

# Stephen C. Rowan 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.  
2008**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70022236>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008003>

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## Collection Summary

**Title:** Stephen C. Rowan Papers

**Span Dates:** 1826-1890

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1841-1870)

**ID No.:** MSS22236

**Creator:** Rowan, Stephen C. (Stephen Clegg), 1808-1890

**Extent:** 4 items

**Extent:** 1 container

**Extent:** 0.4 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

**Location:** Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70022236>

**Summary:** United States Navy officer. Journals and a letterbook relating to Rowan's naval service.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### People

Burnside, Ambrose Everett, 1824-1881--Correspondence.  
Chase, Salmon P. (Salmon Portland), 1808-1873--Correspondence.  
Dahlgren, John Adolphus Bernard, 1809-1870--Correspondence.  
Dobbin, James C. (James Cochran), 1814-1857--Correspondence.  
Fox, Gustavus Vasa, 1821-1883--Correspondence.  
Goldsborough, Louis Malesherbes, 1805-1877--Correspondence.  
Porter, David D. (David Dixon), 1813-1891--Correspondence.  
Rowan, Stephen C. (Stephen Clegg), 1808-1890.  
Shufeldt, Robert Wilson, 1822-1895--Correspondence.  
Toucey, Isaac, 1796-1869--Correspondence.  
Welles, Gideon, 1802-1878--Correspondence.  
Whitney, William C. (William Collins), 1841-1904--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Cyane (Sloop of war)  
Delaware (Ship of the line)  
Piscataqua (Screw steamer)  
United States. Navy--Foreign service--French Polynesia--Tahiti (Island)  
United States. Navy--Foreign service--Italy.  
United States. Navy--Foreign service--South America.  
Vincennes (Sloop of war)

### Subjects

Mexican War, 1846-1848--Campaigns--California.  
Mexican War, 1846-1848--Naval operations, American.

### Places

Charleston (S.C.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.  
Charleston Harbor (S.C.)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.  
North Carolina--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.  
South Carolina--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Campaigns.  
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Naval operations.

### Occupations

Naval officers.

## Provenance

The papers of Stephen C. Rowan, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1969 and converted to a gift in 1998.

## Processing History

The papers of Stephen C. Rowan were arranged and described in 1971. The collection was expanded and revised in 1999. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

## Copyright Status

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

## Access and Restrictions

The papers of Stephen C. Rowan 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, Stephen C. Rowan Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

Date	Event
1808, Dec. 25	Born, near Dublin, Ireland
1818	Immigrated to United States
1826	Appointed midshipman, U.S. Navy Served duty on <i>Vincennes</i> (sloop-of-war), first American man-of-war to circumnavigate the globe
1834	Served duty on <i>Vandalia</i> (sloop), West India squadron
1837	Promoted to lieutenant Served duty on <i>Relief</i> (ship), Brazil station
1841-1844	Served duty on <i>Delaware</i> (ship-of-the-line), Brazil and Mediterranean stations
1845	Made executive officer of <i>Cyane</i> (sloop), Pacific station
1850-1853	Served as ordnance inspector, U.S. Navy Yard, New York, N.Y.
1855	Promoted to commander Commanded <i>Relief</i> (ship), Brazil station
1861	Commanded <i>Pawnee</i> (screw sloop-of-war) during Abraham Lincoln's inauguration Directed fist shot fired from naval vessel in Civil War against batteries at Aquia Creek, Va.

1862	Promoted to commodore Assisted General Ambrose Everett Burnside in destruction of Confederate gunboat and capture of Roanoke Island, Va. Attacked Cable's Point on Pasquotank River, N.C., destroyed fort, and captured or routed Confederate squadron Assisted U.S. Army in capture of New Bern, N.C.
1863	Commanded <i>New Ironsides</i> (ironclad steamer), Charleston Harbor, S.C.
1864	Commanded naval flotilla, North Carolina Sound
1866	Promoted to rear admiral
1866-1867	Served as commandant, U.S. Navy Yard, Norfolk, Va.
1867-1870	Served as commander in chief, Asiatic Squadron
1870	Promoted to vice admiral
1872-1876	Served as commandant, U.S. Navy Yard, New York, N.Y.
1881	Appointed governor, U.S. Naval Asylum, Philadelphia, Pa.
1882	Appointed superintendent, U.S. Naval Observatory, Washington, D.C.
1889	Retired from U.S. Navy
1890, Mar. 31	Died, Washington, D.C.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Stephen Clegg Rowan (1808-1890) span the years 1826-1890, with the bulk of the items dated from 1841 to 1870. The collection consists of three journals and a letterbook.

The first journal, which Rowan kept on board the *Vincennes*, 1826-1828, describes cities, villages, people, and customs in South America and Tahiti. A journal kept on the *Delaware*, 1841-1843, recounts experiences in South America and Italy and contains abstracts of the ship's cruises. In the third journal, Rowan related his service in battles off the coast of California during the Mexican War, made general observations about the United States before the Civil War, and discussed cities, people, and customs in Asia. The latter volume also contains abstracts of cruises and logs for the *Cyane*, *Dale*, *Malec Adhel*, and *Relief*.

The letterbook contains notes on Rowan's service in the navy and copies of orders to duty and letters sent. The letters document his participation in battles off the North Carolina sounds and in Charleston harbor. Recipients include Ambrose Everett Burnside, Salmon P. Chase, John Adolphus Bernard Dahlgren, James C. Dobbin, Gustavus V. Fox, Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough, David Porter, Robert W. Shufeldt, Isaac Toucey, Gideon Welles, and William C. Whitney.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

## Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Journals
BOX 1	Vol. 1, <i>Vincennes</i> (sloop-of-war) 1826-1828
BOX 1	Vol. 2, <i>Delaware</i> (ship-of-the-line), 1841-1843
BOX 1	Vol. 3, <i>Cyane</i> (sloop) and <i>Piscataqua</i> (screw steamer), 1845, 1868
BOX 1	Letterbook, 1852-1890