

# Governor Francis Burt records

Identifier: RG001, SG002  
Creator: Nebraska Territory. Governor (1854 : Burt)  
Burt, Francis, 1807-1854  
Date: 1853-1854  
Extent: 2 folders

## BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Francis Burt was born in Edgefield District, South Carolina, on February 13, 1807. The son of Francis Burt and Katherine, he was descended from family lines going back to the earliest settlers of Virginia. After moving to Pendleton, South Carolina, Francis and his brothers attended the Pendleton Academy. Frank did not finish school, but studied law in the office of Warren R. Davis of Pendleton. He married Georgiana Hall of Pickens, South Carolina, and practiced law there for five years. He also edited the Pickens Messenger, the local paper. Later he returned to Pendleton where they resided for twenty years.

Burt served in different positions with the South Carolina Assembly. He also held office as South Carolina State Treasurer, 1844-1848 and was a member of the Constitutional Convention of that state in 1852. President Franklin Pierce appointed Burt to the office of Third Auditor of the Treasury. He was in office little more than a year and a half when he was requested to take office of Governor of the newly created territory of Nebraska. He was assigned to administer the territories of Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. This region was most heavily populated by Indian tribes.

Burt was a strong states-right Democrat living in an area predominated by non-Democrats, almost exclusively abolitionist. He set out in mid-September, 1854, and arrived in St. Louis tired and worn down. He was briefly under a doctor's care, but left before being fully recovered to complete by boat the trip to Nebraska City. He traveled by open wagon to Bellevue, where at the Presbyterian Mission House, he immediately took to bed, never to recover. He died on October 18, 1854, two days after receiving the oath of office.

For more on the life and death of Burt, see Nebraska History, Publications Series, V.1, p.93, and V.3, pp. 102-103.

## SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

Due to the brief term of office of Francis Burt, the collection consists of only two folders arranged in two series:

1. Miscellaneous Documents, 1853-1854

2. Burt Family Material

Included are two items relating to Governor Burt's term. Series Two consists of Burt Family genealogical information and a letter from Katherine Burt.

RELATED COLLECTION: RG002, Secretary of State

**DESCRIPTION**

**SERIES ONE MISCELLANEOUS, 1853-1854**

B.01 f.1 Letter concerning monies deposited by Burt  
with the Asst. U.S. Treasurer, 1854  
Draft of disbursements for contingent expenses  
of Nebraska Territory.

**SERIES TWO BURT FAMILY MATERIAL**

B.01 f.2 Genealogical Chart of Burt Family  
Letter from Katherine Burt

END OF INVENTORY

JEP/pmc 8/25/1971

PMC Word 2000 1/10/2007

ABH 10/5/2021