

Bell, John Newton Papers

John Newton Bell Papers

1841-1882

Title Statement

Bell, John Newton Papers Guide to the John Newton Bell Papers MS 00345

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Profile Description

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Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

MS 00345

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/9567

Unit Date

1841-1882

Language

English

Extent

.417 Linear Feet

Repository

Special Collections Research Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased with the assistance of the Nelle Richardson Tonkin Fund.

Processing Information

The collection received container level processing. This finding aid may be updated to reflect new descriptions and acquisitions to the collection.

Preferred Citation

John Newton Bell papers, Special Collections Research Center, William & Mary.

Biographical / Historical

John Newton Bell (1810-1890) was a merchant, elder and treasurer in the Presbyterian church of Winchester, served as superintendent of the Kent Street Sunday school and conducted a Sunday school to African Americans. Bell had two sons who fought for the confederacy during the Civil War. One son, Robert Sherrard Bell was killed in action at Brandy station on November 7, 1863. John Newton Bell was taken as prisoner by the Union army and held at Fort McHenry. At the height of his career, John Newton Bell ran one of the largest mercantile businesses in Winchester, Virginia.

Content Description

The John Newton Bell papers includes personal and professional correspondence from relatives, business associates and religious figures throughout Virginia and the greater Appalachia. Letters document subject areas including the Civil War, the hospitalization of women in mental health facilities, agricultural issues, and religious matters related to the Presbyterian Church.

Keywords

Presbyterian Church--Virginia
Merchants
American Civil War, 1861-1865
African Americans
Mental illness--Treatment--History
Winchester (Va.)--History--19th century

Arrangement

The John Newton Bell Collection is organized in one series: Series I. Correspondence 1841-1882.

Description of Subordinate Components

Series I. Correspondence

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/592550

Unit Date 1841-1882

Mixed Materials 1 (box)

Container 1-27 (Folder)

Scope and Contents

This series is arranged in chronological order.