

# A Guide to the Barton Family Papers, 1855-1869; 1912

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A Collection in Virginia Military Institute Archives mss 00020  
Virginia Military Institute Archives  
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## History

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## Title Statement

A Guide to the Barton Family Papers, 1855-1869; 1912

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

**Collection number**

mss 00020

**Language**

English

## Physical Characteristics

The collection consists of ten items.

## Repository

Archives, Preston Library, Virginia Military Institute

# Administrative Information

## Access

There are no restrictions.

## Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

## Preferred Citation

Barton Family Papers, mss 00020, Virginia Military Institute Archives, Lexington, Virginia

# Additional Descriptive Data

## Related Material

The Handley Library in Winchester, Virginia, contains additional Barton Family Documents.

The following book provides an extensive history of the family:

*Defend the Valley: the Barton-Jones Families of Winchester at Home and at War, 1861-1865.*(by Margaretta Barton Colt. Orion Books, 1994)

# Biographical/Historical Information

**Charles Marshall Barton**, the eldest son of David and Frances (Fanny) Jones Barton, was born at Winchester, Virginia on November 30, 1836. He preparatory education was received at Winchester Academy and at Episcopal High School (Alexandria, VA). He entered the Virginia Military Institute in 1852 and graduated in 1856. He subsequently returned to the Winchester area where he was a farmer. Charles married Ellen Marshall, of Fauquier County, in 1859. During the Civil War he served with Cutshaw's Artillery Battery and was mortally wounded in action near Winchester on May 25, 1862.

**Randolph Barton**, Charles's younger brother, was born at Winchester on April 24, 1844. He attended the Virginia Military Institute for one year, 1860-1861, and at the beginning of the Civil War joined the 33rd Virginia Infantry Regiment. He subsequently served in the 2nd Virginia Infantry and as a staff officer for Generals Elisha F. Paxton, James A. Walker and William R. Terry. Following the war, he practiced law in Baltimore, Maryland. Randolph married Agnes P. Kirkland of Baltimore on December 29, 1869. They had nine children. He died on March 15, 1921.

**Bolling W. Barton**, a younger brother of Charles and Randolph, was born at Winchester on November 24, 1846. He entered VMI on September 25, 1862 and while at the Institute took part in the Battle of New Market (Virginia) on May 15, 1864. In November 1864 he joined the 1st Foreign Battalion. After the Civil War he studied and practiced medicine, and also taught Botany at Johns Hopkins University. He married Ella Jane Gibson in 1872; the couple had no children. He died in Loudoun County, Virginia on February 18, 1924.

# Scope and Content Information

The collection consists of the miscellaneous papers of three members of the Barton family who attended the Virginia Military Institute during the mid-19th century. Papers relating to Cadet Charles M. Barton (VMI Class of 1856) include a letter dated September 28, 1855 from Charles to his cousin Joseph M. Barton, in which he complains about VMI life and about his instructor Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson (Jackson is described as a "hell of a fool"). Other Charles Barton material is found in a notebook (ca. 250 pages) containing poetry copied by Cadet Barton, including "The Faculty of the VMI" which describes Francis H. Smith, John T.L. Preston and other early faculty members; class notes from lectures given by Francis H. Smith; autographs of Barton's VMI classmates, and a resolution on the death of Cadet Thomas Blackburn.

The notebook described above, although pertaining largely to Charles, also contains notes on law and notations concerning legal cases and fees. This material likely relates to Randolph Barton, an attorney.

Material relating to Bolling W. Barton includes one letter from Frank [last name unknown, but a VMI alumnus]

to Bolling, dated January 18, 1864; 6 miscellaneous documents, primarily French language exercises; and a photocopy of a typescript of a speech delivered by Bolling Barton to the Virginia Military Institute Class of 1912.

## Contents List

### **Notebook, 1855-1860**

#### **Scope and Content**

This notebook dates primarily from the Virginia Military Institute cadetship of Charles M. Barton. It contains cadet poetry, class notes, autographs, a resolution published after the death of Cadet Thomas Blackburn, and a listing of marks received in various classes. The notebook also contains law notes and law firm account information for Randolph Barton; and misc. expenses for Bolling Barton.

### **Charles M. Barton Letter, 1855 September 28**

#### **Scope and Content**

Cadet Barton discusses life at VMI and complains about faculty member Thomas J. Jackson.

"I find the studies this years a great deal more interesting than they have been heretofore, with the exception of one single one, which so counterbalances the rest as to throw all the good part into the shade. We commenced studying engineering this year. I find the military engineering quite interesting & I hope I may find civil equally so, as it is the only thing I care knowing anything about. The study I referred to just now was Optics, which from being so very difficult, & taught by such a hell of a fool, whose name is Jackson."

### **Bolling W. Barton Documents, 1863-1864**

**Extent** 7 items

#### **Scope and Content**

Includes one letter received from his friend and former VMI cadet "Frank" regarding a new cadet, Thomas M. Rutherford; also school exercises (French, Greek, and Math).

### **Randolph Barton Speech, ca. 1912**

#### **Scope and Content**

Photocopy of a typescript. Speech delivered to the Virginia Military Institute Class of 1912.