

P146 - Joseph Herman Molohon fonds
2003 (originals 1907-1909)
456 KB [textual records (electronic)]

Biographical sketch: Joseph Herman Molohon (1886-1957), son of James Leo and Susan Mary Molohon, was born on January 28, 1886 in Daviess County, Kentucky. Joseph Herman Molohon joined the US Navy in 1905, at age 19, and was discharged in October 1909. While with the Navy and working on the *SS Virginia*, Seaman Second Class Molohon, was involved in the fourteen month-long “Great White Fleet trip” around the world (part of Theodore Roosevelt’s policy of ‘Big Stick’ diplomacy.) After being discharged he moved to Brainerd, Minnesota, where worked in his future father-in-law's restaurant. On June 19, 1913 he married Margaret Barbara Herbert. They had 8 children. Molohon died July 15, 1957, in Mankato, Blue Earth County, Minnesota.

Scope and Content: The Joseph Herman Molohon fonds consists of transcripts of two Diaries (1 from [December, 1907](#) to December 31, 1908 and the second one for [1909](#)), attesting to his duties as Seaman Second Class on the *SS Virginia*, during the 14 month tour of the Great White Fleet (16 December 1907 to 22 February 1909). There are also notes on his daily work and activities after being discharged from the US Navy. Moreover the daily entries while on the *SS Virginia*, also document many events that took place either on the ship or within the fleet, that consisted of sixteen new battleships of the Atlantic Fleet. To name a few: President Roosevelt’s presence on ship; National Salute; and burial ceremony. Molohon also offered accounts of visits to different ports of call in countries such as Egypt, Japan, Australia and Trinidad.

Note: Immediate source of acquisition: Transcripts given, by Thomas James Molohon in January 2009

Location of originals: the original diaries are owned privately.

Availability in other formats: a hard copy of the transcripts is available in the archives.

Note: The diaries were transcribed by [Thomas James Molohon](#).; for more information on the ‘Great White Fleet’ <http://www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq42-1.htm>