

# A Guide to the Barringer Family Papers

Barringer Family Papers ca. 1812-1966  
ca. 1812-1966

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A Collection in the Special Collections Department 2588, -a, -b, -c, -d, -e, -g  
Special Collections, University of Virginia Library  
2007

## History

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## Title Statement

A Guide to the Barringer Family Papers

**Subtitle:** Barringer Family Papers

**Collection:** 2588, -a, -b, -c, -d, -e, -g

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## Profile Description

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## Descriptive Summary

### Collection Number

2588, -a, -b, -c, -d, -e, -g

### Language

English

### Physical Characteristics

This collection consists of ca. 3000 items.

### Repository

Special Collections, University of Virginia Library

## Administrative Information

### Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

## Use Restrictions

See the [University of Virginia Library's use policy](#).

## Acquisition Information

The Barringer Family Papers were given to the Library by various members of the Barringer family between 1937 and 1981.

## Preferred Citation

Barringer Family Papers, Accession #2588, -a, -b, -c, -d, -e, -g, Special Collections, University of Virginia Library, Charlottesville, Va.

# Scope and Content

The Barringer Family Papers comprise ca. 2,830 items (twelve Hollinger boxes and 1 oversize folder, 5.2 linear shelf feet), 1828-1963, consisting of correspondence, legal and financial documents, literary manuscripts, genealogical material, newsclippings, photographs and keepsake items, certificates and commissions, printed articles and pamphlets, monographs and broadsides. These papers pertain chiefly to Paul Brandon Barringer (1857-1941) and other members of his family, most notably General Rufus Barringer (1821-1895) and Victor C. Barringer (1828-1896). A few of these papers also pertain to T. J. "Stonewall" Jackson and his wife, Anna Morrison Jackson who were related to the Barringer family by marriage. Additional genealogical data exist for the following families: Brandon, Graham, Hannah, Massey, Morrison, Spragins, Washington, and Woodson.

The bulk of the Barringer material consists of the personal papers of Paul Brandon Barringer professor of medicine and chairman of the faculty of the University of Virginia founder of the University of Virginia Hospital president of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Virginia (presently Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University), a member of the Virginia Board of Health and Virginia Board of Agriculture an inventor, and author on topics varying from family history to racial affairs. Little of this material illuminates his professional life with the exception of those documents associated with his tenure at Virginia Polytechnic Institute. The chief focus of his papers is social and intellectual.

Most of the correspondence in these papers deals with Barringer family affairs and personal matters concerning Paul B. Barringer. Topics include family illness, real estate dealings and other financial matters, speaking engagements, the American Negro, and occasionally, politics (especially Barringer's unsuccessful attempt to be appointed United States Secretary of Agriculture). Among the correspondents are: Edwin A. Alderman Harry F. Byrd John Armstrong Chaloner Lenoir Chambers William A. Clark Hugh S. Cumming Charles W. Dabney John Dalzell Josephus Daniels Noah K. Davis R. T. W. Duke E. C. Glass Carter Glass Armistead C. Gordon Hugh S. Johnson Fitzhugh Lee Andrew J. Montague R. Walton Moore John L. Newcomb Robert C. Ogden Lee S. Overman Thomas N. Page Thomas W. Page William L. Phelps John F. Rixey Albert Shaw C. Alphonso Smith Claude A. Swanson Benjamin R. Tillman J. Hoge Tyler Oscar W. Underwood Henry A. Wallace and John Sharp Williams. Among those corresponding with Paul B. Barringer concerning racial matters are: Lyman Abbott Frank P. Brent John W. Daniel H. B. Frissell Armistead C. Gordon Thomas W. Harrison Hilary A. Herbert Edgar G. Murphy Clarence Poe Charles D. Warner and Booker T. Washington. Additional correspondence includes editorial letters written by Paul B. Barringer which discuss political, civic and social issues. A small group of letters (11 items) contains typed and autograph documents by President Theodore Roosevelt chiefly concerning his visit to the University of Virginia in 1903.

Correspondence from the nineteenth century also includes letters by Daniel Laurens Barringer (Congressman, North Carolina), Daniel Moreau Barringer (Congressman, North Carolina ; Minister to Spain), T. J. "Stonewall" Jackson (photocopies) and his wife, Anna (Morrison) Jackson and General Rufus Barringer who offers a detailed account of life as a Confederate prisoner of war at Fort Delaware, Delaware (ALS-Photostat). Other occasional references to Civil War news (especially during 1863) and to the sale, price and investment value of slaves also appear in some of these early letters. Letters dated from the 1870's include accounts of boarding school life (Bingham School, Mebaneville, North Carolina; Kenmore University School, Amherst Court House, Virginia; A. F. Seminary, Staunton, Virginia) by Paul B. Barringer and Anna Barringer.

An important group of correspondence and related papers documents a series of investigations stemming from charges made by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute Alumni Association Welfare Committee against Paul B. Barringer while he was president of Virginia Polytechnic Institute (1907-1913). Included in these documents are newsclippings, affidavits, evidentiary exhibits, copies of formal charges and Barringer's replies to them, and printed matter regarding the investigation. An additional set of documents concerns charges made against R. J. Noell of the Radford State Normal School by the Radford Record (1913).

The Barringer Family Papers also contain autograph and typescript notes and literary drafts, as well as printed articles and monographs, written chiefly either by or about Paul B. Barringer. Included are essays, memoirs and several printed monographs by Barringer, but most of the material comprises note and draft fragments. Anthropology, race, religion and theology are the predominant topics in these writings. Other subjects, including economics, history, medicine, prohibition and biography, are also represented. Additional

authors include General Rufus Barringer and Daniel Moreau Barringer.

A separate group of documents (104 items) contains drawings, legal papers, printed specifications and patent certificates ( United States of America Canada Great Britain) for a fire extinguisher which Paul B. Barringer invented.

Among the miscellaneous items within these papers are documents referring to the University of Virginia Michel Ney (Marshal of France) (1769-1815), and Georgia O'Keeffe (1887-). Miscellaneous financial documents include receipts of Victor C. Barringer General Rufus Barringer and Paul B. Barringer accounts from Paul B. Barringer 's ophthalmology practice, canceled checks, and bank statements and utility accounts compiled during Paul B. Barringer 's tenure at Virginia Polytechnic Institute Certificates commissions and licences (many oversize) awarded to Paul B. Barringer and Nannie (Hannah) Barringer include his license to practice medicine in Virginia (1890). Engravings and numerous photographs depict various family members and " Gravel Hill " a home in Charlotte County, Virginia.

In addition, these papers contain numerous newsclippings pertaining to the Barringer and Morrison families in Virginia and North Carolina and three theater broadsides featuring Edwin Booth in leading roles. Bound volumes, which include a commonplace book of General Rufus Barringer Paul B. Barringer 's case book, and a scrapbook of newsclippings pertaining to the "Negro question," are also included.

Photographs of interest include Robert E. Lee with former Confederate generals at White Sulphur Springs, 1869 and Dr. Paul Barringer and Dr. William Mann Randolph in a buggy at "the Corner," 1906.

## Organization

The Barringer Family Papers are arranged in eight series: I. General Correspondence; II. Virginia Polytechnic Institute Papers; III. Fire Extinguisher Papers; IV. Literary Manuscripts; V. Genealogical Material; VI. Printed Material; VII. Miscellaneous; VIII. Bound Volumes. These series are ordered chronologically with two exceptions: Series IV. Literary Manuscripts, which is arranged alphabetically by fragment topics and essay titles; Series V. Genealogical Material, which is arranged alphabetically by family name. Most letters have been filed under Series I. General Correspondence. However, letters pertaining exclusively to Barringer's tenure at Virginia Polytechnic Institute to his fire extinguisher patents, or to genealogical topics, have been placed in those respective series.

## Container List

### Series I: Correspondence

#### **Correspondence**

**Unit Date** 1828-1914

**Container** Box 1

#### **Extent**

6 folders

#### **Correspondence**

**Unit Date** 1915-1963, n. d.

**Container** Box 2

#### **Extent**

3 folders

#### **Correspondence, chiefly regarding President Theodore Roosevelt's visit to UVa**

**Unit Date** 1903-1909

**Container** Box 2

#### **Extent**

TLS, ALS

## **Editorial Letters from Paul Brandon Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1909-1910, n. d.

**Container** Box 2

## **Series II: V. P. I. Papers**

### **General Correspondence and related papers regarding Paul Brandon Barringer at V. P. I.**

**Unit Date** 1906-1910

**Container** Box 2

**Extent**

2 folders

### **General Correspondence and related papers regarding Paul Brandon Barringer at V. P. I.**

**Unit Date** 1911-1913, n. d.

**Container** Box 3

**Extent**

2 folders

### **Correspondence regarding Walter J. Quick, Dean of Agriculture Department, V. P. I.**

**Unit Date** 1907-1909

**Container** Box 3

### **Correspondence and related papers regarding charges against Paul B. Barringer made by the V. P. I. Alumni Association Welfare Committee**

**Unit Date** 1910

**Container** Box 3

**Extent**

2 folders

### **Evidentiary exhibits regarding 1910 investigation**

**Unit Date** 1910

**Container** Box 3

### **Evidentiary exhibits regarding 1910 investigation**

**Unit Date** 1910

**Container** Box 4

### **"Investigation of Charges of the Welfare Committee..." (V. P. I. Alum. Assoc.) vs Paul B. Barringer: transcript of proceedings before the board of Visitors of V. P. I.**

**Unit Date** 1910 Mar 25-26

**Container** Box 4

**Extent**

TD (carbon)

**Paul B. Barringer's response to charges made by the Welfare Committee (V. P. I.), w/additional notes**

**Unit Date** 1910 Mar 25

**Container** Box 4

**Extent**

TD

**Printed matter regarding investigation of 1910**

**Unit Date** 1910

**Container** Box 4

**Affidavits and other documents regarding investigation of 1911**

**Unit Date** 1911

**Container** Box 4

**Paul B. Barringer's reply to charges preferred against him by Mr. Kline**

**Unit Date** 1911

**Container** Box 4

**Newsclippings regarding Paul B. Barringer's tenure as president of V. P. I.**

**Unit Date** 1907-1913, n. d.

**Container** Box 5

**Correspondence, clippings and printed matter regarding Radford State Normal/R. J. Noell investigation**

**Unit Date** 1913

**Container** Box 5

**Series III: Fire Extinguisher Papers**

**Correspondence regarding fire extinguisher**

**Unit Date** 1909-1918, n. d.

**Container** Box 5

**Drawings, legal papers and printed specifications regarding fire extinguishers**

**Unit Date** 1881-1915, n. d.

**Container** Box 5

**Fire extinguisher patents: U. S. A., Canada, and Great Britain**

**Unit Date** 1911-1915, n. d.

**Container** Box 5

**Series IV: Literary Manuscripts**

**Addresses given by Paul B. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1908-1938, n. d.

**Container** Box 6

**Addresses given by others**

**Unit Date** 1933-1935

Container Box 6

## **Essays on theology, religion and anthropology**

**Unit Date** 1923, n. d.

**Container** Box 6

**Extent**

3 folders

## **Medical topics**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Container** Box 6

## **Miscellaneous essays: fiction, history, economics, etc.**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Container** Box 6

## **Race relations**

**Unit Date** 1911-1912, n. d.

**Container** Box 7

## **Poetry**

**Unit Date** 1925

**Container** Box 7

## **Prohibition**

**Unit Date** 1924, n. d.

**Container** Box 7

## **"The Autobiography of a Post-bellum Boy," w/corrections**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Container** Box 7

**Extent**

TMSS

2 drafts

## **"The Evolution of Sex: Body and Soul" (incomplete), w/corrections**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Container** Box 7

**Extent**

TMs

## **"The Faith Fundamental," w/notes**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Container** Box 7

**Extent**

TMs, AMs

## **"The Faith Fundamental"**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Container** Box 8

**Extent**

TMs, AMs

## **["Memoirs of Dr. Paul Barringer"] early draft w/ corrections**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Container** Box 8

**Extent**

TMs

## **"Memoirs of Dr. Paul Brandon Barringer," volumes 1 and 2, edited by Anna Barringer, w/corrections**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Container** Box 8

**Extent**

TMs  
(2 folders)

## **"The Moses of the Medians," w/corrections**

**Unit Date** ca. 1923

**Container** Box 8

**Extent**

TMs

## **"Primal Theology," including notes, draft fragments, w/corrections**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Container** Box 8

**Extent**

TMs, AN

## **"A Primer of Prehistory"**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Container** Box 8

**Extent**

TMs

## **"The Quest"**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Container** Box 9

**Extent**

TMs

## **"Reminiscences of Doctor Paul B. Barringer"**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Container** Box 9

**Extent**

TMs

## **Series V: Genealogical Material**

### **Barringer Genealogy and Family history**

**Unit Date** 1812, 1867-1959, n. d.

**Container** Box 9

### **Brandon Genealogy**

**Unit Date** 1925-1958, n. d.

**Container** Box 9

### **Hannah Genealogy**

**Unit Date** 1901, 1958, n. d.

**Container** Box 9

### **Massey Genealogy**

**Unit Date** 1944-1956

**Container** Box 9

### **Morrison Genealogy, including papers regarding T. J. "Stonewall" Jackson**

**Unit Date** 1816, 1849, 1921-1958, n. d.

**Container** Box 9

### **Washington Genealogy**

**Unit Date** n. d.

**Container** Box 9

### **Miscellaneous genealogies: Graham, Spragins, Woodson et. al.**

**Unit Date** 1944-1959, n. d.

**Container** Box 9

### **Biographical data regarding John Paul Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1909, 1942, n. d.

**Container** Box 10

### **Biographical data regarding Paul Brandon Barringer**

**Unit Date** [1872-1941] 1961, n. d.

**Container** Box 10

### **Biographical data regarding General Rufus Barringer**

**Unit Date** [1875-1901] 1961, n. d.

**Container** Box 10

### **Biographical data regarding Victor C. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1865, 1896, 1945-1956

**Container** Box 10

## Series VI: Printed Material

### Printed material

**Unit Date** 1880-1949, n. d.

**Container** Box 10

**Extent**

2 folders

### Printed material regarding race relations

**Unit Date** 1896-1925, n. d.

**Container** Box 10

### Theater Broadsides

**Unit Date** 1865-1889

**Container** Box 11

### Newsclippings

**Unit Date** 1889-1964, n. d.

**Container** Box 11

## Series VII: Miscellaneous

### Miscellaneous

**Unit Date** 1875-1966, n. d.

**Container** Box 11

### Miscellaneous financial papers

**Unit Date** 1848, 1881-1927

**Container** Box 11

### Certificates, commissions, licenses

**Unit Date** 1893-1942, n. d.

**Container** Box 11

### Engravings, photos, keepsake items

**Unit Date** 1859-1949, n. d.

**Container** Box 11

## Series VIII: Bound Volumes

### Commonplace book of General Rufus Barringer (electrostatic copy)

**Unit Date** ca. 1880

**Container** Box 12

### Case Book of Dr. Paul B. Barringer

**Unit Date** 1891-1897

**Container** Box 12

### Business Ledger

**Unit Date** 1901-1902

**Container** Box 12

## **Scrapbook of newsclippings regarding race relations**

**Unit Date** ca. 1901-1904

**Container** Box 12

### **Oversize**

#### **Graduate diploma, University of Virginia, School of analytical and Agricultural Chemistry, Paul Brandon Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1876 Jun 29

#### **Graduate diploma, University of Virginia, School of General and Industrial Chemistry, Paul B. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1876 Jun 29

#### **Graduate Diploma, University of Virginia, School of Natural History and Agriculture, Paul B. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1876 Jun 29

#### **United States Passport of Paul B. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1881 Mar 3

#### **Diploma, Charlotte Female Institute, Nannie Hannah**

**Unit Date** 1882 Jun 7

#### **License to practice medicine, State of Virginia, Paul B. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1890 Apr 11

#### **Certificate of membership, Daughters of the American Revolution, Nannie Hannah Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1893 Feb 16

#### **Certificate of achievement, Men of Mark in America-State of Virginia., Paul B. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1904 Dec 13

#### **Honorary Doctor of Laws diploma, South Carolina College, Paul B. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1905 Jan 10

#### **Photograph of members of the Virginia Medical Association, Mecklenburg, November 13-16, 1907**

**Unit Date** [ca. 1907 Nov 13-16]

#### **Commission as delegate, Farmers National Congress, Paul B. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1909 Aug 16

#### **Commission as representative, Southern Commercial Congress, Paul B. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1912 Apr 1

#### **Bachelor of Science (Teaching) diploma, Columbia University, Anna Marie Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1914 Jun 3

**Bachelor of Science (Fine Arts) diploma, Columbia University, Anna M. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1914 Jun 3

**Commission as delegate, National Association of Conservation, Paul B. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1914 Nov 11

**Bachelor of Arts diploma, Hollins College, Eugenia Morrison Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1915 Jun 2

**Certificate of membership, Daughters of the American Revolution, Anna M. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1917 Jan 17

**High School diploma, Public High School, Charlottesville, Virginia, John Hannah Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1919 Jun 13

**Certificate of membership, Alpha Omega Alpha (medical honorary), Paul B. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1922

**Certificate of membership, Sons of the American Revolution, Paul B. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1923 Jun 7

**Bachelor of Science diploma, University of Virginia, John Hannah Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1924 Jun 10

**Chicago Sunday Tribune, pages 1 and 2, with article "Vivid Stories Told of Jefferson"**

**Unit Date** 1931 Dec 20

**Certificate of membership, Alumni Association of the University of Virginia, Paul B. Barringer**

**Unit Date** 1938 Jun 11