Causten-Pickett Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

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Revised and expanded by Melinda K. Friend

Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2011

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

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Finding aid URL: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms011030

Collection Summary

Title: Causten-Pickett Papers
Span Dates: 1765-1916
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1797-1900)
ID No.: MSS15420
Extent: 33,000 items; 113 containers; 45 linear feet; 2 microfilm reels
Language: Collection material in English with French, Italian, and Spanish
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: James H. Causten, businessman of Baltimore, Maryland, and Washington, D.C., who worked to settle French spoliation claims; John T. Pickett, United States and Confederate diplomat and army officer, and lawyer of Washington, D.C.; and Pickett's son, Theodore John Pickett, lawyer of Washington, D.C., who succeeded to Causten's interest in the claims cases. Correspondence, insurance policies, powers of attorney, promissory notes, bills of exchange, American and French court records, ship case files, other financial and legal papers, printed matter, and other papers relating chiefly to French spoliation claims.

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
Adams, Charles Francis, 1807-1886--Correspondence.
Adams, John, 1735-1826--Correspondence.
Brooks, Peter Chardon, 1767-1849. Peter Chardon Brooks papers.
Causten, James H., 1788-1874. James H. Causten papers.
Curtis, William T. S. William T.S. Curtis papers.
Dunant, Edward. Edward Dunant papers.
Earle, William E. (William Edward), 1841-1894. William E. Earle papers.
Gilpin, Joshua, 1765-1840. Joshua Gilpin papers.
Hollins, John. John Hollins papers.
Hollins, Robert. Robert Hollins papers.
Hollins, Thomas. Thomas Hollins papers.
Livingston, Robert R., 1746-1813--Correspondence.
Madison, James, 1751-1836--Correspondence.
Mason, John, 1766-1849--Correspondence.
McKim, Alexander, 1748-1832. Alexander McKim papers.
Monroe, James, 1758-1831--Correspondence.
Myers, Leonard, 1827-1905. Leonard Myers papers.
Pickering, Timothy, 1745-1829--Correspondence.
Pickett, John T. (John Thomas), 1822-1884. John T. Pickett papers.
Pickett, Theodore John. Theodore John Pickett papers.
Pike, Luther H. Luther H. Pike papers.
Seward, William Henry, 1801-1872--Correspondence.
Skipwith, Fulwar, 1765-1839. Fulwar Skipwith papers.
Stewart, David, 1800-1858. David Stewart papers.
Stewart, John, d. 1820. John Stewart papers.
Sumner, Charles, 1811-1874--Correspondence.

Organizations
Baltimore Insurance Company. Baltimore Insurance Company records.
Maryland Insurance Company. Maryland Insurance Company records.
Peter Chardon Brooks Insurance Agency. Peter Chardon Brooks Insurance Agency records.

Subjects
Claims.
French spoliation claims.
Insurance companies.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The Causten-Pickett Papers were given to the Library of Congress in 1954 by Beverley Humphreys Harris, Hetty Vawter Tebbs and Edwin Vawter Harris. Later gifts were made by Beverley Humphreys Harris in 1955, Henry Bartholomew Cox in 1969, and Hannah Cox in 2007.

Processing History

The Causten-Pickett Papers were arranged and described in 1956. The finding aid was expanded and revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

A press release on the Causten-Pickett Papers was issued by the Library of Congress, 24 October 1955, and a news story appeared in the *Alexandria (Va.) Journal-Tribune* on 5 January 1956. An acquisition note was printed in the Library's *Information Bulletin*, 14, no. 42 (17 October 1955): 2-3; and the material was described in the Library of Congress *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions*, 13, no. 3 (May 1956): 163.

Other Repositories

Other papers of Fulwar Skipwith can be found in the G. W. Blunt White Library, Mystic Seaport - The Museum of America and the Sea, Mystic, Conn.

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of Andrew Jackson Donelson, Henry Bartholomew Cox, Henry Mason Morfit, the Lovering-Taylor Family Papers, John T. Pickett Papers and the U.S. Claims Commission Records.

Copyright Status

Copyright in the unpublished writings in the Causten-Pickett Papers in the custody of the Library of Congress has been dedicated to the public.

Access and Restrictions

The Causten-Pickett Papers 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.

Microfilm

Microfilm on two reels was received as part of the Causten-Pickett Papers and is listed and described in this finding aid. This microfilm is not available for purchase and may not be borrowed on interlibrary loan.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Causten-Pickett Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Fulwar Skipwith

Date	*Event*
1765, Feb. 21	Born, Dinwiddie County, Va.
1790	Appointed consul general of Martinique, West Indies, by President George Washington
1795	Appointed consul general to France
1796-1800	Sole commercial and diplomatic agent of the United States in France
1800-1808	Official commercial agent of the United States in France
1802	Married Evelina Louisa Barlié van den Clooster, a Flemish countess
1803	Instrumental in negotiating the Louisiana Purchase
1808	Resigned and returned to the United States, settling on the plantation Monte Sano, near Baton Rouge, La. (then West Florida)
1810	Helped lead revolt to free West Florida from Spain Governor, Republic of West Florida
circa 1812	After annexation of West Florida to the United States became registrar of the land office
circa 1814-circa 1827	Served in Louisiana state senate
1839, Jan. 7	Died, Monte Sano plantation, Baton Rouge, La.

Peter Chardon Brooks

Date	*Event*
1767, Jan. 6 or 11	Born, North Yarmouth, Me.
1781	Apprenticed to merchant in Boston, Mass.
1789	Established marine insurance brokerage at Bunch of Grapes Tavern, Boston
1792	Married Nancy Gorham
1803	Retired from business
1806	Returned to business as president of New England Marine Insurance Co.
1806-1814	Served as Federalist in Massachusetts state senate Served on Governor's Council of Massachusetts

1819-1823	Served alternately in Massachusetts house of representatives and senate
1849, Jan. 1	Died, Boston, Mass.

James H. Causten

Date	*Event*
1788, Sept. 26	Born, Baltimore, Md., son of Isaac Causten
1813	Married Eliza Myer (died 1856)
circa 1817	Shipping agent, Baltimore, Md.
circa 1825	Moved to Washington, D.C., to work on French spoliation claims Consul in Washington, D.C., for Ecuador and Chile
1825-1874	Worked actively to settle French spoliation and Spanish claims
1874, Oct. 28	Died, Washington, D.C.

John T. Pickett

Date	*Event*
1822, Oct. 9	Born, Maysville, Ky.
1841	Appointed to United States Military Academy, West Point, N.Y.
circa 1842-1844	Studied law, Lexington Law School, Lexington, Va.
1845	Consul, Turk's Island, Bahamas
1850	Joined Narciso López's expedition against Cuba
1852	Fought as a general under Lajos Kossuth in Hungarian revolution
1853, Oct. 18	Married Catherine ("Kate") Keyworth (died 1888)
1853-1860	American consul, Vera Cruz, Mexico
1862	Appointed minister to Mexico by Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederate States of America
circa 1863-circa 1865	Chief of staff under General John Breckenridge
circa 1865-1884	Law practice in Washington, D.C.; became associated with James H. Causten
1873	Intermediary in sale of Confederate documents to United States government
1884, Oct. 18	Died, Washington, D.C.

Theodore John Pickett

Date	*Event*
1859, Aug. 3	Born, Charleston or Charles Town, Va.
1884	Inherited his father's interest in Causten Agency
1887	LL.B. Georgetown University Law School, Washington, D.C.
1888	LL.M. Georgetown University Law School, Washington, D.C.
circa 1906-circa 1910	Married Sallie Beverly Vawter Harris (died 1939)
1918, Jan. 8	Died, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The Causten-Pickett Papers span the years 1765-1916, with the bulk of the material dating from 1797 to 1900. The papers are organized into ten series: History and Settlement of French Spoliation Claims, Fulwar Skipwith Papers, Joshua Gilpin and Edward Dunant Papers, Records of Insurance Companies, Case Files on Ships, James H. Causten Papers, John T. Pickett and Causten Agency Papers, Theodore John Pickett and Causten Agency Papers, Miscellany, and Addition.

The papers deal primarily with the history and settlement of French spoliation claims dating from 1793 to 1916. The greater part of the material consists of the correspondence and insurance records, 1765-1916, of James H. Causten and his associates John T. Pickett, Theodore John Pickett, Fulwar Skipwith, numerous lawyers including William T. S. Curtis, William E. Earle, Leonard Myers, Luther H. Pike, David Stewart, John Stewart, and officials of marine insurance companies such as Peter Chardon Brooks, John Hollins, Robert Hollins, Thomas Hollins, Alexander McKim and others. The insurance records include about 1,200 case files and consist of insurance policies, powers of attorney, promissory notes, bills of lading, bills for ship repairs, bills of exchange, American and French court records, admiralty registries, financial records, applications for insurance, and memorials to Congress. They include not only the French spoliation claims material but records relating to a wide variety of claims handled by the Baltimore Insurance Company, the Maryland Insurance Company, Peter Chardon Brooks Insurance Agency, and other agents and companies. Letters from many eminent men appear in the collection: Charles Francis Adams, John Adams, Robert R. Livingston, James Madison, John Mason, James Monroe, Timothy Pickering, William Henry Seward, Charles Sumner, and Charles Maurice de Talleyrand-Périgord.

The Addition consists of two microfilm reels of documents relating to French spoliation claims, most likely the additional Causten-Pickett papers filmed for possible sale by the Harris family heirs in 1960 that are not included in these papers.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in ten series:

- History and Settlement of French Spoliation Claims, 1793-1916
- Fulwar Skipwith Papers, 1765-1872
- Joshua Gilpin and Edward Dunant Papers, 1793-1834
- Records of Insurance Companies, 1783-1842
- Case Files on Ships, circa 1789-1910
- James H. Causten Papers, 1816-1885

- John T. Pickett and Causten Agency Papers, 1838-1874
- Theodore John Pickett and Causten Agency Papers, 1885-1916
- Miscellany, 1796-1903
- Addition, 1786-1899

Description of Series

Container	*Series*
BOX 1-4	History and Settlement of French Spoliation Claims, 1793-1916 Manuscripts and printed matter. Arrangement is roughly by topic.
BOX 5-14	Fulwar Skipwith Papers, 1765-1872 Personal and official correspondence and records. Arranged by type of material. Correspondence further arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and case files on ships alphabetically by name of ship.
BOX 15	Joshua Gilpin and Edward Dunant Papers, 1793-1834 Letterbook, correspondence, and financial records. Arranged by type of material with correspondence arranged chronologically.
BOX 16-33	Records of Insurance Companies, 1783-1842 Correspondence, applications for insurance, powers of attorney given to transfer stock and receive dividends, promissory notes, bills of lading, insurance policies, bills of exchange, and financial records. Arranged by name of company and therein by type of material with further arrangement of correspondence alphabetically by name of correspondent and applications chronologically.
BOX 34-77	Case Files on Ships, circa 1789-1910 Correspondence, bills for ship repair, insurance policies, bills of lading, and captain's protests. Arranged alphabetically by name of ship with bound volumes of case books and lists of captures filed first.
BOX 78-99	James H. Causten Papers, 1816-1885 Bound letterbooks and general correspondence consisting of personal and business correspondence and legal and financial records. Letterbooks arranged chronologically. General correspondence arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 100-101	John T. Pickett and Causten Agency Papers, 1838-1874 Correspondence, speeches, and financial and legal records of Pickett and the Causten Agency. Arranged roughly in alphabetical order by subject.
BOX 102-110	Theodore John Pickett and Causten Agency Papers, 1886-1916 Correspondence, notebook, and an account book of Pickett and the Causten Agency. Arranged by type of material with the correspondence arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.

BOX 111-113 Miscellany, 1796-1903

Manuscripts, account books, legal records, printed matter, and duplicates. Arranged as received.

REEL 1-2 Addition, 1786-1899

Two reels of positive microfilm of documents relating to French spoliation claims, but not included in these papers. Microfilm shelf no. 23,331. Arranged chronologically.

Container List

Container	*Contents*
BOX 1-4	History and Settlement of French Spoliation Claims, 1793-1916
	Manuscripts and printed matter.
	Arrangement is roughly by topic.
BOX 1	Copies of treaties relating to claims
BOX 1	Lists of claims and claimants
BOX 1	History of French spoliation claims prior to 1800
BOX 2	Congressional action on bills pertaining to claims
BOX 3	Congressional action on bills pertaining to claims
BOX 3	Memorials to Congress concerning claims
BOX 3	Records dealing with efforts to settle claims
BOX 4	Papers dealing with James H. Causten's efforts to settle claims
BOX 4	Awards
BOX 4	Clippings
BOX 5-14	Fulwar Skipwith Papers, 1765-1872
	Personal and official correspondence and records.
	Arranged by type of material. Correspondence further arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent and case files on ships alphabetically by name of ship.
BOX 5	Personal correspondence
BOX 5	Financial records
BOX 5	Records of personal claims against the U.S.
BOX 6	General correspondence
BOX 6	A-C
BOX 7	D-L
BOX 8	L-Z
BOX 9	French spoliation claims
BOX 9	A-C
BOX 10	D-L
BOX 11	M-P
BOX 12	S-Z
BOX 12	Miscellany
BOX 13	Records relating to claims for supplies sold or forcibly taken by the French in West Indies and Leghorn (Livorno, Italy)
BOX 14	Claims for financial help given to stranded American seamen
BOX 14	Miscellany
BOX 15	Joshua Gilpin and Edward Dunant Papers, 1793-1834
	Letterbook, correspondence, and financial records.
	Arranged by type of material with correspondence arranged chronologically.

Container	*Contents*
BOX 15	Letterbook
BOX 15	Correspondence
BOX 15	Financial records
BOX 16-33	Records of Insurance Companies, 1783-1842
	Correspondence, applications for insurance, powers of attorney given to transfer stock and receive dividends, promissory notes, bills of lading, insurance policies, bills of exchange, and financial records.
	Arranged by name of company and therein by type of material with further arrangement of correspondence alphabetically by name of correspondent and applications chronologically.
BOX 16	Baltimore Insurance Co.
BOX 16	Powers of attorney
	(3 folders)
BOX 17	(2 folders)
BOX 18	(2 folders)
BOX 19	Miscellaneous documents
BOX 20	Applications for insurance
BOX 20	1796, Feb. 20-1797, June 3
BOX 21	1797, June 12-1798, Aug. 9
BOX 22	1798, Aug. 9-1799, Sept. 27
BOX 23	1799, Sept. 24-1800, Dec. 23
BOX 24	1800, Dec. 29-1801, July 29
BOX 25	Peter Chardon Brooks Insurance Agency
BOX 25	Correspondence
BOX 25	A-D
BOX 26	E-L
BOX 27	M-V
BOX 28	W-Z
BOX 29	Applications for insurance
	(3 folders)
BOX 30	(1 folder)
BOX 30	Bills, receipts, and related matter
BOX 30	Powers of attorney
BOX 30	Miscellaneous applications for insurance
	(2 folders)
BOX 31	Accounts, 1798-1799
BOX 31	Acts of insolvency
BOX 31	Foreign bills of exchange
BOX 31	Lists and index of claimants for French spoliation claims
BOX 31	Lists of ships' claims prior to 1800
BOX 31	Bills of lading
BOX 31	Policies on money
BOX 31	Promissory notes, 1783-1800
BOX 32	Maryland Insurance Co.
BOX 32	List of vessels in European "captures" in West Indies, 1809-1810

Container	*Contents*
BOX 32	Correspondence of Robert Hollins, John Hollins, and Thomas Hollins with John Mason regarding Florida Treaty and Spanish claims, 1821-1823 (2 folders)
BOX 32	Maryland Insurance Co. and Commercial Insurance Co., claims under Florida Treaty, circa 1799-circa 1817
BOX 33	Miscellaneous insurance companies
BOX 34-77	Case Files on Ships, circa 1789-1910
	Correspondence, bills for ship repair, insurance policies, bills of lading, and captain's protests.
	Arranged alphabetically by name of ship with bound volumes of case books and lists of captures filed first.
BOX 34	Case books, 1796-1801
BOX 35	List of captures, bound volume
BOX 36	By name of ship
BOX 36	Ab-Al
BOX 37	Am-An
BOX 38	Ap-Av
BOX 38	"A" miscellaneous
BOX 39	Ba-Ber
BOX 39	*Betsey* and *Betsy* (13 folders)
BOX 40	(18 folders)
BOX 41	*Betsy and Jenny*
BOX 41	*Betsey Lloyd*
BOX 41	Bil-Charle
BOX 42	Charlo-Com
BOX 43	Con-Dil
BOX 44	Dis-Ec
BOX 45	El
BOX 46	En-Fair
BOX 47	Fam-Fox
BOX 48	Fra-*Friendship*
BOX 49	*Friendship*-Ge
BOX 50	Ge-Ha
BOX 51	Ha-He
BOX 52	Hi-Ho
BOX 53	Ho-Ind
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BOX 55	Jo-Li
BOX 56	Li-Ly
BOX 57	Mad-Mar
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BOX 59	Mi-Mon
BOX 59	"M" miscellaneous
BOX 60	Nab-Nan
BOX 61	Nan-New

Container	*Contents*
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BOX 63	Pa-Ph
BOX 64	Ph-Po
BOX 65	Po-Pr
BOX 65	"P" miscellaneous
BOX 66	Ra-Ri
BOX 67	Ro-Ru
BOX 67	"R" miscellaneous
BOX 68	Sa-Sal
BOX 69	Sall-Sar
BOX 70	Se-Su
BOX 71	Su-Sw
BOX 71	"S" miscellaneous
BOX 72	Ta-Th
BOX 73	Th-Tw
BOX 74	Tw-Ty
BOX 74	"T" miscellaneous
BOX 75	U-V
BOX 76	Wa-Wi
BOX 77	Wi-Z
BOX 78-99	James H. Causten Papers, 1816-1885
	Bound letterbooks and general correspondence consisting of personal and business correspondence and legal and financial records.
	Letterbooks arranged chronologically. General correspondence arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 78	Letterbooks, 1823-1834
BOX 79	General correspondence
BOX 79	A
BOX 80	B
BOX 81	B
BOX 82	C
BOX 83	C
BOX 84	D
BOX 85	E
BOX 86	F
BOX 87	G
BOX 88	H
BOX 89	I-K
BOX 90	L
BOX 91	M
BOX 92	M
BOX 93	N-O
BOX 94	P-Q
BOX 95	R

Container	*Contents*
BOX 96	S
BOX 97	Shi-T
BOX 98	U-W
BOX 99	W-Z
BOX 100-101	John T. Pickett and Causten Agency Papers, 1838-1874
	Correspondence, speeches, and financial and legal records of Pickett and the Causten Agency.
	Arranged roughly in alphabetical order by subject.
BOX 100	Appointments to office (2 folders)
BOX 100	Article
BOX 100	Biographical material and photographs
BOX 100	Confederate seal, history of
BOX 100	Correspondence and miscellaneous papers (3 folders)
BOX 101	Correspondence relating to French spoliation claims, 1875-1884 (2 folders)
BOX 101	Death of Pickett and estate, 1884
BOX 101	Genealogy of Pickett family
BOX 101	López expedition to Cuba
BOX 101	Miscellany
BOX 101	Pickett Archives Fund
BOX 101	Shares of stock
BOX 101	Tehuantepec Co., and other companies, 1856-1871
BOX 102-110	Theodore John Pickett and Causten Agency Papers, 1886-1916
	Correspondence, notebook, and an account book of Pickett and the Causten Agency.
	Arranged by type of material with the correspondence arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent.
BOX 102	Correspondence
BOX 102	A-B
BOX 103	C
BOX 104	D-E
BOX 105	F-H
BOX 106	I-M
BOX 107	N-P
BOX 108	R-S
BOX 109	T-Z
BOX 110	Bound notebook, 1900-1906
BOX 110	Account book, 1888-1899
BOX 111-113	Miscellany, 1796-1903
	Manuscripts, account books, legal records, printed matter, and duplicates.
	Arranged as received.

Container	*Contents*
BOX 111	Desdoity, J. B., book of receipts, 1798-1799
BOX 111	Jeffrey & Russell's insurance accounts at Joseph Taylor's, account book, 1798-1800
BOX 111	Miscellaneous printed matter
BOX 111	Remnants of blue index card file
BOX 111	*Ship Master's Assistant and Owners Manual*, 1796
BOX 112	Miscellaneous legal papers, circa 1797-circa 1801
BOX 113	Duplicate manuscript and printed matter, circa 1831-1903
REEL 1-2	Addition, 1786-1899
	Two reels of positive microfilm of documents relating to French spoliation claims, but not included in these papers. Microfilm shelf no. 23,331. Arranged chronologically.
REEL 1	1786-1833
REEL 2	1833-1899