Stephen C. Rowan Papers
A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval Historical Foundation Collection in the Library of Congress
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://lccn.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)
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, Naval.
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1808, Dec. 25</td>
<td>Born, near Dublin, Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1818</td>
<td>Immigrated to United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1826</td>
<td>Appointed midshipman, U.S. Navy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Served duty on <em>Vincennes</em> (sloop-of-war), first American man-of-war to circumnavigate the globe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1834</td>
<td>Served duty on <em>Vandalia</em> (sloop), West India squadron</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1837</td>
<td>Promoted to lieutenant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Served duty on <em>Relief</em> (ship), Brazil station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1841-1844</td>
<td>Served duty on <em>Delaware</em> (ship-of-the-line), Brazil and Mediterranean stations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1845</td>
<td>Made executive officer of <em>Cyane</em> (sloop), Pacific station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850-1853</td>
<td>Served as ordnance inspector, U.S. Navy Yard, New York, N.Y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1855</td>
<td>Promoted to commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Commanded <em>Relief</em> (ship), Brazil station</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Commanded <em>Pawnee</em> (screw sloop-of-war) during Abraham Lincoln's inauguration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Directed fist shot fired from naval vessel in Civil War against batteries at Aquia Creek, Va.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1862
Promoted to commodore
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 *New Ironsides* (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

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

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