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
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.
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.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Blockades.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Naval operations.
United States--History--Revolution, 1775-1783--Naval operations.

**Occupations**
Naval officers.

**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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Silas Casey Papers is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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>
</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>
<tr>
<td>1863-1865</td>
<td>Duty in <em>Quaker City</em> (steamship), North Atlantic Blockade Squadron</td>
</tr>
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</table>
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

1889 
Promoted to captain

1890-1893 
Duty in and then commander of *Newark* (cruiser)

1894-1897 
Commanded *Vermont* (warship)

1897-1900 

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 Kanghoo 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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<tr>
<th>Container</th>
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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>BOX 3</td>
<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>
<td>Articles relating to Casey and naval attachment at Valparaiso, Chile</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Bills and receipts</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Biographical material</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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<tr>
<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>Oversize</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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<tr>
<td>BOX 6</td>
<td>Account book of Joseph Coggershall, 1771-1786</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>