

C Burke, George William, (1827-1857), Papers, 1850-1857
3796 8 folders

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

Collection of fifty-eight letters written between June 1850 and March 1857 by George W. Burke of Saline County, MO, to his parents William and Lurany Thornton Burke, brothers and sisters, and grandparents, all of Saline County, describing his journey west and life in the gold-producing area of northern California until his death there in 1857.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Cora Lee Miller on 13 Oct 1988 (Accession No. 2714).

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The initial letter gives details of the journey west. Subsequent letters describe Burke's life in the goldproducing region around Sacramento, California. There is little information concerning gold mining; instead, the letters focus on Burke's variety of jobs, the high cost of living, and his illnesses and homesickness, and present an interesting picture of the California gold rush in economic, social, and psychological terms. The collection also includes photocopies of birth, marriage, and death records, including slaves, from the Burke family Bible. Arranged chronologically.

FOLDER LIST

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