

Collection #  
M 1197

**BURNS BROTHERS  
LETTERS AND RELATED PAPERS,  
1861–1865; 2004–2006**

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Processed by

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## **COLLECTION INFORMATION**

VOLUME OF  
COLLECTION: 1 box

COLLECTION  
DATES: July, 1861–January, 1865; 2004–2006

PROVENANCE: Donald R. Burleigh and the Burleigh Family in Memory of  
Grandmother Edna (Burns) Burleigh, July, 2015

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE  
FORMATS:

RELATED  
HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION  
NUMBER: 2015.0210

NOTES:

## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

The collection centers on the Civil War letters from four brothers: Granville (Grance) Burns, Harrison (Polk) Burns, Wiley Burns, and Andrew (Andy) Burns, of Morgan County Indiana. All four brothers with the exception of Granville served in Company H of the 70th Indiana Regiment. Their parents were Wiley (1800–1879) and Mary (Polly) Baker (1805–1860.) Both were born in North Carolina but moved to Clay County, Kentucky before settling in Morgan County. They had a total of twelve children, nine of whom survived into adulthood.

**Granville G. Burns** (1839–1921) spent most of his life in Washington Township, Morgan County, Indiana with his wife, Sarah. They had three children. In his later years, he lived in Indianapolis and is buried in Martinsville, Morgan County. He did not serve in the war, but is the recipient of letters from Harrison Burns.

**Harrison Burns** (1842–1915) also resided in Washington Township, Indiana, where he farmed. He was married to Meriam and they had three children. He mustered into the regiment on August 12, 1862 and mustered out June 8, 1865 as a corporal.

**Wiley Burns** (1832–1913) lived in Jackson, Brown County, Indiana with his wife, Emily, whom he married in 1879. Apparently his first wife, Nancy, died in the 1870s. He was mustered into the regiment on January 28, 1864 and was transferred to the 33rd Indiana Regiment on June 8, 1865 before mustering out.

**Andrew Burns** (1843–1916) lived in Morgan County. He married Martha Frances Hastings (1847–1920) in 1867 and had four children. He was mustered into the regiment on August 12, 1862 and mustered out on June 8, 1865

**Fleming Johnson** (1833–1862) was the husband of Pheriba Burns Baker, the Burns' sister and a recipient of most of the letters in the collection. John enlisted in Company I the 22nd Indiana Regiment and died from disease at Evansville on 22 August 1862.

Sources:

Information in collection.

*Ancestry, Library Edition.* Accessed 24 August 2015.

## **SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE**

The collection contains twenty-five letters written mostly by Harrison Burns to his sister, Pheriba Burns Johnson (1836–1923,) Granville, and his father, while serving in the Union Army, September, 1862–January, 1865. There also are several letters written to Pheriba from her husband Fleming Johnson, serving with the 22nd Indiana serving in Indiana and Missouri, July–December, 1861. There are two letters from Edward Burtis, a Ward Master at a hospital in Evansville to Pheriba giving her some information regarding her husband's death and his effects to be returned.

Harrison Burns writes about activities in camp, action seen, and complains about the leadership quality of Union Officers, a small pox epidemic in Nashville, Tennessee near their quarters, and complains about the lack of letters from home. In addition to Tennessee, letters were also written from Kentucky, Georgia, and South Carolina. In his letter of 21 August 1864, he writes that the Union and Confederate pickets made an agreement not to fire on each other in camp.

Other letters in the collection include one from Wiley Burns to his wife and one from Andrew Burns to "George."

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