

G. R. B. Horner Papers

A Finding Aid to the 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.

2010

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

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Collection Summary

Title: G. R. B. Horner Papers

Span Dates: 1826-1911

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1840-1870)

ID No.: MSS52753

Creator: Horner, G. R. B. (Gustavus Richard Brown), 1804-1892

Extent: 4,900 items; 14 containers; 5.0 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Naval surgeon and author. Correspondence, daybooks, medical journals, manuscripts of Horner's published books, registers of weather, and printed matter, chiefly relating to Horner's career as a naval surgeon.

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

Deering, John

Horner, G. R. B. (Gustavus Richard Brown), 1804-1892.

Horwitz, Phineas J.

Hull, Joseph B.

Pettit, Robert

Organizations

United States. Navy--Medical care.

Subjects

Medicine, Naval.

Meteorology.

Occupations

Authors.

Surgeons.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of G. R. B. Horner, naval surgeon and author, were deposited in the Library of Congress in 1950 by the Naval Historical Foundation. An addition to the deposit was made in November 1963 and the collection was converted to a gift in 1998.

Processing History

The papers of G. R. B. Horner were arranged and described in 1970. The finding aid was revised in 2010.

Additional Guides

The Horner Papers are described in *Bladen Dulany, Gustavus R. B. Horner, Daniel Todd Patterson: A Register of Their Papers in the Library of Congress*. Washington: Library of Congress, 1970.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of G. R. B. Horner is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of G. R. B. Horner 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, G. R. B. Horner Papers, Naval Historical Foundation Collection, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1806	Born, Virginia
1826	Appointed surgeon's mate by John Quincy Adams
1826-1828	Duty in <i>Macedonian</i> (frigate), Brazil Squadron
1830-1831	Duty in <i>Brandywine</i> (frigate), Gulf Squadron
1831	Commissioned as surgeon by Andrew Jackson
1831-1833	Duty in <i>John Adams</i> (sloop of war), Mediterranean Squadron
1836-1838	Duty in <i>United States</i> (frigate)
1839	Published <i>Medical and Topographical Observations Upon the Mediterranean; and Upon Portugal, Spain, and Other Countries</i> . Philadelphia: Haswell, Barrington, and Haswell
1840-1841	Duty at the United States Naval Asylum, Philadelphia, Pa.
1841-1843	Duty in <i>Delaware</i> (ship of the line), Brazil Squadron
1843-1844	Fleet surgeon, Mediterranean Squadron
1845	Duty at the United States Marine Rendezvous, Philadelphia, Pa. Published <i>Medical Topography of Brazil and Uruguay</i> . Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston
1849	Duty in <i>Savannah</i> (frigate), Pacific Squadron
1852-1855	Duty at the United States Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa.
1854	Published <i>Diseases and Injuries of Seamen</i> . Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo

1856-1858	Duty in <i>Wabash</i> (steam frigate), Home Squadron
1858-1860	Duty at the United States Naval Hospital, Warrington, Fla.
1861-1862	Duty in <i>Colorado</i> (steam frigate), Gulf Blockading Squadron
1862-1863	Duty in <i>St. Lawrence</i> (frigate), East Gulf Blockading Squadron
1863	Duty at the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn, N.Y.
1863-1865	Duty in <i>Mercedita</i> (gunboat), <i>Niagara</i> (steam frigate), and <i>Marion</i> (sloop of war)
1866	Retired from navy Duty at the United States Marine Rendezvous, Philadelphia, Pa.
1873	Appointed Medical Director by Ulysses S. Grant
1892, Aug. 8	Died, Warrenton, Va.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Gustavus Richard Brown Horner (1806-1892) span the years 1826-1911, with the bulk of the collection dating from 1840 to 1870. The papers consist of correspondence, letterbooks, daybooks, medical journals, holograph manuscripts, registers of weather, and printed matter. The papers are primarily concerned with the medical aspects of Horner's naval career and contain no personal material.

The majority of the material is in handwritten bound volumes or stitched folders. In the daybooks and medical journals, which cover most of Horner's tours of duty, are medical reports, patients' case histories, notes on the treatments he prescribed and the surgeries he performed, and regulations and notices with regard to the duties of the staff. Among the correspondents are John Deering, Phineas J. Horwitz, Joseph B. Hull, and Robert Pettit.

In the book file are notes, drafts, and holograph manuscripts of Horner's writings. Under lists and indexes are found weather registers, which give dates, times and places of the readings of thermometers and barometers as well as descriptions of the condition of the wind and the sea, and the proceedings of the United States Naval Medical Board, which include notes on the examinations of assistant surgeons.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of material.

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Journal, correspondence, and letterbooks
BOX 1	Journal, <i>United States</i> (frigate), 1836-1837
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1835-1872
BOX 1	Letterbooks
BOX 1	<i>United States</i> (frigate), 1836-1838
BOX 1	United States Naval Asylum, Philadelphia, Pa., 1838-1841
BOX 1	<i>Delaware</i> (ship of the line), 1841-1842
BOX 1	<i>Wabash</i> (steam frigate) and United States Naval Hospital, Warrington, Fla., 1856-1860
BOX 2	Gulf Blockading Squadron, 1861-1862
BOX 2	<i>Colorado</i> (steam frigate), 1861-1862
BOX 2	<i>St. Lawrence</i> (frigate), 1862-1863
BOX 2	Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn, N.Y., 1863
BOX 2	United States Marine Rendezvous, Philadelphia, Pa., 1864-1866
BOX 2	Order book and letterbook, <i>Lackawanna</i> (screw sloop of war), 1878-1883
BOX 3	Daybooks and medical journals
BOX 3	<i>John Adams</i> (sloop of war), 1831-1834
BOX 3	United States Naval Asylum, Philadelphia, Pa., 1838-1841
BOX 4	<i>Delaware</i> (ship of the line)
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BOX 5	1844
BOX 5	<i>Savannah</i> (frigate), 1849
BOX 5	United States Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa.
BOX 5	1852
BOX 6	1853-1855
BOX 6	<i>Wabash</i> (steam frigate)
BOX 6	1856-1857
BOX 7	1858
BOX 7	<i>Colorado</i> (steam frigate), 1861
BOX 7	<i>Monocacy</i> (side-wheel gunboat), 1873
BOX 8	Proceedings of the United States Naval Medical Board, 1844-1852
BOX 9	Book file
BOX 9	Drafts, <i>Diseases and Injuries of Seamen</i>
BOX 9	Holograph manuscript, "Naval Hygiene and the Enlistment of Seamen"
BOX 9	Notes on Italy, Spain, and Brazil
BOX 9	Notes on the medical topography of Panama
BOX 10	Holograph manuscript, "Summary of Advice to Invalids Travelling in the Mediterranean"
BOX 10	<i>Medical Topography of Brazil and Uruguay</i>
BOX 10	Index
BOX 10	Notes

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 10	Miscellaneous notes (3 folders)
BOX 11	Lists and indexes
BOX 11	List of assistant surgeons, 1826
BOX 11	Cases of smallpox, <i>Macedonian</i> (frigate), 1828
BOX 11	Register of weather, <i>John Adams</i> (sloop of war), 1831
BOX 11	<i>United States</i> (frigate)
BOX 11	List of men vaccinated, 1836
BOX 11	Cases of disease, 1836-1838
BOX 11	Register of weather, 1836-1838
BOX 11	List of medicines, 1838
BOX 11	<i>Delaware</i> (ship of the line)
BOX 11	Cases of diseases, 1841-1844
BOX 11	Examination of the crew, 1841
BOX 11	Account of stopped rations, 1841
BOX 11	Examinations of persons, United States Marine Rendezvous, Philadelphia, Pa., 1845-1867
BOX 11	Register of weather, <i>Savannah</i> (frigate), 1849-1850
BOX 12	Examination of recruits, United States Navy Yard, Philadelphia, Pa., 1852
BOX 12	Regulations of the medical department, <i>Wabash</i> (steam frigate), 1856
BOX 12	United States Naval Hospital, Warrington, Fla.
BOX 12	Regulations, 1858
BOX 12	Contents of the museum, 1860
BOX 12	Catalog of the library, 1860
BOX 12	Index of patients, 1858-1860
BOX 12	Examination for warrant officers, Brooklyn Navy Yard, Brooklyn, N.Y., 1863
BOX 12	List of treated patients, United States Marine Hospital, Key West, Fla., 1861
BOX 12	East Gulf Blockading Squadron
BOX 12	Medical stores, 1861-1862
BOX 12	Register of weather, 1861-1863
BOX 12	Diseased and injured crew, <i>St. Lawrence</i> (frigate), 1862-1863
BOX 12	Candidates examined for United States Naval School, Newport, R.I., 1864
BOX 13	Printed matter
BOX 13	United States Senate and House reports on the possible acquisition of Cuba, 1859
BOX 13	Pamphlets on epidemic cholera, military hygiene, naval surgery, and other medical topics, 1850-1911
BOX 13	Reprint of the article "Asiatic Cholera," by W. E. Horner, 1835
BOX 14	Pamphlets on naval rank and uniform regulations, 1841-1850
BOX 14	Reports of the United States Sanitary Commission, 1862
BOX 14	Annual reports of the surgeon general, 1879-1889