

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



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2010

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79014191>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms010114>

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Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2010
Revised 2010 April

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

Extent: 5 containers plus 1 oversize

Extent: 2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Location: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm79014191>

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 LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Bruce family.

Bruce, Charles, 1798-1879. Charles Bruce plantation accounts and presidential pardon.

Bruce, Elvira, 1788-1858. Elvira Bruce household accounts.

Bruce, James, 1763-1837. James Bruce plantation accounts.

Johnson, Andrew, 1808-1875.

Subjects

Pardon--United States.

Plantations--Virginia--Charlotte County.

Places

Richmond (Va.)--History.

Staunton Hill Plantation (Va.)

Virginia--Social life and customs.

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The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Bruce Family is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Financial records
BOX 1	Chronological file
BOX 1	1792-1853 (20 folders)
BOX 2	1854-1859 (22 folders)
BOX 3	1860-1869 (21 folders)
BOX 4	1870-1873 (16 folders)
BOX 5	1874-1883 (12 folders)
BOX 5	Household accounts of Elvira Bruce, 1843-1861 (4 folders)
BOX 5	Pardon, 1865 <i>See also Oversize</i>
BOX OV 1	Oversize
BOX OV 1	Pardon, 1865 (Container 5)