth Marston (wife of John Marston I)
6 10 John Marston, Maj. Gen. pictured as 2nd Lt, USMC
6 11 John Marston III
6 12 John Marston III
6 13 John Marston IV
6 14 John Marston V
6 15 John Marston V
6 16 Annie Marston
6 17 Mary [John]
6 18 John Marston VI (4 photos)
6 18A John Marston VI as infant
6 19 John Marston VI with unidentified woman (nurse?)
6 20 John Marston VII
6 21 Lamar Curry (3 photos) Korea and Philippines
6 22 H. Goodwin Green and Wayside Sussex, England (5 photos)
6 23 Gen. Rockey and Gen. Uchida - Gen Rockey received surrender of Gen Uchida Tientsin North China (5 photos)
6 24 Unidentified Woman
6 25 John V and family

Other Than People
6 26 U.S.S. Constitution at Newport, Rhode Island
6 27 Family Coat of Arms
6 28 Flowers (Norfolk, VA) John VI
6 29 Marston Family Furniture willed to John VI by his Aunt Kate
6 30 Church at Newport, RI [separated: glass negative]
6 31 Church: Korea (4 photos)
6 32 Unidentified house (3 photos)
6 33 Postcards

Negatives
6 34 John IV & V (3 negatives)
6 35 John VI at Home
6 36 John VI at Home
6 37 John VI and wife
6 38 John VI and unidentified people
6 39 Miscellaneous shots
6 40 John VI and miscellaneous shots
6 41 John VI: House in Norfolk
6 42 John VI: House and garden in Norfolk
6 43 Unidentified House

Large Photographs
6 44 Elizabeth Greenwood Marston (reproduction)
6 45 John Marston II and wife Anna Randall (reproduction)
6 46 John Marstons: III, IV, V
6 48 John Marstons: IV, V (reproduction)
6 49 Uncle Henry
6 50 Edward and Marion Strong 1883
6 51 Unidentified People
6 52 Aunt Katie

John Marston VI
6 53 Major General USMC John Marston VI
6 54 Gen. Marston with F.D.R.
6 55 Gen. Marston
6 56 Gen. Marston with wife Elizabeth
6 57 Gen. Marston with other officers
6 58 Gen. Marston at mess with other officers
6 59 Gen. Marston at a reception
6 60 Gen. Marston with two Marines
6 61 Gen. Marston with two officers
6 62 Gen. Marston at a parade
6 63 Gen. Marston with others in posed picture 1935
6 64 Gen. Marston with others in posed picture
6 65 Gen. Marston at undetermined place
6 66 Gen. Marston - senior school quantico
6 68 Portraits of President of Nicaragua 1923
6 69 Unidentified Woman
6 70 Franklin Place, Boston - home of John Marston II
6 71 picture of bridge with John Marston's name on it 1917
6 72 John Marston's house in Norfolk
6 73 Award given to 20th Century Fox by 2nd Marine Division, Maj. Gen. Marston commanding
6 74 Unidentified house
6 75 Bahle landscapes and ships (reproductions)
6 76 unidentified buildings

**Negatives**

6 77 Family Tree
6 78 John Marston VI
6 79 John Marstons: VI, VII
6 80 Family Neg.

**Scrapbooks**

7 1 Loose items removed from Scrapbook 2 (See detailed list in appendix 1)
7 Scrapbook 1 - clippings relating to the nation's centennial celebration late 19th century
7 Scrapbook 2 (Religion, family telegrams, newspaper clippings, obituaries, Poetry, Politics, History, Statistics and Miscellany) mid-19th century
MARSTON FAMILY PAPERS
APPENDIX 1

Folder 1  Marston Family Material
  Description of Marston coat of arms
  Recipes
  Obituary—Anna DeWolf Middleton
  Frank Marston—confirmation, wedding announcement
  Pencil sketch
  Wedding trunk label
  Marriages
  M.R. Marston death notice
  Engraving—House in Quincy, Massachusetts

John Marston Material
  Clippings
  Photo, dog Fidel, 1885
  Letter, short memoir
  Invitation, Women’s Christian Association

Colonial Material
  Letter to the editor, signed “Neptune,” August 20, 1883
  Engraving, battle of USS Constitution and Cyane
  Clipping
  Poem, “Battle of Bunker Hill”
  Map, Battlefield of Princeton
  Engraving, Fairman’s Mansion & Treaty Tree
  Engraving, John Rodgers, United States Navy
  Color print, Bristol

Drawing, Surrender of Fort Hatteras, August 1861

Newspaper clippings
  “Decatur’s Letter,” January 18, 1815

Prints
  Pyramids of Egypt
  Middle East
John Marston VI & Family Papers #293

Folder 1 Encapsulated Material
   Story by Matthew Randall Marston
   Poem written for John Marston III
   Louisa Marston, Miss Burgess Academy, 1806

Folder 2 Maps
   Nicaragua—John Marston VI
   3 maps of Old Boston—Home of John Marston II

Folder 3 Newspapers
   Old
   New York Republican 1848
   Boston Press and Post 1856
   Boston Daily Times 1856
   Patriot and Democrat 1841
   Daily National Intelligencer 1841

Folder 4 Newspapers
   New
   The Peking Chronicle 1939
   The Camp Lejeune Globe 1946
   Boston Sunday Post 1948