



Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
Guide to the David J. Davies collection
1943-1962
MC/5

Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation Archives
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Finding aid produced on: 2018-05-24
Description is in English.

Descriptive Summary

Title: David J. Davies collection

Creator: Davies, David J.

Date(s): 1943-1962

Quantity: 1 box.

Language of Materials: English

Call Number: MC/5

Administrative/Biographical History

David J. Davies was a boilermaker at the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

The Brooklyn Navy Yard, officially known as the New York Naval Shipyard, has its origins in the Federal government's purchase of the land adjacent to Wallabout Bay for \$40,000 in 1801, and the subsequent conversion of the land into an active U.S. Navy shipyard five years later in 1806. Over the course of its history, more than 230 naval warships and auxiliary vessels were built at the Yard. Additionally, during World War II alone, more than 5,000 ships were repaired, overhauled, or converted at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The first ship built was the USS Ohio, launched in 1820, while the last ship launched was the USS Duluth (LPD-6) in 1965. Other historic vessels constructed or launched at the Navy Yard include Robert Fulton's steam frigate, the Fulton, the USS Arizona, the USS Missouri, and the USS Antietam.

In 1824, the Navy purchased an additional 25 acres near the Yard on which it established the Brooklyn Naval Hospital. The main hospital building was completed in 1838, and functioned until it was eventually closed in 1948. By 1850, the Hospital Annex was a self-contained parcel of land, walled-in, with a gatehouse, a laboratory, and a cemetery. In 1864, the Surgeon's Residence was constructed. When the shipyard expanded during World War II, it took over the land of the former Wallabout Market and the physical separation between the Yard and the Hospital was eliminated.

During the Civil War, the Navy Yard employed about 6,000 people and by 1938 it provided jobs for over 10,000 people. During World War II nearly 70,000 people were employed at the Yard. By the end of the war, it had grown to encompass 291 acres with 270 major buildings, 24 miles of railroad tracks, 23,278 linear feet of crane tracks, 18 miles of paved roads, 16,495 feet of berthing space, 9 piers, 6 dry docks, and 22 shops housing 98 different trades.

In 1966, the Navy decommissioned the Yard and closed its active shipbuilding presence in Brooklyn, but retained residual administrative support functions as part of Naval Station New York, which occupied the former Hospital Annex and some adjacent buildings until it too was closed in 1989. In 1967, the City of New York acquired the Brooklyn Navy Yard for private commercial use.

Scope and Content

This collection contains the personal papers and effects of David J. Davies. The folder of personal papers includes a letter of recommendation, a Brooklyn Navy Yard identification card from 1943, and an immunization form. The artifacts include a desk nameplate that reads "David J. Davies, boilermaker supervisor" and a plaque for 27 years of service.

Related Materials

Location of Copies: Items in this collection may have been digitized and if so, are featured in [BNY Collections](#), the BNYDC Archives' digital library. Only those items that have digital reproductions contain an Object ID listed in the Container List below. Use the Object ID or title of the item when searching BNY Collections.

Access Points

New York Naval Shipyard
Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation
Brooklyn Navy Yard
Brooklyn (New York, N.Y.)
Industrial buildings
Laborers
Navy-yards and naval stations--United States
New York Naval Shipyard
Sailors--United States
Ships
Ships--Launching
Shipbuilding--United States
Shipbuilding industry--Employees
United States. Navy.
Waterfronts

Administrative Information

Accession Number(s): N/A

Acquisition Notes: This collection was donated by Jim McNamara of SUNY Maritime. There is no deed of gift or other collection documentation.

Processing Notes: This collection was processed by Chelsea Reil in May 2018.

Access and Use

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Container List

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Arrangement Note: This series is arranged chronologically.

Box #	Title	Date	Object ID
1 3-B-1-12			
Folder 1	Professional papers	1943-1962	
Object 1	Desk nameplate		12391
Object 2	Plaque recognizing David J. Davies' 27 years of Federal service		12390