Collection Summary
Title: Silas Casey Papers
Inclusive Dates: 1771-1941
Bulk Dates: 1862-1903
ID No.: MSS51482
Creator: Casey, Silas, 1841-1913
Extent: 300 items
Extent: 6 containers
Extent: 2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm70051482
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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

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.
United States. Navy--Foreign service--Samoa Islands.
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.
Acquisition Information

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 by J. Butler. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Silas Casey Papers is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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>
</thead>
<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 <em>Niagara</em> (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 <em>Wissahickon</em> (gunboat), South Atlantic Blockade Squadron</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1863-1865  Duty in *Quaker City* (steamship), North Atlantic Blockade Squadron
1865-1867  Duty in *Winooski* (gunboat), North Atlantic Squadron
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* (crusier)
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 Ganghwa Island (then referred to as Kanghao Island of 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>General correspondence, 1862-1941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Naval letterbooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td><em>Portsmouth</em> (sloop of war), 1875-1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td><em>Wyoming</em> (sloop of war) and <em>Quinnebaug</em> (corvette), 1880-1882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Naval orders relating to Casey, 1856-1903</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Miscellany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Articles relating to Casey and naval attachment at Valparaiso, Chile</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Bills and receipts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Biographical material</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Commissions, 1860-1899</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Inventory of the collection, 1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Journal kept on board <em>Niagara</em> (frigate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Naval documents, inspection reports; &quot;complement&quot; of <em>Portsmouth</em> (sloop of war); duty tour of <em>Newark</em> (cruiser); draft of a &quot;fire bill&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Notes on first Japanese embassy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Printed matter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Oversize</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Journal of a cruise of <em>Niagara</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 4</td>
<td>Watch, Quarter, and Station bills of the <em>Colorado</em> (frigate)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>Photograph album</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>Account book of Joseph Coggershall, 1771-1786</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>