

Ninian Pinkney Papers

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

Prepared by Ruth S. Nicholson



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

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

Finding aid encoded by Glenn R.
Gardner, 2011

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011152>

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

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: 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.

Subjects

Medicine--Practice--Peru.

Mexican War, 1846-1848.

Places

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Ninian Pinkney is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1811, June 7	Born, Annapolis, Md.
1830	Graduated, St. John's College, Annapolis, Md.
1833	Graduated, Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, Pa.
1834	Appointed assistant surgeon Duty in USS <i>Erie</i> (flagship), Brazil Squadron
1838	Married Mary S. Hambleton (died 1896) Duty at the United States Naval Hospital, Philadelphia, Pa.
1839	Duty in USS <i>Brandywine</i> (frigate), Mediterranean Squadron
1840-1844	Duty in USS <i>Relief</i> (supply ship) and USS <i>Shark</i> (schooner), Pacific Squadron
1841	Commissioned surgeon Duty at Callao, Peru
1844	Duty at the Baltimore, Md., Naval Rendezvous
1846	Duty in USS <i>Albany</i> (sloop of war), Home Squadron, Mexican War
1848	Duty in USS <i>Germantown</i> (sloop of war), Home Squadron
1850	Duty in USS <i>Saranac</i> (sloop of war), Home Squadron
1852	Duty at the United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, Md.
1856	Duty in USS <i>Susquehanna</i> (side-wheel steamer), Mediterranean Squadron
1858	Duty at the U. S. Naval Hospital, Norfolk, Va.
1859	Duty in USS <i>San Jacinto</i> (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

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