

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Burr, David Auguste, Papers, 1855-1864

**LOCATION:**

Mss. boxes "B"

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

1 manuscript box (55 items)

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

For genealogical information, see C. B. Todd, *The Burr Family* (N.Y.: Knickerbocker Press, 1902), p. 213-214; 245. For further information on the Burrs in Utah, see Norman F. Furniss, *The Mormon Conflict, 1850-1859* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1960).

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Gift of Eben Putnam, 1926?

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

David Auguste Burr (1836?-1891), the son of David H. Burr (1803-1875) and Sophie Augustine Houël Burr ( - ) of Washington, D.C., was a mapmaker, engineer, government topographer, and, in 1855 to 1857, Surveyor General of Utah during the conflict between federal and Mormon authorities. Burr, later a lawyer in New York, accompanied his father to the Utah Territory and sketched, photographed, wrote extensively on all that he saw, and served as correspondent for several Eastern newspapers.

The collection consists mainly of negative photostats of papers held at Cornell University. These papers include letters, diaries, and official documents from 1855 to 1864, and photographs and sketches. Burr's diaries and letters to his mother and other family members includes descriptions of the trip west - landscape, topography, steamboat, railroad, and wagon travel, making camp, cattle rustling, and Indian threats. Most of the material, however, concerns the Mormons and the result of the proclamation by Brigham Young (1801-1877) forbidding federal troops to enter Salt Lake City. Burr rode with the 10<sup>th</sup> Cavalry "Army of Utah" and left accounts of Mormon massacres, Young's war preparations, the sacking and burning of villages, the capture of prisoners, and the army's inability to procure supplies within Utah. Of special note is a lengthy study of the "Collision between the Executive and Judicial Authorities of the Territory of Utah, 1858-59," concerning the Utah Supreme Court judges' disagreement with President Buchanan over his pardon of the Mormons. Burr describes subjectively the civil trials of Mormons which occurred under conditions of lawlessness and terrorism on the part of the "renegade Mormons." Included is a letter written on his return to Washington, D.C., concerning his lobbying in Congress to oppose Buchanan's pardon, and one written from London describing in detail Liverpool and other English towns. The fine sketches and photographs include many Indian scenes, landscapes, and views of Salt Lake City.

There are two original drawings and one original letter in this collection of papers.

See Contents List.

19 August 1976  
revised 21 May 2002

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David Auguste Burr, Papers, 1855-1864

Contents List

Folder

- 1 Original materials  
--includes an unidentified/undated letter and two drawings
- 2 Diary, 1855 April 23 - June 6 [negative photostat]
- 3 Letter, from Burr to his father, 1857 October 7 [negative photostat]
- 4 Diary, [1857] October 11 - 28 [negative photostat]
- 5 Letter (in French), from Burr to his mother, 1857 October 28 [negative photostat]
- 6 Diary, 1857 November 2 -14 [negative photostat]
- 7 Letter from D.R. Eckels, Chief Justice Supreme Court, Utah Territory, to P.K. Dotson, U.S. Marshall, 1858 April 21 [negative photostat]
- 8 Letter from P.K. Dotson, U.S. Marshall, Utah Terr., to Hon. D.R. Eckels, Chief Justice, Supreme Court, Utah Territory, 1858 April 27 [negative photostat]
- 9 Newspaper clipping, 1858 May 1 [negative photostat]
- 10 Letter from John B. Floyd, Secretary of War, to Bvt. Brig. Genl. A.S. Johnston, Comdg. Department of Utah, 1859 May 6 [negative photostat]
- 11 Newspaper clippings (2), 1859 June 20; 1859 June 21 [negative photostat]
- 12 Letter from Burr to his father, 1859 November 27 [negative photostat]
- 13 "The Collision between The Executive and Judicial Authorities of the Territory of Utah ... 1858-1859 ..." [negative photostat]
- 14 Letter from Burr to "My dear Louise," 1864 February 10 [negative photostat]
- 15 "The letters from Attorney General Black to officers of the Government in Utah - published in the preceeding [sic] pages ..., " n.d.
- 16 Drawings (3) [negative photostats]  
--drawings of a town, a Native American dwelling, and Native Americans on horseback
- 17 Drawings (5 sets) [negative and positive photostats]  
--drawings of a farm, a house and tree on a riverbank, a house on a riverbank, a river scene, and a bridge
- 18 Photographs (3) [negative photostats]  
--photographs of "Soldiers hauling their firewood, Fort [illegible] in Winter 1857-58"; "Ute Indian - Wick-ee-up's or Lodges, Indian Farm, Spanish Fork Cr, Utah"; "Store of Mesrs. Livingston Kinkead & Co. - Globe restaurant - Mormon Council House -- Great Salt Lake City Utah -- On Main St. looking North - 1858"
- 19 Photographs (9 sets) [negative and positive photostats]  
--photographs of "Residence & Harems of Heber C. Kimball - 1<sup>st</sup> Counsellor of B. Young - Great Salt Lake City Utah - From the South"; "Mormon Church Store & Tithing Warehouses - Great Salt Lake City Utah - S.W. Corner Brigham Young's Square"; "Governor Cumming's tent - Winter Quarters -