

Elizabeth Burt Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2023

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm76014456>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms016007>

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff

Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress Manuscript Division, 2016
Revised 2023 February

Collection Summary

Title: Elizabeth Burt Papers

Inclusive Dates: 1797-1917

ID No.: MSS14456

Creator: Burt, Elizabeth, 1839-

Extent: 60 items

Extent: 1 container plus 1 oversize

Extent: .4 linear feet

Extent: 1 microfilm reel

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm76014456>

Summary: Typescript of Burt's autobiographical account as an army wife in the West in the latter half of the nineteenth century and letters to her daughter discussing family life and the routines of military post life. Also includes correspondence and other papers of Burt family members.

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

Burt family.

Burt, Andrew Gano, 1810-1875. Andrew Gano Burt diary and correspondence. 1851.

Burt, Andrew Sheridan, 1839-1915. Andrew Sheridan Burt papers. 1864-1880.

Burt, Edith, 1867-1951--Correspondence.

Burt, Elizabeth, 1839-1926.

Twain, Mark, 1835-1910.

Washakie, approximately 1804-1900.

Wister, Owen, 1860-1938.

Organizations

United States. Army--Military life.

Subjects

Army spouses--United States.

Frontier and pioneer life--California.

Frontier and pioneer life--Montana.

Frontier and pioneer life--Nebraska.

Frontier and pioneer life--West (U.S.)

Frontier and pioneer life--Wyoming.

Indians of North America--Government relations.

Military bases--California.

Military bases--Montana.

Military bases--Nebraska.

Military bases--Wyoming.

Shoshoni Indians.

Places

Fort Bidwell (Calif.)

Fort Bridger (Wyo.)

Fort C. F. Smith (Mont.)

Fort D. A. Russell (Wyo.)

Fort Laramie (Wyo.)

Fort Missoula (Mont.)
Fort Omaha (Neb.)
Fort Robinson (Neb.)
Fort Sanders (Wyo.)
Fort Washakie (Wyo.)
West (U.S.)--Social life and customs.

Occupations

Military spouses.

Acquisition Information

The papers of Elizabeth Burt, wife of an army officer, were given to the Library of Congress by her son, Reynolds J. Burt, 1957-1964.

Processing History

The Burt Papers were processed and reproduced on microfilm in 1976. The finding aid was created in 2016. The finding aid was updated in 2023 by Maria Farmer as part of a division-wide remediation project by the Inclusive Description Working Group.

Copyright Status

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

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Elizabeth Burt 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.

Microfilm

A microfilm edition of these papers is available on one reel. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division concerning availability for purchase or interlibrary loan. To promote preservation of the originals, researchers are required to consult the microfilm edition.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container or reel number, Elizabeth Burt Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Elizabeth Burt (1839-1926) consist mainly of a typescript of Burt's autobiographical account, "An Army Wife's Forty Years in the Service, 1862-1902," and letters to her daughter, Edith Burt, discussing family matters and describing the routines of military post life at Fort Bidwell, California; Forts Bridger, Laramie, D. A. Russell, Sanders, and Washakie, Wyoming; Forts Missoula and C. F. Smith, Montana; Forts Omaha and Robinson, Nebraska, and elsewhere.

Elizabeth Reynolds married Captain Andrew Sheridan Burt of the 6th Ohio Volunteers in September 1862. She had her first experience in army camp life during the winter of 1864-1865 when she spent three months at headquarters near South Mountain, Maryland, where her husband was stationed. After the Civil War she accompanied her husband to various military posts until his retirement as brigadier general in 1902.

Subjects in the collection include relations with Native Americans, particularly Shoshone Chief Washakie, and social events and meetings with Mark Twain and Owen Wister. The papers also contain correspondence, diaries, and other items relating to Burt family members, including her husband, Andrew Burt, and father-in-law Andrew Gano Burt. Some material consists of photocopies. The collection is arranged by name of family member.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged by name of family member.

Container List

Available on microfilm. Shelf no. 16,808

| Container | Contents |
|------------------|---|
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Burt, Elizabeth |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Autobiography, "An Army Wife's Forty Years in the Service, 1861-1902," typescript |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Correspondence, 1863-1883, 1912, 1917, undated (2 folders) |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Burt, Andrew, correspondence, 1812 |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Burt, Andrew Gano, diary and correspondence, 1851 |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Burt, John S. Gano, promissory note, 1839 |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Burt, Joseph, family record, 1819 |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Burt, Andrew Sheridan, 1864, 1879-1880 |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Burt, Reynolds J., "Empress Dowager," song, circa 1902-1903 |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Gano (major general), general order, 1813 |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Gano, John S., promissory note, 1797 |
| BOX 1 REEL 1 | Gano, Mary, correspondence, 1847-1855, undated |
| BOX OV 1 | Johnston, A. R., letter, 1836 |
| BOX OV 1 | Reynolds, Rachel, letter, 1846 |