

BROOKLYN | NAVY | YARD |

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives Guide to the Clarence Lyons papers 1899 – 1953 MC/18

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
Building 77, 141 Flushing Avenue, Suite 801, Brooklyn, NY 11205

Finding aid produced on: March 6, 2026
Description is in English.

Title

Clarence Lyons papers

Date

1899 – 1953

Description

This collection consists of one folder containing the professional papers of Clarence Lyons. These papers include discharge papers from the United States Navy, pension information, as well as information from the Veterans Administration regarding burial procedures for Mr. Lyons.

Admin Notes

This collection was donated by Joann Lyon McLennon in June 2012. It was processed by Chelsea Reil, Archives Assistant, in 2018. This collection has a collection documentation file and a finding aid.

Creator

Lyons, Clarence

1899 – 1953

Quantity

1 folder

Language Of Materials

English.

Call Number

MC/18

Administrative/Biographical History

The Brooklyn Navy Yard, officially known as the New York Naval Shipyard, has its origins in the Federal government's purchase of the land adjacent to Wallabout Bay for \$40,000 in 1801, and the subsequent conversion of the land into an active U.S. Navy shipyard five years later in 1806. Over the course of its history, more than 230 naval warships and auxiliary vessels were built at the Yard. Additionally, during World War II alone, more than 5,000 ships were repaired, overhauled, or converted at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The first ship built was the USS Ohio, launched in 1820, while the last ship launched was the USS Duluth (LPD-6) in 1965. Other historic vessels constructed or launched at the Navy Yard include Robert Fulton's steam frigate, the Fulton, the USS Arizona, the USS Missouri, and the USS Antietam.

In 1824, the Navy purchased an additional 25 acres near the Yard on which it established the Brooklyn Naval Hospital. The main hospital building was completed in 1838, and functioned until it was eventually closed in 1948. By 1850, the Hospital Annex was a self-contained parcel of land, walled-in, with a gatehouse, a laboratory, and a cemetery. In 1864, the Surgeon's Residence was constructed. When the shipyard expanded during World War II, it took over the land of the former Wallabout Market and the physical separation

between the Yard and the Hospital was eliminated.

During the Civil War, the Navy Yard employed about 6,000 people and by 1938 it provided jobs for over 10,000 people. During World War II nearly 70,000 people were employed at the Yard. By the end of the war, it had grown to encompass 291 acres with 270 major buildings, 24 miles of railroad tracks, 23,278 linear feet of crane tracks, 18 miles of paved roads, 16,495 feet of berthing space, 9 piers, 6 dry docks, and 22 shops housing 98 different trades.

In 1966, the Navy decommissioned the Yard and closed its active shipbuilding presence in Brooklyn, but retained residual administrative support functions as part of Naval Station New York, which occupied the former Hospital Annex and some adjacent buildings until it too was closed in 1989. In 1967, the City of New York acquired the Brooklyn Navy Yard for private commercial use.

Scope And Content

This collection consists of one folder containing the professional papers of Clarence Lyons. These papers include discharge papers from the United States Navy, pension information, as well as information from the Veterans Administration regarding burial procedures for Mr. Lyons.

System Of Arrangement

This collection has no arrangement.

Access And Use

Conditions Governing Access This collection is open for research.

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Preferred Citation Published citations should take the following form: Identification of item, date (if known); Clarence Lyons Papers; MC/18; Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives, Brooklyn, NY.

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