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NARES COLLECTION

MG 29, B 12

Finding Aid No. 208 / Instrument de recherche no 208

Revised by Mrs. Janine Roy of the
Socio-Economic Section in 1974,
and amended in 1982 by James F.
Kidd of the Social and Cultural
Archives.

Révisé par Mme Janine Roy de la
Section socio-économique en 1974,
et mis à jour en 1982 par James F.
Kidd des Archives sociales et
culturelles.

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Originals, 1802-1898, 1904. 32.5 cm. Finding Aid No. 208.

Captain George Strong Nares (1831-1915) was educated at the Royal Navy College and joined the Navy in 1848. He was the mate of H.M.S. RESOLUTE on the Arctic expedition of 1852 and later served in the Crimea. He was subsequently employed in surveying the north west coast of Australia and also saw service in the Mediterranean. While in command of H.M.S. CHALLENGER, 1872-1874, he made a voyage around the world for the purpose of deep sea exploration. In 1875 he led an Arctic expedition which sailed in H.M.S. ALERT and H.M.S. DISCOVERY and in recognition of his services he was made a K.C.B. He surveyed the Straits of Magellan in 1878 and eight years later he retired from active service.

With the exception of the Arctic cairn records the papers were acquired from P.H. Rolleston of London, England in 1959. The Arctic cairn records of G.S. Nares of 12 August and 29 July 1875 were transferred by the R.C.M.P. in 1939. The other Arctic cairn records were transferred by the Department of Resources and Development in 1953 and 1955.

A map of Ellesmere Island found with Lt. Pelhan Aldrich's record of 24 May 1876 was transferred to the National Map Collection.

Finding Aid No. 208 is a descriptive list covering all sections of the collection.

Journals, 1875-1876. 10 cm (volume 1).

Miscellaneous notes, copies of correspondence, location entries, and documents relating to the inquiry into the scruvy epidemic which broke out among Nares' men.

Log books (2), 1875-1876. 5 cm (volume 2).

Captain's log, 15 April 1875 - 11 August 1876.

Letterbook, 24 February - 4 December 1876. 2.5 cm (volume 3).

Copies of letters and memos.

Remark book, 1875-1876 Arctic Expedition.

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Correspondence, 1876-1877, 1885. 2.5 cm (volume 3).

Letters received and copies of letters sent regarding personnel and equipment of the expedition, correspondence with the Admiral and others and memoranda to individual officers of the expedition.

Miscellaneous, 1865-1896, 1904. 5 cm (volume 4).

Letterbook and remark book relating to survey work in the the Pacific by H.M.S. SALAMANDER, 1865-1867; draft report on the survey of the Straits of Magellan, 1879; algebra examination; "The Soul of a Nation" Times Reprint, 1904, of article on Japan; documents relating to a coconut plantation on Castle Island, B.W.I., 1882-1886.

Nares, W.H., 1802-1806. 2.5 cm (volume 4).

Journal of the proceedings of H.M.S. HYDRA, 1802-1806, kept by Midshipman W.H. Nares. The journal records the blockage duties performed by the HYDRA, in the Mediterranean and along the Atlantic coasts of Europe during the Napoleonic Wars.

Nares, G.E., 1896-1898. 2.5 cm (volume 4).

Journal kept by Lieutenant G.E. Nares while in command of H.M.S. PENGUIN on survey work in the Pacific concerning a voyage from Australia to Honolulu and surveying of Fanning and Palmyra Islands, 1896-1898.

Arctic Cairn Records, 1875-1876. 20 pages (volume 5).

Records left by G.S. Nares at Cape Isabella of 29 July 1875 and Washington Irving Island 12 August 1875 were found by R.C.M.P. Lieutenant Fyfe in 1939. Lieutenant Pelham Aldrich's record of 28 April 1876 and a small prayer book were found on Crozier Island by G. Hattersley-Smith and R.G. Blackadar in 1953. G. Hattersley-Smith and R.L. Christie located a record and a manuscript map by Lt. P. Aldrich at cape Fenshawe Martin 1954.

The Nares Collection is also available on microfilm, reels A-394, A-395 and C-3893 except for volume 5 the Arctic cairn records and some correspondence in volume 3 which has not been microfilmed.

October 1982
J. Kidd

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Social/Cultural Archives

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VOLUME 1 (MICROFILM REEL A-394):

Capt. George S. Nares - Arctic expedition, 1875-1876.

Private journal, 29 May 1875-25 October 1876, in two volumes, each containing some miscellaneous notes and copies of correspondence:

Notes, etc. preceding the journal

Information on Wellington Channel obtained from accounts of previous expeditions;

Monthly coal used on H.M.S. ALERT;

Sketch map, Cape Sabine depot;

Travelling provisions (sledge parties);

Types and dimensions of boats;

Letter to Capt. H. Stephenson of H.M.S. DISCOVERY, 1 October 1875.
Anchorage, ice conditions, location, operation.;

Letters to Stephenson, 4 March 1875; and 4 May 1876;

Letter to Lt. Lewis A. Beaumont of H.M.S. DISCOVERY, 2 August 1876;

Letter to Surgeon Richard W. Coppinger of H.M.S. DISCOVERY, 3 May 1876.

Other notes, etc. interspersed or following the journal

Duke of Argyle, 4 January 1877;

Arctic sledging;

Notes when travelling;

Newspaper clippings relating to the Arctic (includes a letter from John Rae to the Times dated 27 May);

Poem "On the return of the sledges"

VOLUME 2 (MICROFILM REEL A-394):

Capt. George S. Nares - Arctic expedition, 1875-1876 (cont'd)

Captain's log, 15 April 1875-11 August 1876. Location entries are given for 15-17 April; formal entries begin 29 May 1875.

VOLUME 3 (MICROFILM REEL A-394):

Letterbook, 24 February 1875-4 December 1876.

Index at end giving the main subjects.

From February until the end of May 1875, the letters are chiefly to the Commander-in-Chief as to personnel and equipment of the expedition. Some correspondence chiefly with the Admiralty follows. After 22 July, the book is taken up with orders and memoranda to individual officers of the expedition or for circulation, much of it having to do with the sledging parties sent out. One of 16 June 1876 notifies the officer that owing to the outbreak of scurvy the work will be terminated.

Remark book, 1875-1876.

This book contains a good deal of material on the official enquiry into the scurvy epidemic. Nares denies that the men were overweighted but assumes full responsibility for omitting the lime juice ration which had been ordered, his reason being the amount of fuel which would have been required by each party to melt the juice;

Remarks by Commander Albert H. Markham of H.M.S. DISCOVERY can be found at the end of the book. They relate to Arctic travelling and contain an analysis of equipment and suggestions for improving it.

VOLUME 3 (MICROFILM REEL A-395):

Capt. George S. Nares - Arctic expedition, 1875-1876 (cont'd)

Correspondence, 1875-1876, 1885.

Expedition:

Letters to Nares from:

Lt. Pelham Aldrich, H.M.S. DISCOVERY, 24 April 1876

Encl.: Aldrich to Lt. G.A. Giffard, n.d.

Lt. Pelham Aldrich, H.M.S. DISCOVERY, n.d.

Capt. Henry F. Stephenson, H.M.S. DISCOVERY, 26 March 1876;

30 March 1876; 6 April 1876; 9 May 1876; 21 May 1876;

6 August 1876; 13 August 1876; "Sunday", n.d.

Lt. Lewis A. Beaumont, H.M.S. DISCOVERY, Repulse Harbour, Greenland,

28 April 1876; (first part missing), May 1876.

Surgeon Richard W. Coppinger, 7 May 1876

Notes by Pelham Aldrich, 5-10 Apr. [1876]

H.W.F. [Fielden], naturalist, Depot Point, 15 May 1876

Sub-Lt. George Egerton, Depot Point, 15 May 1876

Royal Geographical Society, 4 November 1876

VOLUME 3 (MICROFILM REEL A-395), cont'd.

Capt. George S. Nares - Arctic expedition, 1875-1876 (cont'd.)

Correspondence, 1875-1876, 1885

Expedition:

Letters to Nares from:

George Ward Hunt, Admiralty, 6 November 1876

Encl.: H.F. Ponsonby, 6 November 1876, expressing the Queen's thanks to the members of the expedition. Copy

Geographical Society of Paris, 17 November 1876

Royal Geographical Society, 28 November 1876

Admiralty, 5 June 1877. Official opinion on scurvy, with summons of 8 January to attend the enquiry

Drafts of reply to above

H.M.S. ALERT:

Extracts from the journal

The Navy, vol. V., no. 133. Article critical of the expedition

Game lists

List of those who made presents to the expedition of books, money, or other comforts.

Sketch maps

Geographical society of Austria - presentation to Nares

Return of the flag by U.S.:

File on the return by the United States in 1885 of a flag left by L.A. Beaumont at Repulse Bay and found by Sergeant Brainhard of the Lady Franklin expedition. This flag was returned by the United States as a tribute to the courage of the men of the expedition.

Draft of a letter by Nares [1875] (not microfilmed with the correspondence) on H.M.S. CHALLENGER paper.

VOLUME 4 (MICROFILM REEL C-3893):

Capt. George S. Nares - Miscellaneous, 1865-1886.

H.M.S. SALAMANDER

Letterbook, 1865-1867;

Remark book, 1865-1867.

Draft report, Magellan Straits survey, 1879.

Algebra examination

"The Soul of a Nation", reprint from The Times, 4 Oct. 1904.

Coconut Plantation

Plans and letters (copies);

Castle Island, B.W.I:

Letter addressed to 'My dear Nares' from Captain Kennedy,
18 April ?, Sketch map enclosed.

Letter addressed to 'My dear Nares' from Captain Kennedy, 15 April 1882.

Draft letter to Capt. Kennedy from G.S. Nares, 16 May 1882.

Letter addressed to 'My dear Sir Geo. Nares' from Captain Kennedy,
20 June 1882.

Draft letter to Governor Lees from G.S. Nares, n.d.

Letter by A.T. Moseley, 18 September 1886.

Letter addressed to Sir George Nares from William Jas. Farquharson,
4 September 1882.

Letter addressed to Robert Butler from William Jas. Farquharson,
4 September 1882.

Letter addressed to William James Farquharson, no author, 28 March 1882.

VOLUME 4 (MICROFILM REEL C-3893):W.H. Nares

Journals, 1802-1806 (3 volumes).

Journal of the proceedings of H.M.S. CARYSFORT, 9 June-5 Nov. 1802

Journal of the proceedings of H.M.S. HYDRA, 20 Nov. 1802-31 Jan. 1806

Letter accompanying these volumes from Owen A. Nares to his brother George, 7 August 1906.

G.E. Nares

Journal, H.M.S. PENGUIN, 1896-1898.

VOLUME 5 (not microfilmed):Documents relating to the 1875-1876 Arctic expedition found in Arctic caches

Original and photostat copy of records left by Nares at Cape Isabella, 29 July 1875.

Original and photostat copy of record left by Nares at Washington Irvine Island in the eastern Arctic, 12 August 1875.

Original and photostat copies of records left by Lt. Pelham Aldrich, Nares' lieutenant, on Crozier Island, 18 April 1876 including a small prayerbook.

Original records left by Lt. Aldrich at a cairn on Crozier Island west of ALERT's winter quarters, 18 April 1876.

Original records and chart left by Lt. Aldrich on Crozier Island, 24 May 1876.