Silas Casey 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.
2010
Revised 2011 May

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

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010003

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm70051482

Prepared by J. Butler
Collection Summary
Title: Silas Casey Papers
Span Dates: 1771-1941
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1862-1903)
ID No.: MSS51482
Creator: Casey, Silas, 1841-1913
Extent: 300 items ; 6 containers ; 2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Naval officer. Correspondence, journal, daybook, bills, receipts, commissions, and other papers relating to Casey’s naval service.

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
Casey, Silas, 1841-1913.

Organizations
Colorado (Steam screw frigate)
Greenwich (Privateer)
Marlborough (Privateer)
Niagara (Steam frigate)
Portsmouth (Sloop of war)
Providence (Privateer)
Quinnebaug (Screw corvette)
United States. Navy--Foreign service--Panama--Panama, Bay of.
Wisconsin (Battleship : BB-9)
Wyoming (Sloop of war)

Subjects
Arsenals--United States.
Naval education--United States.
Navy-yards and naval stations, American.
Privateering.
Sabotage.
Spanish-American War, 1898.

Places
Japan--Foreign relations--United States.
Kanghwa-gun (Korea)--History.
Korea--Foreign relations--United States.
Panama--Foreign relations--United States.
Panama--History.
United States--Foreign relations--Japan.
United States--Foreign relations--Korea.
United States--Foreign relations--Panama.
Administrative Information

Provenance
The papers of Silas Casey, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1949 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History
The papers of Silas Casey were arranged and described in 1968. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Additional Guides

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Silas Casey Papers is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Silas Casey 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, Silas Casey Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1841, Sept. 11</td>
<td>Born, East Greenwich, Rhode Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860-1862</td>
<td>Duty in Niagara (frigate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Promoted to master</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>Commissioned lieutenant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862-1863</td>
<td>Duty in Wissahickon (gunboat), South Atlantic Blockade Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863-1865</td>
<td>Duty in Quaker City (steamship), North Atlantic Blockade Squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865-1867</td>
<td>Duty in Winooski (gunboat), North Atlantic Squadron</td>
</tr>
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</table>
1866 Promoted to lieutenant commander
1867-1870 Duty in United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1870-1873 Duty in Colorado (frigate), Asiatic Squadron
1873-1874 Ordnance duty in Philadelphia Navy Yard
1874 Promoted to commander
1875-1876 Commanded Portsmouth (sloop of war), Pacific coast
1876-1879 Inspector, Twelfth Light House District
1880-1882 Commanded Wyoming (sloop of war) and later Quinnebaug (corvette), European Squadron
1882-1884 Duty in Washington Navy Yard
1884-1889 Inspector, Fifth Light House District Commanded Dale (sloop of war)
1889 Promoted to captain
1890-1893 Duty in and then commander of Newark (cruiser)
1894-1897 Commanded Vermont (warship)
1899 Promoted to rear admiral
1901-1902 Commanded Wisconsin (battleship)
1903 Retired from United States Navy
1913, Aug. 4 Died, Warm Springs, Va.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Silas Casey (1841-1913) span the years 1771-1941, with the bulk of the material falling between the years 1860-1903. The papers include official and general correspondence, a few pieces of personal correspondence, dispatches, orders, a complete set of commissions for each of the ranks attained by Casey, typescript articles, departmental and legislative reports, printed matter, a holograph journal relating to events in which Casey played a role, a Revolutionary War account book, and other material.

Subjects in the collection include Casey’s service during the cruise of the Niagara (frigate) to Tokyo, Japan, in 1860-1861, with the Japanese ambassador and his staff; naval actions and blockades in the Civil War; and the punitive expedition to Korea aboard the Colorado (frigate) in 1871. The papers also document Casey’s service as commander of the Portsmouth (sloop of war) operating as a naval school and of the Wisconsin (Battleship : BB-9) during negotiations with Panama, 1901-1902. Other subjects relate to suspected sabotage of navy yards and arsenals during the Spanish-American War and naval customs of the nineteenth century. Included also are photographs and printed matter pertaining to the capture of Fort
McKee on Kanghoa Island (Kanghwa-gun), Korea, in 1871. Material regarding the role of Casey's ancestors in the American Revolution includes Joseph Coggershall's account book of the *Greenwich* (privateer), *Marlborough* (privateer), and *Providence* (privateer). Other ships represented include the *Quinnebaug* (corvette) and the *Wyoming* (sloop of war).

**Arrangement of the Papers**

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

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<td>General correspondence, 1862-1941</td>
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<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Naval letterbooks</td>
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<td>BOX 2</td>
<td><em>Portsmouth</em> (sloop of war), 1875-1876</td>
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<td>BOX 2</td>
<td><em>Wyoming</em> (sloop of war) and <em>Quinnebaug</em> (corvette), 1880-1882</td>
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<td>Naval orders relating to Casey, 1856-1903</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Commissions, 1860-1899</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Inventory of the collection, 1913</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Journal kept on board <em>Niagara</em> (frigate)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Naval documents, inspection reports; “complement” of <em>Portsmouth</em> (sloop of war); duty tour of <em>Newark</em> (cruiser); draft of a “fire bill”</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Notes on first Japanese embassy</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Printed matter</td>
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<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Journal of a cruise of <em>Niagara</em></td>
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<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Watch, Quarter, and Station bills of the <em>Colorado</em> (frigate)</td>
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<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>Photograph album</td>
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<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>Account book of Joseph Coggershall, 1771-1786</td>
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