

## Malcolm Peters Nash Papers, 1887-1968

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## Summary

**Title:** Malcolm Peters Nash Papers

**Dates:** 1887-1968

**Extent:** 4.75 linear feet (4 document boxes, 2 oversized boxes)

**Creator:** Nash, Malcolm Peters, 1869-1934

**Abstract:** This collection documents the career of Malcolm Peters Nash from his education at the New York Nautical School (now SUNY Maritime College) through his service with the United States Navy and his years with the Naval Reserve. The collection consists of documents, diaries, correspondence, photographs, newspaper clippings, artifacts and ephemera.

**Language:** English

## Biographical History

Malcolm Peters Nash was born in Bloomfield, New Jersey on July 13, 1869. He spent 43 years of service at sea. Nash's life at sea began as a cadet on the training ship St. Mary's of the New York Nautical School (now SUNY Maritime College). After graduating in 1887 he returned to the St. Mary's in 1895 as a post graduate and again in 1903 as quarter master. Nash sailed the world on various civilian trade ships, and then in 1905 was appointed Third Officer in the U.S. Naval Collier Service. Between 1905 and 1916 he worked on ships contracted by the U.S. Navy, rising to the rank of First Officer. In 1917 he was commissioned as a Commanding Officer on the USS Saturn for the U.S. Navy. During World War I Nash was awarded the Navy Cross due to his heroic handling of a fire aboard the USS Ophir. While relieved of active duty in 1925, Nash remained in the Naval Reserve in some form until his retirement in 1933. He died on August 22, 1934 and is interned at the Bloomfield (NJ) Cemetery in the "Peters" family plot.

## Scope and Content

The Malcolm Peters Nash Papers focus on his career at sea, beginning in 1887 through his retirement in 1933. The materials take the form of correspondence, documents, clippings, diaries, medals, photographs, ephemera, and artifacts.

Certificates of discharge, application letters, and hand written sea service records document Nash's career. These items demonstrate where he traveled, ranking on ships, and other accomplishments. Documents such as a letters of assignment, ship communications, a patent request, correspondence from colleagues, and retirement papers provide evidence of Nash's maritime activities and interests.

A prominent achievement in Nash's life was receiving the Navy Cross during World War I. Included in the collection are the official letter announcing his award, an account of what took place during the incident written by Nash, and a local newspaper clipping from his town of residence (Huntington, New York). There is also a plaque and medal commemorating the award.

Two diaries and correspondence with Nash's wife, son, and other relatives offer insight into Nash's personal life. The first diary, from 1891, depicts Nash as a young man during a period where he was not at sea; the second diary from 1926 follows him while at sea and at home. Correspondence includes a letter to Nash's wife just before their son was born in 1915; a letter to Nash's newborn son, Malcolm Peters Nash Jr. in 1915; and another letter to Nash's son on his birthday in 1926.

Photographic prints consist of early portraits; several of the training ship St. Mary's in 1903; two later portraits; and a photo of the USS Alameda, a ship he commanded in 1919.

The collection also includes objects and printed materials Nash collected over the course of his career, such as books on maritime history, travel publications, newspaper articles relating to historic events, and a handmade sea chest.

## Arrangement of Materials

Materials from Nash's professional career are listed first in chronological order, followed by photographs and personal items.

## Access and Use

Appointments to examine materials must be made in advance. Please e-mail [library@sunymaritime.edu](mailto:library@sunymaritime.edu) for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Reproductions may be provided to users to support research and scholarship. However, collection use is subject to all copyright laws. The responsibility to secure copyright permission rests with the patron.

Preferred Citation: Identification of specific item; Date (if known); Malcolm Peters Nash Papers, 1887-1968. Box Number. SUNY Maritime College.

Materials entirely in English.

## Custodial and Acquisition Information

The contents of this collection were passed down through the Nash family. Malcolm Peters Nash Jr. passed the collection to his son, Malcolm Peters Nash III, who held on to the materials for many years and through multiple moves.

Malcolm Peters Nash III donated the materials to SUNY Maritime College in April 2016 at the urging of his daughter, Katie Nash, who is a professional archivist. (Accession 2016.1)

## Related Material

[SUNY Maritime College](#)

The Graduate Records Registries, 1876-1916 (Box 3, 1882-1888) And New York Nautical School Conduct Books include entries for Malcolm Peters Nash.

## Collections in Other Repositories

The [North Carolina Maritime Museum](#) holds several artifacts that once belonged to Malcolm Peters Nash.

## **Processing Information**

This collection was processed by Martin Zmijewski in the spring and summer of 2016. Finding aid written by Martin Zmijewski and edited by Annie Tummino. Description based on *Describing Archives: A Content Standard* (DACS).

## **Subjects**

### Personal names

Nash, Malcolm Peters (1869-1934)

### Corporate names

New York Nautical School  
United States-Navy

### Topical subjects

Maritime history  
Nautical training-schools  
Naval history  
Navy officer  
Navy Cross (medal)  
Sailors  
Seafaring life  
Ship captains  
Shipping  
Training-ships  
World War I

## Container List

<b>Folder Title</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Box</b>
Fall Overboard	1888	1
Certificates of Discharge	1895-1905	1
United States Naval Collier Service	1905	1
USS Dewey Dry Dock (2 folders)	1905-1906	1
Logbook	1908	2
Sea Service Records	circa 1910	1
Naval Auxiliary Service	1912	1
Gun Sight Patent	1913	1
Blue Print of Gun Sight	circa 1913	3
Medals, Navy Cross and Service (4 items)	circa 1917-1919	4
Sea Service Records	circa 1918	1
Ship Communications	1918	1
Navy Cross Documents	1919-1920	1
Navy Cross Plaque	circa 1919	3
Application Letters	1924-1927	1
Honorable Discharge	1925 January	3
Appointment in Naval Reserve	1925 April	3
Export Steamship Line	circa 1925-1930	1
Retirement Papers	1934	1
Naval Reserve Documents Requested by Malcolm Peters Nash Jr.	1968	1
Genealogical Papers provided by Malcolm Peters Nash III	1987	1
Photographs	1887-1919	1
Letters	1915-1926	1
Diaries	1891, 1926	1
Prayer Books	1886	1
Travel Publications (3 folders)	1921-1926	1
Maritime and History Publications (7 volumes)	1919-1931	5-6
Artifacts (2 items)	Undated	4
Sea Chest	Undated	