National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

FINDING AID

ASSEMBLED PERSONAL PAPERS RELATING TO THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR AND THE HISTORY OF PUERTO RICO

1898-1992, undated(bulk dates: 1898-1907)

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HISTORY

The Assembled Personal Papers Collection consists of two donated collections (The Rafael W. Ramirez de Arellano Collection and the Gambell Collection), and an assembled collection of materials (The Records Related to the Spanish-American War) collected by the San Juan National Historic Site. It includes San Juan National Historic Site (SAJU) accessions 38, 91, and 148.

The Rafael W. Ramirez de Arellano Collection consists of materials donated by Rafael W. Ramirez de Arellano in 1961. Mr. Ramirez was a professor of Puerto Rican History at the University of Puerto Rico, an avid historian, and collector of items relating to the Spanish-American War. Additionally, he was an author and published several short historical narratives. The San Juan National Historic Site Archives houses Mr. Ramirez de Arellano's "La Ultima Tarde, 1964" and "La Calle Museo, 1967" in its rare books collection.

The Gambell Collection, 1900-1981, consists of records created by U.S. Army Captain Ralph E. Gambell during his tenure at the San Juan Military Post. Captain Gambell began his military career in 1898 by joining the U.S. Military Pennsylvania 5th Regiment as a volunteer during the Spanish-American War. In 1901, he was assigned to the Porto Rico Provisional Regiment of Infantry stationed at San Juan. On December 1, 1903 he was promoted to the First Lieutenancy and on July 1, 1904 he was again promoted to Captain Gambell, where he was given command of Castillo San Felipe del Morro fortress at San Juan. Like other military families of the time, Captain Gambell, his wife Helen, and their two young children, Eleanor and Baynard, lived on the San Juan Military Post. From 1901-1909, the couple lived relatively typical early 20th century lives, attending social events and engagements. According to his obituary, in 1909 Captain Gambell contracted tuberculosis in Puerto Rico and was sent to the government post at Bayard, New Mexico. He passed away shortly after, at age 42. This collection was donated to San Juan National Historic Site by Captain Gambell's children, Bayard H. Gambell and Eleanor H. Gambell, in 1981.

The Records Related to the Spanish-American War, 1898-1992, is a collection of materials assembled by the Park Historian Milagros Flores around 2000. The topical arrangement of materials consists of secondary sources relating to the Spanish-American War and captures the ideological issues and themes of the era.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

ASSEMBLED PERSONAL PAPERS RELATING TO THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR AND THE HISTORY OF PUERTO RICO
1898-1992, undated (bulk dates: 1898-1907)

CATALOG NUMBER SAJU 18627

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DESCRIPTION

These records document the activities associated with the Spanish American War and the advent of the U.S. Military Post at San Juan, Puerto Rico. Spanning primarily from 1898-1906, the Assembled Personal Papers Collection offers three different views of the Spanish American War, two firsthand accounts and one created from the gathering of secondary sources from the time period.

The Ramirez Collection's telegrams, proclamations, and maps provide firsthand accounts of the military activities during the U.S. military's approximate five month campaign in Puerto Rico. The records chronicle strategic maneuvers of the American Army and provide details of the steps taken to fight for and occupy Puerto Rico during the Spanish-American War. Strengths of this collection include telegrams written by major players in the Puerto Rican arena, such as General Nelson Miles and General John Rutter Brooke, and prominent Puerto Rican figures Governor General Manuel Macias and Robert H. Todd. Other strengths include two situation-location maps drawn by Lt. Henry H. Whitney, who impersonated a British Merchant Marine officer and reported on the Spanish forces to the U.S. Army's Bureau of Military Intelligence.

The Gambell Collection depicts the personal experience of Army Captain Ralph E. Gambell and his family while living on the U.S. Military Post in San Juan, Puerto Rico from 1901-1909. The collection of invitations, photographs, and postcards provides insight into the daily experiences and

social aspects of living on base in the early days of the San Juan Military Post. The collection includes a marriage certificate and obituary notices for Ralph E. and Helen Gambell and a birth certificate for Baynard Gambell, born at the San Juan Military Post Hospital in 1906. One of the strengths of the collection is the photographs and family portraits of Captain Gambell, his wife Helen, their daughter Eleanor, and son Baynard, and sights of San Juan. The majority of the photographs are of San Juan, while others depict Puerto Rico outside of the San Juan Military Post and some date after Ralph E. Gambell's death.

The Records Related to the Spanish-American War include secondary source materials published during and shortly after the Spanish-American War. These materials display the ideas and feelings of the era and the information the general public was receiving during and after the Spanish-American War.

While the majority of the Assembled Personal Papers are in English, the collection does include several documents in Spanish and one document in French.

ORGANIZATION

The collection is organized into three series: Series I, Rafael W. Ramirez de Arellano Collection; Series II, Gambell Collection; Series III, Records Related to the Spanish American War. Each series is arranged into subseries.

For organization and arrangement information on the series level, consult that series' scope and content note.

PROVENANCE

The current finding aid represents an integration of three sets of materials -- two donated collections, and one assembled subject collection, accessions 38, 91, and 148 respectively.

The Rafael W. Ramirez de Arellano Collection was donated to the San Juan National Historic Site Archives by Rafael W. Ramirez in two separate donations in February, 1961. The first donation, on February 2, 1961, included an oversized map detailing the U.S. invasion route, an original sketch map of defenses of San Juan Harbor (1898), and an original sketch map of Puerto Rico, with handwritten notes describing conditions and inhabitants along the south coast. A donation on February 14, 1961 consisted of an additional 15 items, mostly telegrams and proclamations from the

Spanish-American War.

In 1961 these items were sent to the National Archives for authentication, and preservation treatment. The correspondence was authenticated and two maps were identified as created by Captain Whitney. According to correspondence in SAJU Accession file 38, the items were "cleaned, de-acidified and laminated by the National Archives. The paper backing on some of them has been removed along with the glue and replaced with a special adhesive and non-acid paper." The 17-foot map, Map of the Vicinity of Arroyo and Guayama, Puerto Rico, showing the Route Followed by U.S. Forces, 1898, was sent to Harper's Ferry for preservation treatment in 1998.

The Whitney maps from the Ramirez Collection were featured in a Business Puerto Rico article entitled "A Spy Named Whitney," 2007, by Milagros Flores Roman.

The second record series, the Gambell Collection, had been previously cataloged into four collections: paper materials, photographs and postcards, invitations, and museum objects. Photographs and postcards were taken out and placed into the photograph collections and a sword and scabbard were added to the San Juan National Historic Site museum collection. For this processing project the photographs and postcards were returned to the original collection. The museum objects will remain in the museum collection.

The third series, Records Relating to the Spanish-American War, is an assembled collection of materials gathered by Park Historian Milagros Flores. The materials were housed in the SAJU Archives in an oversized drawer labeled "1898." There is little information in the accession file #148 and there is no record of how the San Juan National Historic Site came to own these materials.

RESTRICTIONS NO

ASSOCIATED MATERIALS "La Ultima Tarde", Rafael W. Ramirez de Arellano, 1964, Catalog No. 0494

"La Calle Museo", Rafael W. Ramirez de Arellano, 1967, Catalog No. 580

Saber (Early 20th Century), Catalog No. 1954

Scabbard (Early 20th Century), Catalog No. 1955

HIERARCHY

I. SERIES I: RAFAEL W. RAMIREZ DE ARELLANO COLLECTION, 1898-1921

A. SUBSERIES A: CORRESPONDENCE AND TELEGRAMS, 1898, 1921

B. SUBSERIES B: PROCLAMATIONS, 1898

C. SUBSERIES C: MAPS, 1898

II. SERIES II: GAMBELL COLLECTION, 1900-1940, 1981

A. SUBSERIES A: VITAL RECORDS, 1898-1940

B. SUBSERIES B: EPHEMERA, 1898-1940, 1981

III. SERIES III: RECORDS RELATED TO THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR, 1898-1992, undated

A. SUBSERIES A: ILLUSTRATIONS AND ARTICLES, 1898-1992, undated

B. SUBSERIES B: MAPS, 1898-1905, undated

SERIES DESCRIPTIONS

I. *SERIES I: RAFAEL W. RAMIREZ DE ARELLANO COLLECTION, 1898-1921*

This series is arranged into three subseries: Subseries A, Correspondence and Telegrams; Subseries B, Proclamations; and Subseries C, Maps.

These records chronicle the actions of the U.S. Army during the Spanish American War and are associated with General Miles, his agent, Captain Whitney, and various other Spanish-American War figures.

A. *SUBSERIES A: CORRESPONDENCE AND TELEGRAMS, 1898, 1921*

Arranged chronologically

This subseries includes numerous telegrams from May-September of 1898 describing the decisions and tactics, the movement and potential peace negotiations of the U.S. Military during the Puerto Rican campaign. Telegrams include communications from Puerto Rican Governor General Manuel Macias and Robert H. Todd, a prominent leader of the Puerto Rican section of the Cuban Revolutionary Party, and U.S. Army Generals Nelson Miles and John R. Brooke. It also includes a letter from Charles K. Darling describing his experience in the U.S. Army in Cayey, Puerto Rico.

B. *SUBSERIES B: PROCLAMATIONS, 1898*

Arranged chronologically

This subseries includes the article “El Bombardeo de Puerto Rico” and a proclamation to the People of San German from Mayor Francisco Pagan. The newspaper clipping is written in Spanish and the proclamation in English.

C. *SUBSERIES C: MAPS, 1898*

Arranged chronologically

This subseries includes four maps depicting the movements of the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War. Two of the maps were drawn by Henry H. Whitney, as he impersonated a British merchant marine officer and have been authenticated by the National Archives.

II. *SERIES II: GAMBELL COLLECTION, 1900-1940, 1981*

This series is arranged into two subseries: Subseries A, Vital Records; and Subseries B, Ephemera.

This series describes the experiences of Captain Ralph E. Gambell and his family while living at the San Juan military post. It includes photographs, correspondence, postcards, and event invitations. Additional materials include posthumous records and photographs created after Captain Gambell's death in 1909.

A. *SUBSERIES A: VITAL RECORDS, 1898-1940*

Arranged by record type and chronologically thereunder

These records include Captain Ralph E. Gambell and Helen Horton's marriage license, the birth certificate of Bayard Gambell, 1906, and the obituary clippings of Captain Ralph and Helen Gambell.

B. *SUBSERIES B: EPHEMERA, 1898-1940, 1981*

Arranged chronologically

This subseries includes photographs, invitations to events, blank postcards, a snap shot booklet, and a letter from Helen to her mother. Most of the photographs date from the early 1900's during the Gambell family's stay at the San Juan military post. The photographs also depict scenes outside San Juan and three Polaroid photos from 1981. The majority of the photographs have descriptions on the reverse.

III. *SERIES III: RECORDS RELATED TO THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR, 1898-1992, undated*

This series is arranged into two subseries: Subseries A, Illustrations; and Subseries B, Articles and Maps.

This series contains secondary source material related to the Spanish American War. It contains materials from both the Puerto Rican and American perspectives.

A. *SUBSERIES A: ILLUSTRATIONS AND ARTICLES, 1898-1992, undated*

Arranged chronologically

This subseries includes numerous illustrations and articles from "Harper's Weekly", "Harper's Pictorial History of the War with Spain", and "Leslie's Weekly" related to the Spanish-American War. Also included are full editions of "Harper's Weekly" and "Scientific American" from 1898. There is a collection of political cartoons from the Spanish American War, "Coleccion Martinez, Cronicas - Notas de la Guerra del 1898 en Puerto Rico, 1946", Puerto Rican Chronicles of 1898 invasion and one sign. This

subseries contains materials written in Spanish, and a copy of “L'Illustration” magazine, published in French.

B. *SUBSERIES B: MAPS, 1898-1905, undated*

Arranged chronologically

The majority of the subseries are military maps, but additional materials include a chart of San Juan Harbor, a map of public lands in Puerto Rico, and a map indicating the number of dredging stations surrounding Puerto Rico. The materials are written in English and Spanish.

CONTAINER LIST

SERIES 1: RAFAEL W. RAMIREZ DE ARELLANO COLLECTION, 1898-1921
SUBSERIES A: CORRESPONDENCE AND TELEGRAMS, 1898, 1921

Drawer 1

Folder 1: Telegrams to R.H. Todd from Directo Ray Stone Roads, May, 1898
Folder 2: Telegram to Hanna from Cridler, June 23, 1898
Folder 3: Telegrams to Lt. Ramery and Aibonito Forces from General Williamson, August 12, 1898
Folder 4: Telegrams to Captain General Macias from Major General Nelson A. Miles, August 13, 17, 1898
Folder 5: Telegrams to Governor General Macias Casado from Generals Brooke and Miles, August 14, 1898
Folder 6: Telegrams to Captain General Macias from Major General Nelson A. Miles, August 28, 1898
Folder 7: Telegram to Captain General, September 7, 1898
Folder 8: Evacuation of the Island of Puerto Rico, November 12, 1898
Folder 9: Letter to Dr. Don Jose Lugo Vina from Charles K. Darling, 1921

SUBSERIES B: PROCLAMATIONS, 1898

Drawer 1

Folder 1: El Bombardeo de Puerto Rico, 1898
Folder 2: Proclamation to the People of San German from Mayor Francisco Pagan, 1898

SUBSERIES C: MAPS, 1898

Drawer 1

Folder 1: Map of Puerto Rico, Vieques, Culebra, St. Thomas, and Santa Cruz in Pencil, Drawn by Whitney, 1898
Folder 2: Map of the Vicinity of Arroyo and Guayama, Puerto Rico, Showing the Route Followed by U.S. Forces, 1898
Folder 3: Sketch Map, City of San Juan, Puerto Rico, With Shoreline to Eastward, Drawn by Whitney, 1898
Folder 4: Sketch Map of Guayama and Vicinity, Showing the Location of Spanish Strongholds, and Route of March Made by Brig Gen. Hains, 1898

SERIES II: GAMBELL COLLECTION, 1898-1940, 1981

SUBSERIES A: VITAL RECORDS, 1898-1940

Box 1

Folder 1: Birth Certificate, Bayard Gambell, 1906
Folder 2: Marriage License, Ralph E. Gambell and Helen B. Horton (1898), 1910
Folder 3: Obituaries, Captain Ralph E. Gambell, Helen Gambell, 1909

SUBSERIES B: EPHEMERA, 1898-1940, 1981

Box 1

Folder 1: Photographs, 1900-1940, 1981
Folder 2: Correspondence, Helen to Her Family, 1902
Folder 3: Event Invitations, [1902]
Folder 4: Snap Shots in Porto Rico, Compiled by Captain Ralph E. Gambell with His Notes, 1906
Folder 5: Postcards, 1906-1907
Folder 6: Cuarto Centenario de la Colonizacion Cristiana de la Isla de Puerto Rico Iniciada por Ponce de Leon, Program, 1908

SERIES III: RECORDS RELATED TO THE SPANISH AMERICAN WAR, 1898-1992, undated
SUBSERIES A: ILLUSTRATIONS AND NEWS, 1898-1992, undated

Drawer 2

Folder 1: Harper's Weekly, 1898
Folder 2: The Graphic, 1898
Folder 3: L'Illustration, 1898
Folder 4: Scientific American, 1898
Folder 5: Harper's Pictorial History of the War with Spain, 1899
Folder 6: The Story of the Spanish-American War and the Revolt in the Philippines, 1900
Folder 7: Leslie's Weekly, 1906
Folder 8: Coleccion Martinez, Cronicas - Notas de la Guerra del 1898 en Puerto Rico, 1946
Folder 9: 1898 La Guerra Hispano-Americana en Caricaturas, 1992
Folder 10: United States Invasion of Puerto Rico, Poster, undated

SUBSERIES B: MAPS, 1898-1905, undated

Drawer 2

Folder 1: U.S. Military Maps of Puerto Rico, 1898-1899
Folder 2: U.S. Fish Commission Map of Porto Rico Showing the Number of Dredging Stations, 1899
Folder 3: Chart of the Harbor of San Juan, Porto Rico, 1900

Folder 4: Map of Public Lands of Porto Rico, 1905
Folder 5: Insvla S. Iuan Puerto Rico, Caribes, undated