



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Frank H. Pierce papers relating to the U.S.S. Monitor

1862-1900

MssCol 2424

Compiled by Kit Messick, 2013

Summary

Creator: Pierce, Frank H. (Frank Hamilton), 1851-1933

Title: Frank H. Pierce papers relating to the U.S.S. Monitor

Date: 1862-1900

Size: 1.02 linear feet (3 boxes, 1 oversized folder)

Source: Purchase, James Owen Proudfit Fund, 1900.

Abstract: Frank H. Pierce (1851-1933), a bank clerk of New Haven, Connecticut, was the son of Elijah S. Pierce (1829-1909), a screw manufacturer and inventor. The collection consists of correspondence between Frank H. Pierce and others, a scrapbook, and a muster roll documenting the history and construction of the ironclad U.S.S. Monitor, its commander and crew, and its loss during the Battle of Hampton Roads against the C.S.S. Virginia (also known as the Merrimack or Merrimac) in 1862.

Access: Advance notice required.

Preferred citation: Frank H. Pierce papers relating to the U.S.S. Monitor, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

Language of the Material: English

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Creator History

Frank H. Pierce (1851-1933), a bank clerk of New Haven, Connecticut, was the son of Elijah S. Pierce (1829-1909), a screw manufacturer and inventor.

Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of correspondence between Frank H. Pierce and others, a scrapbook, and a

muster roll documenting the history and construction of the ironclad U.S.S. Monitor, its commander and crew, and its loss during the Battle of Hampton Roads against the C.S.S. Virginia (also known as the Merrimack or Merrimac) in 1862. The correspondence and scrapbook consist of of personal accounts of the battle from both sides, journalistic accounts from various news sources, diagrams, illustrations, and photographs. John L. Worden, commander of the Monitor, John Ericsson, the ship's designer, and other figures affiliated with the ship and its service are also discussed throughout. Some material relating to the Virginia is included, but generally only as relates to the the Battle of Hampton Roads. An index to the correspondence is included. The final transfer and muster roll of the crew of the Monitor is dated 1862.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Muster rolls
Scrapbooks

Occupations

Sailors
Ship captains
Shipbuilders

Geographic Names

United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Naval operations

Names

Ericsson, John, 1803-1889
Pierce, Frank H. (Frank Hamilton), 1851-1933
Worden, John Lorimer, 1818-1897
Merrimack (Frigate)
Monitor (Ironclad)
Virginia (Ironclad)

Container List

Correspondence 1862-1898

- b. 1 f. 1 Addeman, J. M
- b. 1 f. 1 Atwater, Charles
- b. 1 f. 1 Atwater, E. E. (Rev.)
- b. 1 f. 1 Brooke, John M
- b. 1 f. 1 Buffalo Historical Society
- b. 1 f. 6 Butts, Francis B
Includes Butts' memoir, "My First Cruise at Sea and the Loss of the Iron-Clad Monitor," copied September, 1885.
- b. 1 f. 1 Byers, Mrs. Jerome
- b. 1 f. 1 *Century magazine*
- b. 1 f. 1 Clark, A. S
- b. 1 f. 1 Corliss Steam Engine Co
- b. 1 f. 1 Durst, William
"Monitor" crew member
- b. 1 f. 2 Ericsson, J
Transcripts; also includes letters about Ericsson from S. W. Taylor
- b. 1 f. 2 Faxon, William Bailey
- b. 1 f. 2 Fisher, Clara V. N
- b. 1 f. 2 Flye, William
Copies of letters to Fox from William Norris
- b. 1 f. 2 Folger, William M
- b. 1 f. 2 Fox, G. V
- b. 1 f. 2 Fuller, Arthur Buckminster
Includes transcript of his diary
- b. 1 f. 3 Gager, E. V
- b. 1 f. 3 Gavin, B. F
- b. 1 f. 3 Greene, S. Dana
- b. 1 f. 3 Griswold, E. H. and Mrs. E. H
- b. 1 f. 3 Hammond, S. M
- b. 1 f. 3 Harman, Patrick
- b. 1 f. 3 Hasker, C. H
- b. 1 f. 3 Howard, Samuel (Lt.)
- b. 1 f. 3 Jack, E. A
- b. 3 f. 3 Kafer, John C
- b. 1 f. 3 Keeler, William F. and Mrs. William F. (Anna)
- b. 1 f. 3 Lawrence, W. B
- b. 1 f. 3 Logue, D. C
- b. 1 f. 4 Manning, Charles H
- b. 1 f. 4 MacCord, C. W
- b. 1 f. 4 McGaughin, John

Correspondence (cont.)

- b. 1 f. 4 Navy Department
- b. 1 f. 4 Oliver, C. B
- b. 1 f. 4 Parker, William H
- b. 1 f. 4 Pavey, Darwin C
- b. 1 f. 4 Porter, John L
- b. 1 f. 4 Ramsay, H. Ashton
- b. 1 f. 4 Rhoades, C. H
Army and Navy Register
- b. 1 f. 3 Ridenour, G. H
- b. 1 f. 4 Schober, Frederick
- b. 1 f. 4 Selfridge, Thomas O., Jr
- b. 1 f. 4 Soldiers and Sailors Historical Society of Rhode Island
- b. 1 f. 4 Soley, J. R
- b. 1 f. 4 Spear, John C
- b. 1 f. 4 Stevens, T. H
- b. 1 f. 4 Stodder, Louis N
- b. 1 f. 5 Taylor, S. W
- b. 1 f. 5 Toffey, Daniel
- b. 1 f. 5 Tynan, J. W
- b. 1 f. 5 Viall, Thomas B
- b. 1 f. 5 Ward, A
- b. 1 f. 5 Watson, E. W
- b. 1 f. 5 Watters, Joseph
Copy of a letter to his wife
- b. 1 f. 5 Weeks, Grenville M
- b. 1 f. 5 Welles, Thomas G
- b. 1 f. 5 Wetherill, Samuel
Copy
- b. 1 f. 5 Wharton, B. B. H
- b. 1 f. 5 White, John M
- b. 1 f. 5 Winslow, H. A. and John F
- b. 1 f. 5 Wise, F. M
- b. 1 f. 5 Wood, John Taylor
- b. 1 f. 5 Worden, John L
- b. 2 Index to Correspondence undated
- b. 3 Scrapbook 1862-1900
- o. 1 Final Transfer and Muster Roll of the Crew of the Monitor 1862