



The New York Public Library
Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture,
Manuscripts, Archives and Rare Books Division

Guide to the

John Brooke Pinney journals

1868-1877

Sc MG 266

Summary

Creator: Pinney, John Brooke, 1806-1882

Title: John Brooke Pinney journals

Date: 1868-1877

Size: .4 linear feet

Source: Gift, Erdman, David V. and Virginia B, 1989

Abstract: John Brooke Pinney was an American born Presbyterian minister, serving as a missionary in Liberia on various occasions from 1833-1878. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 1828 where he studied law. In 1832 he graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary and was ordained by the Presbytery of Philadelphia that same year. The following year Pinney became a missionary in Africa as agent of the American Colonization Society, which constituted him ex-officio Acting Governor of the colony of Liberia. From 1848 to approximately 1872, he was Corresponding Secretary of the New York Colonization Society. Pinney was also one of the organizers of the College of Liberia, now known as the University of Liberia. The John Brooke Pinney Journals consist of two journals Pinney maintained as a missionary for the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church. Two separate trips to Liberia are discussed in his journals, one in 1868-1869 and the other in 1876-1877. The journals provide descriptions of Pinney's activities and trips to villages, churches in Liberia, people he worked with and knew, schools he visited and/or helped to establish in Liberia, other missionaries, teachers, students and American freed slaves then living in Liberia. He also wrote about the journeys and described the production of various agricultural crops and aspects of world history. The 1876 journal contains minutes of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the College of Liberia (now known as the University of Liberia) which he copied, with his comments on changes at the college. In addition, written into the journals are letters that Pinney wrote for others which he later transferred for mailing. Transcriptions of both journals are available. Biographical information about Pinney is also available in the collection.

Access: Advance notice required.

Conditions Governing Access:

Restricted to photocopies. Use of originals requires permission of curator.

Preferred citation: John Brooke Pinney journals, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library

Creator History

John Brooke Pinney was an American born Presbyterian minister, serving as a missionary in Liberia on various occasions from 1833-1878. He graduated from the University of Georgia in 1828 where he studied law. In 1832 he graduated from Princeton Theological Seminary and was ordained by the Presbytery of Philadelphia that same year. The following year Pinney became a missionary in Africa as agent of the American Colonization Society, which constituted him ex-officio Acting Governor of the colony of Liberia. From 1848 to approximately 1872, he was Corresponding Secretary of the New York Colonization Society. Pinney was also one of the organizers of the College of Liberia, now known as the University of Liberia.

Scope and Content Note

The John Brooke Pinney Journals consist of two journals Pinney maintained as a missionary for the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church. Two separate trips to Liberia are discussed in his journals, one in 1868-1869 and the other in 1876-1877. The journals provide descriptions of Pinney's activities and trips to villages, churches in Liberia, people he worked with and knew, schools he visited and/or helped to establish in Liberia, other missionaries, teachers, students and American freed slaves then living in Liberia. He also wrote about the journeys and described the production of various agricultural crops and aspects of world history. The 1876 journal contains minutes of the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the College of Liberia (now known as the University of Liberia) which he copied, with his comments on changes at the college. In addition, written into the journals are letters that Pinney wrote for others which he later transferred for mailing. Transcriptions of both journals are available. Biographical information about Pinney is also available in the collection.

Key Terms

Genre/Physical Characteristic

Diaries

Geographic Names

Liberia -- Civilization -- American influences

Liberia -- Description and travel

Liberia -- History -- 1847-1944

Subjects

Missionaries -- Liberia

Titles

Preservation of the Black Religious Heritage Project funded by the Lilly Endowment
Schomburg NEH Automated Access to Special Collections Project

Names

Pinney, John Brooke, 1806-1882
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A. Liberia Mission
University of Liberia