Ninian Pinkney Papers

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

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2011

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

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011152

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm70050062

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson
Collection Summary
Title: Ninian Pinkney Papers
Span Dates: 1822-1913
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1840-1870)
ID No.: MSS50062
Creator: Pinkney, Ninian, 1811-1877
Extent: 900 items ; 3 containers ; 1.2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Naval surgeon. Correspondence, speeches, articles, and notes relating mainly to Pinkney's surgical cases in Peru, his observations on the Mexican War and Civil War, his plan to reorganize the Army Medical Corps, and his interest in politics.

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
Bancroft, George, 1800-1891--Correspondence.
Clay, Henry, 1777-1852--Correspondence.
Hambleton, Samuel, 1812-1886--Correspondence.
Perry, Matthew Calbraith, 1794-1858--Correspondence.
Pinkney, Mary H. (Mary Hambleton),1816-1896--Correspondence.
Pinkney, Ninian, 1811-1877.
Welles, Gideon, 1802-1878--Correspondence.

Organizations
United States. Army. Medical Corps.
United States. Navy.

Subjects
Medicine--Practice--Peru.
Mexican War, 1846-1848.

Places
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--Politics and government--19th century.

Occupations
Surgeons.

Administrative Information
Provenance
The papers of Ninian Pinkney, naval surgeon, were deposited in the Library of Congress by the Naval Historical Foundation in 1949. Additional material was deposited by the foundation in 1957 and the collection was converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History
The Ninian Pinkney Papers were processed in 1969 and revised and expanded in 1984. The finding aid was revised in 2011.
Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Ninian Pinkney is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

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

Biographical Note

Date | Event
--- | ---
1811, June 7 | Born, Annapolis, Md.
1830 | Graduated, St. John's College, Annapolis, Md.
1834 | Appointed assistant surgeon
1834 | Duty in USS *Erie* (flagship), Brazil Squadron
1838 | Married Mary S. Hambleton (died 1896)
1838 | Duty at the United States Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.
1839 | Duty in USS *Brandywine* (frigate), Mediterranean Squadron
1840-1844 | Duty in USS *Relief* (supply ship) and USS *Shark* (schooner), Pacific Squadron
1841 | Commissioned surgeon
1841 | Duty at Callao, Peru
1844 | Duty at the Baltimore, Md., Naval Rendezvous
1846 | Duty in USS *Albany* (sloop of war), Home Squadron, Mexican War
1848 | Duty in USS *Germantown* (sloop of war), Home Squadron
1850 | Duty in USS *Saranac* (sloop of war), Home Squadron
1852 | Duty at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1856 | Duty in USS *Susquehanna* (side-wheel steamer), Mediterranean Squadron
1858 | Duty at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Norfolk, Va.
1859 | Duty in USS *San Jacinto* (screw warship), African Squadron
1861 | Duty at the United States Naval Hospital, Washington, D.C.
1862  Fleet surgeon, Mississippi Squadron
1870  Duty at the Washington, D.C., Navy Yard
1871  Appointed medical director, United States Navy
1873  Retired
1876  Elected vice president, American Medical Association
1877, Dec. 15  Died, Easton, Md.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Ninian Pinkney (1811-1877) span the years 1822 to 1913, with the bulk of the material concentrated in the period 1840-1870. The papers consist of a letterbook, correspondence, speeches and articles, medical papers, clippings, and miscellany.

Subjects in the collection include Pinkney's tours of naval duty, his surgical cases in Peru, his observations on the Mexican War and Civil War, efforts to obtain seniority status in the navy, plan to reorganize the United States Navy Medical Corps, and his interest in politics. Correspondents include his wife, Mary H. Pinkney, and George Bancroft, Henry Clay, Samuel Hambleton, Matthew Calbraith Perry, and Gideon Welles.

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged by type of material.
# Container List

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Letterbook, USS <em>Relief</em> (supply ship), 1841</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Official, 1836-1850</td>
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<td>(3 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>General, 1838-1878</td>
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<td>(8 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Speeches, articles, and related material</td>
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<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>On collection of prescriptions, 1833</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>On surgical cases in Peru, 1843-1873</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>&quot;Report on Cases and Operations during Cruise in Pacific, 1846,&quot; holograph with typescript copy</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Address before medical congress, Florence, Italy, 1859</td>
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<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>On the impeachment of Andrew Johnson, 1868</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>On legal efforts to obtain seniority in the navy, 1871-1913</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>Address to students at St. John's College, Annapolis, Md., circa 1873</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>On politics, 1875</td>
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<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>On reorganization of the United States Navy Medical Corps, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Miscellany</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Commendations and tributes, 1840-1850</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Commissions and American Medical Association papers, 1830-1871</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Eulogy of Pinkney by William Pinkney, 1877</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Newspaper clippings, 1868-1877</td>
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<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Photographs and prints</td>
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<td>(2 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 3</td>
<td>Miscellaneous notes and other material, 1822-1876, undated</td>
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<td>(3 folders)</td>
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