Frank Hastings Hamilton Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2010

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

Catalog Record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82060269

Additional search options available at: https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010118

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff
Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010
Collection Summary
Title: Frank Hastings Hamilton Papers
Span Dates: 1863-1887
ID No.: MSS60269
Creator: Hamilton, Frank Hastings, 1813-1886
Extent: 200 items
Extent: 1 container
Extent: .4 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
LC Catalog record: https://lccn.loc.gov/mm82060269
Summary: Physician, surgeon, educator and author. Mainly scrapbooks of correspondence, telegrams, military documents, photographs and clippings relating to Hamilton’s medical career in the Union Army during the Civil War and his role in the treatment of James A. Garfield before his death by assassination in 1881.

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
Hamilton, Frank Hastings, 1813-1886.
Hamilton, Theodore B., approximately 1836-1893.

Organizations
Confederate States of America. Army.
United States. Army--Surgeons.
United States. Army. New York Infantry Regiment, 62nd (1861-1865)

Subjects
Medical education.
Medicine--Practice.

Places
Confederate States of America--History.
New York (State)--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865--Medical care.
United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

Occupations
Authors.
Educators.
Physicians.
Surgeons.

Provenance
The papers of Frank Hastings Hamilton, physician, surgeon, educator, and author, were given to the Library of Congress by George A. Kaplan in 1981.
Processing History

The papers of Frank Hastings Hamilton were arranged and described in 1985. The collection was expanded and revised in 2010.

Other Repositories

A larger collection of Hamilton’s medical papers is located at the National Library of Medicine, Bethesda, Md.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Frank Hastings Hamilton is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Frank Hastings Hamilton 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, Frank Hastings Hamilton Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1813, Sept. 10</td>
<td>Born, Wilmington, Vt.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1830</td>
<td>Graduated, Union College, Schenectady, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1833</td>
<td>Received license to practice medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846</td>
<td>Helped found medical department, University of Buffalo, Buffalo, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1859</td>
<td>Appointed professor of Surgery, Long Island Hospital College, Long Island, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>Published Treatise on Fractures and Dislocations. Philadelphia: Lea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Volunteered for service in the Civil War and commissioned surgeon of the Thirty-first New York Regiment of Infantry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861-1865</td>
<td>Published Practical Treatise on Military Surgery. New York : Baillière</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863</td>
<td>Professor of surgery, Bellevue Hospital Medical College, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1863-1864</td>
<td>Became medical inspector of the U.S. Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1872</td>
<td>Medical inspector during Civil War, U.S. Army</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1886, Aug. 11</td>
<td>Consultant to the physician attending to James A. Garfield after the shotting of the president</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Died, New York, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scope and Content Note

The papers of Frank Hastings Hamilton (1813-1886) span the years 1863-1882 and consist of correspondence, telegrams, memoranda, a memorial resolution, military documents, clippings, photographs, and scrapbooks focusing on Hamilton’s medical career in the Union Army during the Civil War and as a consultant to the physician attending to President James A. Garfield before his death from assassination in 1881.

Prominent in the collection is a scrapbook entitled “History of President Garfield’s Gun Shot Wound Compiled from July 2nd to September 3rd 1881,” collated for Hamilton and dedicated to him on September 5, 1881, by an associate, Faneuil D. Weisse. Included in the volume is the telegram sent from Secretary of State James Gillespie Blaine, at the request of Mrs. Garfield, asking Hamilton to come to Washington to assist with the president’s treatment. Other items documenting Garfield’s condition and care include a graph of his temperature and pulse, July 2 to August 2, 1881, plus memoranda and annotated newspaper clippings on his assassination.

Prominent as well is a scrapbook of items from Hamilton’s Civil War service and his postwar work as a surgeon and professor of medicine. Included are photographs of the doctors of his medical staff in the Union Army, 1864-1864, as well as military documentation relating to Colonel Theodore B. Hamilton of the Sixty-second New York Infantry. Among the memorabilia are Confederate army passes and currency, and personal notes and illustrations described as having been taken from a Confederate soldier and a Confederate guerilla. A photograph separate from the album depicts medical directors of the Army of the Cumberland taken in front of General Philip Henry Sheridan’s tent at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, in 1863.

In a scrapbook reflecting Hamilton’s post-Civil War life is an 1877 letter from Oliver Wendell Holmes (1809-1894).

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material or topic
## Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Claim for services relating to treatment of James A. Garfield, 1882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Correspondence, 1881-1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Clipping regarding death of James A. Garfield, 1882</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Memorial resolution honoring Hamilton, New York County Medical Association, circa 1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Photograph of medical directors of the Army of the Cumberland, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Scrapbooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Civil War and postwar medical career, including photographs of doctors on Hamilton’s staff, 1863-1864, 1876-1877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>“History of President Garfield’s Gun Shot Wound Compiled from July 2nd to September 3rd 1881,” compiled by Faneuil D. Weisse, 1881, Sept. 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>