

# BURFORD FAMILY PAPERS, 1836-1960

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**Collection #**  
M 575  
OM 254

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Processed by  
Charles Latham  
26 February 1991  
20 December 1991

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## USER INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 2 manuscript boxes, 1 oversize folder (0.7 linear feet)

COLLECTION DATES: Inclusive 1836-1960; Bulk 1875-1950

PROVENANCE: William Danner, William B. Burford Printing Co., 3448 Shelby St., Indianapolis IN 46227, 6 February 1991 and 15 December 1991

RESTRICTIONS; None

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RELATED HOLDINGS: F 56 N, Burford Printing Co., Accounts, 1929-1966

ACCESSION NUMBER: 91.0240

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## BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

This collection represents three generations of the Burford family, which originated in Harrodsburg, Ky., then moved to Missouri and finally to Indianapolis.

Miles W. Burford (d. ca 1875) was born in Harrodsburg, as was his wife Nancy J. (d. ca 1895). They moved to Independence, Missouri, in 1839, and there he became a banker, with connections in Kansas City and St. Louis. In the

1860s he formed a partnership with his son-in-law, William Braden, a printer in Indianapolis. Braden also did some speculating in real estate, and got into trouble in the Panic of 1873. By 1875 he had left town, appointing John R. Elder as trustee to pay off his debts.

One son of Miles W. Burford was John T. Burford (1848-1919), a doctor in Indianapolis.

The most important member of the second generation of the family was William B. Burford (1846-1927). Born in Independence, he came at fifteen on a visit to Indianapolis, before the Civil War. Returning to Missouri, he served during the war in the cavalry of the state militia, fighting guerillas, and also attended college for two years. Coming back to Indianapolis, he worked with his brother-in-law Braden. The partnership of Braden and Burford was dissolved in 1875, and Burford took over the printing business. He held the contract for state printing, did the finest engraving in the state, and ran a fully stocked stationery store. The stationery store was at 36 West Washington St., the printing offices at 40 South Meridian St. Burford also dealt in real estate, and was involved with many civic enterprises which worked to improve and develop Indianapolis.

William B. Burford's daughter, Caroline, married Henry R. Danner (1870-1950), a lawyer who also served as president of the printing firm. The Danners built one of the fine homes on Shooter's Hill, on West 42nd Street just east of Michigan Road. Mrs. Danner was known in her early days for her beautiful clothes, which were exhibited at the Indianapolis Museum of Art in 1979.

The Danners had three children: Burford Danner, who lived in Indianapolis and ran the printing company; Helen, who married William Garrigues and lived in Princeton, New Jersey; and Betty, who married Edward Ridley Finch, Jr., a New York lawyer.

William B. Burford, Jr. (1889-1937) had two sons, William B. Burford 3rd, a chemist, and Miles G. Burford, an airplane pilot.

The printing company has survived to the present, headed at different times by William B. Burford, Jr., Mr. Danner, his son Burford Danner, and the donor of this collection, William Danner.

Sources:

Materials in collection

*Indiana Biographical Series*: vol. 2 p. 272, vol. 17 pp. 38-39, vol. 35 p. 32

Cottman, *Centennial History*, pp. 5, 21

Dunn, *Indiana and Indianans*, vol. 4 pp. 1495-1496

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## SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection, filling two manuscript boxes and one oversize folder, consists of correspondence, deeds, abstracts, agreements, bills and receipts, covering the period 1836-1942. It is arranged by correspondent, and chronologically within category.

In Box 1, Folders 1-3 trace the affairs of Miles W. Burford, his widow Nancy, and his son-in-law William Braden. Folder 6 contains material on the estate of John T. Burford, who left bequests to many philanthropic institutions, mainly for women, in Indianapolis.

Folders 7-26 in Box 1 show the dealings, mainly in real estate, of William B. Burford. In addition to business properties downtown, these involve a residence on North Meridian Street and lands in Crawford County and in Iowa. Folder 22 contains some stock shares and bonds, and Folder 23 some material about the printing business.

Folders 1-18 in Box 2 contain items relating to Henry R. Danner and Caroline Burford Danner. These include personal and family letters (Folders 1-6), purchase of the Shooters Hill property (Folder 15), and dealings in downtown real estate.

In Folder 22 is a deed from Thomas Sharpe to Charles and Jacob Cox, and in Folder 23 an 1885 plat of lots on Lake "Mux-Sen-Kuk-Ee."

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## BOX AND FOLDER LISTING

### **BOX 1 Miles W. Burford, Nancy J. Burford, William Braden, William B. Burford FOLDER**

- 1 Miles W. Burford, agreements with William Braden, 1862, 1867
- 2 Nancy J. Burford and Estate of Miles Burford
- 3 William Braden and John R. Elder, trustee
- 4 Wesley T. Burford, deeds, 1877-1879
- 5 D. Ella Burford, Propylaeum stock, 1889
- 6 John T. Burford, Estate, 1920
- 7 William B. Burford--list of real estate, 1891
- 8 William B. Burford--32 S. Meridian St.
- 9 William B. Burford--40 S. Meridian St.
- 10 William B. Burford--225 S. Meridian St.
- 11 William B. Burford--Morrison's Addition, mortgage
- 12 William B. Burford--Morrison's Addition, tax receipts 1899-1905
- 13 William B. Burford--Morrison's Addition, abstract
- 14 William B. Burford--1330 N. Meridian St.
- 15 William B. Burford--Louisiana St. at Virginia Ave.
- 16 William B. Burford--deeds, 1877-1912
- 17 William B. Burford--deeds among family, 1920-1921
- 18 William B. Burford--Crawford County, 1888-1910
- 19 William B. Burford--Crawford County, tax receipts
- 20 William B. Burford--Iowa land
- 21 William B. Burford--mortgages
- 22 William B. Burford--bonds, stock shares
- 23 William B. Burford--printing business

24 William B. Burford--miscellaneous papers

25 William B. Burford--estate, 1927

26 (OM 254) Plats of Johnson, Braden Burford's Hill Side Addition

**BOX 2 Caroline Burford Danner and Henry Danner; others  
FOLDER**

1 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--correspondence with Garrigues family, 1935-1960

2 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--correspondence with Finch family 1952-1960

3 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--account at Bankers Trust, New York

4 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--letter from Phyllis Philbrick, 1956

5 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner) --letter from Mrs. Moore, n.d.

6 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--Woman's Club paper on Dunsany's "The Gods of the Mountain", n.d.

7 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--lists of bonds, 1926-1948

8 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner) Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--21-23 W. Washington St., valuation, 1924

9 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--21-23 W. Washington St. , Kresge lease, 1959

10 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--lease from Wm. B. Burford, Jr., 1927

11 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--deed from Elizabeth Burford, 1928

12 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--20 S. Meridian St., 1928, 1940

13 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--20 S. Meridian St., NYA rent, 1945

14 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--20 S. Meridian St., tunnel from Ayres, 1946

15 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--42nd St. property, 1932-1950

16 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--Washington and Liberty Realty Co., 1937

17 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--607-609 E. Washington St., 1937-1953

18 Caroline Burford Danner (and Henry Danner)--miscellaneous

19 Miles G. Burford--letters re. downtown property, 1959

20 family lot in Crown Hill Cemetery

21 Burford Printing Co, financial, 1931-1960

22 deed-- Thomas Sharpe to Charles and Jacob Cox, 1836

23 deeds-- no family connection

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## CATALOGUING INFORMATION

MAIN ENTRY: Burford, William B. (William Berryman), 1846-1927)

SUBJECT ENTRIES: Burford, Miles W., d. ca. 1875--Estate

Burford, John T., 1848-1919--Estate

Danner, Henry R.

Burford Printing Company (Indianapolis, Ind.)

Lithography--Indiana--Indianapolis--Printing

Lithographers--Indiana--Indianapolis

Business records--Indiana--Indianapolis

Printers--Indiana--Indianapolis

Real estate investment--Indiana--Indianapolis

Real property--Indiana--Indianapolis

Deeds--Indiana--Indianapolis

Abstracts of title--Indiana--Indianapolis

Stock certificates--Indiana--Indianapolis

Bonds--Indiana-Indianapolis

Invoices--Indiana--Indianapolis

Decedents' estates--Indiana--Indianapolis

END