

Guide to the Elisha Spencer Benton Diary

MS 2026



compiled by Sahr Conway-Lanz

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 2026

CREATOR: Benton, Elisha Spencer, active 1898

TITLE: Elisha Spencer Benton diary

DATES: Circa 1892-1899

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: .9 linear feet (1 box)

LANGUAGE: The material is in English.

SUMMARY: The collection consists of the diary of Elisha Spencer Benton, which he kept during his service with the U.S. Army Seventh Artillery in Puerto Rico during the Spanish American War. Entries concern his unit's movements, the supply situation, and measures to fight the spread of yellow fever among the soldiers. Benton also includes observations on the countryside, settlements, and people of Puerto Rico. Much of the journal concerns the period after the short American military campaign in Puerto Rico ended August 15, 1898. Entries are often days or weeks apart and some appear in the journal out of their chronological order. The journal also includes several letters regarding Benton's war service and other writings from before the war, including a play and a speech, which Benton copied onto the pages by hand.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/>

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html. The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Transferred from the Latin American Collection Curator, 2015.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Copyright status for collection materials is unknown. Transmission or reproduction of materials protected by U.S. Copyright Law (Title 17, U.S.C.) beyond that allowed by fair use requires the written permission of the copyright owners. Works not in the public domain cannot be commercially exploited without permission of the copyright owners. Responsibility for any use rests exclusively with the user.

Preferred Citation

Elisha Spencer Benton Diary (MS 2026). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Collection Contents

b.1, f.1

Diary

Circa 1892-1899

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Spanish-American War, 1898 -- Puerto Rico

Geographic Names

Puerto Rico

Names

Benton, Elisha Spencer, active 1898