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New Hampshire Historical Society
Manuscripts Division

BURGUM FAMILY PAPERS

Register

Compiled by
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Manuscripts Division

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Biographical Sketch

John Burgum was born on May 14, 1826, in Birmingham, England. He was apprenticed to Christopher Wright, a clock-dial painter. In 1850 he came to Boston where he found employment painting coaches. In that same year he was asked to come to Concord, New Hampshire to work for the Abbot-Downing Company where he spent the remainder of his life. For twenty-five years, he painted designs on coaches and wagons. After working in Manchester for several years decorating steam engines for the Amoskeag Company, he returned to the Abbot-Downing Company, decorating vehicles when there was work to be done, undertaking other painting and decorating commissions, and trying other business ventures. He sold packing for valves in machinery, tried to sell diamonds, and invented Burgum's Family Bread Cutting Machine. He died in Concord on April 16, 1907.

Emma Gannell was born on April 20, 1826, in London, England. She was adopted by Sarah Thompson, Countess of Rumford, and spent her childhood in the house at 45 Brompton Row, London and some time in France, as well. She came to the United States with the Countess and lived with her at the Rolfe-Rumford House in Concord, New Hampshire. Here she met John Burgum and, in 1852, they were married. They had five children: Sarah Rumford, John Fulton, Charles Henry, Edwin Gannell and Mary Jane. Emma Burgum died on January 9, 1923 at the age of 97.

Edwin Gannell Burgum was born in Concord on July 8, 1858. He followed in his father's footsteps, working with him decorating coaches at the Abbot-Downing company and later doing ornamental painting, decorating furniture and signs. He was interested in the history of the Abbot-Downing Company in his later years and travelled extensively in this country looking for old coaches. In 1939 he published an article on The Concord Coach. Edwin Burgum died in Concord in 1948.

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Scope and Content Note

The Burgum Family Papers were placed on permanent loan to the New Hampshire Historical Society in 1946 by Edwin Berry Burgum and Charles Kenneth Burgum, the sons of Edwin Gannell Burgum.

The collection consists of four manuscript boxes and numerous oversize documents and spans the years 1827-1922. The collection is composed of several types of material including correspondence, diaries and accounts, miscellaneous financial records, reminiscences and post cards.

The diaries and accounts of John and Edwin Burgum, spanning the years 1862-1899, as well as correspondence and miscellaneous financial documents are contained in Boxes 1 and 2 of the collection. John Burgum (1826-1907) and his son Edwin (1858-1948) were known as "ornamental painters" and were associated for many years with the Abbot-Downing Company, the Concord manufactory which produced the richly-decorated stagecoaches known around the world throughout the 19th century. Over the years, John and Edwin not only worked for the Abbot-Downing Company, but also for the Concord Carriage Company, E. Teel and Company, the Union Carriage Company, and the Boston and Maine Railroad. Sometimes they ornamented a coach together; one sketching the design; the other applying the finishing touches. In addition to ornamenting coaches, John and Edwin both sought other projects. Edwin made and upholstered furniture and took up photography while John worked at repairing clocks, painting small wooden panels for souvenirs and instructing pupils in art.

In 1851 John Burgum was invited to the Rolfe-Rumford house in Concord to view several paintings. There he met Emma Gannell. She was English, like John, and had a broad cultural background. Her early years were spent in England where she had been raised by Sarah Thompson (Countess Rumford), a wealthy Concord woman. In 1845, after many journeys together, they settled in Concord at the Rolfe-Rumford house. Shortly before the Countess' death in 1852, John and Emma were married and lived in the Countess' house until 1853 when they made their home at 68 South State Street. Like her husband John, Emma kept diaries and notebooks which she filled with her personal reminiscences and sketches. These diaries and journals as well as miscellaneous correspondence, historical notes and post cards are contained in Boxes 2-4 of this collection and span the years 1827-1922.

In addition to the material contained in the four manuscript boxes, there are a number of oversize documents including John Burgum's early apprenticeship papers and two certificates received by him in October 1867 at the exhibition of the American Institute of New York. These diplomas were awarded for his "Improved Try Square" (a right angle gauge for carpenters) and for his "Device for Keeping Meat and Pickles Under Brine, a Novel and Useful Invention, Very Effective and Perfectly Simple in its Construction."

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Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>	
1		<u>John & Edwin G. Burgum.</u> Diaries and Accounts. Brief daily entries of business and family affairs. 1862-1864 1866 1868-1874 1876-1899	35 volumes
2	1	<u>John Burgum.</u> Account Book. Personal Expenses. 1845-1848	1 Volume
	2	<u>John and Edwin Burgum.</u> Bills and Receipts. 1851-1870	21 items
	3	<u>John Burgum.</u> Cemetery Deed. City of Concord to John Burgum. Deed to lot #510 in Blossom Hill Cemetery. 1861	1 item
	4	<u>John Burgum.</u> Letter to Hiram Rolfe. Written while on an ocean voyage. August 1, 1872	1 item
	5	<u>Edwin G. Burgum.</u> Miscellaneous. Copy of indenture for running stages. 1820; two small notebooks; two letters; list of articles from estate of Sarah Thompson, Countess of Rumford; copy of article, <u>The Concord Coach.</u>	8 items
	6	<u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> Journal extracts containing notes and quotations from other books. 1827-1851	7 items
	7	<u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> "Leisure Hours"; Written by Serafena Drof mur. Drawings by Emma Gannell. 1849	1 volume
	8	<u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> Letterbook. Copies of letters written by Emma Burgum to her family. 1875-1888	1 volume
	9	<u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> Miscellaneous. Family letters including two from her brother, Edwin Gannell, London 1851 and Australia 1902; photograph of a portrait of Emma Gannell by Oldfield, Paris 1840; inventory of the personal estate of the Countess of Rumford 1846-1902	15 items
	10	<u>Burgum Family.</u> Family photo/postal cards (with messages). n.d.	11 items

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	11	<u>Burgum Family.</u> Post Card Album (post cards removed to folder 12). Hand-painted cover. n.d. 1 item
	12	<u>Burgum Family.</u> New Hampshire Post Cards (with messages). n.d. 50 items
	13	<u>Burgum Family.</u> Non-New Hampshire Post Cards (with messages). n.d. 30 items
3	1	<u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> Historical Notes.... concerning the Burgins of Allenstown; Dr. Bouton; Col. Abiel Rolfe; biographical sketch of Zadoc Long by his son; old houses in Concord; Concord notables; quotations from magazines and journals. n.d. 1 volume
	2	<u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> Biographical sketch of Sir Benjamin Thompson, Count of Rumford. n.d. 2 copies & notes
	3	<u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> Miscellaneous notes concerning the Countess of Rumford. n.d. 1 booklet
	4	<u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> "Drops of Honey Culled From Many a Flower." Writings about Count Rumford; the Countess; the Burgum Family; quotations 1921-1922 Volume 1
	5	<u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> "Drops of Honey Culled From Many a Flower". 1921-1922 Volume 2
	6	<u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> "Drops of Honey Culled From Many a Flower." 1921-1922 Volume 3
	7	<u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> "Drops of Honey Culled From Many a Flower." 1921-1922 Volume 4
	8	<u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> "Drops of Honey Culled From Many a Flower." 1921-1922 Volume 5
	9	<u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> "Drops of Honey Culled From Many a Flower." 1921-1922 Volume 6
	10	<u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> Miscellaneous quotes, notes, and newspaper clippings. n.d. 24 items (approx.)
	11	<u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> Miscellaneous subject matter. n.d. 4 booklets
	12	<u>Timothy Walker.</u> Copy of a sermon. January 1742 1 item

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
4		<p><u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> Diaries. Brief entries of family affairs; calls; funerals; a few business accounts and addresses</p> <p>1850 1853 1863 1865 1890-1891 1892 1894 1901 1902 1906 1922</p> <p style="text-align: right;">11 volumes</p>
		<p><u>Emma Gannell.</u> Autograph Album.</p> <p>1848</p> <p style="text-align: right;">1 volume</p>
		<p><u>Emma Gannell Burgum.</u> Historical Notes. Extracts from books about Count Rumford; copies of letters of Sir Charles Blagden to the Countess of Rumford, 1801-1819; copies of letter of the Countess to her grandmother, Ruth Pierce, 1793-1806; life of Charles Lefevbre; description of house at 45 Brompton Row, London; Notes on European nobility, Concord families, and Queen Victoria.</p> <p>no inclusive dates</p> <p style="text-align: right;">4 volumes</p>