



Guide to the Adeline Burr Davis Green Papers, 1796-1956

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Table of Contents

Summary	3
Background	4
Arrangement	6
Administrative Information	6
Names and Subjects	7
Collection Inventory	7
Correspondence	7
Volumes, 1851-1900s and undated	9
Family papers	10
Printed material and ephemera	10
Pictures	12

Summary

Collection Title:

Adeline Burr Davis Green papers, 1796-1956

Creator:

Green, Addie D., 1843-1931

Abstract:

Adeline "Addie" Burr Davis Green (1843-1931) was a white resident of Como and Bloomington, Illinois, and Fayetteville, North Carolina, who was notably married to former Supreme Court justice and Senator David Davis from 1883-1886, and later to Wharton Jackson Green, plantation owner and U.S. Representative from North Carolina, from 1888-1910. This collection spans the years 1796-1956 and documents the personal life and social interactions of Adeline "Addie" Davis Green and members of her family, including her father James M. Burr, aunt Adeline Burr Ellery Green, David Davis, Wharton Jackson Green, and sister Hettie Heitshu. Types of material include correspondence, notebooks, printed material, ephemera, and photographs and other visual material. Topics include James M. Burr's experiences during the California gold rush, United Daughters of the Confederacy activities, politics and social functions in Washington, D.C. (1882-1883), World War I and the League of Nations, and Burr and Neal family genealogy.

Extent:

3.5 Linear Feet (8 boxes and 2 oversize folders)

Language:

Material in English

Collection ID:

RL.00476

Permalink:

<https://idn.duke.edu/ark:/87924/m1pk8c>

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Adeline Burr Davis Green Papers, David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Duke University.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Background

Scope and Content

This collection spans the years 1796-1956 and documents the personal life and social interactions of Adeline "Addie" Davis Green and members of her family, including her father James M. Burr, aunt Adeline Burr Ellery Green, husbands David Davis and Wharton Jackson Green, and sister Hettie Heitshu. Types of material include correspondence, notebooks, printed material, ephemera, and photographs and other visual material.

Among the correspondence are letters, 1851-1853, from James M. Burr to his wife Caroline describing his life in California searching for gold; Civil War letters from Wharton Jackson Green (1831-1910) while a prisoner-of-war at Johnson's Island, Ohio; letters, 1882-1885, from David Davis describing daily proceedings in the senate, social functions in Washington, D.C., and notable persons; letters from friends of David Davis concerning personal and political matters; letters, 1906-1928, from Jessica Randolph Smith and others pertaining to the United Daughters of the Confederacy; and letters, 1911-1931, from James Henry Rice, Jr. (1868-1935), ornithologist, naturalist, editor, and literary figure, discussing politics, conservation, South Carolina culture, world affairs, especially relative to Germany and Russia, his rice plantations, and the League of Nations.

The collection also includes James M. Burr's journal on his experiences in California, titled "Journal of a Cruise to California and the Diggins"; handwritten copies of David Davis' speeches; ribbons, programs, and other ephemera related to various commemorations of Confederate veterans; genealogical material related to the Burr and Neal families; and Aaron Burr Association newsletters.

A small amount of correspondence and printed material that postdates Green's death was collected by her niece E. Carolyn Burr. Burr also annotated some collection materials, including photographs, with information about family members.

Biographical/Historical

Adeline Ellery Burr was born in Como, Whiteside County, Illinois, on February 26, 1843, to parents James M. Burr (1808-1890) and Caroline (Neal) Burr (1819-1901). She was named after her aunt Adeline (Burr) Ellery (later Adeline E. Green) and was commonly known as "Addie." James M. Burr was born in Boston, Massachusetts, and was a merchant sailor and captain before marrying Caroline and relocating to Illinois to become a farmer. At the end of 1850, he travelled to California to prospect for gold. Through the influence of his brother-in-law General Thomas Jefferson Green, who married the widowed Adeline

Ellery in 1846, Burr secured the position of port warden of Benicia and Vallejo. During this time, Addie Burr and her family remained in Illinois.

In 1859, Addie Burr moved to Boston, Massachusetts, to live with her aunt Adeline and attend a private girls' school. Burr also spent considerable time in North Carolina with her aunt and grew close to the Green family. Thomas J. Green was a wealthy white plantation owner and slaveholder of Warren County, North Carolina, who also had property and business interests in Texas and California. In 1858, Burr's cousin Esther Sargent Ellery (Adeline E. Green's daughter from her first marriage) married Wharton Jackson Green (Thomas J. Green's son from his first marriage).

During the Civil War, Burr, Adeline E. Green, and Esther Green lived in Boston. Thomas J. Green died of illness at home in 1863, and Wharton J. Green enlisted in the Confederate Army. He eventually became Colonel of the 12th North Carolina Infantry, was captured at Gettysburg, and was imprisoned at Johnson's Island, Ohio, for the remainder of the war. Burr corresponded with Green and other Confederate prisoners throughout the war. Burr continued to live and travel with her aunt as a companion after the war and made social connections in Boston, Washington, D.C., and New York City. In March 1883, she married the former U.S. Supreme Court justice and former U.S. Senator David Davis at the conclusion of his senate term. The couple retired to the Davis mansion in Bloomington, Illinois. After her marriage, Addie used the name Addie B. Davis.

Sometime after David Davis' death on June 26, 1886, Addie B. Davis moved to Fayetteville, North Carolina, to live with the Green family at their Tokay Vineyard plantation. On October 29, 1888, Davis married Wharton J. Green, whose first wife Esther had died in 1879. For the remainder of her life, Addie used the name Addie D. Green.

In her later years, Green supported initiatives and groups that celebrated the Confederacy and white American heritage, including the United Daughters of the Confederacy and Daughters of the American Revolution. After Wharton died in 1910, Green sold Tokay Vineyard and built a house for herself and her sister Hettie Heitshu in Fayetteville. In 1930, Green's niece E. Carolyn Burr moved in with Green and Heitshu as a caretaker. Addie D. Green died on May 18, 1931.

Sources:

Jane Mellon Stroud, "Adeline Burr Davis Green", Master's thesis, Duke University, 1959. Accessed online via the [Internet Archive](#), 2026 May 11.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

The collection is organized in five series: Correspondence, Volumes, Family papers, Printed material and ephemera, and Pictures.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

Acquisition Information

The Adeline Burr Davis Green Papers were acquired by the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library in 1944-1962.

Processing Information

Processed by Rubenstein Library Staff, date unknown.

Pictures series reprocessed by Matthew Boone, March 2025.

Collection rehoused, miscellany series reprocessed into two series ("Family papers" and "Printed material and ephemera"), and collection description updated by Mary Mellon, May 2026.

Use Restrictions

The copyright interests in this collection have not been transferred to Duke University. For more information, consult the copyright section of

the Regulations and Procedures of the David M. Rubenstein Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- Plantations -- South Carolina
- Soldiers -- Confederate States of America -- Correspondence
- Legislators -- United States
- Politicians' spouses -- Southern States
- Rice -- South Carolina
- South Carolina -- Social life and customs
- United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Prisoners and prisons
- California -- Description and travel
- South Carolina -- Politics and government -- 1865-1950
- Washington (D.C.) -- Social life and customs
- Fayetteville (N.C.)
- Davis, David, 1815-1886
- Burr, James M.
- United Daughters of the Confederacy
- Smith, Jessica Randolph
- Rice, James Henry, 1868-1935
- League of Nations
- Johnson Island Prison
- Green, Wharton J. (Wharton Jackson), 1831-1910

Collection Inventory

Correspondence, 1814-1956

Correspondence, 1814, 1828, 1832, 1834

Box 1

Scope and Contents

Includes an unsigned letter, New Haven, CT, to Alexis Eustaphie Esq., Russian Consul, Boston, MA, 1814 June 5, commenting on current events in Europe and praising the Russian Empire's role in defeating Napoleon; a poem ("The Watchman" addressed "To Adeline", 1828 February 25; and a letter from Mary Burr, Cincinnati, Ohio, to siblings Theodore and Adeline Burr,

Boston, 1831 November 11, describing the death of her husband, William Burr, in a steamship boiler explosion.

Correspondence, 1842-1851 Box 1

Scope and Contents

Mainly letters written by James M. Burr to Caroline Burr from 1850-1851.

Correspondence, 1852-1854 Box 1

Correspondence, 1863-1867, 1871, 1876 Box 1

Correspondence, 1880, 1882 January-September Box 1

Scope and Contents

Mostly letters from David Davis to Addie Burr, March-September 1882. Includes 1 letter from George Bragg to Mrs. Green (Esther Ellery Green), March 1, 1880.

Correspondence, 1882 October-December Box 1

Correspondence, 1883 January-March Box 1

Correspondence, 1883 June-December Box 1

Correspondence, 1884 Box 1

Correspondence, 1885 Box 1

Correspondence, 1886 January-May Box 1

Correspondence, 1886 June Box 2

Correspondence, 1886 July-December Box 2

Correspondence, 1887 Box 2

Correspondence, 1888 Box 2

Correspondence, circa 1883-1888 Box 2

Scope and Contents

Includes undated correspondence addressed to "Mrs. Davis" or David Davis.

Correspondence, 1889 Box 2

Correspondence, 1890-1899	Box 2
Correspondence, 1900-1912	Box 2
Correspondence, 1913-1919	Box 2
Correspondence, 1920-1927	Box 2
Correspondence, 1928-1931	Box 3
Correspondence, 1936-1956	Box 3

Scope and Contents

Correspondence of E. Carolyn "Carrie" Burr.

Correspondence, circa 1860s-1931	Box 3
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Scope and Contents

Folder contains undated correspondence for which more specific dates could not be estimated at the time of processing. It includes several letter fragments lacking the addressee's name or the writer's signature.

Letters are arranged alphabetically by writer's name.

Correspondence, circa 1888-1931	Box 3
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Scope and Contents

Includes undated correspondence addressed to "Mrs. Green" and/or containing references to Wharton J. Green as Addie's husband.

Letters are arranged alphabetically by writer's name.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Volumes, 1851-1900s and undated

Addie D. Green commonplace book, 1895-1903, undated	Box 4
Autograph book	Box 4
"Distribution of Carrie Green's things" and other notes, 1908-1909, undated	Box 4

List of companies attended and given since coming to Bloomington, 1883 June-1886 Box 4

James M. Burr diary, 1851-1858 Box 4

Scope and Contents note

"Journal of a cruise to California and the Digging, kept by James M. Burr, Boston, Mass. or Como, Whiteside Co., Illinois"

Notebook, circa 1890s-1920s Box 4

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Family papers, 1796, 1831-circa 1940

Addie D. Green estate documents, 1930-1931, undated Box 5

Physical Description: (legal-size folder)

David Davis speeches, 1883-1886 Box 5

Physical Description: (legal-size folder)

Family history, 1874-circa 1940 Box 5

Scope and Contents

Includes handwritten and typed accounts of the Burr and Neal families.

Land patent, Bath County, Virginia, 1796 May 23 Oversize-folder 2

Scope and Contents

Certificate granting 1200 acres to Elias Shinnaker

James M. Burr documents, 1836, 1851, 1891 Box 5

Scope and Contents

Includes certificate of Burr's status as an American seaman and U.S. citizen, 1836 February 9; Burr's signed oath of office as Port Warden of Benicia and Vallejo, California, 1851; and a printed memorial card on the occasion of Burr's death in 1891.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)

Printed material and ephemera, 1860-1959

Calling cards, circa 1860s-1920s	Box 5
Clippings, 1860, 1886	Oversize-folder 1
Physical Description: oversize	
Scope and Contents	
Article on the ball held for the Prince of Wales in Boston that was attended by Addie Burr and Bessie Moriarity (Wood), Daily Evening Traveller, 1860 October 19; Full-page article on the death of David Davis, Bloomington Weekly Pantagraph, 1886 July 2.	
Clippings, 1886-circa 1930s	Box 5
Physical Description: photocopies	
Clippings: Eunice Hopkins Dorsey, 1928	Box 5
Physical Description: photocopies	
Confederate veteran commemorations, 1881-1917	Box 5
Scope and Contents	
Includes a donation receipt, ribbons related to various commemorations; a United Daughters of the Confederacy guest book inscribed "Tokay, NC, Oct. 28, 1904"; and a report of the Scrap-book Custodian, North Carolina Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, for 1916-1917.	
Confederate veteran commemorations: Jefferson Davis Home Association membership certificate, circa 1907-1917	Oversize-folder 2
Invitations, 1866, 1882-1883	Box 5
Invitations, 1884-1885	Box 5
Invitations, 1886-1889, 1901, 1903	Box 5
Invitations, 1911, 1912, 1920, 1929	Box 5
Pass cards, 1885-1886, 1910	Box 5
Scope and Contents	
Includes railroad passes for Hon. David Davis and wife, 1885-1886, and a U.S. Senate Chamber pass for Miss Carolyne Burr, 1910 January 3.	
Printed material, 1861, 1885-1929	Box 5

Printed material, 1936-1953	Box 6
Printed material: Aaron Burr Association, 1947-1959	Box 6
Printed material: Peace proclamation broadside, Fayetteville, NC, 1918 November 11	Oversize-folder 2
Physical Description: oversize	
Printed material: "Proceedings upon the Occasion of the Presentation of Portraits of Federal Jurists to the United States Courts for the Southern District of Illinois, at Springfield, on June Second, Nineteen Hundred and Three" , 1903	Box 6
Programs and menus, 1882-1883, 1895, undated	
Physical Description: 14 items	
Scope and Contents	
Mainly menus for banquets and restaurants in Washington, D.C., and Chicago. Washington establishments include Welcker's (1882-1883), Wormley's (1882), and Ebbitt House (Christmas 1883). Items from Chicago include menus from the Illinois State Bar Association banquets at the Leland Hotel (1884, 1886), and a program and menu from a banquet on the "Occasion of the Dedication of the Confederate Monument" at Kinsley's, 1895. Includes menus printed on paper and textiles, and two handwritten menus (locations and dates not specified).	
Return to Table of Contents	
Pictures, late 1840s-1920s	
Adeline Burr Davis Green, late 1840s-1860s, 1880s	Box 8
Physical Description: 7 items	
Scope and Contents	
Includes a photograph of Adeline as a child with her father and two photographs of Adeline and Bessie (Moriarty) Wood as young women.	
Adeline Burr Davis Green, approximately 1855-1860 (online item available)	
Physical Description: cased daguerreotype	
Digital Object: Adeline Burr Davis Green, approximately 1855-1860	

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- Davis family, 1895, undated Box 8
Physical Description: 9 items
Scope and Contents
Includes photographs of: David Davis, Edmund Andrews, Mercer Davis, Alice Davis, Sarah Walker Davis, and Emmeline Davis.
-
- Hester "Hetty" Burr Heitshu, 1915, undated Box 8
Physical Description: 4 items
Scope and Contents
Includes a wedding photograph of Hetty and Charles Heitshu.
-
- James M. Burr, circa 1840s-1860s
Physical Description: cased daguerreotype
-
- Train family, 1871, 1898, undated Box 8
Physical Description: 11 items
Scope and Contents
Includes photographs of Judge Charles R. Train, Ethel Train, Margaret Train, Arthur C. Train, and Sarah Train.
-
- Bessie H. Wood family, 1928, 1884, 1892, 1915, undated Box 8
Physical Description: 18 items
Scope and Contents
Includes photographs of: Bessie H. Wood (Elizabeth Lowell Hancock Moriarty Wood), Charles Hancock Wood, William B. Wood, Mary Elizabeth Wood (Cole), George Albert Cole, Elizabeth L. H. Cole, J. Moriarty, and General James Wood.
-
- Unidentified women, circa 1840s-1860s
Physical Description: 2 items ; 1 daguerreotype (broken glass, missing case) and 1 cased tintype (missing cover)
Scope and Contents
Two individual portraits, each of different, unidentified woman
-
- People, 1860s-1920s Box 8
Physical Description: 28 items ; folder 1 of 4

Scope and Contents

Includes photographs of Adeline Ellery Green, Sarah Francis Cheney, Stanley C. Tyler, Josiah B. Kinsman, Faith Staples Pickering, Fred Pickering, Alfred and Frederick Pickering, Carrie Green, Mabel Ellery Green Elliott, Sarah Green Jones Walters, Mrs. F. J. Humphrey, Mr. F. J. Humphrey, Mary Bowles Burr, Alpha Turner, Mrs. Kellogg, Mrs. Thayer, Birnie Smith and child, Archie M. Griffin, Josie Jones, Mrs. Whitney, Mrs. Daniels, Mrs. Slocumb, Charles L. (Weller or Welles?), and unidentified individuals.

People, 1860s-1920s Box 8

Physical Description: 24 items ; folder 2 of 4

Scope and Contents

Includes photographs of Mrs. Cushing, Virginia Tucker, Tilly Phillips, Pierre Viala, Mr. C. Moore, Mrs. Clifton Moore, Mrs. Ralston, Mr. Ralston, Mrs. Mitchell, J. C. Harvey, Col. Smith and daughter, Mrs. Spencer, Anna de Koven, Judge Erskin, Yordie & Harry Pratt, Mrs. J. T. Thomas (engraving), Judge Longbridge, and unidentified individuals.

People, 1860s-1920s Box 9

Physical Description: 34 items ; folder 3 of 4

Scope and Contents

Includes photographs of Benjamin Dean, General Basil W. Duke (engraving), Mrs. Gelston, "Cousin Lizzie", Giselle Fielding Ewing ("Baby Zella"), Charles Adlai Ewing Jr., Jessie Peyton, Mr. Welsh(?), Breton Crassan(?), Will Wirt, Mrs. Wirt, Mrs. Tompkins, Major Tompkins, Mr. Flood, Miss Flood, Daniel R. Williams, James M. Burr, General Abbott(?), Mrs. Tyler, Mr. Tyler, Millie Burr, Lizzie Motley, Lucy Brayton Collins, Ethie Cross (Ethelinda Cross Horton), and unidentified individuals.

People, 1860s-1920s Box 9

Physical Description: 12 items ; folder 4 of 4

Scope and Contents

Includes photographs of: Caroline Hooker Neal Burr, William Theodore Burr, Addie Burr Currier Redick Cook, Mrs. Garrett and child, Mrs. Wirt; Livingston Mims, Ethelinda Cross Horton, Wharton J. Green (engraving), Isaac Jones, and unidentified individuals.

Places, 1883, 1898, undated Box 9

Physical Description: 10 items

Scope and Contents

Includes photographs of a church and schoolhouse in Como, Illinois (1898); Adeline Ellery Green's house in Jamaica Plain, Boston; photographs of a steamboat on the Cape Fear River and train in Arizona (from Adeline and David Davis' 1883 wedding trip); Old Baptist Church, Marshalltown, Iowa; and a view from a bridge in Fayetteville, N.C.

Places: David Davis farm and house,
Bloomington, Illinois, 1882

Box 9

Physical Description: 3 items

Places: Tokay Vineyard, Fayetteville, NC ,
1880s-1920s

Box 9

Physical Description: 5 items

Souvenir and historical prints, 1880s-1920s

Box 9

Physical Description: 11 items

Scope and Contents

Includes photographs, postcards, and other prints of buildings, historical portraits, and other subjects, including: John Hancock House (Boston) etching by Margaret H. Wright; "Mr. James C. Flood's Country Residence, Menlo Park, Cal." card photograph; Christ Church, Anvik, 1899, print; "Decorations of the Chancel of Christ Church, New Bern, N. C., Easter April 23rd, 1905" mounted photograph; Wakefield-Scearce Antique Gallery (Shelbyville, Kentucky) postcard; "Artesian Well flowing through 12 inch pipe at Byron Weston's Mills, Dalton, Mass." card photograph; prints of portraits of Theodosia Burr Alston and George Washington and family, and "Representative Men in Religion, Literature, Science, Statesmanship, Finance, Mercantile and Mechanical Progress, Published in Commemoration of the Completion of the New York and Brooklyn Bridge" card photograph.

[Return to Table of Contents](#)