Collection Summary

Title: Francis L. Galt Papers
Span Dates: 1870-1875
ID No.: MSS84476
Creator: Galt, Francis L., 1831 or 1832-1915
Extent: 20 items
Extent: 2 containers
Extent: .6 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mss99084476
Summary: Physician and naval surgeon. Journal, letter, and writings documenting Galt’s service after the American Civil War as an expatriate medical officer in the Peruvian navy.

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
Dowd, William Henry, 1836-1873.
Galt, Francis L., 1831 or 1832-1915.
Tucker, John Randolph.

Organizations
Alabama (Screw sloop)
Peru. Marina.
Tambo (Ship)

Subjects
American Confederate voluntary exiles--Peru.
Indians of South America--Amazon River Region--Diseases.
Indians of South America--Amazon River Region--Health and hygiene.
Indians of South America--Amazon River Region--Medicine.
Indians of South America--Amazon River Region--Nutrition.
Indians of South America--Amazon River Region.

Places
Amazon River--Discovery and exploration.
Peru--Politics and government--1829-1919.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Medical care.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Naval operations, Confederate.

Occupations
Naval officers.
Physicians.

Provenance
The papers of Francis L. Galt, physician and naval surgeon, were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1999.
**Processing History**

The papers of Francis Galt were arranged and described in 2000. The collection was revised in 2008.

**Copyright Status**

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Francis L. Galt is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

**Access and Restrictions**

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a reference librarian in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions.

**Preferred Citation**

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Francis L. Galt Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

**Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Francis L. Galt (1831 or 32-1915), medical officer serving in the United States, Confederate, and Peruvian navies, span the years 1870-1875. The collection includes a journal, letter, and writings documenting Galt’s service in the Peruvian Navy as a member of the Peruvian Hydrographic Commission of the Amazon organized under the command of former Confederate admiral John Randolph Tucker to locate and explore the headwaters of the Amazon and its tributaries. Galt’s journal chronicles his official duties as a surgeon on the steamer *Tambo* and records his observations on the health, diet, and medical practices of indigenous populations encountered by the expedition. Information contained in the journal is supplemented by Galt’s other writings which include a history of the commission, its ill-fated expedition, and corruption in nineteenth-century Peruvian politics. Also included in the papers are his medical treatises on the diseases of the Amazon and an account of two American children orphaned in Peru after the death of their father, William H. Dowd, an ex-Confederate from Alabama. Miscellaneous and fragmentary writings include Galt’s account of his service as a naval surgeon on board the Confederate steamer *Alabama* during the American Civil War and his experiences after the war as a Confederate expatriate. The collection includes typed transcripts of Galt’s journal and most of his writings.

**Arrangement of the Papers**

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.
## Container List

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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Original See Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Transcript</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Letter to unidentified official transmitting climatological data, undated</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Writings</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>“An Account of the Dowd Children in Iquitos, Peru,” 1875</td>
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<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>“Medical Notes on the Amazon,” 1870</td>
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<td>BOX 2</td>
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