

# A Guide to the Richard H. Darne Papers, 1857-1860

The Richard H. Darne Papers, 1857-1860  
1857-1860

---

A Collection in The Fairfax County Public Library MSS 06-01

## Title Statement

A Guide to the Richard H. Darne Papers, 1857-1860

**Subtitle:** Richard H. Darne Papers

**Collection:** MSS 06-01

## Publication Statement

**Date:** © 2024 Fairfax County Public Library. All rights reserved.

## Profile Description

**Creation:** Machine-readable finding aid created by Ross Landis, January 21, 2024

**Language Usage:** Description is in English

## Descriptive Summary

### Record Group Number

MSS 06-01

### Language

English

### Abstract

The Richard H. Darne Papers consist of .25 linear feet and span the years 1857-1860 containing Darne's two contracts and an agreement with the United States Post Office Department for delivering mail from Washington D.C. to Georgetown and from Washington D.C. to Langley, Virginia to Whaley's Store in Leesburg, Virginia.

### Creator

Darne, Richard Henry (1826-1910)

### Extent

.25 linear feet

### Repository

Fairfax County Public Library

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions

None

### Use Restrictions

Consult repository for information

### Acquisition Information

Gift of John Wagner, son-in-law of Richard H. Darne

## Processing Information

Chris Barbuschak, April 2017

EAD generated by Ross Landis, 2024

## Preferred Citation

Richard H. Darne Papers, MSS 06-01, Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library

# Adjunct Descriptive Data

## Separated Material

None

## Related Material

None

# Historical and Biographical Information

Richard Henry Darne was born in Loudoun County, Virginia on January 9, 1826 to James W. and Amelia Ward Kitchen Darne. He married his first wife, Ann Eliza Hastings, on April 5, 1857, but she died on January 13, 1880. He married his second wife, Octavia Oliver of Fairfax County, Virginia, on May 5, 1881 in Washington D.C. The couple had three children together.

Beginning in 1853, Darne contracted with the Post Office Department to transport mail from Washington D.C. to Georgetown and back again twice daily. By 1860, he transported mail from Washington D.C. to Langley to Leesburg and back, a 66 mile round trip.

For more than fifty years, Darne operated livery stables in Georgetown from 1855 until 1901 and he was recognized as the "Dean of the Liverymen". He also owned a stagecoach line which ran from Georgetown to Leesburg over Old Georgetown Leesburg Pike. In the 1860s, he won a trotting race from Washington to Leesburg, winning the \$500 stakes. While living in Georgetown, Darne also served as a mounted bodyguard at the inauguration of President Abraham Lincoln.

Darne owned a 200 acre farm in Langley, Virginia near Merrywood that he called "Pinnet Grove". In 1900, he gave a portion of his land for the right of way for the Great Falls and Old Dominion Railroad. Darne died on January 16, 1910, after injuring himself from a fall. He was buried beneath an apple tree he had planted on his farm as a sapling two miles from the Chain Bridge.

# Scope and Content

The Richard H. Darne Papers consist of .25 linear feet and span the years 1857-1860 containing Darne's two contracts and an agreement with the United States Post Office Department for delivering mail from Washington D.C. to Georgetown and from Washington D.C. to Langley, Virginia to Whaley's Store in Leesburg, Virginia.

Subjects include the United States Post Office Department and postal delivery schedules.

# Index Terms

Darne, Richard Henry (1826-1910)  
Georgetown (Washington, D.C.) - History  
Langley (Va.) - History  
Leesburg (Va.) - History  
McLean (Va.) - History  
Postal service - Employees  
Postal service - United States - History

# Container List

**Box 1 Folder 1: Contract, Richard H. Darne with Postmaster General, May 12, 1853 [Photocopy], Undated**

**Box 1 Folder 2: Acknowledgement, Auditors Office of the Treasury for the Post Office Department, 1857 July 28**

**Box 1 Folder 3: Contract, Richard H. Darne with Post Office Department , 1860 September 26**

Virginia Room, Fairfax County Public Library