

Silas Casey 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.
2023**

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm70051482>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010003>

Prepared by Manuscript Division staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2009
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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://lcn.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.

Coggeshall, Joseph. Joseph Coggeshall account book. 1771-1786.

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--Japan.

United States. Navy--Foreign service--Panama--Panama, Bay of.

United States. Navy--Foreign service--Samoan Islands.

United States. Navy. North Atlantic Blockading Squadron (1861-1865)

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.

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

The Casey Papers are described in *Silas Casey [and] Stanford Caldwell Hooper, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, a Register of their Papers in the Library of Congress* (Library of Congress: Washington, D.C., 1978).

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

Date	Event
1841, Sept. 11	Born, East Greenwich, Rhode Island
1860	Graduated, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1860-1862	Duty in <i>Niagara</i> (frigate)
1861	Promoted to master
1862	Commissioned lieutenant
1862-1863	Duty in <i>Wissahickon</i> (gunboat), South Atlantic Blockade Squadron

1863-1865	Duty in <i>Quaker City</i> (steamship), North Atlantic Blockade Squadron
1865-1867	Duty in <i>Winooski</i> (gunboat), North Atlantic Squadron
1866	Promoted to lieutenant commander
1867-1870	Duty in United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1870-1873	Duty in <i>Colorado</i> (frigate), Asiatic Squadron
1873-1874	Ordnance duty in Philadelphia Navy Yard
1874	Promoted to commander
1875-1876	Commanded <i>Portsmouth</i> (sloop of war), Pacific coast
1876-1879	Inspector, Twelfth Light House District
1880-1882	Commanded <i>Wyoming</i> (sloop of war) and later <i>Quinnebaug</i> (corvette), European Squadron
1882-1884	Duty in Washington Navy Yard
1884-1889	Inspector, Fifth Light House District Commanded <i>Dale</i> (sloop of war)
1889	Promoted to captain
1890-1893	Duty in and then commander of <i>Newark</i> (cruiser)
1894-1897	Commanded <i>Vermont</i> (warship)
1897-1900	Commanded League Island Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa.
1899	Promoted to rear admiral
1901-1902	Commanded <i>Wisconsin</i> (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 Kanghoa 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

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