Cornelius Marius Schoonmaker Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2007
Revised 2010 April

Contact information:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008043

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm70052944

Prepared by R. S. Nicholson
Revised by Brian McGuire
Collection Summary
Title: Cornelius Marius Schoonmaker Papers
Span Dates: 1833-1931
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1860-1890)
ID No.: MSS52944
Creator: Schoonmaker, Cornelius Marius, 1839-1889
Extent: 1,400 items ; 4 containers ; 1.6 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, letterbook, order book, printed matter, scrapbooks, and unpublished biography detailing Schoonmaker’s naval career. Of particular interest are Schoonmaker’s letters regarding China and the Far East, accounts of the battle of Mobile Bay, and details of his death in Samoa.

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.

People
Chandler, William E. (William Eaton), 1835-1917--Correspondence.
Dahlgren, John Adolphus Bernard, 1809-1870--Correspondence.
Dornin, Thomas A. (Thomas Aloysius), 1800-1874--Correspondence.
Farragut, David Glasgow, 1801-1870--Correspondence.
Goldsborough, Louis Malesherbes, 1805-1877--Correspondence.
Howell, John C.--Correspondence.
Robeson, George M. (George Maxwell), 1829-1897--Correspondence.
Schoonmaker, Cornelius Marius, 1839-1889.
Thompson, Richard W. (Richard Wigginton), 1809-1900--Correspondence.
Toucey, Isaac, 1796-1869--Correspondence.
Welles, Gideon, 1802-1878--Correspondence.
Whitney, William C. (William Collins), 1841-1904--Correspondence.

Organizations
Polaris (Ship)
Vandalia (Screw sloop)

Subjects
Mobile Bay, Battle of, Ala., 1864.

Places
Alabama--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
China--Description and travel.
East Asia--Description and travel.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.

Occupations
Naval officers.

Administrative Information
Provenance
The papers of Cornelius Marius Schoonmaker, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1950. The collection was converted to gift in 1998.
Processing History
The papers of Cornelius Marius Schoonmaker were arranged and described in 1975. The finding aid was revised in 2003.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Cornelius Marius Schoonmaker is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Cornelius Marius Schoonmaker are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Cornelius Marius Schoonmaker Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1839, Feb. 2</td>
<td>Born, Kingston, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1859</td>
<td>Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Duty on the San Jacinto (screw frigate), African Squadron</td>
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<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>Duty on the Falmouth (brig)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Executive master, Minnesota (steam frigate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862-1864</td>
<td>Executive officer, Octorara (gun boat), West Gulf Blockading Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864</td>
<td>Executive officer, Manhattan (iron clad), West Gulf Blockading Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>Duty on the Catskill (iron clad)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1867-1868</td>
<td>Executive officer, Juniata (steam sloop), South Atlantic Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1869-1870</td>
<td>Executive officer, Delaware (screw steamer), Asiatic Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>Married Matilda Rogers Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872-1873</td>
<td>Commanded the Frolic (side wheeled steamer)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1873</td>
<td>Duty at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1874</td>
<td>Duty as inspector of 8th Lighthouse District, New Orleans, La.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1879-1881</td>
<td>Commanded the Nipsic (steam sloop), European Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1882</td>
<td>Duty at the Norfolk Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1886  Promoted to captain
1888-1889  Commanded the Vandalia (screw sloop)
1889, Mar. 15  Died, Apia, Samoa

Scope and Content Note
The papers of Cornelius Marius Schoonmaker (1839-1889) span the years 1833-1931, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1860-1890. Correspondence, a letterbook, a night order book, scrapbooks, and a manuscript of a biography of Schoonmaker constitute the collection. The correspondence is official and covers nearly all of Schoonmaker’s orders to duty and cruises. Of interest in the correspondence is George M. Robeson’s letter of May 15, 1873, ordering Schoonmaker to cruise to Newfoundland and to bring the survivors of the Polaris (screw tug) to Washington, D.C.


Schoonmaker’s biography, written by his father, Marius Schoonmaker, includes copies of letters to family and friends concerning Schoonmaker’s tours of duty, an account of his service in the Civil War, and a description of his death by drowning in a hurricane which also wrecked his ship, the Vandalia.

Arrangement of the Papers
This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.
### Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| BOX 1     | Correspondence, 1857-1931  
|           | (12 folders)  |
| BOX 1     | Genealogy, undated  |
| BOX 1     | Letterbook, *Nipsic* (steam sloop), 1879-1881  |
| BOX 1     | Night order book, *Nipsic* (steam sloop), 1879-1881  |
| BOX 2     | Printed matter, 1833-1889, undated  |
| BOX 2     | Scrapbooks, 1863-1909  
|           | (2 vols.)  |
| BOX 3     | “Thirty-Four Years in the United States Navy; Life and Correspondence of Captain C. Marius Schoonmaker, United States Navy,” by Marius Schoonmaker (father), undated  |
| BOX 3     | Holograph draft  
|           | (2 vols.)  |
| BOX 4     | Holograph and typed drafts  
|           | (14 folders)  |
| BOX 4     | Watch, quarter, and station bills, *Juniata* (screw sloop), 1867-1868  |