

Burnley Family papers

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1808-1964

Title Statement

Burnley Family papers Burnley Family papers MSS 15926

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library
P.O. Box 400110
University of Virginia
Charlottesville, Virginia 22904-4110
URL: <https://small.library.virginia.edu/>

3/15/17

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-03-05 17:48:28 +0000.

Language Usage: Description is written in: Undetermined, Code for undetermined script script.

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS 15926

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/271

Unit Date

1808-1964

Language

English

Extent

1 Cubic Feet Burnley family correspondence, school records, military, legal papers, and receipts in cloth files
3 legal size document boxes and oversize cloth apron with original receipts

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions.

Preferred Citation

MSS 15926, Burnley Family papers, 1839-1964, Small Special Collections, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Virginia

Biographical / Historical

The Burnleys were a well-known family in nineteenth-century Albemarle County, Virginia. Nathaniel Burnley (1786-1860) owned the Hydraulic Mills complex as well as Rio Mills on the South Fork of the Rivanna River. The Burnley family may have originally descended from [John Burnley 1760-1810 of England] who bought land in Albemarle County, Virginia.

Nathaniel Burnley (the patriarch-great grandfather in this collection) married Sarah (Sallie) Sutton Drury Wood (1795-1879) in 1811. They lived near Stony Point and owned a tavern. In 1829, Nathaniel Burnley and his partner, Rice W. Wood bought the Rio Hydraulic Mills, which was at the junction of Ivy Creek and the South Rivanna River.

Nathaniel and Sarah Burnley's children were Martha Caroline Burnley (1820-1904), Emily (Emma) Garth (1824-1896) (married to Garland Garth), Lucy Vest (1828-1903), Horace Buckner Burnley (1822-1891), Sarah Frances Burnley (1831-1901), Cornelia Rice Railey (1834-1896), Drury Wood Burnley (1826-1906), James Fendall Burnley), Dr. William Rice Burnley (1815-1842), and Mary Jane Garth (1818-1890) (married to Burwell Garth). Martha Caroline Burnley married Samuel Goodman Burnley (1800-1875) (who was a cousin of her father Nathaniel Burnley).

Samuel Goodman and Martha Caroline Burnley's son, William Henry Burnley (1840-1919) married Emma C. Dyson Burnley. Their son was William Samuel Burnley (1868-1942). William Samuel Burnley was a teacher and writer. He was married to Lula Payne Burnley and their children were Byron, William, James Henry, and John Nathaniel Burnley (1916-1964). Samuel Goodman and Martha Caroline Burnley also had a son named James Nathaniel Burnley (1848-1908). Both James Nathaniel Burnley and Dr. William Rice Burnley attended the University of Virginia. Carrie Cornelia Burnley, Charlottesville school teacher and principal is not in this collection but these are her uncles and aunts.

Scope and Contents

This collection of Burnley Family letters, 3 cubic feet, contain family correspondence and papers of a prominent Albemarle County, Charlottesville, Virginia family from 1808 to 1964 which include civil war and slave documents, military papers of Company F, 7th Infantry orders, teaching papers of Samuel Goodman Burnley, political letters about Harry Flood Byrd, writings of William Samuel Burnley, and letters reflecting the turn of the century family life, friends, church services, and family and local news.

Also included is University of Virginia Law professor John B. Minor's advice to student William Samuel Burnley (1890); and a record book for Rockbridge Academy (1841) and a yearbook for Charlottesville High School, 1924.

Correspondents include Sarah (Sallie) Stoddard Wood Burnley, Samuel Goodman Burnley, Martha Caroline Burnley and her siblings, William Henry Burnley, Emma C. Dyson Burnley, James Nathaniel Burnley, William Samuel Burnley, N.B. Early, Byron Burnley, John Nathaniel Burnley, and James Henry Burnley.

Related Materials

Other Burnley family members (brother and niece) MSS 7871, MSS 4902

Arrangement

There are four series for this collection, Series 1. Correspondence 1842-1964, Series 2. Legal 1808-1816, Series 3. Military 1862-1864, Series 4. Personal 1913-1924

Description of Subordinate Components

Correspondence

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49959

Unit Date 1842-1964

Language English

Extent 0.022 Cubic Feet11 folders in one legal size document box.. Box 1

Samuel Goodman Burnley letters

Unit ID 1

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49949

Unit Date 1842; 1873

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

Sarah (Sallie) Stoddard Wood Burnley letters to her children

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49950

Unit Date 1859-1863

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

Mrs. Samuel Goodman (Martha Caroline) Burnley letters

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49951

Unit Date 1859-1883

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

James Nathaniel Burnley letters to his father Samuel Goodman Burnley

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49952

Unit Date 1869-1882

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

William Henry Burnley letter to his son William Samuel Burnley

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49953

Unit Date 1910

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

James Henry Burnley letters to his father William Samuel Burnley

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49957

Unit Date 1910-1928

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

Byron Burnley letters to his father William Samuel Burnley

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49956

Unit Date 1911-1924

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

John B. Minor letters to William Samuel Burnley

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/71425

Unit Date 1890

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

Existence and Location of Originals

Originals temporarily removed by preservation.

William Samuel Burnley correspondence with his wife Lula Payne Burnley

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49954

Unit Date 1914-1928

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

Mrs. William Henry (Emma Dyson) Burnley letters to her son William Samuel Burnley

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49955

Unit Date 1914-1925

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

Legal papers

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49960

Unit Date 1808-1879

Language English

Extent 0.16 Cubic FeetFour folders in one legal size document box. Box 1

Scope and Contents

Legal papers, 1808-1879, including the sale of Nathaniel Burnley's estate and slaves executed by James F. Burnley and Samuel Goodman Burnley; Deeds and wills. Horace and Jenny L. Burnley 1873; Samuel G. Burnley and debts to Thomas Gilbert and Ann B. Michie; (James F. Burnley, James H. Burnley, Cornelia Burnley); Land in Albemarle County to James H. and Mildred Jane Burnley, James F. and Amanda Burnley, Drury Wood Burnley, Martha Caroline Burnley 1879; auction of Burnley's property (signed D. R. Goodman), receipts from Henry Mills Burnley as executor of Abner Burnley's estate, token, and coat of arms. One of the terms of sale documents (James Fendall Burnley and Samuel Goodman Burnley selling the estate of Nathaniel Burnley) notes that "in selling the negroes any defect that is known will be mentioned, but the negroes will not be warranted in any way."

James Burnley debts, payments, and coat of arms

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49961

Unit Date 1809-1816

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

Nathaniel Burnley estate

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49962

Unit Date 1868-1879

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 13 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

Samuel G. Burnley

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/71426

Unit Date 1857-1875

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 14 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

William Samuel Burnley

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/71427

Unit Date 1893-1922

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 15 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

Photocopies of receipts from document apron

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49980

Unit Date 1833-1875

Mixed Materials 3 [X030899270] (box)

Container 1-19 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.5 Cubic FeetLegal document box. Box 3

Oversize document apron containing receipts

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/71428

Unit Date 1833-1875

Language English

Extent 0.5 Cubic FeetOversize box.

Military papers

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49967

Unit Date 1862-1864

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder in one legal size document box. Box 1

Scope and Contents

Military papers including orders, muster rolls, pay and clothing accounts, ordnance and ordnance stores accounts, morning reports, requests for leave, passes, receipts. Most are signed by or on behalf of Jeremiah Newcomb McMullan. Of interest is an 1861 muster roll "of Captain John B. Magruder's company of light infantry from the County of Albemarle known as Rivanna Guards" (Co. H., 57th Virginia Infantry). There are many comments about deaths and injuries of soldiers (e.g. "Killed at Malvern Hill", "Badly wounded and captured at Gettysburg", "Deserted", "Died in hospittle [sic]", etc.) Also included are several mail sorting bags.

Company F, 7th Virginia Infantry orders and related papers

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49968

Unit Date 1862-1864; 1941

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 16 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

Personal papers

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49969

Unit Date 1913-1922

Language English

Extent 0.012 Cubic Feet3 folders in a legal document box. Box 1, 4 folders in a legal document box. Box 2

Scope and Contents

Personal papers of John Nathaniel Burnley include school papers, photograph of John, photograph of Burnley, Vest, and Wingfield family, McGuffey school program for "Hiawatha" 1923, newspaper clipping and photograph of John marching in the George Washington re-enactment, and military discharge papers. Also included are personal and school papers for Byron Burnley. There are also miscellaneous newspaper clippings about Grover Cleveland and an editorial about J. R. Wingfield.

Byron Burnley

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49971

Unit Date 1911

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 17 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

John Nathaniel Burnley

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/49972

Unit Date 1913-1942

Mixed Materials 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

William Samuel Burnley

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/71429

Unit Date 1877-1939

Manuscripts 1 [X030899269] (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

Samuel G. Burnley grade book for Rockbridge Academy

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/71458

Unit Date 1841

Mixed Materials 2 [X030899271] (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

Charlottesville High School yearbook

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/71459

Unit Date 1924

Mixed Materials 2 [X030899271] (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic FeetOne folder.

Burnley Holy Bible

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/71460

Unit Date Undated

Mixed Materials 2 [X030899271] (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

Extent 0.04 Cubic Feet One folder.