

University of Miami Special Collections

Finding Aid - Franklin Q. Brown papers (ASM0483)

Generated by Access to Memory (AtoM) 2.4.0 Printed: May 22, 2018

Language of description: English

University of Miami Special Collections
1300 Memorial Drive
Coral Gables
FL
United States
33146
Telephone: (305) 284-3247
Fax: (305) 284-4027
[Email: asc.library@miami.edu](mailto:asc.library@miami.edu)
<https://library.miami.edu/specialcollections/>
<https://atom.library.miami.edu/index.php/asm0483>

Franklin Q. Brown papers

Table of contents

| | |
|--|---|
| Summary information | 3 |
| Administrative history / Biographical sketch | 3 |
| Scope and content | 4 |
| Notes | 4 |
| Access points | 4 |
| Series descriptions | 5 |

Summary information

| | |
|--|---|
| Repository: | University of Miami Special Collections |
| Title: | Franklin Q. Brown papers |
| ID: | ASM0483 |
| Date: | 1898 (date of creation) |
| Physical description: | 0.25 linear ft. (1 box) |
| Language: | English |
| Dates of creation, revision and deletion: | |

Administrative history / Biographical sketch

Note

Franklin Quimby Brown was born in Chicago, Illinois on 29 July 1862 and raised in greater Boston, Massachusetts. He was the son of George Thomson Brown and Anne Tilton Wildes Brown. At an early age, he joined the First Corps of Cadets of the Massachusetts Voluntary Militia, achieving the rank of brigadier sergeant. In 1892 Brown married Ida Prescott Bigelow Eldredge of Boston. He was employed by the East India Trading Company and traveled to Florida at the age of 29 to become president of the Florida Southern Railroad (FSR). At the time, he was the youngest active railroad president in the United States. Following FSR's merger with the Plant System, he served that corporation's railroad, steamship and hotel interests.

Prior to the Spanish-American War, Colonel Brown was active in Cuban affairs. At the request of President McKinley, Brown prepared a personal report on conditions in Cuba. He also helped to organize the First National Defence Congress, held in Tampa, Florida in 1896. The Congress sought to call attention to the defenseless military and naval conditions of the Florida seacoast.

With the U.S.'s declaration of war with Spain, Brown was appointed colonel of the Florida State Militia, which later joined the U.S. Army. Detailed to General Wade and Major General Shafter, Brown provided assistance in the selection of camp sites and the movement of troops and supplies to Cuba. He reported directly to President McKinley on matters of the railroad block in Tampa.

Following the war, Brown resumed his position as vice president in the Plant System. For a time he served as associate publisher, with Colonel Henry Watterston, of the Louisville Courier-Journal. He was also interested in Jacksonville and Tampa papers. In 1906, Brown transferred to New York, becoming a partner in the investment banking firm of Redmond & Company, becoming a senior partner in the firm four years later. In 1908, he was a presidential elector for William Howard Taft and associate treasurer of the Republican National Committee.

At the onset of World War I, Brown organized the National Security League and volunteered for active service. He was appointed chairman of the Finance Advisory Committee of the United States Railroad Association and received several commendations and awards from the American and European

governments after the war. Brown retired as general partner of Redmond & Company in 1928, remaining active in numerous civic and philanthropic organizations. Franklin Q. Brown died on 6 November 1955 at the age of 93.

Scope and content

The Franklin Q. Brown Papers consist primarily of letters written by railroad executive Brown in 1898 while he served as colonel of the Florida State Militia during the Spanish-American War. The collection also contains clippings, photographs, and a dinner menu.

Notes

Title notes

Restrictions on access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions governing use

Franklin Q. Brown Papers Finding Aid © 1995 University of Miami. All rights reserved. Requests to reproduce or publish materials from this collection should be directed to asc.library@miami.edu.

Related material

Holdings in the Special Collections Division:

Quesada, A. M. de. The Spanish-American War in Tampa Bay. Dover, N.H.: Arcadia, 1998.

Other notes

- **Publication status:** Published
 - **Description identifier:** ArchonInternalCollectionID:75
-

Access points

- Brown, Franklin Q., 1862-1955 (subject)
- Clippings (documentary form)
- Letters (documentary form)
- Menus (documentary form)
- Photographs (documentary form)

- Spanish-American War, 1898 -- Florida -- Tampa Bay (subject)

Series descriptions

| Ref code | Title | Dates | Access status | Container |
|----------|----------------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| id936 | File - | | | 1 |
| id937 | File - Correspondence | 1898, Apr | | 1 1 |
| id938 | File - Correspondence | 1898, May | | 1 2 |
| id939 | File - Correspondence | 1898, Jun | | 1 3 |
| id940 | File - Correspondence | 1898, Jul | | 1 4 |
| id941 | File - Photograph | n.d. | | 1 5 |
| id942 | File - Clippings and memorabilia | n.d. | | 1 6 |