

Papers of Bertrand Burtnett

A Finding Aid to the Collection in
the Bronxville History Center, Village of Bronxville,
at the Bronxville Public Library

Processed by
Raymond H. Geselbracht and Myrna FV. Geselbracht
2019

Administrative Information

Collection: Papers of Bertrand Burtnett

Dates: 1818-1960, bulk c. 1900-mid 1950s

Size: 2.2 linear feet—about 4,000 pages

Access: Open

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Biographical Sketch—Bertrand Burtnett

<i>1874, Nov. 10</i>	Born, 339 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, New York. The great grandson of Alexander Masterton.
<i>1896-1898</i>	Served in the 1 st Naval Battalion, N. Y., 3 rd Division.
<i>1899, Oct. 5</i>	Married Frances Lock Lilly
<i>1902</i>	Ran for supervisor in Mount Vernon's fourth ward
<i>c. 1902</i>	Birth of son, Gerald
<i>1907, May 5</i>	Birth of daughter, Elizabeth
<i>c. 1912-1920</i>	Building homes for sale in Bronxville. Probably lost this business during the recession of 1920-1921
<i>c. 1913-1941</i>	Active in the Progressive and Republican Parties
<i>1913-1925</i>	Served on the Bronxville Board of Education; was president of the board, c. 1922-1925
<i>1916</i>	Placed on the reserve list for non-commissioned officers and enlisted men by the adjutant general of the State of New York
<i>1917</i>	Appointed chairman of the 1917 Independence Day celebration by the president of the board of trustees, Village of Bronxville
<i>1917</i>	Appointed chief registrar of the Committee on Enrollment for Military Service in Westchester County
<i>c. 1917-1918</i>	Active in the Boy Scouts

1917	Employed by the Gramatan Coal and Supply Company
1917	President of the Union Corners Hose Company
1918	Member of the American Protective League
1917-1919	Member of the New York State Assembly for the district that included Bronxville
c. 1917-1955	Active in the Masons
1918-?	Employed as Assistant Superintendent for Buildings, YMCA.
1919-1929	Lived at the Hillcrest Apartments, Bronxville
c. 1928	Joined hereditary organizations including the General Society of the War of 1812, Saint Andrew's Society, Saint Nicholas Society, the Sons of the Revolution, the Society of Colonial Wars. Withdrew from most of these organizations in 1933, citing personal financial difficulties.
1928-?	Employed at J. C. Penney Co., New York City
1928-1933	Lived at Alden Place, Bronxville
1931-?	President of Eastchester Court Corporation, owner of Meadow Court in Bronxville
1933-?	Worked at Westchester First National Corp., White Plains
c. 1934-1943	Lived at Meadow Court, Bronxville
c. 1935-1943	Worked as a realtor, with partner Montgomery L. Hart, at Hart & Burtnett, Inc. (later Burtnett and Associates), 65 Pondfield Road
c. 1936-1940	Served as vice president and president, Bronxville Realty Board
1936-1955	Served as Bronxville Village Historian and Eastchester Town Historian
1938-1939	Provided advice regarding the subject of mural for the Bronxville Post Office to artist John Sloan

<i>1944-1955</i>	Lived at 96 Kraft Ave., Bronxville
<i>1951, May</i>	Accompanied Bronxville School students on a field trip to the Old Marble Schoolhouse in Eastchester; spoke to the students about his student days at the schoolhouse
<i>1952</i>	Death of Frances Lilly Burtnett
<i>1955, Nov. 20</i>	Died, Bronxville

Collection Description

The papers of Bertrand G. Burtnett papers document primarily the history of Bronxville; the life of Bertrand G. Burtnett, including his several careers—as member of the New York State naval national guard, real estate contractor and broker, New York State assemblyman, member and president of the Bronxville Board of Education, business executive, political activist, Mason, member of several hereditary organizations, and Bronxville Village Historian and Eastchester Town Historian; and his family history and the hereditary organizations he belonged to.

The collection includes correspondence, photographs, printed material, reports, newspaper clippings, historical articles, survey forms, memorandums, legal documents, programs, minutes and notes of meetings, speeches, scrapbooks, indentures, a travel journal, and other documents and is arranged in two series, a Subject File, and a Family History File. The Subject File combines material relating to the history of Bronxville and to Burtnett's life and many careers. The Family History File includes material relating to the family history of Bertrand G. Burtnett and of his wife, Frances Lilly Burtnett, and to the hereditary organizations to which Burtnett belonged.

Most of the photographs among Burtnett's papers were long ago transferred to the Bronxville History Center photograph collection.

The Burtnett papers were given to the Bronxville Public Library sometimes after Burtnett's death in late 1955. The collection was transferred to the newly organized Eastchester Historical Society in 1964, and was returned to the Bronxville Public Library, and to the custody of Bronxville Village Historian Jean Bartlett, in 1973. The library placed the collection in the Local History Room (now the Bronxville History Center), which is a department of the Village of Bronxville, in about 1981.

Series Description

Box Nos. *Series*

1-4 *Subject File*

Correspondence, historical sketches and articles, personal information forms, memorandums, printed material, scrapbooks, meeting notes, legal documents, government documents, programs, invitations, newspaper clippings, maps, village directories, pamphlets, a ledger, photographs, and other documents relating primarily to the history of Bronxville and to the life and careers of Bertrand G. Burtnett.

5 *Family History File*

Correspondence, historical sketches and articles, memorandums, newspaper clippings, membership applications, financial documents, a will, a personal journal, an indenture, an address book, hand-cut silhouettes, and other documents relating to the family history of Bertrand G. Burtnett and of his wife, Frances Lilly Burtnett, and to the hereditary organizations to which Bertrand G. Burtnett belonged. The series includes several mid-to-late nineteenth century documents relating to the Lilly family (Burtnett's wife, Frances, was a Lilly), 170 pages of mid-nineteenth century documents relating to the Seaman family (Burtnett's maternal grandmother was a Seaman), and an 83-page typed manuscript by W. Valentine Seaman, titled *Journal of a Voyage on Board Barque Susan from New York to San Francisco, around (About as Bad as Going around the World) Cape Horn via Rio de Janeiro and (One of the Greatest Ports on the Pacific) Falcahuano, or Conception, from March 16 to October 14, 1849.*

Folder Title List

Subject File, 1865-1979

Box 1

- Andrew's Raiders and the Capture of the *General*, 1915, 1947, 1951
- Bolton Family Home on Pondfield Road, "Brook Farm" — Location of
- Boy Scouts
- Briarcliff Lodge, Briarcliff Manor, New York
- Village of Bronxville — Administration, Miscellaneous, 1900-1901, 1940
- Bronxville — Directory of Bronxville Organizations, 1951
- Village of Bronxville — Legal Matters, 1941
- Bronxville — Historical Sketches and Articles, 1927-1958
- Bronxville — Maps, 1927, 1945
- Village of Bronxville — Mayors — Personal Information Forms, 1936-1937, 1946, 1951, 1953, and undated
 - [1 of 2, A-L]
 - [2 of 2, M-W]
- Village of Bronxville — Officials — Personal Information Forms, 1946, 1954, and undated
- Bronxville School, 1920-1934
- Bronxville Victory Gardeners' Harvest Fair — Booklet, 1944
- "Bronxville's Early Artists Colony," Paper by "J. E."
- Bertrand G. Burtnett — Military Service, U. S. Navy, 1st Naval Battalion, NY, 3rd Division, 1896-1898, 1941, 1948, 1960
- Bertrand G. Burtnett — New York State Assemblyman, 1918-1919
- Bertrand G. Burtnett Papers — Inventories, c. 1970s
- Gerald and Orsine Burtnett — *The News of "Our Town,"* April 1955
- Bus Service Controversy, 1938-1941
 - [1 of 2]
 - [2 of 2]
- "The Cedar Knolls and the Cedar Knolls Colony," Yonkers, 1945
- Churches — First Reformed Church, North Tarrytown, New York — Program for the 250th Anniversary Celebration, 1947
- Churches — Reformed Church, 1872, 1918-1926, 1945-1951

Box 2

- Churches—Reformed Church, “History of the Bronxville Reformed Church, 1850-1950,” Compiled by Bertrand G. Burtnett, 1950
- Churches—Union Meeting of Bronxville Church Women, 1930-1960
- Correspondence, 1914-1954 and Undated
- Correspondence—Letters to Bertrand Burtnett from Students from Bronxville School, 1951-1952
- Correspondence of Bronxville Village Historian Jean Bartlett with Bertrand Burtnett’s Son and Daughter, and with Others, 1977, 1979
- *Custer’s Indian Battles*, by Colonel Charles Francis Bates, (Bronxville, 1936)
- Eastchester, 1937, 1947-1952.
- *Extractum Pancreatis*. New York: Fairchild Brothers & Foster, 1883.
- Kraft Family
- Lawrence Family
- Lawrence Hospital
- Isaac N. Mills—Address at a Grange Meeting held at Thompson, Connecticut, 1918; Address at the Murder Trial of Walter S. Ward, 1923; Address at the Sesquicentennial Celebration of the Battle of White Plains, 1926;
- Miscellaneous—Local and County Historian Form, 1936; Gramatan Lodge Pamphlet, c. 1929; American Red Cross Certificate, Frances L. Burtnett, c. 1920; Photograph of Members of the Liberty Loan Committee, 1918; Pamphlet, “In Memoriam, James Tanner, 1844-1927; Pamphlet about the Empire Commandery, 1928; Farnsworth Post No. 170; James Tanner, The State Camp for Veterans, New York; Bayard Pope.; a Note; Newspaper Clippings
- Mount Vernon—Receipts Ledger, the Receiver of Taxes, 1865-1867

Box 3

- Minutes of The Neighbors, November 1859-February 1864
- New York State Historical Association—Membership Papers, 1929
- Henry Harmon Noble—Obituary, 1931
- Old Marble School at Union Corners, 1933, 1952-1953
- Patriotic Societies Committee Convention, May 1936
- Pondfield Road Railroad Tracks Crossing, 1912
- Post Offices in Eastchester, Tuckahoe and Bronxville, 1938, 1947
- Railroads (including railroad stations named after George Washington historic sites)

- Real Estate Advertisement for Two Houses belonging to Robert Masterton, c. 1890
- Ruston, Charles—Proposal to Change the Name of Bronxville; Names of Parks and Streets, 1920-1924
- Scrapbook—Bertrand G. Burtnett, 1899-1929 (Original; Items Removed)
 - [1 of 2]
 - [2 of 2]
- Scrapbook—Bertrand G. Burtnett, 1899-1929 (Copy)

Box 4

- Scrapbook—Bertrand G. Burtnett, 1899-1929—Documents
- Scrapbook—Bertrand G. Burtnett, 1899-1929—Photographs of Houses Built by Bertrand G. Burtnett
- Scrapbook—Bertrand G. Burtnett, 1899-1929—Artifacts (Two Ribbons)
- Scrapbook—Elizabeth Burtnett, 1920-1935 (Original; Items Removed)
- Scrapbook—Elizabeth Burtnett, 1920-1935 (Copy)
- Scrapbook—Elizabeth Burtnett, 1920-1935—Documents and Photographs
- Tuckahoe Marble, 1939-1942, 1947
- Tuckahoe—Origins of the Name, 1946-1952
- Village Seal, 1942
- World War I, 1918-1919
- World War I Memorial, 1924
- World War II— Flag Week (1940); Mileage Rationing Stamps, Forms, and Token (1944-1945); Civil Protection

Family History File, 1818-1954

Box 5

- Berthoff, 1927-1951
- Daniel Burtnett, 1927-1951
- Elisa Burtnett, Henry Burtnett, and Thomas Thorne—Indenture, 1872
- Burtnett Genealogy—Correspondence, 1897-1953
 - [1 of 3]
 - [2 of 3]
 - [3 of 3]
- General Society of the War of 1812, 1927-1929

- Jenkins, 1927, 1931, 1949-1954
- Lilly Family, 1839-1944
- Masterton, 1863, 1928, 1931
- Gulielma Masterton—Autograph Book, 1866-1867
- Saint Andrew's Society, 1928-1933
- Saint Nicholas Society, 1928-1933
- Seaman Family, 1818-1954
- Seaman Family--Silhouettes
- W. Valentine Seaman—*Journal of a Voyage on Board Barque Susan from New York to San Francisco, 1849*
 [1 of 2, typescript]
 [2 of 2, preservation photocopy]
- Society of Colonial Wars, 1928, 1952
- Sons of the Revolution, 1927-1933, and undated
- Roger Williams, 1927-1928