

Francis L. Galt Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2008

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm99084476>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms009254>

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Revised by Nicholas Newlin

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R. Gardner, 2009

Collection Summary

Title: Francis L. Galt Papers

Span Dates: 1870-1875

ID No.: MSS84476

Creator: Galt, Francis L., 1831 or 32-1915

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://lcn.loc.gov/mm99084476>

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)

Confederate States of America. Navy--Surgeons.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Francis L. Galt is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Journal, 1870-1875
BOX 1	Original <i>See Restricted</i>
BOX 1	Transcript
BOX 1	Letter to unidentified official transmitting climatological data, undated
BOX 1	Writings
BOX 1	“An Account of the Dowd Children in Iquitos, Peru,” 1875
BOX 1	“Diseases of the Upper Amazon,” 1871
BOX 1	“The Hydrographic Commission of the Amazon - A Sketch,” 1874
BOX 1	Original <i>See Restricted</i>
BOX 1	Transcript
BOX 1	“Medical Notes on the Amazon,” 1870
BOX 1	Miscellaneous excerpts, undated
BOX 2	Restricted
BOX 2	Journal, 1870-1875
BOX 2	Original
BOX 2	Writings
BOX 2	“The Hydrographic Commission of the Amazon - A Sketch,” 1874
BOX 2	Original