Bruce Family Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress

MANUSCRIPT DIVISION, LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
Washington, D.C.
2010
Revised 2010 April

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

Additional search options available at:
http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010114

LC Online Catalog record:
http://lccn.loc.gov/mm79014191

Prepared by Thomas J. Bigley
Collection Summary

Title: Bruce Family Papers
Span Dates: 1792-1883
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1800-1880)
ID No.: MSS14191
Creator: Bruce family
Extent: 1,500 items ; 5 containers plus 1 oversize ; 2 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Summary: Plantation accounts of Charles Bruce and his parents, James Bruce and Elvira Bruce, for Staunton Hill Plantation, Charlotte County, Virginia

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
Bruce family.
Bruce, Charles, 1798-1879. Charles Bruce papers.
Bruce, Elvira, 1788-1858. Elvira Bruce papers.
Bruce, James, 1763-1837. James Bruce papers.
Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875.

Subjects
Plantations--Virginia--Charlotte County.

Places
Richmond (Va.)--History.
Staunton Hill Plantation (Va.)
Virginia--Social life and customs.

Administrative Information

Provenance
The papers of the Bruce Family were given to the Library of Congress by the estate of Mrs. Charles Bruce in 1916, Mr. and Mrs. William Cabell Bruce in 1921, and Mrs. William Cabell Bruce in 1937.

Processing History
The Bruce Family Papers were processed circa 1960. A finding aid to the collection was created in 2010.

Copyright Status
The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Bruce Family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions
The papers of Bruce Family 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.

Preferred Citation
Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Bruce Family Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Biographical Note

Charles Bruce (1798-1896) was a plantation owner, Confederate army officer, Virginia state senator, father of United States senator William Cabell Bruce, and brother-in-law of James Seddon, the Confederate secretary of war. After inheriting Staunton Hill plantation in Charlotte County, Virginia, from his father, he became one of the wealthiest tobacco growers in Virginia. In 1861, at his expense, he raised and captained a Confederate artillery battery known as the Staunton Hill Artillery. In 1865 he was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson. He died at Staunton Hill plantation on October 6, 1896.

Charles Bruce’s father, James Bruce (1763-1837), was a merchant and plantation owner from Halifax County, Virginia, who was considered to be one of the wealthiest men in America at the time of his death. He died in Philadelphia in 1837.

Charles Bruce’s mother, Elvira Bruce (1788-1858), the widow of Patrick Henry, Jr., was James Bruce’s second wife. Following the death of James Bruce, she moved to Richmond, Virginia, where she died on October 22, 1858.

Scope and Content Note

The Bruce Family papers span the years 1792-1883, with the bulk of the material dating from 1800 to 1880. The papers contain the plantation accounts of Charles Bruce (1826-1896), and his parents, James Bruce (1763-1837) and Elvira Bruce (1788-1858), for Staunton Hill Plantation, Charlotte County, Virginia, as well as the household accounts for Elvira Bruce following her move to Richmond, Virginia. Included in the collection is a pardon of Charles Bruce’s by President Andrew Johnson.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by type of file and therein chronologically.
Container List

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<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Financial records</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>Chronological file</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 1</td>
<td>1792-1853</td>
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<td>(20 folders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOX 2</td>
<td>1854-1859</td>
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<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>Household accounts of Elvira Bruce, 1843-1861</td>
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<td>BOX 5</td>
<td>Pardon, 1865 See also Oversize</td>
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<td>BOX OV 1</td>
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