

# **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**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70052944>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008043>

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Revised 2010 April

## 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

**Extent:** 4 containers

**Extent:** 1.6 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**LC Catalog record:** <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70052944>

**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 Correspondence, letterbook, order book, printed matter, scrapbooks, and unpublished biography detailing Schoonmaker's naval career.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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

### 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 Cumming, 1819-1892--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.

## 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

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

Correspondents include William E. Chandler, John Adolphus Bernard Dahlgren, Thomas A. Dornin, David Glasgow Farragut, Louis Malesherbes Goldsborough, John C. Howell, Richard W. Thompson, Issac Toucey, Gideon Welles, and William C. Whitney.

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

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1857-1931 (12 folders)
BOX 1	Genealogy, undated
BOX 1	Letterbook, <i>Nipsic</i> (steam sloop), 1879-1881
BOX 1	Night order book, <i>Nipsic</i> (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, <i>Juniata</i> (screw sloop), 1867-1868