

Committee on Appropriations,

House of Representatives,

Washington, D. C., Feb 23, 1885.

Admiral;

I regret I found it im-  
possible to get your appropria-  
tion considered for Coaster's  
Harbor Island, the sum-  
mer Bill had already been  
printed & Mr. Randall, at  
once, without again  
bringing it before the Com-  
mittee, reported the Bill to  
the House.

Your only chance  
will be to get your appropria-  
tion put on in the Senate,  
as the Bill will be passing in  
the House under suspension  
of the rules, Yours Respectfully  
(over) John Hancock

P.S.

Enclosed, herewith,  
please find your papers  
J. H.

Admiral S. B. Luce  
Navy Dept.

Copy of letter sent to Mr. Randall - 27

1710 H. Street -

Washington -

February 2, 1885 -

My dear Sir,

I hope I will not take up too much of your valuable time but what I am about to request of you, is so important, just now, to the Navy, that I cannot forbear referring to it.

An appropriation of \$13,000 has been asked to carry on what is known as the War School, at Coasters Harbor Island, Newport.

The appropriation is not for the purpose of paying for an establishment, but for the purpose of repairing a public building, the property of the Government, which is so foul from

having been occupied for years by paupers that it cannot be made habitable until it is renovated.

The building is not intended for officers to live in - but for the instruction of officers in matters absolutely necessary to fit them for the higher duties of their profession, and on subjects of vital interest to the navy which cannot be taught at the Naval Academy.

Commodore Luce is under the impression that you consider the establishment of the school to be without authority of law, but if you consider a moment you will see that it is not so.

The Secretary of the navy has authority to prescribe any studies or duties which will enable them to keep up with their

profession, and might appoint a ship for this purpose, but it would be a very expensive business - and for this reason he intends to utilize a public building which is not wanted for any other purpose, and which will be just the thing for a post-graduate school when it is made fit for habitation.

This is about the same thing the Army has at Fortress Monroe - the Artillery school, which is doing so much for that branch of the service. We have no shops of modern date and until we build them many officers will be idle -

It is therefore to the best interest of the Navy that the post-graduate school should be established at once.

I hope then, you will listen favorably

to Com. Luce in regard to this small appropriation -

He is an officer who has the best interests of the service at heart and would not urge anything not needed.

I will not trouble you now by going into an argument on this matter but if you wish any further information on the subject I will gladly give it to you -

(Signed) Admiral Porter -

Mr. Randall -

Appropriation  
for U.S. Naval  
War College,  
1885.

## Coaster's Harbor Island.

For the care and preservation of the building on Coaster's Harbor Island, formerly known as the "asylum", and the adjoining buildings and grounds, given to the United States for naval purposes by the state of Rhode Island, to be used for an advanced course of instruction for naval officers, and for improvements, furniture, fixtures, heating, lighting, water; purchase of feed and maintenance of a driving team and mail wagon and attendance on same, and for books and stationery,           \$12,000;

For pay of one clerk to officer in charge of the building,  
\$1,000;