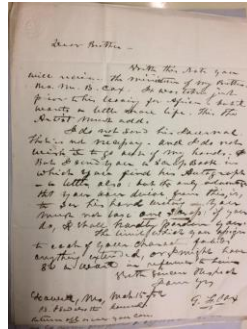


The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary,
Columbia University in the City of New York

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

Hamilton Wilcox Pierson Papers, 1837 – 1857



Pierson Correspondence. Credit to: UTS1: Hamilton Wilcox Pierson Papers, 1837-1857, Series 1, box 1, folder 1, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Daniella Cádiz Bedini and Rebecca Nieto, June 2018
With financial support from the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.

Summary Information

Creator: Hamilton Wilcox Pierson, 1817 – 1888

Title: Hamilton Wilcox Pierson Papers

Inclusive dates: 1837-1857

Bulk dates: 1837-1857

Abstract: UTS Alumnus, 1843. Religious educator, President of Cumberland College in Princeton, Kentucky, author, and Secretary of the United States Christian Commission in Toledo, Ohio, 1843-1845. Collection contains material related to publishing, including correspondence with publishers, and material related to university study, including letters of recommendation. Also included is correspondence to church members and missionaries.

Size: 1 box, 0.25 linear feet

Storage: Onsite storage

Repository: The Burke Library

Union Theological Seminary

3041 Broadway

New York, NY 10027

Email: burkespecial@library.columbia.edu

Administrative Information

Daniella Cádiz Bedini 06/13/18

- Provenance:** The Hamilton Wilcox Pierson Papers were among a large group of unprocessed materials that were acquired in 2015 and organized in 2018 with the support of the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation.
- Access:** Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to burkespecial@library.columbia.edu, or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible
Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions:** The collection is unrestricted to readers.
- Preferred Citation:** Item description, UTS1: Hamilton Wilcox Pierson Papers, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Biography

Hamilton Wilcox Pierson was born on September 22, 1817, in Bergen, Genesee County, New York. He earned a Bachelor's degree from Union College in 1843. On November 13, 1853, he was ordained.

Between 1849 and 1960 he served as an agent for the American Bible Society in Haiti and the West Indies. He also served as agent in the American Tract Society from 1843-1845, and as Secretary of the United States Christian Commission in Toledo, Ohio. From 1958-1962 he was President of Cumberland College in Princeton, Kentucky, and between 1863 and 1869 he worked as a teacher in Virginia and Georgia.¹

From 1885-1886 he work as State Librarian at Columbus, Ohio. He began his literary pursuits in 1850, publishing and editing a number of key texts, including *American missionary Memorial* (editor, 1853), *Jefferson at Monticello: the Private Life of Thomas Jefferson from Entirely New Materials* (1862), *In the Brush, Or, Old-Time Social, Political, and Religious Life in the Southwest* (1881), and "My invalid life, and how I have tried to live it: a Legacy" (1888), which he intended to be read at his funeral at Genesee County, where he wished to be buried. Rev. Pierson died on September 7, 1888, at 70 years of age.

Collection Scope and Content Note

This collection consists largely of Pierson's received correspondence with friends, students, church members, and missionaries. His papers contain material for his work *American Missionary Memorial*, to which many of the letters also make reference. The development of this work is seen in its many mentions in the correspondence, where it is also referred to as "Biographical Sketches of Missionaries", and where individual sketches, or responses and notes to specific ones, are given. The years of correspondence range from circa 1837 to 1857.

¹ *The National Cyclopedia of American Biography*. Vol VIII. (New York: James T. White and Co., 1898), 196.
Daniella Cádiz Bedini 06/13/18

- **Series 1: Correspondence, 1837 – 1857 (1 box, .25 linear feet)**

This series contains 1 box of correspondence ranging from 1837-1857. It also contains documents related to Pierson's *American Missionary Memorial* (1853).

Processing

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Files wrapped in brown paper were transferred to folders.

Further Sources

The National Cyclopaedia of American Biography. Vol VIII. New York: James T. White and Company, 1898.

Contents list

Series 1: UTS/Correspondence, 1837-1857

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
			UTS 1937-57
1	1	1	Correspondence 1837-1852
1	1	2	Correspondence 1846-1857
1	1	3	Correspondence 1851-1853
1	1	4	Correspondence 1851-1857
1	1	5	Correspondence 1852-1857