Collection Summary

Title: Pinkerton's National Detective Agency Records
Span Dates: 1853-1999
Bulk Dates: 1880-1920
ID No.: MSS36301
Creator: Pinkerton's National Detective Agency
Extent: 63,000 items
Extent: 185 containers plus 20 oversize
Extent: 80 linear feet
Extent: 3 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm75036301

Summary: Private detective agency directed by the Pinkerton family to protect interests of clients in business and industry. The records include business and family correspondence; biographical and genealogical records; administrative records such as procedural guidelines and training manuals; criminal case files which include correspondence, reports, photographs, legal documents, and printed matter; and draft manuscripts and printing plates.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People
Bangs, George H. George H. Bangs papers.
Cassidy, Butch, 1866-
McParland, James P.
Mudgett, Herman W., 1861-1896.
Pinkerton, Allan, 1819-1884. Allan Pinkerton papers.
Pinkerton, Allan, 1876-1930. Allan Pinkerton papers.
Pinkerton, Robert A. (Robert Allan), 1848-1907. Robert A. Pinkerton papers.
Sundance Kid.

Organizations
Molly Maguires (Organization)
Pinkerton's National Detective Agency.
United States. Army of the Potomac.
William J. Burns International Detective Agency.

Subjects
Civil defense--United States.
Coal miners--Labor unions.
Crime.
Espionage--Washington (D.C.)
Labor unions--Pennsylvania.
Law enforcement.
National security--United States.
Private investigators.
Sabotage--Washington (D.C.)
World War, 1914-1918--United States.

Places
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Secret service.

**Acquisition Information**

The records of Pinkerton's National Detective Agency were given to the Library of Congress by Robert A. Pinkerton in 1956, Pinkerton's, Inc. in 2000, and Norman W. Merrill in 2015. The Library purchased additional material in 1972 and 2000. Additional material was transferred from the Prints and Photographs Division in 2019.

**Processing History**

Letterpress copybooks and miscellaneous reports were processed in 1975 by Michael McElderry. The remainder of the collection, which incorporates the initial gift of records, was processed in 2001 by Nan Thompson Ernst with the assistance of Edward T. Green, Sr., R. Michael McReynolds, Mary Mundy, Marjorie Torney, and Chanté Wilson. Material received in 2015 and 2019 was processed as an addition in 2020 by Laney Stevenson.

**Transfers**

Some photographs have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Visual materials from the Pinkerton's National Detective Agency records. Patrons are encouraged to contact the Prints and Photographs Division in advance of a research visit.

**Copyright Status**

Copyright in the unpublished writings of Pinkerton's National Detective Agency in these records and in other collections of papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

**Access and Restrictions**

The records of Pinkerton's National Detective Agency 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.

**Microfilm**

A microfilm edition of the letterpress copybooks and miscellaneous reports processed in 1975 is available on three reels. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase and interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

**Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Pinkerton's National Detective Agency Records, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Biographical Notes and Organizational History**

**Allan Pinkerton (1819-1884)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1819, Aug. 25</td>
<td>Born, Glasgow, Scotland</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1842 Married Joan Carfrae
Fled to North America fearing arrest for activities in Chartist Movement, residing first in
Montreal, Canada
1842-1843 Worked as a cooper in Chicago, Ill.
1843-1850 Operated a cooperage in Dundee, Ill.
1847 Discovered counterfeiters while scouting for barrel timber on the Fox River
1850 Worked in Chicago, Ill., as a criminal investigator; appointed Special United States Mail Agent to
investigate series of postal thefts
circa 1852 Formed a detective agency in Chicago, Ill., with attorney Edward A. Rucker, the first of several
detective businesses
1853 Appointed deputy sheriff of Cook County, Ill.
1855 Signed contract to guard Illinois Central Railroad
1861 Amid fears of assassination, secretly escorted Abraham Lincoln on train from Baltimore, Md., to
Washington, D.C., for presidential inauguration
Organized first secret service division of the United States Army
1861-1862 First chief of United States Secret Service
1863-1865 Conducted investigations in New Orleans, La., of fraudulent claims of property loss against the
United States government
1863-1884 Director, Pinkerton’s National Detective Agency, with headquarters in Chicago, Ill., and offices in
other major cities
1868 Published *History and Evidence of the Passage of Abraham Lincoln from Harrisburg, Pa., to
Washington, D.C., on the 22d and 23d of February, 1861.* Chicago: Republican Print
1875 Published *Claude Melnotte as a Detective, and Other Stories.* Chicago: W. B. Keen, Cooke & Co.
Published *The Detective and the Somnambulist.* Chicago: W. B. Keen, Cooke & Co.
Published *The Expressman and the Detective.* Chicago: W. B. Keen, Cooke & Co.
1876 Published *The Model Town and the Detectives.* New York: G. W. Carleton
1877 Published *The Spiritualists and the Detectives.* New York: G. W. Carleton
1878 Published *Strikers, Communists, Tramps and Detectives.* New York: G. W. Carleton
1879 Published *Criminal Reminiscences and Detective Sketches.* New York: G. W. Carleton
Published *The Gypsies and the Detectives.* New York: G. W. Carleton
Published *Mississippi Outlaws and the Detectives.* New York: G. W. Carleton
Published *Mollie Maguires and the Detectives.* New York: G. W. Carleton
1880 Published *Bucholz and the Detectives.* New York: G. W. Carleton
1881 Published *Professional Thieves and the Detective.* New York: G. W. Carleton
Published *The Rail-Road Forger and the Detectives.* New York: G. W. Carleton
1883 Published *Bank Robbers and the Detective.* New York: G. W. Carleton
Published *The Spy of the Rebellion.* New York: G. W. Carleton
1884 Published *Thirty Years a Detective.* New York: G. W. Carleton
Published *A Double Life and the Detectives.* New York: G. W. Carleton
1884, July 1 Died, Chicago, Ill.

William A. Pinkerton (1846-1923)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1846, Apr. 7</td>
<td>Born, Dundee, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Attended Notre Dame University, South Bend, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861-1865</td>
<td>Served in Secret Service Division, United States Army, and later with his father in New Orleans, La., investigating fraudulent claims of property loss against the United States government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1862</td>
<td>Wounded by exploding shell during battle at Antietam, Md.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>Attended Notre Dame University, South Bend, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866</td>
<td>Detective on criminal cases for the Pinkerton agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Married Margaret Ashling (died 1895)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1884 Upon death of father, managed western division of the Pinkerton agency from Chicago, Ill., in partnership with brother, Robert Pinkerton
Specialized in bank protection

1923, Dec. 11 Died, Los Angeles, Calif.

Robert A. Pinkerton (1848-1907)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1848, Dec. 2</td>
<td>Born, Dundee, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864</td>
<td>Attended Notre Dame University, South Bend, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864-1865</td>
<td>Served in the United States Army with his father in New Orleans, La., investigating fraudulent claims of property loss against the United States government</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1865</td>
<td>Attended Notre Dame University, South Bend, Ind.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1868</td>
<td>Assigned to Pinkerton's New York, N.Y., office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1875</td>
<td>Married Anna Elizabeth Hughes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>Upon death of father, managed eastern division of the Pinkerton agency from New York, N.Y., in partnership with brother, William Pinkerton Built protective patrol while also investigating criminal cases</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1880s</td>
<td>Began long association with Jockey Club to police horse racetracks and betting syndicates in the New York, N.Y., vicinity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1907, Aug. 12</td>
<td>Died aboard steamer <em>Bremen</em> in the Atlantic ocean en route to Europe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Allan Pinkerton (1876-1930)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1876, June 30</td>
<td>Born, Brooklyn, N.Y., son of Robert A. Pinkerton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1896</td>
<td>Graduated from Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Entered the Pinkerton agency as a private detective</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1902</td>
<td>Married Franc Woodworth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>Appointed major of infantry, United States Army, serving on the staff of Gen. John J. Pershing at Chaumont, later as assistant provost marshal at Tours and Bordeaux, and finally in charge of criminal investigations for the provost marshal general's department. Medical discharge for tuberculosis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>Became sole family director of Pinkerton's National Detective Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Incorporated the agency and became its first president</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930, Oct. 7</td>
<td>Died, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Robert A. Pinkerton (1904-1967)

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1904, Nov. 7</td>
<td>Born, Brooklyn, N.Y., son of Allan Pinkerton (1876-1930)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1927</td>
<td>A.B., Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1928</td>
<td>Attended Columbia University Law School, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1929-1934</td>
<td>Stockbroker, Carlisle, Mellick &amp; Co., New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>Assumed leadership of Pinkerton's National Detective Agency upon death of his father, Allan Pinkerton (1876-1930) Married Louise Eliot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>Testified on behalf of the Pinkerton agency in United States Senate investigation of industrial espionage and interference with the right of labor to organize and bargain collectively</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>Pinkerton's board of directors supported recommendation to eliminate labor investigations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1942-1945</td>
<td>Industrial guard services increased during war years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940s-1960s</td>
<td>Criminal detection replaced by commercial investigation and security services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1965</td>
<td>Agency's name changed to Pinkerton's Inc., to reflect its function in supplying security services to industrial plants, banks, hospitals, universities, racetracks, sporting events, and fairs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1967 Resigned as president of Pinkerton's Inc.; named chairman of the board
1967, Oct. 11 Died, Bay Shore, N.Y.
End of Pinkerton family direction for the agency

Scope and Content Note

The records of Pinkerton's National Detective Agency, oldest company of private investigators in the United States, span
the years 1853-1999 with the bulk of the material dating from 1880 to 1920. The collection documents the history of
the agency founded circa 1850 in Chicago by Scottish immigrant Allan Pinkerton (1819-1884), a leading figure in crime
detection, particularly for clients in business and industry. It consists of main office files from New York and Chicago and
is organized in five series: Family Directors File, Administrative File, Criminal Case File, 2020 Addition, and Oversize.
Branch offices files are not generally included. Furthermore, many family and business papers burned when the agency
headquarters was destroyed in the Chicago fire of 1871.

The Family Directors File includes material from all five of the Pinkerton men who ran the agency from 1850 to 1967.
Records for founder Allan Pinkerton include newspaper and magazine articles about him, and a book manuscript, but
only a few original primary documents. Scattered correspondence, photographs, and mementos, such as railroad passes
and a phrenological analysis of Pinkerton's character and future prospects, are available in the series. Records concerning
Pinkerton's death in 1884, his funeral and memorial tributes, are more extensive.

Pinkerton's sons, William (1846-1923) in Chicago and Robert (1848-1907) in New York, expanded the agency during the
last quarter of the nineteenth century. It is primarily the criminal division of their business that is documented in this
collection. At the time of Robert Pinkerton's death in 1907, the agency had two thousand employees, safeguarded four
thousand banks in the United States, and had branch offices operating throughout the country. Correspondence between
William and Robert in the Family Directors File complements the Criminal Case File since much of it concerns criminal
investigations undertaken by the agency.

Robert's son, Allan Pinkerton (1876-1930), managed the New York office after his father's sudden death in 1907,
continuing the agency partnership with his uncle, William, who remained head of the Chicago office. His files include
records of military service during World War I and items reflecting the agency's involvement in homeland security. When
William died in 1923, Allan Pinkerton incorporated the agency and became sole family director. Incorporation records are
included in his segment of the Family Directors File. Allan's son, Robert Pinkerton (1904-1967), succeeded him in 1930
and was the last of the family to direct the agency.

The Administrative File selectively documents business principles and practices. Policy statements, procedural guidelines,
and training manuals provide an outline of the agency's approach to soliciting business and conducting private
investigations to protect the interests of individual clients. Agency policy also called for cooperation with law enforcement
officials requiring that evidence be given to police and prosecuting authorities when a case reached the point of arrest and
prosecution. There was no federal police agency in the nineteenth century, and the Pinkerton agency played a prominent
role in apprehending lawbreakers, particularly train and bank robbers and jewel thieves. As bankers and jewelers formed
associations for mutual protection, Pinkerton's provided security services to these associations. The agency's investigative
methods, documented in this collection, were later adopted by public law enforcement units. Pinkerton's compiled dossiers
on criminals, used mug shots for purposes of identification, cultivated informers who were given code names, sent
operatives undercover to infiltrate gangs, and circulated notices to alert the public that criminals were at large.

Pinkerton's first big contracts were with railroad companies, and the Administrative File includes a copy of a contract
signed in 1855 with the Illinois Central Railroad, whose legal counsel was Abraham Lincoln and director of security was
George B. McClellan. Lincoln and McClellan later turned to Pinkerton for detective work at the outbreak of the Civil War.
Allan Pinkerton's efforts to establish a secret service in 1861 to protect the president and provide military intelligence for
the Army of the Potomac are documented in letterpress copy books. Although office files were burned in the Chicago fire
of 1871, Civil War correspondence and a journal which Pinkerton had lent William Herndon survived.

Eight letterbooks supplemented by three investigative field reports comprised the collection processed in 1975. The first
two letterbooks concern Allan Pinkerton's activities as head of the secret service for the Army of the Potomac and reflect
the scope of activity performed during the early inception of this unit. They consist mostly of outgoing correspondence
and reports addressed by Pinkerton under his wartime pseudonym, Major E. J. Allen, to various government agents and

Pinkerton's National Detective Agency Records  6
officials, including George B. McClellan and Andrew Porter. These reports summarize field investigations gathered by Pinkerton's operatives and largely concern incidents of sabotage and espionage occurring in the Washington, D.C., area. Copies of incoming letters are included, as are private letters written under Pinkerton's own name. A letter dated October 6, 1861 to John Dewe reveals Pinkerton's personal convictions as to the necessity of preserving the union and abolishing slavery.

A daily journal of the New York office, 1865-1866, contains reports, letters, interviews, telegrams, and assignments of operatives. Letterbooks of George H. Bangs, general superintendent of the New York office for many years, document the day-to-day functions of the agency. Bangs's letters to Pinkerton relate the progress of specific investigations and details of general administration. His letters to district superintendents concern operational policy ranging from office management to investigative procedures.

Allan Pinkerton's letterbooks contain family as well as business and administrative correspondence and provide insight into the tactical methods employed by the agency under his direction.

The investigation of the Molly Maguires was the last important case that Allan Pinkerton personally supervised. The Molly Maguires were a secret organization of Irish immigrant coal miners who used violence and intimidation to battle low wages, poor working conditions, and ethnic discrimination in the anthracite fields of Pennsylvania. A report dated January 24, 1875 and sent to Franklin Gowen, president of the Reading Railroad, by Benjamin Franklin, superintendent of the Philadelphia office, recounts the daily movements of James McParland, the Pinkerton operative who infiltrated the Molly Maguires. This report and two others concerning labor unrest and unionization in the Pennsylvania coal region complete the collection as it was in 1975. Since these reports were microfilmed with the letterbooks, they remain with the material processed in 1975 despite the addition of related items in the Criminal Case File.

The Administrative File series also includes rules of conduct and a code of ethics communicated to his employees by Allan Pinkerton in essays entitled, “General Principles.” Pinkerton determined that the agency would not undertake an investigation on behalf of a defendant in a criminal case, would not conduct investigations involving the activities of public officers, or investigate parties suing for divorce. Pinkerton's agency did investigate labor unrest and was involved in strikebreaking at mining operations and related industries, though very little documentation of these activities is in the collection. The agency stated that records of such operations were returned to clients. The Molly Maguire reports are supplemented by material in the Criminal Case File series. A report dated 1874 on the Cambria Iron Works in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, is also in the Criminal Case File series. In addition, records from Robert Pinkerton's testimony on industrial espionage during Congressional investigations in the 1930s are part of the Family Director's File.

Pinkerton's had serious competition by the beginning of the twentieth century, especially from the agency headed by William Burns, a successful private detective. Pinkerton's criticized Burns's investigative methods, particularly his use of wiretaps, and the moral character of his operatives, some of whom had criminal records. For several years, Pinkerton's investigated the Burns agency and worked with a legal team that charged it with improper conduct. Records of the William J. Burns International Detective Agency investigation and subsequent hearings before the New York State Comptrollers office are included among the Administrative File series.

Although the Criminal Case File series represents only a fraction of the company's business, these cases received extensive publicity even many years after being solved. Pinkerton's archive was the source for many popular detective stories. As a consequence, newspaper and magazine articles sometimes dominate the case files. Most cases, however, are documented with at least some items created during the investigation, including correspondence, reports from operatives, mug shots, reward notices, and wanted posters. Some cases include legal documents and police and prison records such as Bertillion charts, which recorded bodily measurements and physical descriptions as the primary means of identification before fingerprinting became standard in the twentieth century.

Pinkerton officials wrote essays about their important criminal cases for exhibitions, publicity, or simply to create a narrative account of events. Records identified in the Criminal Case File as essays and notes are usually items created by the agency itself. However, the agency did hire professional writers, or allowed them access to the “secret archive” as this collection was sometimes styled, and drafts of their essays may also be included in the files.

Cases are arranged alphabetically by the name assigned by the Pinkerton agency. Some cases are identified by the name of the criminal or gang of criminals. Pinkerton's used the legal name of the criminal, in so far as it could be established, and not a more commonly known alias. Other cases are identified by the name of the victim, such as a train, bank, or jeweler.
or a murder victim. For instance, the serial-killer Herman Mudgett was first investigated by Pinkerton's for insurance fraud after he filed a claim when his business partner, Benjamin Pitezel, appeared to have died in an office fire. The case is identified as the Pitezel murder, but the file more fully documents Mudgett's sensational life of crime. Crimes committed by a group of cowboy criminals are subsumed under the entry for Butch Cassidy and the “Wild Bunch,” the name given to the cattle thieves, bank and train robbers, holdup men, and general outlaws congregating in the Hole-in-the-Wall country of Wyoming where, commencing in 1897, they came under the leadership of Robert Leroy Parker, alias Butch Cassidy. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid have been identified in the files by their criminal names, an exception to the usual practice, since these names conform to authority files established at the Library of Congress.

Since gang membership was not necessarily fixed or exclusive, records for some criminals are in several case files. Card indexes created by Pinkerton's to cross reference gangs and individuals are in the Administrative File. The indexes sometimes cite a “binder number,” the numerical filing system first established in the 1930s when a Pinkerton manager, Ralph Dudley, began compiling the corporate archive by gathering case material into expandable binders. The case files have been reorganized in an alphabetical arrangement, but if the index refers only to a binder number, the numerical list of binder titles at the beginning of the index can be consulted to determine the case name.

The 2020 Addition consists of draft manuscripts and printing plates. The draft manuscripts include eight detective stories, likely intended as chapters in a longer published work, all unsigned and undated, though possibly written by Allan Pinkerton (1819-1884) and Allan Pinkerton (1876-1930) or professional writers. An additional manuscript, an untitled draft of an incomplete novel, is the original version of a photostat received in a previous accession. Also included are eight printing plates. Of these, five are block printing plates with images of Allan Pinkerton, William A. Pinkerton, and Robert A. Pinkerton, possibly used as letterhead or logos on agency stationery, two are engravers copper plates of calling cards for Joan A. Pinkerton and Mrs. Kate Warn, and one is a block plate celebrating the agency's 100th anniversary.

### Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in five series:

- Family Directors File, 1853-1990
- Administrative File, 1857-1999
- Criminal Case File, 1861-1992
- 2020 Addition, 1928, 1950, undated
- Oversize, 1867-1955, 1983
### Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1-20</td>
<td>Family Directors File, 1853-1990</td>
<td>Business and family correspondence, biographical and genealogical records,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>real estate records, legal documents, reports, military records, photographs,</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>diaries, and an account book.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically by name of director and thereunder by document type</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>or subject.</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 20-68</td>
<td>Administrative File, 1857-1999</td>
<td>Correspondence, reports, legal documents, financial records, card indexes,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>code books, criminal rosters, address books and directories, employee</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>records, real estate records, procedural guidelines and training manuals,</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>reward notices and wanted posters, military records, exhibition texts,</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>business cards, logos, advertisements and other promotional materials, and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>photographs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically by document type or subject.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Letterpress books and miscellaneous reports available on microfilm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Microfilm shelf no. 16,574</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 68-183</td>
<td>Criminal Case File, 1861-1992</td>
<td>Correspondence, photographs, illustrations, police and prison records,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>legal documents, reward notices and wanted posters, newspaper and magazine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>articles and other printed matter, notes, essays and other writings.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically by case name and thereunder by document type.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged alphabetically by type of material and thereunder numerically by</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>manuscript number and alphabetically by subject of printing plate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 1-OV 20</td>
<td>Oversize, 1867-1955, 1983</td>
<td>Correspondence, payroll and other financial and administrative ledgers,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>reward notices and wanted posters, legal documents, maps, and a chart.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>from which the items were removed.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **BOX 1-20** | **Family Directors File, 1853-1990**  
Business and family correspondence, biographical and genealogical records, real estate records, legal documents, reports, military records, photographs, diaries, and an account book.  
Arranged alphabetically by name of director and thereunder by document type or subject. |
| **BOX 1** | Pinkerton, Allan (1819-1884)  
Account book, 1861  
Appointment, Cook County, Ill., deputy sheriff, 1853  
Autographs, 1871-1872, undated  
Biographical file  
Correspondence about Pinkerton  
Agency history, 1903-1911, 1919, 1932-1942, 1950  
Civil War photographs, 1892-1896, 1930-1939, undated  
Genealogy, 1949-1968, 1976, 1983, undated See also Oversize  
Civil War service  
Newspaper and magazine articles and related material, 1866-1868, 1878, 1887-1894, 1908-1916, 1930-1941, 1961, undated (3 folders) |
| **BOX 2** | Notes, including transcripts of correspondence, undated (2 folders)  
Photographs, positive prints and negatives, undated  
Pinkerton and agency history  
| **BOX 3** | Essays and notes, 1888-1892, 1945, 1979, undated (2 folders)  
Newspaper and magazine articles and related material, 1873-1875, 1884-1905, 1919-1951, undated (2 folders) |
| **BOX 4** | Correspondence, including transcripts and copies, 1856-1867, 1872-1879, 1883 (2 folders)  
Death  
Eulogies and obituaries, 1884-1890  
Letters of condolence, 1884, See Oversize (2 vols.)  
Estate and probate court records, 1887  
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<td>Essays, 1880, 1907, undated</td>
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<td>Legal documents, including copies, 1865-1866, 1888-1890</td>
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<td>Newspaper and magazine articles, 1885-1897, 1913, 1940, undated</td>
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<td>Notes, undated</td>
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<td>Photographs, positive prints and negatives, 1881-1913, undated</td>
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<td>Morse, William, crimes</td>
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<td>Correspondence, 1894-1896, 1909, 1944</td>
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<td>Essays and notes, 1895, 1942, undated</td>
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<td>Newspaper and magazine articles, 1895, 1909</td>
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<td>Reports, 1893-1911</td>
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<td>Mowry, Mildred, murder of</td>
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<td>Correspondence, 1929, 1941</td>
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<td>BOX 150</td>
<td>Photographs, positive prints and negatives, 1891, undated (2 folders)</td>
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<td>Newspaper and magazine articles, 1885-1909, 1940-1943 (2 folders)</td>
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<td>Photographs, positive prints and negatives, 1895, undated</td>
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<td>Racehorse doping</td>
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<td>Correspondence, 1939</td>
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<td>Legal documents, 1939-1940</td>
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<td>Photographs, positive prints and negatives, 1939-1941, undated</td>
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<td>Reports, 1938-1941</td>
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<td>Correspondence, 1905-1906, 1914, 1926-1932, 1938-1947, undated (2 folders)</td>
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<td>Correspondence, 1917-1923, 1932-1938</td>
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<td>Photographs, 1913-circa 1930</td>
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<td>Reports, 1918-1935</td>
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<td>Correspondence, including transcripts, 1869, 1888, 1897-1906, 1936-1950, undated</td>
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<td>Essays, 1897, 1907, 1950, undated</td>
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<td>Extradition records, copies, 1868, 1877</td>
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<td>Newspaper and magazine articles and related material, 1876-1907, 1939-1955, undated (2 folders)</td>
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<td>Notes, 1943, undated</td>
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<td>Photographs, positive prints and negatives, 1922, undated</td>
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<td>Reports and reward notices, 1868, 1878, 1905, 1943</td>
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<td>Shields, Robert W.</td>
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<td>Research material, 1876, 1916, 1951, undated</td>
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<td>Reszka-Auswaks gang</td>
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<td>Police interrogations, transcripts, 1938-1939</td>
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<td>Rice, William Lowe, murder</td>
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<td>General, 1910-1913, 1946, 1951</td>
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<td>BOX 158</td>
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<td>Essays and notes, 1946, undated</td>
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<td>Newspaper and magazine articles, 1931-1936, undated</td>
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<td>Notes, 1933, 1942, undated</td>
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<td>Photographs, positive prints and negatives, undated</td>
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<td>Reports, 1931</td>
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<td>Reward notices and wanted posters, 1930-1934, 1947, undated</td>
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<td>Ross, Charley, kidnapping, 1874, undated</td>
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<td>Saint Louis and San Francisco Railroad robbery</td>
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<td>Correspondence, 1887, 1897, 1944-1945</td>
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<td>BOX 164</td>
<td>Newspaper and magazine articles, 1873, 1886-1896, 1904, 1936, 1945, undated</td>
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<td>BOX 165</td>
<td>Schoenbein, Maximillian, gang</td>
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<td>Curtain, John, 1888-1893, undated</td>
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<td>Hamilton, Shell, 1891-1897, undated</td>
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<td>Lyons, Edward “Ned,” 1886-1906, undated</td>
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<td>McCoy, Frank, 1886-1905, undated</td>
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<td>Other associates, 1886-1906, undated</td>
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<td>Correspondence, 1883-1886, 1893-1916, 1940</td>
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<td>Legal documents, 1867-1869, 1895-1896, 1906</td>
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<td>Newspaper and magazine articles and related material, 1863, 1887-1916, 1931, 1939-1949</td>
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<td>Wilkes, Henry Wade, gang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence, 1885-1910, 1944-1945, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Essays, 1944, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Newspaper and magazine articles, 1886-1897, 1905-1913, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Notes, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 182</td>
<td>Photographs, positive prints and negatives, 1876, 1882-1891, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reports, 1876, 1886-1911, 1940, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willy's Overland Motors, Toledo, Ohio, thefts</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1951-1959, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Newspaper and magazine articles, 1953-1956</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reports, 1952-1953</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worth, Adam, gang</td>
<td>Correspondence, including copies, 1872, 1883-1905, 1912-1913, 1940, 1949-1950, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(2 folders)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Essays, 1907, 1941, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 183</td>
<td>Newspaper and magazine articles, 1883-1904, 1910-1923, 1931-1948, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(4 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Notes, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Photographs, 1896, undated</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reports, 1888-1897, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>York, Thaddeus E., crimes, 1910-1917, undated</td>
<td>Yost, Gilbert, gang, 1886, 1895, 1902-1903, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 184-185</td>
<td>2020 Addition, 1928, 1950, undated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Draft manuscripts of detective stories and eight printing plates.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and thereunder numerically by manuscript number and alphabetically by subject of printing plate.

**BOX 184**

**Printing plates**
- Calling cards and 100th anniversary, 1950, undated
- Pinkerton, Allan (1819-1884), 1928, Oct. 4
- Pinkerton, Robert A. (1848-1907), undated
- Pinkerton, William A., undated

**Writings**
- No. 1, "Justice Slow but Sure," undated
- No. 2, "A Kansas Romance," undated
- No. 3, "The Vicissitudes of Crime," undated
- No. 6, "A Ruined Life," undated

**BOX 185**

- No. 7, "A Criminal Romance," undated
- No. 8, "An Express Robber Trapped," undated
- No. 9, untitled, robbery of bank at Wilmington, Del., undated
- No. 10, untitled, murder of Jennie Cramer at New Haven, Conn., undated

See also Container 8, Writings

- Unnumbered, "Love Laughs at Locksmiths," undated

**BOX OV 1-OV 20**

**Oversize, 1867-1955, 1983**
- Correspondence, payroll and other financial and administrative ledgers, reward notices and wanted posters, legal documents, maps, and a chart.

Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

**BOX OV 1**

**Family Directors File**
- Pinkerton, Allan (1819-1884)
  - Biographical file
    - Correspondence about Pinkerton
    - Genealogy, chart, 1983 (Container 1)

**BOX OV 2**

**Death**
- Letters of condolence, 1884 (Container 4)
  - Vol. 1
  - Vol. 2

**BOX OV 3**

**Vol. 2**

**BOX OV 4**

**Administrative File**
- Financial file
  - Ledgers of employee time, payroll, and uncollected accounts (Container 37)
  - Time books
    - Vol. 1, 1873-1877
    - Vol. 2, 1878-1880
  - Vol. 3, 1880-1882

**BOX OV 7**

Vol. 4, 1884-1885

**BOX OV 8**

Vol. 5, 1887

**BOX OV 9**

Vol. 6, 1889-1890

**BOX OV 10**

Vol. 7, 1891-1897

**BOX OV 11**

Vol. 8, 1911-1933

**BOX OV 12**

Uncollected accounts, 1878-1912
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 13</td>
<td>Reward books</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>“Book 7, Hartford Office,” 1940-1941, 1952 (Container 55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 14</td>
<td>“Book 8, Denver Office,” 1915, undated (Container 56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 15</td>
<td>“Book 9, New Orleans Office,” 1931-1935, 1941 (Container 56)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 16</td>
<td>“Book 11,” 1927-1931 (Container 57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 17</td>
<td>“Book 13, St. Louis,” 1948-1955 (Container 57)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 18</td>
<td>“Kansas City Office,” circulars, 1927, 1937-1945 (Container 58)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 19</td>
<td>Criminal Case File</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Burke, William, gang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legal documents, 1885 (Container 84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cannon, John, gang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legal documents, 1870 (Container 86)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Farrington brothers gang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Correspondence and legal documents, 1871 (Container 105)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>James-Younger gang</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Exhibit material, photograph of maps, undated (Container 123)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX OV 20</td>
<td>Proctor, George H., crimes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legal documents, 1885 (Container 150)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Schoenbein, Maximillian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Legal documents, 1867-1868 (Container 166)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reports, undated (Container 167)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>