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David A. Burr was the son of David H. Burr, Surveyor General of Utah Territory.

Summary: Included is a diary of journey from Washington, DC, to Utah Territory in 1855 in which Burr describes the steamboat trip, life on the trail, the appearance of the land, Indians, and horse thieves. There are also letters written from Utah (1858-1864) discussing details of the conflict between the Mormons and the U.S. government, clippings, school essays, and a number of photographs and Burr's sketches of scenes in Utah. Also included is an autograph album containing approximately 350 signatures collected by Mrs. David H. Burr and later members of her family, beginning in 1848 and continuing through 1969. Over three quarters of the autographs were collected in Washington, DC in the late 1840s and early 1850s. Included are the signatures of ten presidents, and many senators and representatives of the Thirty-first Congress, as well as many other public figures.


Cite as: David A. Burr. Papers, #1333, Department of Manuscripts and University Archives, Cornell University Libraries.

BURR, DAVID A., b. 1833. Papers, 1855, 1858; 2 items. Consist of an April-July 1855 diary of a journey from Washington, D.C. to Utah Territory as seen through the eyes of a highly literate seventeen-year-old boy; included are descriptions of a steamboat trip along the Mississippi, of life on the trail, of the flora, fauna, and topography of the regions passed through, and of incidents involving Indians and horse thieves. Also, a letter (12 pp. typescript photopy)* written from Utah at the height of the crisis between the Mormons and the federal government in 1858, which concerns the arrival of Alfred Cumming, Territorial Governor, and the U.S. Commissioners at Echo Canyon, their progress through the canyon with a detailed description of the Mormon fortifications in the area, the arrival of the party in Salt Lake City, and the rumors surrounding the negotiations between the disputants and includes the comment that "if peace is made & affairs are settled there will be a large emigration [sic] from here of disaffected persons, who are now afraid to express themselves"; also discussed is the unusual monetary situation in the area. (1333)

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Main entry: as above

Cross references to main entry:

Cumming, Alfred, 1802-1873
Mississippi River
Mormons
Transportation (steamboat)
Travel (United States)
Utah (Echo Canyon)
Utah (Salt Lake City)
Utah Territory
THE DAVID H. BURR AND DAVID A. BURR COLLECTION

David H. Burr 1803 - 1875
David A. Burr 1838 - 1891

Department of Manuscripts
and University Archives
Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y.

Additional Papers rec'd. from Mrs. David E. Burr, May 26, 1972:

MS. * Letter of David A. Burr to his father (on various sizes and colors of paper, 6 + 7 pp.)
orig. describing the events during the period October 7 to October 28, 1857
Letter of David A. Burr to his mother (in French) dated October 28, 1857 (on page 9 of second section)

MS. * Diary of David A. Burr
orig. November 2 to November 16, 1857 (see description of original accession for April-July 1855 diary in 1962-64 Report)
2nd * Letter of David A. Burr to Messrs. Brown and Simonton (no photopy)
typed dated April 9, 1858, describing a journey with the Army in the Utah territory
1st rec'd and described with 1855 diary in 1962-64 Report; no original

* MS. Copy of Letter dated April 21, 1858
from: D. R. Eckels, Chief Justice Supreme Court, Utah Territory
to: P. K. Dodson, U.S. Marshall

* MS. Copy of Letter, dated April 27, 1858 (also 1 photopy)
from: P. K. Dotson, U.S. Marshall
to: D. R. Eckels, Chief Justice Supreme Court, Utah Territory

* Orig. Newspaper Clipping, dated May 1, 1858
"Late News from Utah - Interesting Intelligence Concerning the Army"
(written by David A. Burr as correspondent for New York Tribune)

* MS. Report from Utah, dated August 21, 1858
(carbon?) copy Commenting on the state of affairs in the Utah Territory, and criticizing the editorial policy of the Tribune.
signed) A.B.C. (author not known)

* MS. Letter of David A. Burr to his father
orig. dated Nov. 27, 1859, written from Washington, D.C. describing his journey home and the political reactions to the affairs in Utah.

* MS. Letter of David A. Burr to his sister Louise
orig. dated February 10, 1864, written from London, describing his visits to Liverpool and Chester, and his experiences on the journey to London.

* MS. Copy: Letter to President James Buchanan
from Justice Cradlebaugh and Sinclair dated July 16, 1859
"The rejoinder of the Judges to the letter of the President sustaining Gov. Cummings and Dist. Atty. Wilson" (copied by David A. Burr)

* MS. Copy: Judicial Report: The Collision between the Executive and Judicial Authorities of the Territory of Utah 27 pp. (unpaged throughout - certain sections are paged)
"A brief review of the attempts made by the U.S. Judges to administer law in Utah in 1858 - 1859, containing the correspondence between the judges and the President of the U.S. relative to the position of officers in the Territory, and other official documents heretofore unpublished."
"from the private portfolio of the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Utah Territory" (copied by David A. Burr)

* MS. Collection of Essays, by David A. Burr
orig. 1853

* Orig. Excelsior, a boyhood newspaper, by D. & E. Burr

Photocopies in brown spiral binder. # in green spiral binder.
Photographs listed on separate sheet; glossy prints in black spiral binder.
Photographs of Utah Territory

1. Portrait: Brigham Young
2. Portrait: Brigham Young
3. Brigham Young's Mansion and Harem
4. Distant View of Brigham Young's Mansion
5. Office of the Historian and Recorder of the Mormon Church
6. Residence and Harem of Heber C. Kimball: 1st Counsellor of B. Young
7. Store of Radford Cabot & Co.
8. Mormon Church Store & Tithing Warehouses
10. Main Street - Salt Lake City - 1858
11. Store of Livingston Kinkead & Co. - Salt Lake City
12. Governor Cumming's Tent - Winter Quarters 1857-58
13. Civilian's Row - Winter Quarters 1857-58
14. Soldiers handling their firewood - Fort Bridges 1857-58
15. Ute Indian Wick-ee-up's or Lodges
16. Farm House - Indian Reservations - Spanish Fork, Utah

Sketches by David A. Burr 1857
17. Portrait: "Brigham Young, the Mormon Autocrat"
18. Scene: Lake & Boats
19. Scene: House on lake
20. Scene: House on shore of lake (river ?)
21. Scene: Overlooking valley and fort
22. Scene: "Evening scene in the Black Hills"
23. Sketch of bridge
24. Scene: Small encampment
25. Scene: Small village
26. Lasso-ing a steer
27. Indian village

List made by donor.