

Ambrose Everett Burnside (1824 –1881)
Archival Collection # 2020.042

Access Note:

Contact the Bristol Historical & Preservation Society for more information about accessing the collection.

Provenance:

These materials were donated to the society from various members. Where the provenance is known it is listed below.

Allied Collections Note:

Library/Rare Books: *Memorial Addresses of Ambrose Burnside* (1882)

Series Description:

Series I: Photographs and Engravings

Series II: Paper Based Ephemera

Sub-Series A: Certificated and Appointments

Series III: Fabric Based Ephemera

Series IV: Military Items

Series V: Personal Items

Container List:

Box #1

Series I: Photographs and Engravings

1. Sepia toned picture of a single horse with a grey border in a black frame
2. 5 Carte de Viste photographs, undated and 1 newspaper clipping, undated. All images of Burnside.
3. Cabinet Card of Mary Richmond (Bishop) Burnside, wife of Ambrose Burnside. Unframed.
4. Sepia toned picture of two women sitting in a wagon drawn by a single horse.
5. Glass Stereoscopic Slide of Gen. Burnside with a group of 9 people sitting atop the summit of Mt. Washington, N.H.. Presented to the Burnside Memorial Hall by J. Howard Manchester.
6. Cabinet Card portrait of Mary Richmond (Bishop) Burnside sitting at a table in a large, ruffled dress.
7. Cabinet Card of General Burnside.
8. Enameled glass portrait of General Burnside. No frame, glass is chipped.

See Also Oversized Boxes

Series II: Paper Based Ephemera

9. Small, tan colored booklet providing a program for the memorial dedication service. Includes sub committees involved as well as function credits.
10. Invitation from Burnside, inviting Capt. George Coggeshall of Bristol RI to a clambake in honor of President Grant. Stamped envelope included.
11. Color printed postcard showing the former home of Burnside in Bristol, RI. Backside is blank.
12. Telegram explaining the sale of Burnside's glasses and sword. Has a signature attached with a paperclip.
13. A roll of Company G 2nd Rhode Island Volunteers
14. Patent for the A.E. Burnside Muzzle Loader. Four pages, includes diagram.
15. Newspaper clipping which includes a short article giving directions and information about Burnside's funeral and wake.

16. Comic drawing of Burnside at Knoxville
17. Burnside Coat of Arms. 5 bookplates, 1 small copy, 1 larger copy, and 1 steel engraving plate
18. Blue, bound book containing handwritten information about Burnside's life. Presented to BH&PS by U.S. Senator Henry B. Anthony.
19. Letter to Burnside's parents on stationary "union forever" and decorated with a bald eagle holding a shield. March 2, 1863.
20. Leather bound book "The Life of General A.E. Burnside" by Ben Perley Poore. Contains a biography of his life, and maps of the battles he fought. Copy 166/300. Presented to BH&PS by US Senator Henry B. Anthony.
21. Slightly stained letter addressed to Washington D.C.. Appears to be a report of recent events. [Presented to BH&PS by Mr. William L. Manchester]
22. Mary Richmond Bishop Burnside letter to Mrs. Ely. September 27 [1861]
Gift of Dan Dupont
23. Collection of stationary and envelopes with Burnside's seal and monograms printed on them.
24. Copper engraved printing plate for business card "Gen'l Burnside" and various business cards all reading either "General Burnside" or "Gen'l Burnside"
25. Letter from November 16, 1882.
26. Heritage Hall of fame certificate, 2003.

See Also Oversized Boxes

Series III: Fabric Based Ephemera

27. Purple ribbon, topped with a bow and lined on the bottom with gold decorative fray. Reads "BURNSIDE. AID to CHIEF MARSHALL. SEPTEMBER 16, 1881".
28. Small eyeglasses that clip on with leather carry case.
29. Worn leather wallet containing various papers. In good shape for its age.
30. Two Gold ribbon badges commemorating the laying of the corner stone at the Burnside Memorial Building. Presented to BH&PS by William L. Manchester.
31. Three white handkerchiefs, with the initials A.E.B embroidered into each. One is clean white and the other two are aged and fading. Two different buttons accompany the handkerchiefs, both silver.
32. Menu of Burnside Memorial Banquet on purple fabric.

See Also Oversized Boxes

Series IV: Military Items

33. A black, metal lockbox painted with "A. E. Burnside" on the top. This box was taken on military campaigns and used to store all of Burnside's money and important documents.

Box #2

Series IV: Military Items

1. Silver medal commemorating General Burnside's military exploits. Has his portrait on the front, and four dates/battles commemorated on the back.
2. Black Field binoculars with "Col. Burnside" stamped in gold on the side. Two piece leather case included. This item was in his possession when he was Colonel of 1st Regiment Detached Militia, RI. Manufactured by B. Pike & Sons, New York.
3. Burnside's expandable telescoping field glass. Dark tarnished brass. Metal tag reads "GEN. A. E. BURNSIDE 5".

4. General Burnside's mess kit. Canvas covered carry case, missing leather strapping. Inside metal teapot, cups, bowls, and plates. No silverware present.
5. Black leather strapping with no ornamentation.
6. Brown leather dagger strap with a brass medallion that has an eagle holding an anchor. Attached to the strap is a partial black leather scabbard with brass detailing.

Box #3

Series IV: Military Items

1. One cup, three spoons, and two forks engraved with Burnside's Monogram used by Gen. Burnside throughout the Civil War. Two of the spoons and one fork are hinged and fold in half. [Presented to the BH&PS by John C. Peck, February 1983]

Series V: Personal Items

2. China pattern Florentine from Minton & Company. Includes two dinner plates, a saucer, and a cup. The cup handle is broken with piece missing. Looks to date from 1841-1873 based on Minton Mark.
3. White porcelain candle stick holder decorated with red and blue striped rim and a dark red handle. No maker's mark present.
4. Travelling beverage box. Wooden box with compartments for 4 bottles. Bottles protected with hanks of straw. Bottles and straw still present. Black leather strap to close and secure the box.

Oversized Box #1

Series I: Photographs and Engravings

1. Black and white drawing of Burnside in uniform standing next to what is presumed to be his horse. Captioned "BRIGADIER GENERAL BURNSIDE." In large and ornate gold frame.

Oversized Box #2

Series II: Paper Based Ephemera

Sub-Series A: Certificated and Appointments

2. Certificate of recognition, First Class of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the USA. Received in Massachusetts, complete with a red wax state seal, October 6, 1886.
3. Certificate of recognition for Burnside repressing a rebellion and upholding liberty in the face of controversy, awarded to him by the state of Rhode Island, May 4, 1869. 2 copies, 1 framed, 1 not.

Oversized Box #3

Series I: Photographs and Engravings

1. Photograph of 13 men sitting and standing around the table, February 9, 1887. Framed.
2. Sepia toned drawing of Old Libbey Prison with some tents in the foreground. Caption reads "Libbey Prison. The Only Picture in Existence. As it appeared August 23, 1863." Unframed.
3. Sepia toned drawing of the U.S. Sloop of War sinking the pirate "Alabama" ship. Unframed.
4. Black and white drawing of Burnside in uniform standing next to what is presumed to be his horse. Captioned "BRIGADIER GENERAL BURNSIDE." In small gold frame.
5. Sepia toned portrait picture of Burnside. Framed.
6. Picture of the front of Fort Sedgwick in Petersburg, VA. Looking from right to left across it. Unframed.

7. Picture of the front of Fort Sedgwick in Petersburg, VA. Showing Bomb Proof of 7th Rhode Island. Unframed.
8. Picture of the front of Fort Sedgwick in Petersburg, VA. Interior looking south from its center. Unframed.
9. Engraving of Burnside in black formal jacket and tie. Unframed.
10. Photograph "Col. Burnside Welcome Home" 9 men, including Burnside at Camp Sprague 1861.

Series II: Paper Based Ephemera

Sub-Series A: Certificated and Appointments

11. Commission signed by Abraham Lincoln appointing Burnside as Brigadier-General, August 9, 1861. Framed.
12. Appointment confirming the rank of Colonel of 1st Regiment Detached Militia on Ambrose E. Burnside, April 18, 1861. Framed.

Oversized Box #4

Series IV: Military Items

1. Brown riding stirrups, held together by a rope. Belonged to Burnside and given to him by Eugene LeClair.
2. Handheld horn, appears to be used for loading gunpowder into a gun. Dark brown with tan leather strap attached.
3. Two epaulets of Gen. Burnside. Adorned in gold leaves and gold tassels.
4. Grey flat brimmed hat with a black ribbon around the edges. Presented to BH&PS by Mr. Thomas G. Church.

Oversized Box #5

Series IV: Military Items

1. Sword with brass pommel, black shark skin grip, and silver engraved blade. Contained in dark brown sheath with a matching belt attached.
2. Gold handle navy cutlass, no sheath. White shark skin and metal cord grip, brass pommel, and tarnished silver blade. Engravings on blade read "Shannon Miller & Crane, New York" and USN and anchor.
3. Sword with bass pommel, navy shark skin grip, and silver sheath with brass detailing. Etched "F.L.J.V. Association". Made in Chicopee Massachusetts by the Ames Mfg Company.

Series V: Personal Items

4. Long, black, wooden cane with a metal engraved handle which reads "C.X.W. G.A.R."
5. Brown wooden cane carried by Gen. Burnside. Has a rubber tip on the bottom and his name and a date etched into the side.

Unboxed Items

Series IV: Military Items

1. Burnside's field desk used during the civil war. Wooden desk with brass corners and small handle rings on the sides. Front panel can fold down revealing 4 drawers and 14 compartments. Presented to BH&PS by Mrs. Ettinger.
2. Wood and canvas folding camp chair used by General Burnside during the Civil war.

Series V: Personal Items

3. Dark wood chair with red cushion, with a gold B etched into the back. Tops of the back of the chair are cut into two swans with arched necks looking downwards. Presented to BH&PS by Mrs. Arthur Vick.
4. Renaissance style library table that was owned by Burnside. Dark wood, full of drawers and held up on four legs connected with a decorative piece in the middle. Silver Plaque tells us the table was gifted to the town of Bristol on November 3rd, 1884.
5. White bust of Ambrose Burnside in uniform.

Custom Box #1**Series II: Paper Based Ephemera**

1. Copy book of Burnside's Written letters. Full sized book, multiple pages encased in a protective case.