Guide to the Waterman Records

Descriptive Summary:
Creator: John B. Waterman
Title: Waterman Records
Dates: 1910-1937 (bulk 1919-1937)
Quantity: 14.4 linear feet
Abstract: Correspondence, contracts, charts, reports, minutes, publications, and financial statements.
Accession: 93-09-275 ; 275-1993

Biographical Note:
John Barnett Waterman, son of Thomas Scott and Caroline Louise (Barnett) Waterman, was born in New Orleans, Louisiana, December 21, 1865, and died in Mobile, Alabama, April 30, 1937. He received his early education in the private schools of New Orleans, and attended Tulane University but left at the age of eighteen. Following a short career in civil engineering, he entered the transportation field, serving in the traffic department of the Illinois Central RR, and later, the Texas Pacific RR. He later became export agent with the Missouri Pacific RR. During the war with Spain, Waterman, a member of the Louisiana State Guard, served thirteen months in Cuba as a captain in the 2d Volunteer regiment.

In 1902 Waterman moved to Mobile as manager of the Elder Dempster Steamship Company, a large British steamship firm. In 1919, Waterman, with T.M. Stevens, W.D. Bellingrath and C.W. Hempstead, organized the Waterman Steamship Corporation. Waterman was elected president and director. Starting with one ship, leased from the U.S. Shipping Board, the company continued to increase in size and importance. During World War II, the company operated a fleet of 125 ships, and its affiliate, the Gulf Shipbuilding Corporation, built scores of navy and cargo ships for the war effort.

Active in community affairs, Waterman served as president of the Mobile Maritime Exchange in 1910, president of the Mobile Chamber of Commerce and, at various times as a member
of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce, the Mobile Cotton Exchange and the Mobile Rivers and Harbors Committee. He was a member of the Boston Club of New Orleans, the Athelstan Club, and the Country Club of Mobile, and was active in carnival organizations. He was a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. On November 15, 1905, Waterman married Annie Louise Harrison in Mobile. The couple had one child, Caroll Barnett, born February 26, 1909.

**Organizational History:**

Following World War I, The United States Shipping Board, in an effort to upgrade and strengthen the American Merchant Marine, initiated a program of allocating war-built vessels to American Managing agents assigned to various routes. The Board allocated ships to 135 firms throughout the United States. One vessel, the Eastern Sun, went to Waterman for British trade, running from the Gulf to Liverpool and Manchester. A short time later, three additional ships were allocated to the company.

Ryan Stevedoring Company was organized in 1924 as a wholly-owned subsidiary, for the business of loading and discharging vessels. Also, in 1924, in a government consolidation, the company was selected as the only government operator at the port of Mobile.

In 1926, Waterman organized and became president of the Mobile, Miami and Gulf Steamship Company, which became the Waterman Line. This enabled the company to expand its operations from Mobile and other gulf ports to Tampa, Key West, Miami, Puerto Rico and the West Indies.

Continuing its expansion, Waterman, in 1930, purchased from the government the Mobile Oceanic Line, including fourteen ships that were soon refitted and improved for freight and passenger service. The Pan-Atlantic Steamship Corporation, with four vessels, was acquired in 1933. From 1935 to 1937 the management of fifteen vessels of the Anchor Line of Glasgow was taken over, involving a contract to handle all the International Paper Company newsprint exported from Canada.

From its humble, one-ship beginning, the Waterman Corporation continued to increase in size and importance, eventually owning and operating its own shipbuilding and repair yards, employing thousands of workers, controlling dock and terminal facilities, possessing its own
terminal, carrying on airline freight operations and, by World War II, operating a fleet of 125 ships over the seven seas.


**Scope and Contents:**
The Waterman files, 13 cubic feet, contain some correspondence dated as early as 1910, however, the bulk of the collection covers the period from the founding of the company in 1919 through 1937. The files are arranged alphabetically by subject. Box inventories are available on site and on this web site.

Central to the collection is correspondence relating to the United States government's ocean mail contracts and correspondence between the company and the United States Shipping Board. The early subsidation of the American Merchant Marine was a very important factor in the founding and growth of the Waterman Corporation.

Other important materials in this collection include: 1) Correspondence, by-laws, board minutes, and various financial records relating to the founding of Ryan Stevedoring Company, Waterman's subsidiary for loading and discharging vessels; 2) Materials pertinent to the acquisition of the Mobile, Miami and Gulf Steamship Company in 1926, the purchase of the Mobile Oceanic Line (1930), and the addition of the Pan-Atlantic Steamship Company (1933), along with the operation and future development of these new additions; 3) Waterman financial records - audits, balance sheets, cost reports, and profit and loss statements; 4) Information pertaining to the operation of various Waterman vessels: the purchase of, time trials, refitting, construction and construction loans, investigations, insurance, collisions and damage reports, and various maintenance and cost reports; and 5) Correspondence between Waterman and its operations at Tampa, Miami, Puerto Rico, and other Gulf and Eastern Atlantic ports. Also, correspondence concerning the company's operations in Hamburg, Cuba, England and Scotland, Rotterdam and Antwerp.
Access Restrictions:
This material is open to research.

Preferred Citation:
Waterman Records, The Doy Leale McCall Rare Book and Manuscript Library, University of South Alabama, Mobile, AL.

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2. Ryan Stevedoring Co. - Profit and Loss Statements, 1929-1931
3. Ryan Stevedoring Co. - Profit and Loss Statements, 1934
4. Ryan Stevedoring Co. - Stockholders - Salaries
5. Ryan Stevedoring Co. - Trial Balance Sheets, 1925-1927
7. Ryan Stevedoring Co. - Trial Balance Sheets, 1930-1931
8. Ryan Stevedoring Co. - Trial Balance Sheets, 1932
9. Ryan Stevedoring Co. - Trial Balance Sheets, 1933
10. Ryan Stevedoring Co. - Trial Balance Sheets, 1934
12. Ryan Stevedoring Co. - Trial Balance Sheets, 1936
13. Ryan Stevedoring Co. - Trial Balance Sheets, 1937
14. Ryan, Mrs. J.P. - Correspondence
15. Sabine District Operations - Correspondence, 1927
16. Sailings, List of, 1930-1932
17. Sailings, Profit and Loss Statements, 1933-1934
18. Sea Notes (Employee Publication), 1956-1958
20. Service Records, C-E
21. Service Records, F-H
22. Service Records, I-L
23. Service Records, Mc-N
24. Service Records, O-R
25. Service Records, S-U
26. Service Records, V-Z
27. Shipbuilding Bids (Tenders) - British Firms, 1935
28. Shipbuilding - Costs - State Aid
29. Shipping Code - Fair Competition
30. Ship Repair Claims, 1932
31. Shipyard - Estimated Construction Costs
32. Shore, Philip Co. - (Tampa) - Correspondence
33. Slaton, H.C. - Correspondence, 1924-1931
34. Slaton, H.C. - Correspondence, 1932-1933
35. Slaton, H.C. - Correspondence, 1934-1935
36. Southern Kraft Co. - Freight Contracts
37. Southern Railway Co. - Use of Piers, 1926
38. Speed Trials - Correspondence (1 of 3)
39. Speed Trials - Correspondence (2 of 3)
40. Speed Trials - Correspondence (3 of 3)
41. Spofford, William P. - (Manager of Engineering) - Correspondence
42. Stebbins and Co. - Brokers - Correspondence, 1926-1929
43. Stevedoring Contracts - Gulfport, Ms., 1921-1924, 1934
44. Stevedoring Contracts - Mobile, 1922-1924
45. Stevedoring Contracts - New Orleans - Texas Gulf Ports
46. Stevedoring Contracts - Pensacola, 1922-1926, 1927
47. Stevens, McCorvey, et al - Attorneys - Correspondence, 1931-1934
48. Stevens, McCorvey, et al - Attorneys - Correspondence, 1924-1930
49. Stevens, McCorvey, et al - Attorneys - Correspondence, 1934-1936
50. Subsidy Bills - Ocean Mail Contracts - Correspondence, 1928-1929
51. Subsidy Bills - Ocean Mail Contracts - Correspondence, 1930

Box 9

1. Subsidy Bills - Ocean Mail Contracts - Correspondence, 1931
2. Subsidy Bills - Ocean Mail Contracts - Correspondence, 1932
54. Waterman, C.C. - Transfer, 1935
55. Waterman, John B. - Christmas Correspondence, 1934-1936

**Box 11**

1A. Waterman, John B. - Correspondence, 1910-1920
1B. Waterman, John B. - Correspondence, 1921-1925
1C. Waterman, John B. - Correspondence, 1926-1928
2. Waterman, John B. - Correspondence, 1929
3. Waterman, John B. - Correspondence, 1930-1931
4. Waterman, John B. - Correspondence, 1932
5. Waterman, John B. - Correspondence, 1933
6. Waterman, John B. - Correspondence, 1934
7. Waterman, John B. - Correspondence, 1935
8. Waterman, John B. - Correspondence, 1936 (1 of 2)
9. Waterman, John B. - Correspondence, 1936 (2 of 2)
10. Waterman, John B. - Correspondence, 1937
12. Waterman, John B. - Correspondence - Personal
16. Waterman SS Corp. - Annual Report, 1933
17. Waterman SS Corp. - Annual Reports, 1934-1935-1936
18. Waterman SS Corp. - Audit, 1920
19. Waterman SS Corp. - Audit, 1923
20. Waterman SS Corp. - Audit, 1924
21. Waterman SS Corp. - Audit, 1925
22. Waterman SS Corp. - Audit, 1926
23. Waterman SS Corp. - Audit, 1927
24. Waterman SS Corp. - Audit, 1928
25. Waterman SS Corp. - Audit, 1929
26. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, 1923, 1925
27. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, 1926
28. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, Jan.-July 1927
29. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, Aug.-Nov. 1927
30. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, Jan.-April 1928
31. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, May-July-August 1928
32. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, Sept.-Dec. 1928
33. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, Jan.-April 1929
34. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, May-Aug. 1929
35. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, Sept.-Dec. 1929
36. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, Jan.-April 1930
37. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, May-Aug. 1930
38. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, Sept.-Dec. 1930
39. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, Oct.-Nov. 1931
40. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, Jan.-July 1932
41. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, Aug.-Dec. 1932
42. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, Jan.-April 1933, June 1933
43. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet, Aug.-Dec. 1933
44. Waterman SS Corp. - Balance Sheet - Income Statements, 1936
45. Waterman SS Corp. - Board Minutes, 1935-1937
46. Waterman SS Corp. - By-Laws - Incorporation, 1931, 1935-1936
47. Waterman SS Corp. - Charter Agreements, 1936
48. Waterman SS Corp. - Claims Against Government, 1936
49. Waterman SS Corp. - Combined Operating Statements, Oct. 1935-Nov. 1936
50. Waterman SS Corp. - Combined Operating Statements, Dec. 1936-Feb. 1937
51. Waterman SS Corp. - Comparison Charts - (Mileage, Rates, etc.)
52. Waterman SS Corp. - Comparative Statement, 1924-1925
53. Waterman SS Corp. - Confidential Report - (Emergency Fleet Corp.), 1922
54. Waterman SS Corp. - Correspondence, General, 1934-1936
55. Waterman SS Corp. - Daily Cost Data - Various Ships, 1937
56. Waterman SS Corp. - Daily Cost Reports, 1935-1937
57. Waterman SS Corp. - Depreciation Report, 1932
58. Waterman SS Corp. - Election of Officers, 1936
59. Waterman SS Corp. - Financial Reports - Various, 1925-1934

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1. Waterman SS Corp. - (Agency) - Financial Statement, 1936
2. Waterman SS Corp. - (Agency) - Financial Statements, 1937
3. Waterman SS Corp. - Fleet Reconditioning Reports
4. Waterman SS Corp. - Fleet Repair Expenditures, 1931-1936
5. Waterman SS Corp. - Foreign Agencies - Correspondence, 1922-1924 (1 of 2)
6. Waterman SS Corp. - Foreign Agencies - Correspondence, 1924 (2 of 2)
7. Waterman SS Corp. - Foreign Agencies - Correspondence, 1924-1936 (3 of 3)
8. Waterman SS Corp. - Historical Information - Notes
9. Waterman SS Corp. - Insurance, Group - Correspondence, 1935
10. Waterman SS Corp. - Insurance - Carious Ships - Correspondence, 1926-1936
11. Waterman SS Corp. - Legal Opinions, 1927-1935
12. Waterman SS Corp. - Linjnen (Rotterdam) N.V. - Incorporation, 1935
13. Waterman SS Corp. - Office Organization, 1931
14. Waterman SS Corp. - Operating Agreement (New), 1928
15. Waterman SS Corp. - Personnel - Correspondence, 1923-1924
16. Waterman SS Corp. - Profit and Loss Statements, 1926
17. Waterman SS Corp. - Profit and Loss Statements, 1927
18. Waterman SS Corp. - Profit and Loss Statements, Jan.-Aug. 1931
19. Waterman SS Corp. - Profit and Loss Statement, Dec. 1933
20. Waterman SS Corp. - Profit and Loss Statements (Combined), Jan.-April 1934
21. Waterman SS Corp. - Profit and Loss Statements (Combined), May-Aug. 1934
22. Waterman SS Corp. - Profit and Loss Statements (Combined), Oct.-Dec. 1934
23. Waterman SS Corp. - Profit and Loss Statements (Combined), Jan.-April 1935
24. Waterman SS Corp. - Profit and Loss Statements (Combined), May-Aug. 1935
25. Waterman SS Corp. - Profit and Loss Statements (Combined), Sept.-Dec. 1935
26. Waterman SS Corp. - Profit and Loss Statements (Combined), Jan.-April 1936
27. Waterman SS Corp. - Profit and Loss Statements (Combined), May-Aug. 1936
28. Waterman SS Corp. - Profit Sharing - Correspondence, 1928-1931
29. Waterman SS Corp. - Property Account, 1935
30. Waterman SS Corp. - Purchase Statements, 1935
31. Waterman SS Corp. - Reorganization, 1927, 1931
32. Waterman SS Corp. - Repair and Reserve Accounts, 1935
33. Waterman SS Corp. - Revenue and Expense Comparison, 1935
34. Waterman SS Corp. - Salaries, 1928, 1934
35. Waterman SS Corp. - Salaries, 1933-1937
36. Waterman SS Corp. - Sale of Vessels - Correspondence, 1932-1933
37. Waterman SS Corp. - Ship Launchings (Dates)
38. Waterman SS Corp. - Shipbuilding Costs - Correspondence, 1935
39. Waterman SS Corp. - Stock Dividends - Correspondence, 1919-1936
40. Waterman SS Corp. - Stockholders Lists, 1937
41. Waterman SS Corp. - Stockholders Meetings - Treasurer's Report, 1932-1936
42. Waterman SS Corp. - Stock Options - Correspondence, 1925-1932
43. Waterman SS Corp. - Stock Subscriptions, 1931
44. Waterman SS Corp. - Vessel Operations - Correspondence, 1924-1937
45. Waterman SS Corp. - Wage Scales - Working Conditions, 1925-1926
46. Waterman SS Corp. - Wages -Ship Personnel - Correspondence, 1926-1936
47. West Coast-United Kingdom Service - Return Cargo, 1927-1935
48. SS West Hika - Loss of, 1936
49. West Indies Service from Texas Ports - Correspondence, 1927
50. SS West Jaffrey - Correspondence, 1928-1929
51. SS West Neris - Charter Contract, 1933
52. West Palm Beach - Docking Facilities, 1926-1927
53. SS Willfaro and SS Will Polo - Purchase of, 1933
54. Wilson, James - Correspondence, 1926-1936

Box 13

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Box 14

1. Blueprint - SS Raphael Semmes, 1946
2. Port Handbook of New Orleans, 1926
3. Waterman SS Corp. - Pictorial Booklet - Wartime Activities
4. Trade Routes and Shipping Services U.S. Shipping Board, 1927
5. Marketing American Cotton On the Continent of Europe, 1928
6. The Port of Mobile, Alabama - U.S. Shipping Board (Revised 1929)
7. Mobile City Hall and Court House Directory, 1936
8. Maritime Workers' Compensation Act - (69th Congress 1927)
10. Minutes - Mid-Winter Meeting of Maritime Law Assn., 1927