

Montgomery Sicard Papers

A Finding Aid to the Papers in the Naval
Historical Foundation Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

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

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Collection Summary

Title: Montgomery Sicard Papers

Span Dates: 1800-1948

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1870-1898)

ID No.: MSS53207

Creator: Sicard, Montgomery, 1836-1900

Extent: 1,200 items; 4 containers; 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Naval officer. Correspondence, subject file, and miscellaneous material relating to Sicard's naval career, including diagrams and memoranda for breech-loading howitzers and his plans for steel armor plate for ships.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People

Chandler, William E. (William Eaton), 1835-1917.

Floyd, William, fl. 1800-1839

Folger, William Mayhew, 1844-1928.

Hunt, William H. (William Henry), 1823-1884.

O'Neil, Charles, 1842-1927.

Porter, David D. (David Dixon), 1813-1891.

Sicard, Eleanor L.

Sicard, Elizabeth Floyd.

Sicard, George J.

Sicard, Montgomery, 1836-1900.

Sicard, Montgomery, Jr.

Sicard, Stephen, Jr.

Sicard, Stephen, Sr.

Sicard, William F.

Walker, Asa, 1845-1916.

Subjects

Armor-plate.

Artillery.

Howitzers.

Naval architecture.

Shipbuilding.

Occupations

Naval officers.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Montgomery Sicard, naval officer, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1964 and converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of Montgomery Sicard were arranged and described in 1970. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

In 1979 the Library published *Nathan Sargent, John Shaw, Montgomery Sicard, and Roger Welles: Registers of Their Papers in the Library of Congress*.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Montgomery Sicard is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Montgomery Sicard 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, Montgomery Sicard Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1836, Sept. 30	Born, New York, N.Y.
1855	Graduated, U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md. Duty in USS <i>Potomac</i> , Home Squadron
1856	Duty in USS <i>Wabash</i> , Home Squadron
1860	Duty in USS <i>Dacotah</i> , East India Squadron
1862-1863	Duty in USS <i>Oneida</i> , West Gulf Blockading Squadron
1863	Married Elizabeth Floyd
1864	Duty in USS <i>Ticonderoga</i> , South Atlantic Blockading Squadron
1865	Commanded USS <i>Seneca</i> ; in charge of the left wing of the 2nd Naval Division
1869	Commanded USS <i>Saginaw</i> , Pacific Fleet
1871	Ordinance duty, U.S. Navy Yard, New York, N.Y.
1872	Ordinance duty, U.S. Navy Yard, Washington, D.C.
1877	Duty in designing and constructing the first steel breech-loading guns for the U.S. Navy

1881	Promoted to captain
1881-1897	Chief, Bureau of Ordnance
1891-1893	Commanded USS <i>Miantonomoh</i>
1897	Promoted to rear admiral Commander in chief, Naval Forces, North Atlantic Station
1898	President, Strategy Board, during the Spanish-American War Retired from the U.S. Navy
1900, Sept. 14	Died, Westernville, N.Y.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Montgomery Sicard (1836-1900) span the years 1800-1948, with the bulk of the material falling in the years 1870 to 1898. The collection consists of official and general correspondence, a subject file, and miscellaneous items.

Sicard's achievements in the field of ordnance are documented with his diagrams and memoranda for breech-loading howitzers and his plans for steel armor plate for ships. In his plans for steel plates are holograph and typescript notes, memoranda, letters, blueprints, and a corrected galley for *Specifications for Armor for the United States Navy*.

The official correspondence includes a few letters, but the majority of items are orders to duty. Correspondents include William E. Chandler, William Mayhew Folger, William H. Hunt, Charles O'Neil, and David D. Porter. The general correspondence consists largely of letters exchanged between Sicard and his wife, Elizabeth Floyd Sicard, and between the Sicards and their children, William F. Sicard, Montgomery Sicard, Jr., and Eleanor L. Sicard. Other correspondents are Ward Hunt, Jr., Kossuth Niles, and Asa Walker.

Sicard's financial affairs are documented with letters of advice on investments; papers of profits, management of property, and purchase of household goods, and tax receipts. There are letters from his brothers, Stephen Sicard and George J. Sicard, and his brother-in-law, William Floyd.

Of interest in the miscellany are trade papers of Sicard's father, Stephen Sicard, and papers on the management of the Floyds' property in New York.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is organized by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	Official, 1868-1889 (3 folders)
BOX 1	General
BOX 1	1864-1885 (9 folders)
BOX 2	1886-1900, undated (2 folders)
BOX 2	Letters of condolence, 1900-1901 (2 folders)
BOX 2	Subject file
BOX 2	Breech-loading howitzers, undated
BOX 2	Financial papers
BOX 2	1862-1879 (4 folders)
BOX 3	1800-1900, undated (5 folders)
BOX 3	Spanish-American War, 1898
BOX 3	Steel armor plate, 1895, undated
BOX 3	Blueprints
BOX 3	Contracts
BOX 3	Notes and memoranda (2 folders)
BOX 3	Wreck of the USS <i>Saginaw</i> on Ocean Island (1870), 1871-1948
BOX 4	Miscellany
BOX 4	Biographical file, undated
BOX 4	Card plates, 1900
BOX 4	Certificate, Associated Veterans of Farragut's Fleet, undated
BOX 4	Genealogy
BOX 4	Holograph compositions, 1851, undated
BOX 4	Miscellaneous material
BOX 4	Newspaper clippings, 1899-1900 (2 folders)
BOX 4	Notebook, fund for the relief of the families of John Andrews and James Muir, 1871-1877
BOX 4	Photograph of Sicard, undated
BOX 4	Printed matter, 1847-1889
BOX 4	Signatures Sketches, USS <i>Swatara</i> , 1878
BOX 4	Stephen Sicard, financial papers, 1821-1825
BOX 4	William F. Sicard, notebook and essay, 1887-1888
BOX 4	William Floyd, financial papers, 1800-1839