

# Clara Barrus and John Burroughs Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the  
Library of Congress

Prepared by Donna Ellis with the assistance  
of Nicholas Newlin



Manuscript Division, Library of  
Congress

Washington, D.C.

2007

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# Collection Summary

Title: Clara Barrus and John Burroughs Papers

Span Dates: 1877-1981

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1920-1958)

ID No.: MSS85382

Creator: Barrus, Clara, 1864-1931

Creator: Burroughs, John, 1837-1921

Extent: 3,700 items; 11 containers; 4.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Physician, author, and editor (Clara Barrus). Naturalist and author (John Burroughs).

Correspondence, estate papers, printed matter, scrapbooks, and writings pertaining to the works and travels of Clara Barrus and John Burroughs and the administration of their estates.

## Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### People

Barrus, Clara, 1864-1931. Clara Barrus and John Burroughs papers. 1877-1981.

Burroughs, John, 1837-1921. Clara Barrus and John Burroughs papers. 1877-1981.

Dellenbaugh, Frederick Samuel, 1853-1935--Correspondence.

Fisher, Clyde--Correspondence.

Ford, Clara Bryant, 1866-1950--Correspondence.

Garland, Hamlin, 1860-1940--Correspondence.

Hornaday, William T. (William Temple), 1854-1937--Correspondence.

Johnson, Adeline Barrus--Correspondence.

Johnson, Robert Underwood, 1853-1937--Correspondence.

Kennedy, William Sloane, 1850-1929--Correspondence.

Muir, John, 1838-1914--Correspondence.

Sandburg, Carl, 1878-1967--Correspondence.

Seton, Ernest Thompson, 1860-1946--Correspondence.

Tarbell, Ida M. (Ida Minerva), 1857-1944--Correspondence.

Warburton, George Augustus--Correspondence.

Whitman, Walt, 1819-1892--Correspondence.

### Organizations

Houghton Mifflin Company--Correspondence.

John Burroughs Memorial Association.

### Subjects

American poetry.

Philosophy.

Poetry.

Politics, Practical.

Publishers and publishing.

Voyages and travels.

### Places

Hawaii--Description and travel.

United States--Politics and government.

### Occupations

Authors.  
Editors.  
Naturalists.  
Physicians.

## Administrative Information

### Provenance

The papers of Clara Barrus, physician, author, and editor, and John Burroughs, naturalist and author, were given to the Library of Congress in 2007 by Edith A. Johnson.

### Transfers

Some photographs and a pastel portrait have been transferred to the Library's Prints and Photographs Division where they are identified as part of the Clara Barrus and John Burroughs Papers.

### Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Clara Barrus and John Burroughs is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

### Access and Restrictions

The papers of Clara Barrus and John Burroughs are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

### Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Clara Barrus and John Burroughs Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

### Clara Barrus

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1864, Aug. 8	Born, Port Byron, N.Y.
1888	M. D., Boston University, Boston, Mass.
1889-1893	Physician, Utica, N.Y.
1893-1910	Assistant physician, Middletown State Homeopathic Hospital, Middletown, N.Y. Professor of psychiatry, Women's College of New York, New York, N.Y.
1905	Published <i>The Retreat of a Poet Naturalist</i> . Boston: Poet Lore Co.
1908	Published <i>Nursing the Insane</i> . New York: Macmillan
1909	Traveled with John Burroughs and John Muir in Southwest United States, and with John Burroughs to Hawaii

1912-1914	Physician, private sanitarium, Pelham, N.Y.
1914	Published <i>Our Friend John Burroughs</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin
1920	Published <i>John Burroughs, Boy and Man</i> . New York: Doubleday, Page, and Co.
1921-1931	Literary executor, estate of John Burroughs
1925	Published <i>Life and Letters of John Burroughs</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin
1925-1931	Lecturer on John Burroughs, John Muir, and her travels
1926	Traveled to Europe
1928	Edited <i>My Dog Friends</i> by John Burroughs. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Edited <i>The Heart of Burroughs' Journals</i> . Port Washington: Kennikat Press
1929	Traveled to Europe
1931	Published <i>Whitman and Burroughs, Comrades</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin
1931, Apr. 4	Died, Roxbury, N.Y.

#### John Burroughs

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1837, Apr. 3	Born, Roxbury, N.Y.
1857	Married Ursula North (died 1917)
1864-1873	Clerk, U.S. Treasury Department, Washington, D.C.
1871	Published <i>Wake-Robin</i> . Boston: Hurd and Houghton
1871-1921	Published numerous nature essays
1873-1884	Federal bank examiner, West Park N.Y.
1896	Published <i>Whitman: A Study</i> . Boston: Houghton Mifflin
1899	Member, E. H. Harriman's expedition to Alaska
1901	Traveled in Southwest United States with John Muir and Clara Barrus and to Hawaii with Clara Barrus
1903	Traveled to Washington state with President Theodore Roosevelt
1921, Mar. 29	Died on route to Roxbury, N.Y.

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of Clara Barrus (1864-1931) and John Burroughs (1837-1921) span the years 1877-1981, with the bulk of the material dating from 1920 to 1958. The collection consists of correspondence, estate papers, printed matter, writings, and miscellany.

The correspondence dates from 1877 to 1976. A letter written by John Burroughs in 1903 describes meeting President Theodore Roosevelt and traveling throughout Washington state. Most of Burroughs's correspondence consists of incoming letters, chiefly from Ernest Thompson Seton and George Augustus Warburton. Writing between 1912 and 1917, Warburton discusses politics, travels, poetry, and philosophy. Seton wrote between 1914 and 1920 about nature conservation issues. After Burroughs's death, Warburton continued to correspond with Barrus and her sister, Adeline Barrus Johnson. Clara Barrus's outgoing correspondence describes her travels, publishing endeavors, and family matters. Letters written to Barrus from Clyde Fisher between 1921 and 1930 pertain primarily to their lectures and the John Burroughs Memorial Association. Between 1921 and 1931 Barrus corresponded frequently with editors at the Houghton Mifflin Company in her capacity as John Burroughs's literary executor. Other correspondents include Frederick Samuel Dellenbaugh, Clara Bryant Ford (wife of Henry Ford), Hamlin Garland, William Temple Hornaday, Robert Underwood Johnson, William Sloan Kennedy, John Muir, Carl Sandburg, and Ida M. Tarbell. After Barrus's death in 1931, the correspondence pertains primarily to Adeline Barrus Johnson and relates to estate and family matters.

The estate papers consist of copyright documents, inventories, publication contracts, sale lists, and wills. The inventories, primarily listing the property of Clara Barrus, were created to aid her executors. Sale lists document the sale and distribution of property once belonging to Burroughs and Barrus. Some of the property included letters written by or pertaining to Walt Whitman and other Whitmania.

Miscellany includes astrological data, biographical information, and photographs. Additionally, there are two scrapbooks. One, compiled by Barrus in 1909, commemorates her trip to Hawaii. The other contains letters of condolence received by Adeline Barrus Johnson upon the death of Clara Barrus in 1931.

Printed matter consists of memorial booklets pertaining to Burroughs and Barrus, newspaper clippings, and newsletters and brochures produced by the John Burroughs Memorial Association.

Writings contain articles, essays, books, lectures, poetry, and travel narratives by Clara Barrus, John Burroughs, and other persons.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence
BOX 1	1877-1920 (8 folders)
BOX 1	1921
BOX 1	Jan.-June
BOX 2	July-Dec.
BOX 2	1922-1928 (7 folders)
BOX 3	1929-1958 (8 folders)
BOX 4	1966-1976, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	Estate papers
BOX 4	Contracts, copyrights, and royalties, 1920-1924, 1930-1931
BOX 4	Inventories, 1928-1940, undated
BOX 4	Memoranda, 1929-1931, 1950, undated
BOX 4	Miscellany, 1913, 1928-1941, undated
BOX 4	Sale lists, 1912-1913, 1924-1925, 1931-1935, 1946, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	Wills and related papers
BOX 4	1917-1921, 1930-1931
BOX 5	1934
BOX 5	Miscellany
BOX 5	Astrological analysis, 1906
BOX 5	Biographical and genealogical information, 1920-1931, undated
BOX 5	Notes, 1911, 1917, 1932, undated
BOX 5	Photographs, 1900-1909, 1920-1926, 1959, undated (2 folders)
BOX 5	Scrapbooks
BOX 5	Hawaii, 1909 (2 folders)
BOX 6	(4 folders)
BOX 6	Letters of condolence, 1931 (2 folders)
BOX 6	Printed matter
BOX 6	John Burroughs Memorial Association, 1921-1932, 1950-1981, undated (2 folders)
BOX 7	Memorial booklets, 1921-1923, 1931
BOX 7	Miscellany, 1915, 1928-1937, 1962-1966, undated
BOX 7	Newspaper clippings, 1877, 1905-1931, 1937, 1947, 1954, 1963, 1976, undated
BOX 7	Writings

## Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 7	Barrus, Clara
BOX 7	Articles and essays, 1884, 1903-1912, 1931, undated (3 folders)
BOX 7	Biographies
BOX 7	<i>The Life and Letters of John Burroughs</i> , Chapter 14, "Journeying with Muir," circa 1924
BOX 8	<i>A Short Life of John Burroughs</i> , 1919
BOX 8	<i>With Burroughs and Muir; Told in Letters</i> , 1923 (2 folders)
BOX 8	Lectures, 1910-1915, 1927-1928, undated (4 folders)
BOX 8	Miscellany, 1923-1925, undated
BOX 8	Poetry, 1903, undated
BOX 8	Travel narratives
BOX 8	1889-1901, 1926 (2 folders)
BOX 9	1927-1929, undated (2 folders)
BOX 9	Burroughs, John
BOX 9	Articles and essays, 1904, 1911-1919, 1926, undated (4 folders)
BOX 9	Books
BOX 9	<i>Little Nature Studies</i> , 1896-1898
BOX 10	<i>My Dog Friends</i> , 1928
BOX 10	<i>Studies in Nature and Literature</i> , 1908
BOX 10	Introductions, 1916, 1925
BOX 10	Poetry, 1919, 1927, undated
BOX 10	By others
BOX 10	B-H, 1901-1902, 1912, 1921-1926, 1941, 1951
BOX 11	J-W, 1899, 1921-1933, 1949, 1974, undated (4 folders)
BOX 11	Unidentified, undated