

**BURFORD, DAVID
(1791-1864)
PAPERS
1810-1915**

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INTRODUCTION

The David Burford Papers, 1810-1915, are centered around David Burford (1791-1864), army officer, businessman and state legislator from Smith County, Tennessee. The David Burford Papers were placed on deposit by Judge G. W. Allen, Dixon Springs, Tennessee. The collection occupies 1.26 linear feet of shelf space, and numbers approximately 450 items.

Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the David Burford Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The David Burford Papers, containing 450 items, span the period 1810-1915, although the bulk is largely concentrated in the years 1814-1840. The collection is composed of accounts, correspondence, court records, election records, genealogical data, horse records, land records, legal documents, lists, military records, passes, slave records and several miscellaneous items.

Over one half of the collection consists of correspondence addressed to David Burford while he and Colonel Robert Allen were engaged in a mercantile business in Carthage, Tennessee. Most of these letters were of a business nature and concerned payments on account, acceptance of bank drafts for collection and payment, selling of tobacco through various mercantile firms in New Orleans and other financial transactions. Following the financial panic of 1819 the contents of these business letters reflected the general anxiety in business circles. Several correspondents from New Orleans decried the general state of business including the depressed market for agricultural products, particularly tobacco, the inability to procure United States bank notes to remit for drafts left for collection, business failures in New York City, the dull slave market, and many bank failures in Baltimore.

After the War of 1812 Burford held the rank of Major in the Tennessee State Militia. While serving in this military capacity he kept in contact with correspondence to district Congressmen on such military matters as pension claims, claims for militia soldiers pay, widow's claims, enrollment of volunteers in the state militia and veterans' claims for property lost in the Seminole War.

As a representative of Smith and Sumner Counties in the Tennessee General Assembly during 1829-1835, Burford received letters from constituents seeking appointments to various state government positions, expressions of opinion upon the issue of rechartering the United States Bank, the Democratic primary contest between John Eaton and Felix Grundy in 1832, and other political matters.

Probably the single most important letter in the Burford collection is a typed copy of a letter by Andrew Jackson to David Burford, dated July 28, 1831, concerning Jackson's reorganization of his Cabinet and his controversy with John C. Calhoun in regard to Jackson's conduct in Florida during the Seminole War [see Box 2, Folder 4].

Among the military records are annual returns for the 35th Regiment, Tennessee Militia in 1816 and for the 48th Regiment, Tennessee Militia in 1810. Also included are elections of officers in Smith County for the 15th, 16th 41st and 59th Regiments of the Tennessee Militia for the years 1826-1828.

Those interested in slave records will find in the Burford Papers bills of sale for various years in the period 1821-1838. In addition, there are several references to slaves in some of the letters [see Name Index for citings in individual letters].

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

David Burford

- 1791 November 5, born in North Carolina son of the Reverend Daniel and Elizabeth (Hawkins) Burford
- Bef .
1799 Removed with parents to Smith County, Tennessee
- 1812 Commissioned Second Lieutenant in 7th Regiment, United States Army during War of 1812
- 1814-1815 Commanded the post and was acting Quartermaster at Fort Pickering; after war held rank of major in state militia
- 1815 Established tanyard at Carthage; associated with Colonel Robert Allen in the mercantile business and with Colonel Robert I. Chester in tobacco trade; moved to his farm at Dixon Springs, Smith County, to devote time to agriculture and raising blooded stock
- 1825 September 16, married Elizabeth W. Alexander, daughter of Richard and Mary Alexander
- 1825-1829 Sheriff of Smith County
- 1829-1835 Represented Smith and Sumner Counties in Tennessee General Assembly; Speaker of Senate in 20th Assembly
- 1860 Delegate to the Charleston Democratic Convention
- 1864 May 23, died at his home at Dixon Springs

Source: Dr. John W. Bowen's History of Smith County, Tennessee

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Reel #1

Box Number 1

1. Accounts—Bills, notes, receipts—n.d., 1814, 1816, 1817, 1818, 1819
2. Accounts—Bills, notes, receipts—1820-1829
3. Accounts—Bills, notes, receipts—1830-1839
4. Accounts—Bills, notes, receipts—1840-1849
5. Accounts—Bills, notes, receipts—1850-1859; 1860-1861; 1864; 1885; 1915
6. Correspondence—Author unknown
7. Correspondence—Adams-Allen, Moses
8. Correspondence—Atkinson-Burford
9. Correspondence—Cartwright—Craighead

Box Number 2

1. Dorsey-Duncan
2. Erwin-Guild
3. Hagner-Huntsman
4. Jackson-Lord

Microfilm Reel #2

5. McConnell-Nisbet
6. Patterson-Richardson
7. Saunders-Smith
8. Wilkins-Worley

Box Number 3

1. Court Records—Affidavit—Fletcher Taylor, 1822
2. Court Records—Commission—David Burford, et al vs. Wyatt W. Bailey, et al, 1848
3. Court Records—Decree for sale—Heirs of J.W. Sanders vs. Thos. T. Stribling, 1852
4. Court Records—Receipt money paid witnesses, 1826
5. Election Records—State and national officials—Smith County, Tenn., 1827-1835
6. Genealogical Data—Allen, Burford and Garrison families
7. Horse Records—Certificates of Pedigree, etc.
8. Land Records—Deed—Black, Thos. J. to David Burford, 1833
9. Land Records—Deed—Burford, David to Alexander Allison, 1829
10. Land Records—Deed—Burford, John H. to David Burford, 1834
11. Land Records—Deed—Burnett, Thos. R., et al , to David Burford, 1821
12. Land Records—Deed—Cage, Wilson to David Burford, 1840

13. Land Records—Deed—Cochran, David to David Burford, 1840
14. Land Records—Deed—Goodall, Wm. To David Burford, 1829
15. Land Records—Deed—Hart, Wm. To David Burford, 1829
16. Land Records—Land Warrants, 1848
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46. Miscellaneous—Envelopes, fragments, etc.

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