

USS Bennington Disaster Document Collection

Document includes entire file which contains, among others, the following:

1905 Mayor's (John L. Sehon, City of San Diego) Proclamation of memorial services for officers and sailors lost.

Mayor Pro tempore of the City of San Diego, A. E. Dodson, Adjutantdirection that the National Flag be raised at half mast upon all municipal buildings on July 21, 1910 in respect for the brave men who lost their lives on the Steamer "BENNINGTON"

Bennington Camp No. 20, Department of California, United Spanish War Veterans letter dated July 13 1910 from Hans F. Hirtz, Adjucant, to the Mayor of San Diego requesting his attention to the anniversary of the Bennington disaster on July 21 and the raising of flags to half mast.

Message from Mayor Recommending that City Officials attending dedication, Bennington Monument, in a body, etc. Document No. 20962 Filed December 30, 1907

July 28, 1905 letter from J, T. Butler, City Clerk, City of San Diego. to the City Council concerning the report of President Osborn being read into the minutes of the City Counsel and a copy of the San Diego Union or Tribune containing said report having been mailed to the nearest relative of each of the deceased sailors from the U.S.S. Bennington. Attached is a list, entitled "IDENTIFIED DEAD U. S. S. BENNINGTON" of the name and address of each of the parties to whom "a Marked" copy of a San Diego paper was mailed:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>Name and Address Nearest Relative or Friend</u>
Newcombe, J.	B.M.2.C.	Mrs. E. Barincoat, 94 Water St., Quincy, Mass.
Huges, B.A.	O'Sea.	W.G. Hughes, Clarksville, Texas.
Brownlee, G.	F. 2 C.	W.H. Brownlee, Ravenna, Texas.
Bensel, A.	F2c.	
Kamerer, A.	F. 2 C.	Jacob Kamerer, Londonville, Ohio.
Haggbloom, C.	C. P.	Gus Haggbloom, Leadville, Colo.
Parish, W. N.	C. P.	Mrs. Laura A. Burns, Nassau, California
Cherry, W. I.	C. P.	Jno. Cherry, Pacific Mo.
Geiss, F. J.	C. P.	Fred Krappman, Chicago, Ill., Gen. Delivery
Kuntz, C. J.	C. P.	Antone Kuntx, St. Louis, Mo.
Rushing, C. E.	C. P.	Clarence Rushing, Augusta, Mont.
Hilscher, J.	F. 1 C.	
Schoregge, A.H.	Sea.	Mrs. Ida Schoregge, New Ulm, Mass.
Savage, R. L.	O'Sea.	

Chambers, M. G.	Sea.	Mrs. P. E. Chambers, Lewiston, Idaho
Ezell, J.	S. C4 C.	Caroline Tye, Loss, Texas.
Hunt, J.	Oiler	J. W. Cassidy, 848 Battery St., San Francisco.
Burke, T.	M. M.1 C.	Jno. Burke, Amesburg, Mass.
Archer, L. B.	O'Sea.	Maggie V. Archer, Fowler, Colo.
Carpenter, P.	O'Sea	F. E. Carpenter, Anapahoe, Neb.
Brown, F. W.	M.M. 1 C.	Christian Brown, 751- W. 59th St., Chicago, ILL
Gauthier, L. J.	Ch.B. M.	Mary Gauthier, 28 Hudson St., Reading, Pa.
Clark, G. T.	Ch. M.M.	Mrs. Ann Clark, Bremerton, Washington.
Pollock, S. W.	F.2 C.	Mrs. J.T. Lynch, Callicoon Depot, Sullivan Co., N.J.
Morris, K. F.	Oiler	A. V. Morris, St. Ann St., Owensbore, Ky.
Stephenson, C. H.	F.2 C.	Marion Stephenson, Roseville Junction, Placer Co Calif.
Taylor, W.M.	Sea.	This. M. Taylor, 258 Decatur St., Atlanta, Ga.
Holland, D. N.	F. 2 C.	B. L. Holland, Samoa, Calif.
Conway, M.	F. 2 C.	Anthony Conway, Newport Co., Mayo, Ireland.
Decourtoni, F.	Oiler	F. Decourtoni, 603 Clement St., San Francisco.
Hoffman, E.C.	Bsmth	Ernest Hoffman, Austin, Texas.
McKone, J.	F. 1c	Charles McLone, New Lathrop, Michigan.
McKeon, C.O.	M.M.2 C.	P. C. Mcguire, Fenton, Mich.
Brunson, E. U.	Sea.	Miss Etine Nelson, Paw Paw, Lee Co., Ill.
Barchus, J.C.	O'Sea	Jno. Barchus, Clark & 15th St., New York.
Ferguson, E. B.	Ch.M.M.	Mary D. Ferguson, 1834 Memphis St.,Philadelphia
Brockman, C. W.	A'Sea.	W. L. Brockman, 1243 W. 39th St., Des Moines, Ia
Fickweiler, N.M.	Sea.	Ernest Fickweiler, 307 A St., La Porta, Ind.
Takata, S.	W.R.Cook	C. Takata, Tokio, Japan.
Olges, B.	F.1 C.	Joseph, Glen Louisville, Ky.
Carter, C.	F.2 C.	Mrs. Jas. Reed, Columbia, Tenn.
Dresch, E.	O'Sea.	Chas. Dresch, 570 1st Ave., Newark, N.J.
Quinn, M.G.	Oiler	Kate Quinn, 216 Pleasant St., Winthrop, Mass.
Burns, J.L.	Sea.	Mrs. J. Burns, 4944 State St., Chicago, Ill.
Carr, R. B.	A'Sea	Mrs. Mary H. Carr, 263 Walbridge Ave., Toledo, Ohio.
Saunders, H. F.	A'Sea	Mrs. R. T. Fellis, Springfield, Mo.
Kempton, J.W.	A'Sea	Osman B. Kempton, 136 S. Lincoln St., Loveland, Colo.
Robinson, E.B.	O'Sea.	Miss Hazel Robinson, Lakeport, Cal.
Smith, H. F.	O'Sea.	Thos. Smith, Harrisonville, Mo.
Archer, D. C.	A'Sea.	David Slattery, 1775 5th St., West Oakland, Cal
Willson, W.N.	A'Sea.	Mrs. T. B. Taylor, Santa Cruz, Calif.

Gorka, J.	A'Sea.	Mrs. M. Gorka, 521 Reed St., Milwaukee, Wis.
House, R. A.	A'Sea.	R. A. House, 627 Santa Fe St., Colorado Springs.
Grant, W. G.	C. P.	Gilbert T. Grant, 683 Sedgwick St., Chicago, Ill
Mosher, H.	C. P.	Henry Mosher, No. 36 Essex St., Newark, N.J.
Staub, W.	C. P.	Jacob Staub, Beloit, Ohio.
Kennedy, W. N.	A'Sea.	Lewis Kennedy, Alliance, Nebraska.
Nelson, C.	C. P.	Jas. Williams, 2313 Cedar St., Seattle, Wash.

Also attached is news article dated July 25, 1905 entitled "Tribute of City Council", "Body Adopts President Osborn's Report of Bennington Boys' Funerals", "Nearest Relative of Each Sailor to be Supplied With a Copy the Same.". The article includes the full text of President Osborne's report to Council. "

Document No. 10457, filed August 1, 1905 by J. T. Butler, City Clerk. "Report - City Clerk, - Mailing Copies of Pres. Osborne's "Memorial- deceased Sailors, U. S. Battleship Bennington." Filed by Council August 7, 1905. "(Put in U.S. Navy Box)" notation.

President John B. Osborne's four page, handwritten report read into the Council record:

"To our human hearts full to overflowing with love of honor and country, ever the constant source of love and sympathy, nothing is so sacredly dear as the last resting place of our Nation's departed heroes. It has been termed desolate but desolation has no place there; for it is enshrined in the Nation's heart of heart, the holy of holies, wherein rests those who have been the very bulwark of our defense in time that is past — For the boys are the hope of the world — and whose lives and magnificently heroic deaths are ever a perpetual inspiration and incentive for patriot lives to come.

It was my priceless privilege as a representative, self-appointed as it were, to this legislative branch of our municipal government to join with a great concourse of American men and women on far Point Loma yesterday afternoon, in a heartfelt but all too feeble tribute of loyal sympathy and loving respect to our Nation's valiant defenders who in the pride and promise of early manhood, met their death at their post of duties in that scalding hell of steam in the hold of the ill-fated Bennington; Heroes and patriots were they all to the death!

Crossing, in company with the Mayor and the heads of the various departments, the blue waters of San Diego harbor, sparkling in the brilliant sunshine of a perfect California Sunday noon, no human tongue or pen can fitly begin to describe the matchless beauty of the ever widening ?sc that after ur? left the grounds? of Fort Rosecrans held the delighted soul and eye spell bound

as it unfolded to us as we climbed gradually the conveyance most thoughtfully and courteously provided for the City Officials by Capt Scott, the Commandant, the rugged slope of Old Point Loma clad in all the primeval beauty of countless different shrubs and flowers until at last, on the very crest of the slope, kissed by the first bright glance of dawn, and the last slanting rays of the setting sun lies the charming little National Cemetery looking down upon the Mighty Pacific breaking in ceaseless silver surges upon Coronado's sandy shore, and the Calm, beautiful bay of San Diego encircling as with turquoise the City; and over all the rock ribbed and ancient mountains rise in hazy grandeur for an eternal background.

No one could wish for earthy couch more beautifully restful after the agony and strife of life is over than was prepared in this ideal spot for

“Those brave boys who were laid reverently and lovingly to rest, Comrades in life and death on that Sunday afternoon, committed to the kinder care of God and Country. May the Almighty rest their souls in peace, and the Nation and this our City in particular the same of their last fearful struggle, cherish their gallant lives, deaths, and last resting place in perpetual and fond memory.”

Respectfully Submitted,
(signed) John B. Osborne.

Four page, handwritten letter with cover. Document No. 10442, filed July 24, 1905: “Report. President John B. Osborne, In re. Funeral and Burial, Sailors Killed on U.S. battleship Bennington. Presented and read to Council. July 24th, 1905, and on motion ordered spread upon Minutes.”