

**Guide to the Thomas H. Stevens Papers, 1862  
Catalog Number MS358**

**The Library at The Mariners' Museum**

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## DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY

**Repository:** The Library at The Mariners' Museum

**Title:** Thomas H. Stevens Papers, 1862

**Catalog number:** MS358

**Accession numbers:** A200

**Physical Characteristics:** 1 item

**Language(s):** English

**Creator(s):** Thomas H. Stevens

## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection consists of a single military document. The document contains orders detaching Thomas H. Stevens from the *Maratanza* and placing him in command of the ironclad USS *Monitor*. The order date from August 9, 1862 and are signed by the U.S. Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles.

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

### Accession number

A200

### Accession dates

200

### Restrictions

Collection is open to all researchers.

### Publication Rights

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### Preferred Citation

Thomas H. Stevens Papers, 1862: MS358

The Library at The Mariners' Museum, Newport News, Virginia

### Note to Users

Due to the fragile and rare nature of the collection, researchers are requested to handle the materials with caution and in accordance with proscribed archival practices. When using these materials, please preserve the original order of the collection.

## BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL SKETCH

Thomas Holdup Stevens, Jr. was the fifth of six men to command the ironclad USS *Monitor*. He was born on May 27, 1819, in Middletown, Connecticut and at the age of seventeen joined the U.S. Navy. He was appointed acting midshipman on December 14, 1836. From his enlistment to the beginning of the Civil War, Stevens served on a number of ships and on shore duty stations. Under the Act of 28 February 1855, Stevens was mustered out of the Navy as a lieutenant. He was re-commissioned as a lieutenant on

January 29, 1858. From then until the outbreak of the Civil War, Stevens served with the Home Squadron. He served on the USS *Roanoke*, USS *Colorado*, and the USS *Michigan*.

He assumed command of the USS *Ottawa* on September 4, 1861 and fought at Port Royal, South Carolina. He aided in the capture of Forts Beauregard and Walker. From January to March 1862, he assisted in the blockade of the coast of Florida and helped capture Fort Clinch and the towns of Fernandina and St. Mary's. In late April, he was transferred to the North Atlantic Blockading Squadron and placed in command of the USS *Maratanza*. The *Maratanza* assisted in the support of General George McClellan during the Peninsula Campaign in May 1862. Stevens was promoted to commander on July 15, 1862, and on August 9 he was ordered to take command of the USS *Monitor*. Stevens was in command of the *Monitor* until September 6, 1862. He was ordered to take command of the USS *Sonoma* on September 12, 1862 and led her in her capture of five Confederate ships, including the *Florida*.

Commander Stevens was detached from the *Sonoma* on June 18, 1863 and served as commander on several ships during the war, including the ironclad USS *Patapsco*, USS *Oneida*, and the double-turreted monitor *Winnebago*. He commanded the *Winnebago* in attacks on Fort Powell and in the Battle of Mobile Bay. On August 18, he was placed back in command of the *Oneida* and retained command of the ship until August 1865.

Commander Stevens was appointed lighthouse inspector for the 11<sup>th</sup> Treasury District in 1866 and was promoted to Captain. On July 26, 1870, he took command of the *Guerriere* in the European Squadron. In 1872, he was assigned to the Norfolk Navy Yard as commanding officer and was promoted to Commodore in 1873. In 1879, he was promoted to Rear Admiral and on August 19, 1880, took command of the Pacific Station. He retired on May 27, 1881. Stevens died on May 13, 1896 in Rockville, Maryland and was buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

## **FOLDER LIST**

### **Folder 1      Military Orders, 1862**

**August 9, 1862:** Navy Department, Washington, DC.

One-page set of orders from the Secretary of the Navy, Gideon Welles, to Thomas H. Stevens detaching him from command of the USS *Marantz* and placing him in command of the ironclad USS *Monitor*. According to notes on the orders, Stevens reported for duty on August 16, 1862.

**[MS358.01.01.01]**

## **MATERIALS REMOVED**

None

## **SOURCES CONSULTED**

Still, Jr., Willam N. *Ironclad Captains: The Commanding Officers of the USS Monitor*.  
U.S.S. Monitor, historical report series; v. 1, no. 2. Washington, DC: Marine and  
Estuarine Management Division, National Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration, U.S. Dept. of Commerce, 1988.

## **SUBJECTS**

*Monitor* (Ironclad ; 1862)  
Stevens, Thomas H. Jr.  
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865.