

Burrage, Joseph Perrin letters

Joseph Perrin Burrage letters, 1862-1863
1862-1863

Title Statement

Burrage, Joseph Perrin letters Joseph Perrin Burrage letters MSS.16215

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Publication Statement

Publisher: Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

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Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-03-05 17:47:58 +0000.

Language Usage: English

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MSS.16215

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/3/resources/228

Unit Date

1862-1863

Mixed Materials

1 (box)

Container

1 (box)

Language

English

Extent

.04 Cubic Feet 1 document box with 80 folders 88 letters

Repository

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Use

There are no restrictions

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The collection was a gift from David Radcliffe to the Special Collections Library at the University of Virginia in August 2016.

Biographical / Historical

Joseph Perrin Burrage was the eldest son of a Boston merchant, and a student at Harvard College who had trained for a career in the ministry and then enlisted in the 33rd Massachusetts Volunteers in Northern Virginia from 1862 to 1863. After marching and fighting in Virginia, he died leading his company in a nighttime bayonet charge up a steep mountain slope in Tennessee. (Biography extracted in part from burrage-letters.cath.vt.edu)

Scope and Contents

The Joseph Perrin Burrage letters consist of one document box, .04 cubic feet, and contain 88 of his letters to his family describing his activities and lifestyle in the Thirty-Third Massachusetts Volunteers during the Civil War from 1862 to 1863. Most of the letters are accompanied with a typed transcript and the original mailing envelope. Some of the folders contain several letters while most have only one per folder.

His letters describe the details of camp life, including marching and traveling with his unit from Virginia to Alabama, and mention of General Joseph Hooker, General Ulysses S. Grant, General William Rosencrans, and General Robert E. Lee. He writes without comment or description that men are being killed all around him. He was passionate about defending the United States Army, and his crusade for morality, temperance, and abolition. The letters also contain brief descriptions of the Battles of Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Brandy Station, and Gettysburg. Also mentioned is his younger cousin, William "Willie" Allen Burrage.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged in chronological order. Most of the folders came with one letter per folder although a few of them have two letters.

Description of Subordinate Components

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48335

Unit Date 1862

Language English

To his sister Fannie Eva Burrage

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48331

Unit Date March 29

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 1 (folder)

Language English

To his mother and father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48332

Unit Date July 24

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 2 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48333

Unit Date July 30

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 3 (folder)

Language English

To his mother and father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48334

Unit Date August 19

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 4 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48336

Unit Date August 20

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 5 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48337

Unit Date August 26

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 6 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48338

Unit Date August 30

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 7 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48339

Unit Date September 4

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 8 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48340

Unit Date September 10

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 9 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48341

Unit Date September 15

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 10 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48342

Unit Date September 18

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 11 (folder)

Language English

To his mother and father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48343

Unit Date September 22 and September 30

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 12 (folder)

Language English

To his mother**Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48344**Unit Date** October 4**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 13 (folder)**Language** English**To his father****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48345**Unit Date** October 12**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 14 (folder)**Language** English**To his mother****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48346**Unit Date** October 13**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 15 (folder)**Language** English**To his mother****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48347**Unit Date** October 17**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 16 (folder)**Language** English**To his mother****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48348**Unit Date** October 25**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 17 (folder)**Language** English**General**

No transcription provided

To his father and to his Uncle Joseph

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48349

Unit Date October 30

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 18 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48350

Unit Date November 2 and November 5

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 19 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48351

Unit Date November 17

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 20 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48352

Unit Date November 21

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 21 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48353

Unit Date November 25 and November 30

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 22 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48354

Unit Date December 5

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 23 (folder)

Language English

To his mother and father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48355

Unit Date December 17, 21, and 28

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 24 (folder)

Language English

1863

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48356

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48357

Unit Date January 1

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 25 (folder)

Language English

To children and friends

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48358

Unit Date January 6

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 26 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48359

Unit Date January 7

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 27 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48360

Unit Date January 12

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 28 (folder)

Language English

To his mother**Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48361**Unit Date** January 17**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 29 (folder)**Language** English**To his father****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48362**Unit Date** January 23**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 30 (folder)**Language** English**To his mother****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48363**Unit Date** January 25**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 31 (folder)**Language** English**To his father****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48364**Unit Date** January 27**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 32 (folder)**Language** English**To his mother****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48365**Unit Date** February 3**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 33 (folder)**Language** English**To his mother****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48366**Unit Date** February 12**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 34 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48367

Unit Date February 17

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 35 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48368

Unit Date February 20

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 36 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48369

Unit Date February 24

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 37 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48370

Unit Date February 28

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 38 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48371

Unit Date March 4

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 39 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48372

Unit Date March 8

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 40 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48373

Unit Date March 12

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 41 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48374

Unit Date March 17

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 42 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48375

Unit Date March 21

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 43 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48376

Unit Date March 26

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 44 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48377

Unit Date March 30

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 45 (folder)

Language English

To children

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48378

Unit Date April 3

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 46 (folder)

Language English

General

No transcript provided

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48379

Unit Date April 4

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 47 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48380

Unit Date April 11

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 48 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48381

Unit Date April 15

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 49 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48382

Unit Date April 20

Mixed Materials 50 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48383

Unit Date April 26

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 51 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48384

Unit Date May 2

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 52 (folder)

Language English

General

No transcript provided. Very short letter.

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48385

Unit Date May 8 and undated

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 53 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48386

Unit Date May [no day]

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 54 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48387

Unit Date May 12

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 55 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48388

Unit Date May 24

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 56 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48389

Unit Date May 28

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 57 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48390

Unit Date June 2

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 58 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48391

Unit Date June 6

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 59 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48392

Unit Date June 11

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 60 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48393

Unit Date June 16

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 61 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48394

Unit Date June 21

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 62 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48395

Unit Date July 5

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 63 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48396

Unit Date July 11

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 64 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48397

Unit Date July 17

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 65 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48398

Unit Date July 29

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 66 (folder)

Language English

To his father**Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48399**Unit Date** August 2**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 67 (folder)**Language** English**To his father****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48400**Unit Date** August 8**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 68 (folder)**Language** English**To his father****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48401**Unit Date** August 13**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 69 (folder)**Language** English**To his mother****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48402**Unit Date** August 17**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 70 (folder)**Language** English**To his father****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48403**Unit Date** August 22**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 71 (folder)**Language** English**To his mother****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48404**Unit Date** August 27**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 72 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48405

Unit Date August 31

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 73 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48406

Unit Date September 5

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 74 (folder)

Language English

To his mother

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48407

Unit Date September 10

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 75 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48408

Unit Date September 16

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 76 (folder)

Language English

To his father

Unit ID MSS 16215

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/3/archival_objects/48409

Unit Date September 29

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 77 (folder)

Language English

To his mother**Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48410**Unit Date** October 2**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 78 (folder)**Language** English**To his father****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48411**Unit Date** October 8**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 79 (folder)**Language** English**To his mother****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48412**Unit Date** October 14**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 80 (folder)**Language** English**To his father****Unit ID** MSS 16215**Unit ID** [Archival Resource Key](#)**Unit ID** /repositories/3/archival_objects/48413**Unit Date** October 19**Mixed Materials** 1 (box)**Container** 81 (folder)**Language** English