BURT, Jr., JESSE C.
(1921-1976)
PAPERS
1920-1981

Processed by:

Harry A. Stokes
Archival Technical Services

Accession Number: 94-114, 94-115, 94-116
Date Completed: November 15, 2002
Location: VI-L-1-2
Microfilm Number: 1690

MICROFILMED
INTRODUCTION

This finding aid focuses on the papers of Jesse C. Burt, Jr., historian, author, and free lance
writer, born in Nashville, Tennessee. Spanning the years 1920-1981, although largely
concentrated in the period 1951-1972, the papers mainly consist of articles written by Dr. Burt
for sectarian and secular periodicals. Also contained within the collection are memorabilia
(photographs, clippings, school records, certificates, book reviews, obituaries, etc.)
enshamping Dr. Burt’s education and career as well as a scrapbook of memorabilia of Dr.
Burt’s mother, Mrs. Agnes Seals Burt, who was a co-owner of The Knit Center in Nashville.
The materials in the collection measured 5.0 cubic feet while in the original boxes, but was
reduced to 4.5 cubic feet by the removal of extraneous materials. There are no restrictions on the
materials. Single photocopies of published writings in the Jesse C. Burt, Jr. Papers may be made
for individual or scholarly research. The papers were donated by Dr. Burt’s widow, Mrs.
Eleanor J. Burt.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Jesse C. Burt, Jr. Papers, containing approximately 600 items, span the years 1920-1981, although largely concentrated in the period 1951-1972. The collection is composed of certificates, clippings, correspondence, photographs, school records, writings, and several miscellaneous items.

The bulk of the collection consists of published writings by Dr. Burt for various sectarian magazines (e.g., Christian Action, Workers With Youth, Church and Home, The Lookout, et al) as well as secular magazines (e.g., Happy Hours, Nashville Tennessean Magazine, Tennessee Teacher, Mercury, et al). In addition to these free lance articles, the collection contains several articles and book reviews by Dr. Burt which were published in historical journals such as the Tennessee Historical Quarterly. Lastly, Dr. Burt articles “The Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad, 1854-1872,” and “N.C. & St. L. Ry. From Railroad War to World War I, 1873-1916,” were based on his doctoral dissertation, “History of the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis railway, 1873-1916,” at Vanderbilt University in 1950.

Following the alphabetical arrangement of writings in the container list, the scrapbooks of memorabilia covering the education and career of Dr. Burt will be found. These have been arranged in chronological order. An additional bound but unpublished writing, “The Most Tremendous Democrat:’ The Editing, Publishing, & Public Service Career of Elbridge Gerry Eastman in Tennessee, 1839-1859,” has been transferred from TSLA library holdings and added to the collection.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jesse Clifton Burt, Jr.

1921  August 29, born in Nashville, Tennessee, the son of Jesse Clifton and Agnes Louise Seals Burt.

1927-1934  Attended elementary schools in Detroit, Michigan, and Nashville, Tennessee.

1934-1939  Attended and graduated from Hume-Fogg High School, Nashville, Tennessee.

1942  Bachelor of Science degree from George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tennessee.

1943  Master of Arts degree from George Peabody College for Teachers.

1943-1945  Instructor in history at Presbyterian College, Clinton, South Carolina.


1946  September 27, Married Eleanor Bales Jones.

1949-1950  Teaching fellow at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee.

1950  Doctor of Philosophy degree in history from Vanderbilt University.

1950-1953  Dean at Lambuth College, Jackson, Tennessee.

1956-  Extension division instructor in history, University of Tennessee, Nashville Center.

1961  Master of Education degree from Harvard University.


________  Merchandiser for the Page Knit Center, Nashville, Tennessee.

1976  November 20, died in Nashville, Tennessee, and interred in Mt. Olivet Cemetery.
Organizations
Filson Club
East Tennessee Historical Society
Tennessee Historical Society
West Tennessee Historical Society

Awards and Honors
Danforth Award for youth writings, 1954
Award of Merit from the American Association for State and Local History, 1973

Writings
Your Vocational Adventure, 1959
Nashville: Its Life and Times, 1959 (co-author)
So You Want to Be In Music, 1970 (co-author)
Indians of the Southwest—Then and Now, 1973
CONTAINER LIST

**Microfilm Reel #1**

**Box 1**

**Writings—Jesse C. Burt**

1. Research Notes
2. Speeches/Addresses—“The Legacy of Sam Davis of Tennessee”
3. Speeches/Addresses—“Update” (WSM radio lecture)
6. “Altar Anxiety”
7. “Ambition and Blood Pressure”
8. “Anna Russell Cole”
10. “Are Our Teen-Agers Stereotypes?”
13. “As You Prepare to Teach”
15. “The Bachelor and the Boys”
16. “Back to Civilization”
17. “Bar Harbor Rises Again”
18. “Bases of A Lasting Marriage”
20. “Big Game Hunting More Than a sport”
21. “Biography of a Breakdown”
22. “Birthday Celebration”
23. “Bless Her Heart”
24. “Busier at 80”
25. “Camp Crossville”
26. “Can I Measure Goodness?”
27. “Can TV Come of Age”
28. “The Captive City”
29. “The Challenge of School Cheating”
30. “Chester Burton Atkins: An Intimate Look at Mr. Guitar”
31. “A Christian Look at Our Time”
32. “A Christian Standard of Service”
33. “The Christian’s Vocation”
34. “Christians in the Music World”
38. “Cigarettes and Cancer”
40. “College Humor”
41. “College Textbook Treatment of American History”
42. “Color Your Summer Great”
43. “Command and Teach These Things”
44. “Committees That Zip”
45. “A Complete Separation of Church and State”
46. “The Considerate Teacher”
47. “Conversation in the Family”
48. “Crime and the Citizen”

Box 2

Writings—Jesse C. Burt
1. “Dad and the Church”
2. “Dare We Talk Politics at Home?”
3. “Date With the FBI”
4. “A Day at Vizcaya”
5. “Dean Marvin E. Eagle”
6. “Dear Mom and Dad: I’m Leaving”
7. “Depression Brightness”
8. “Desert in the Appalachians”
9. “Destination Moon”
10. “Destiny At Duck River”
11. “Dial M for Motivation”
15. “Do You Snore”
16. “The Drive to Get Ahead”
17. “The Duties of Citizenship”
18. “East Tennessee, Lincoln, and Sherman”
19. “Editor Eastman Writes James K. Polk”

Microfilm Reel #2
21. “Elbridge Gerry Eastman”
22. “Elevators Have a Mind of Their Own”
23. “Emerson as Mystic”
24. “Escape from Teaching”
25. “Ever Have Sunday Morning Sag?”
26. “Exile and Restoration: Jeremiah to Malachi”
Box 3
Writings—Jesse C. Burt
1. “A Fabulous Georgia Garden”
2. “Fabulous Rockefeller Center”
3. “Fads and You”
4. “The Father Ryan Story”
5. “Fightin’ with Little Joe”
7. “Finding Resources for Later Years”
8. “For Tired Teeners”
9. “For Young Drivers Especially”
10. “Four Decades of the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railway, 1873-1916”
11. “Fraternity or No?”
12. “Free Loader on the Highway”
13. “Free-Wheeling Teenagers”
15. “From Apple Pie to Affidavit”
16. “Gayest Day of the Nineties”
17. “General Jackson Meets the Bell Witch”
18. “George Beverly Shea”
19. “George Hamilton IV”
20. “Georgia’s Gracious Gardens”
21. “Get Out of Your Shell”
22. “Ghost Town Lives Once Again”
24. “God Speaks Through the Prophets”
25. “God’s Work and Mine”
26. “Good Things Have to Be Waited for”
27. “Good Will versus Prejudices”
28. “Grades: How Important Are They?”
29. “Grant’s Retreat”
30. “The Great Chicken Fight”
31. “The Great Nashville Train Disaster”
32. “The Hardest Battle Was My Shoestrings”
33. “Harry’s $10,000 Squirrel Cage”
34. “Harvey Watterson Discharges a Nashville Editor”
35. “Has Anyone Seen Dad?”
36. “Hatteras Holiday”
37. “Hatteras—Our Seashore Park”
38. “He Lost Half a Tank of Gas”
39. “Help for ‘Copy Cat, Copy Cat’”
40. “Help for the Stigmatized”
41. “History of the Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railway, 1873-1916”
42. “Hit Songs and You”
43. “How Corrupt Are Politics?”
44. “How May I Help, Preacher?”
45. “How Much Money Do I Need?”
46. “How Personal Is My Religion”
47. “How to Avoid Backache”
48. “How to Choose a College and Get In”
49. “How to Complain Successfully”
50. “How to Concentrate”
51. “How to Cope With School Cheating”
52. “How to Discuss Politics Without Seeing Red”
53. “How to Invest Your Leisure Time”
54. “How to Win the Respect You Want”
55. “Hurricane Hunter”

**Box 4**

**Writings—Jesse C. Burt**

1. “I Lost My Eyes”
2. “Iceberg Water for California?”
3. “An Idea of Southern Nationalism”
4. “Ideas Ride A City Bus”
5. “I’m Going to Tell My Bible Class That Juvenile Delinquency Is Not Inevitable”
6. “In 1955 There’ll Be Plenty of Membership Participation”
7. “In Teaching Adults—Put Over Your Subject”
8. “Intelligent Citizenship”
10. “Is It Just a Job?”
11. “Is There A Case for Rock?”
12. “Ivory Tower Poems”
13. “James D. Porter: West Tennessean and Railroad President”
15. “John D.—The Music Man”
16. “Junior Highs”
17. “Labor’s Holiday”
18. “Largest Objects Afloat”
19. “Let’s Go to Marineland”
20. “Let’s Perceive the Average Teen, Too”
21. “Let’s Talk About Letters”
22. “Letter to the Nashville Tennessean”
23. “Living the Disciplined Life”
24. “The Lonely Years”
25. “A Lull in the Evening”—Poems
26. “Lutheran Leader in Nashville”
27. “The Major Found the Plans”
28. “Make Your Committee Click”
29. “Making the Most of Class Discussion”
30. “Man Without a Watch”
31. “Marriage in Modern America”
32. “Maryland’s Noble Bridge”
34. “The Mind You Take With You”
35. “Missing: 300,000 Teen-Agers”
36. “Mr. Guitar”
37. “Mr. Lincoln’s Lady”
38. “Mr. Photography”
40. “Morton’s Gap, Kentucky”
41. “Movin’ On”
42. “Moving?”
43. “Music”
44. “Music for Pre-Teens”
45. “Music! Music! Music!”
46. “M Y F Counselor’s Notes—For Use With Program Quarterly”

Box 5
Writings—Jesse C. Burt
1. “N. C. & St. L. Ry. From Railroad War to World War I, 1873-1916”
3. “Nashville 1900”
4. “Nashville’s Shrines”
5. “Nashville’s Conglomerate”
6. “Nat Winston: From Banjo to Schizos”
7. “National Impact of Tennessee’s Sons and Daughters”
9. “A New Approach to Alcoholism”
10. “New Battle of the Beaches”
11. “New World Unfolding”
12. “Night of Terror”
13. “A Note on ‘History With Indians’”
15. “One Half of One Life”
17. “Our Dusty World”
18. “Our Protestant Heritage”
19. “Parents Can Be Too good”
20. “Person to Person”
21. “Personal Locomotive”
22. “Personality Clinic”
23. “The Pittsburgh Story”

Microfilm Reel #3
24. “Portrait of a Leader”
25. “P. O. W.’s in the Tennessee Hills”
26. “A Preliminary Bibliography of Dr. Susan B. Riley”
27. “The Price of the Trip”
28. “A Rare First Edition”
29. “Rediscovering the Light Touch”
30. “Reelfoot Lake—Child of Violence”
31. “Report to Parents”
32. “The Return of Music to the Home”
33. Reviews—book: Appalachia in the Sixties…
34. Reviews—book: Benjamin Franklin…
35. Reviews—book: A Buried Land
36. Reviews—book: The Desolate South
37. Reviews—book: Doomed Road of Empire: The Spanish Trail of Conquest
40. Reviews—book: The Everlasting South: The South Since 1865; The Man Bilbo
41. Reviews—book: First Lady of the Seeing Eye
42. Reviews—book: Frederick Jackson Turner: Historian, Scholar, Teacher
44. Reviews—book: Ghost Railroads of Tennessee
46. Reviews—book: H. G. Wells and Rebecca West
47. Reviews—book: Halleck: Lincoln’s Chief of Staff
51. Reviews—book: The Incredible Pierpont Morgan
52. Reviews—book: Jews In the South
53. Reviews—book: John Randolph of Roanoke
54. Reviews—book: The Land I Live
55. Reviews—book: The Literary Correspondence of Donald Davidson and Allen Tate
56. Reviews—book: Merriwether Lewis

59. Reviews—book: *Pitcairn’s Island*

**Box 6**

**Writings—Jesse C. Burt**

2. Reviews—book: *Political Reconstruction in Tennessee*
4. Reviews—book: *Retreat from Rostov*
5. Reviews—book: *Richard Nixon*
7. Reviews—book: *Send for a Doctor*
8. Reviews—book: *Shiloh: Bloody April*
9. Reviews—book: *The Slender Reed*
10. Reviews—book: *Southern Indians in the American Revolution*
11. Reviews—book: *A Short History of Technology*
12. Reviews—book: *Steel Trails to Santa Fe*
13. Reviews—book: *Tennessee Tales*
14. Reviews—book: *Textbooks and the American Indian*
   (Geo. Hamilton IV)
17. Reviews—record albums: “Archie and Lorene Tell it Like It Is”
   (Archie Campbell and Lorene Mann)
18. Reviews—record albums: “Blue Moon of Kentucky” (Porter Wagoner)
22. Reviews—record albums: “A Formidable Maker of Hit Recordings…” (George Jones)
23. Reviews—record albums: “George Beverly Shea ‘Silent Night’”
24. Reviews—record albums: “Hank Snow Casts the Spell of the Yukon…”
25. Reviews—record albums: “An Important Singer of Our Times” (Connie Smith)
28. Reviews—record albums: “Norma Jean At Her Best”
30. Reviews—record albums: “Notes From a Jim Ed Brown Recording Session…”
31. Reviews—record albums: “Powerhouse Samples of Carter Family Songs”
32. Reviews—record albums: “Rewarding Listening” (Jerry Reed, et al)
34. Reviews—record albums: “There’s Just One Chet Atkins”
35. Reviews—record albums: “Wendy’s Way With Hit Country Songs” (Wendy Dawn)
36. Reviews—record albums: Bibliography
37. “The Riddle of the Stone”
38. “Riding Into a Hurricane”
39. “Rules for Balanced Living”
40. “Run-Away Marriage: Teen-Age Tragedy”
41. “Rusty Did Rate”
42. “Sad Song of a Foot Slogger”
43. “Saving Your Child from Accidents”
44. “The Savor of Old-Time Southern Railroading”
45. “Scene About Town”
46. “School Days and Christian Ways”
47. “School Grades: How Important Are They?”
48. “School Is Your Life”
49. “Science and Man’s Hope”
50. “Selective from the Centennial History”
51. “Sex and Teen-Age Marriages”
52. “Sherman, Railroad General”
53. “Sherman’s Logistics and Andrew Johnson”
54. “Shiloh Veteran”

Box 7
Writings—Jesse C. Burt
1. “Silence in the Family”
2. “Singular Southerners”
3. “Slants on the Secular”
4. “So You’d Like to Be a Pop Musician”
5. “So You’d Like to Be a Pop Songwriter”
6. “So You’re College Shopping”
7. “Socrates May Have Been Right”
8. “Some of You Work Too Hard”
9. “Something to Think About”
10. “Soothing Silence”
11. “Soundings in Music”
12. “The Stature of the Prophet Micah”
13. “Steam Engine on Legs”
14. “Stepping Stone to the White House”
15. “The Story of Balie Peyton”
16. “Success Begins at Fifty”
17. “Sucker for Royalty”
18. “Sunday School Securities”
20. “Technology—Can We Curb It?”
22. “Television and Your Way of Life”
23. “Tennesseans and the Nation”
25. “Tennessee’s Unique Geography”
27. “These Frantic Fads of Ours”
28. “They Called Him Sparkplug”
30. “Those Brothers from Ohio”
31. “Those Terrible Harpes”

Microfilm Reel #4
32. “Three-for-One: Virginia Visit”
33. “Time for Special Recruitment”
34. “To Buy or Not to Buy a Car!”
35. “To Cheat or Not to Cheat”
36. “To Dance or Not to Dance”
37. “Toward a Universal Faith”
38. “The Trouble With Images”
40. “TV—Trick or Treat”
41. “Two More Hours”
42. “Uncle Sam”
43. “The Untold Story of Iroquois”
44. “Variety Plus”
45. “Visit to the Nashville Parthenon”
46. “Watch on Washington”
47. “Water—How Long Will It Last?”
48. “Water Show with a Purpose”
49. “We All Need That ‘2nd R’”
50. “We Are Learning About Hail”
51. “We Live in Deeds—not years”
52. “We Live in Deeds—not Years” (Worker With Youth)
53. “What Can I do”
54. “What Does Today’s Science Mean to You”
55. “What Is Money”
57. “What Is Television?”
58. “What Is ‘The Vocation?’”
59. “What Makes a Hit Record”
61. “What You Can Do About Runaways”
62. “What’s Wrong with Where You Are?”

Box 8
Writings—Jesse C. Burt
1. “Wheeling and Dealing”
2. “When a Man Must Change Jobs”
3. “When Compromise is Called For”
4. “When It Comes to Cigarettes…The Life You Shorten May Be Your Own”
5. “When Spelling Was Spelling”
6. “When the Insurance Man Knocks”
7. “Where Are the Average Teens?”
8. “Where Did That Gideon Bible Come From?”
9. “Where the Winds Do Blow”
10. “Where’s Dad?”
11. “The Whirleybird is Watching You”
12. “Whitefoord Russell Cole”
14. “Why Do Youngsters Like That Music”
15. “Why Dugger Failed”
16. “Witness to a Gang Murder”
18. “Worship Tradition in Methodism”
20. “You Earn Independence”
21. “Young People and Fun”
22. “Young Victim of a Savage God”
23. “Your Friend, Doctor Facts”
24. “Your Friend, Smokey”
25. “Your Help is needed”
26. “Your Imagination is Valuable”
27. “Your Speaking Voice is Important”
28. “Your Ticket to History”
29. “Your Vocational Adventure”
30. “Your Vocational Adventure” (Classmate)
31. The Nashville Tennessean Magazine
32. Rendig Fels—“Wages, Earnings and Employment N. C. & St. L. Rwy., 1866-1896”
**Box 9**

**Scrapbooks/Memorabilia**
1. Jesse C. Burt, 1920-1950

**Bound volume**

“The Most Tremendous Democrat:” The Editing, Publishing & Public Service Career of Elbridge Gerry Eastman in Tennessee, 1839-1859