

# Guide to the Bourne Family Papers

Gen MSS 1438



by Afua Ferdnance

February 2017

P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

---

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	3
Requesting Instructions .....	3
Administrative Information .....	4
Immediate Source of Acquisition .....	4
Conditions Governing Access .....	4
Conditions Governing Use .....	4
Preferred Citation .....	4
Biographical / Historical .....	4
Scope and Contents .....	4
Arrangement .....	5
Collection Contents .....	6
Series I: Correspondence, 1793–1919 .....	6
Family Correspondence .....	6
General Correspondence .....	7
Series II: Professional Papers, 1793–1910 .....	9
Series III: Personal Papers, Circa 1800–1910 .....	12
Selected Search Terms .....	13

---

## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** Gen MSS 1438

**CREATOR:** Bourne family

**TITLE:** Bourne family papers

**DATES:** 1746–1994, undated

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 4.59 linear feet (8 boxes)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The Bourne Family Papers consists of materials that document the lives of abolitionist, minister and newspaper editor George Bourne, his wife Mary Oland Stibbs Bourne and their descendants. The majority of materials in the collection document the professional careers of George Bourne and his son Theodore Bourne. George Bourne's papers include an *Anti-Slavery Lecture of 1837* along with other religious writings. Theodore Bourne's papers chiefly relate to African American repatriation organizations such as the African Christian Civilization Society. Correspondence between the Bourne and Stibbs family in England and the United States document George and Mary Bourne's new life as they settled throughout the United States. Poems written by members of the Bourne Family and others such as abolitionists James Montgomery, Helen Maria Williams and John Greenleaf Whittier are also included.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.bourneg>

---

## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.bourneg>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box  
f.      folder

---

## Administrative Information

---

### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from William Reese Co. (Swann Galleries sale, 2014 March 27, lot 41) on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund.

April 2023 acquisition purchased from William Reese Company on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund.

---

### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

---

### Conditions Governing Use

The Bourne Family Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

---

### Preferred Citation

Bourne Family Papers. General Collection, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University.

---

## Biographical / Historical

George Bourne was born on June 13, 1780 in Westbury, Wiltshire, England. In 1804, he married Mary Oland Stibbs (1780-1851), and they moved from England to the United States where they had ten children. George Bourne and his family moved frequently, settling in New York, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. In 1810, George Bourne moved his family to New Glasgow, Virginia and became a Presbyterian minister. It was in Virginia that Bourne witnessed the American slavery system and as a result, became one of the founders of the American Anti-Slavery Society. Bourne wrote many anti-slavery articles as the editor for the *Christian Intelligencer* and the *Baltimore Daily Gazette*. George Bourne wrote *The Book and Slavery Irreconcilable* (1816) and delivered *The Anti-Slavery Lecture of 1837* in Newburyport, Massachusetts. George Bourne died in New York on November 20, 1845. George Bourne's sons Theodore Bourne (1822-1910), William Oland Bourne (1819-1901) and Rowland Hill Bourne (1812-1886) held similar anti-slavery and religious interests. William Oland Bourne and Rowland Hill Bourne became ministers while Theodore Bourne participated in African American repatriation movements such as the African Christian Civilization Society, which sought to encourage African American immigration to West Africa including Liberia and present day Nigeria.

---

## Scope and Contents

The Bourne Family Papers consist of materials that document the lives of abolitionist, minister and newspaper editor George Bourne, his wife Mary Oland Stibbs Bourne and their descendants. The majority of materials in the collection document the professional careers of George Bourne and his son Theodore Bourne. George Bourne's papers include an *Anti-Slavery Lecture of 1837* as well as other religious writings. Theodore Bourne's papers relate to African American repatriation organizations such as the African Christian Civilization Society founded by Henry Highland Garnet. Correspondence between the Bourne and Stibbs family in England and the United States documents George and Mary Bourne's new life as they settled throughout the United States. Poems written by members of the Bourne Family such as Theodore Bourne and his brother William Oland Bourne are found in the collection. Other writings from abolitionists James Montgomery, Helen Maria Williams and John Greenleaf Whittier are also included.

---

## Arrangement

Organized into four groupings: I. Correspondence (1793-1919). II. Professional Papers (1793-1910). III. Personal Papers (1793-1910). IV. April 2023 acquisition, circa 1746 - 1994, undated.

## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1793–1919

Family Correspondence includes letters exchanged between the Bourne and Stibbs family in England as well as in the United States. Mary Oland Stibbs Bourne corresponded frequently with her family in England about family life in the United States. She also corresponded with her children as they grew into adults.

General Correspondence includes letters from friends and colleagues of the Bourne Family. George Bourne wrote frequently to other ministers and abolitionists such as Dan Bryan regarding anti-slavery movements. Correspondence to Theodore Bourne chiefly comes from members of the African Christian Civilization Society and the African Aid Society. Abolitionist and physician Martin R. Delany, teacher Robert Campbell and Lord Alfred Churchill of England corresponded with Theodore Bourne with regard to African American repatriation.

The series is organized into two subseries: Family Correspondence and General Correspondence.

#### Family Correspondence

##### Letters received by George Bourne

b. 1, f. 1	Christmas, Joseph Stibbs	1822–1824
b. 1, f. 2	Stibbs, Christopher	1807–1825
b. 2 (oversize), f. 47	Stibbs, Joseph	1810–1812
b. 1, f. 3	Unidentified	Circa 1793-1845
b. 2 (oversize), f. 48	Unidentified	Circa 1793-1845

##### Letters received by Mary Oland Stibbs Bourne

b. 2 (oversize), f. 49	Bourne, George	1799–1819
b. 1, f. 4	Bourne, Rowland Hill	1850
b. 1, f. 5	Stibbs, Christopher	1839–1847
b. 2 (oversize), f. 50	Stibbs, George Pimes	1797
b. 1, f. 6	Stibbs, Thomas	1805

##### Letters received by Theodore Bourne

b. 1, f. 7	Bourne, Charles	1870–1871
b. 1, f. 8	Bourne, Emma	1899
b. 1, f. 9	Bourne, Freddie	1871
b. 1, f. 10	Bourne, George	1841
b. 1, f. 11	Bourne, Leila	1870–1871

## Family Correspondence &gt; Letters received by Theodore Bourne (continued)

b. 2 (oversize), f. 51	Bourne, Mary Oland Stibbs	1842
b. 1, f. 12	Bourne, Rowland Hill	1844–1857
b. 1, f. 13	Field, Addie	1881
b. 1, f. 14	Unidentified	1900–1907
Letters received by Samuel Bourne		
b. 1, f. 15	Bourne, George	1829
Letters received by Mary Bourne Nesbit		
b. 1, f. 16	Bourne, Rowland Hill	1854–1862
Letters received by Christopher Stibbs		
b. 1, f. 17	Bourne, Mary Oland Stibbs	1794
b. 2 (oversize), f. 52	Bourne, Mary Oland Stibbs	1793
Letters received by Mary Stibbs		
b. 1, f. 18	Bourne, Mary Oland Stibbs	1809
b. 2 (oversize), f. 53	Bourne, Mary Oland Stibbs	1805
b. 1, f. 19	Parsons, Thomas	1808
Letters received by Sarah Stibbs		
b. 1, f. 20	Bourne, Mary Oland Stibbs	1805–1818
Letters received by Thomas Oland Stibbs		
b. 1, f. 21	Bourne, Mary Oland Stibbs	1804–1805
b. 2 (oversize), f. 54	Bourne, Mary Oland Stibbs	1804
Letters received by Pierson, A.R.		
b. 1, f. 22	Parsons, Frank	1919
b. 1, f. 23	Unidentified correspondence	1810–1889
General Correspondence		
Letters received by George Bourne		
b. 1, f. 24	Bryan, Dan	1811–1817
b. 1, f. 25	Phillips, Wendell	Circa 1800-1845
b. 1, f. 26	Strong, Thomas	1819

## General Correspondence &gt; Letters received by George Bourne (continued)

b. 1, f. 27	Unidentified	1838
Letters received by Theodore Bourne		
b. 1, f. 28	Bean, Sarah	1901
b. 1, f. 29	Bourget Ignac, Bishop of Montreal	1843–1848
b. 1, f. 30	Campbell, Robert	1858–1859
b. 1, f. 31	Chamerozvov, L.A.	1861
b. 1, f. 32	Churchill, Alfred Spencer, Lord	1860
b. 1, f. 33	Clegg, Thomas	1853–1860
b. 1, f. 34	Coates, Benjamin	1858
b. 1, f. 35	Crosby, Howard	1877
b. 1, f. 36	Delany, Martin R.	1876
b. 1, f. 37	Harrison, Barry	1900
b. 1, f. 38	Hodgekins, Thomas	1860
b. 1, f. 39	Knopp, Major	1867
b. 1, f. 40	Monteith and Hall	1889–1890
b. 1, f. 41	Mountain, A.W.	1846
b. 1, f. 42	Pentalarge, Thomas	1894
b. 1, f. 43	Sury, W.D.	1855
b. 1, f. 44	Williams, A.S. Two photographs are included with this letter. One photograph is of Thomas Roberts and his brother of Monrovia, Liberia (1886) and another of school children (undated).	1894
b. 1, f. 45	Invitations	Circa 1850-1910
b. 1, f. 46	Unidentified	1842–1861



## Series II: Professional Papers, 1793–1910

Professional Papers documents the careers of the Bourne family. Religious texts written by George Bourne for the Christian Intelligencer, as well as anti-slavery texts such as *The Anti-Slavery Lecture of 1837*, are in this series. Theodore Bourne's writings include "A Biographical Sketch of George Bourne" along with an account of George Bourne and his interaction with Thomas Paine. Theodore Bourne's papers from his work as secretary of the African Christian Civilization Society is well documented. Publications written by members of the African Christian Civilization Society such as Quaker Benjamin Coates and Jehu T. Dimey are also included. Maps illustrating nineteenth-century African nations are found within the series. Other papers from organizations such as the African Aid Society, Freedmen's Mission Aid Society, International Migration Society and the American Missionary Association are also included in the series. Material related to members of the Bourne family including William Oland Bourne can also be found. Writings by others include clippings by John Greenleaf Whittier, original poems by James Montgomery and Samuel W. Seton as well as writings by Helen Maria Williams.

Arranged alphabetically.

b. 3, f. 58	<a href="#">African Aid Society</a>	1860–1861
b. 2 (oversize), f. 55	African Aid Society	1861
b. 3, f. 59–62	African Christian Civilization Society	1858–1897
b. 2 (oversize), f. 56	African Christian Civilization Society	1860
b. 3, f. 63	African Native Agency Committee	1854
b. 3, f. 64	African Steamship Company	1894
b. 3, f. 65	The American Anti-Slavery Society 50th Anniversary Commemoration	1884
b. 3, f. 66	American Missionary Association	1871
b. 2 (oversize), f. 57	American Missionary Association	1871
b. 3, f. 67	Battle of the Boyne	1865–1876
b. 3, f. 68	<i>The Conditions and Wants of Liberia</i> by Jehu T. Dimey	1874
b. 3, f. 69	<i>Cultivation of Cotton in Africa</i> by Benjamin Coates	1858
b. 3, f. 70	Central African Company "Limited"	Circa 1840–1870
b. 3, f. 71	Fliers	Circa 1859–1960
b. 3, f. 72	Freedman's Mission Aid Society	1870–1894
b. 3, f. 73	International Migration Society	1894–1898
b. 4 (oversize), f. 77	International Migration Society	1895–1897
b. 4 (oversize), f. 78	Maps	Circa 1850–1877

b. 3, f. 74	Meeting of Colored Citizens	1858-1873
b. 3, f. 75	Oxford and Cambridge Mission to Central Africa	1859
b. 3, f. 76	Program for Flower Service, address by William St. Hill Bourne	Circa 1840-1910
Writings by Esther Bourne		
b. 5, f. 80	"The Snow Storm"	1857
b. 5, f. 80	"To the Evening Star"	
Writings by George Bourne		
b. 5, f. 81	"Anti-Slavery Lecture 4th of July 1837" by Reverend George Bourne at Newburyport, Massachusetts	1837
b. 4 (oversize), f. 79	"Beware of Popery"	1840
b. 5, f. 82	"Biblical Criticism"	Undated
b. 5, f. 83	"Biblical Exposition"	Undated
b. 4 (oversize), f. 79	"Communion of Christians at the Lord's Table"	Undated
b. 5, f. 84	"Irish Superstitions"	Undated
b. 5, f. 85	"Is Baptism Regeneration?"	Undated
b. 5, f. 86	"London Eclectic Review"	Undated
b. 5, f. 87	"Origins of the Jesuits"	Undated
b. 5, f. 88	"Shiloh"	Undated
b. 5, f. 89	"Wash Thine Heart From Thy Wickedness"	Undated
Writings by Theodore Bourne		
b. 5, f. 90	"Biographical Sketch of Reverend George Bourne"	Undated
b. 5, f. 91	"Reverend George Bourne The Pioneer of Anti-Slavery in America"	Undated
b. 5, f. 92	"Confessions of Thomas Paine or How he Wrote the Age of Reason Made to Reverend George Bourne in New York City in 1805"	1871
b. 5, f. 93	"The Bell of the Atlantic"	Undated
b. 5, f. 93	"Children's Hymn"	Undated
b. 5, f. 93	"Life"	Undated
b. 5, f. 93	"To Minnie"	1855
b. 5, f. 93	"Tears of Joy to my Mother"	1845
b. 5, f. 93	The Vow of Washington (A centennial poem by John G. Whittier) Response of Patriotic Americans	1895

## Writings by Theodore Bourne (continued)

b. 5, f. 94	Clippings	Undated
Writings by William Oland Bourne		
b. 5, f. 95	"After Reunion"	1865
b. 5, f. 95	"Before Union"	1854
b. 5, f. 95	"Excelsior"	1875
b. 5, f. 95	"Mother!"	Undated
b. 5, f. 95	"Say Not the Dead are Dead"	Undated
b. 5, f. 95	"Taken Home"	Undated
b. 5, f. 95	"A Thousand Lustrous Stars Arise"	Undated
Writings by William Hill St. Bourne		
b. 5, f. 96	Taken Home	Undated
Writings by James Montgomery Copy of a small portrait of James Montgomery included.		
b. 5, f. 97	"Evening Time"	Undated
b. 5, f. 97	"Sowing Seed"	Undated
Writings by Samuel W. Seton		
b. 5, f. 98	"To Montgomery a Xtian Poet"	1826
Writings by John Greenleaf Whittier		
b. 5, f. 99	"The Centennial Hymn"	Undated
b. 5, f. 99	"A Centennial Photo"	Undated
b. 5, f. 99	"The Eternal Goodness"	Undated
b. 5, f. 99	"The Reformer"	Undated
Writings by Helen Maria Williams		
b. 5, f. 100	Untitled	Undated
Writings by Others		
b. 5, f. 101	"Beautiful Flowers" by Hazel Hawthorne	Undated
b. 5, f. 101	"The Withered Flower" by Harold Hawthorne	Undated
b. 5, f. 102	Unidentified Writings	Circa 1813-1910

**Series III: Personal Papers, Circa 1800-1910**

Personal Papers includes genealogical records, illustrations, photographs and objects. Two photographs, one of George M. Bourne and one of his driver can be found within the series. Objects include rosary beads, spectacles and spectacle cases.

b. 5, f. 103	Blank genealogical record book	Undated
b. 5, f. 104	Drawings by Dorothy Pierson	1900
b. 5, f. 105	Ephemera	Circa 1850-1910
b. 5, f. 106	Family tree, wills, marriage certificates, and obituaries	Circa 1800-1919
b. 5, f. 107	Four rosary beads	Undated
b. 5, f. 108	Hair of George and Mary Bourne	Circa 1793-1851
b. 5, f. 109	"Maid, Wife, Mother"	Undated
b. 5, f. 110	Photographs of George M. Bourne and driver	Circa 1890-1910
b. 5, f. 111	Envelopes	Circa 1800-1919
b. 6	Two pairs of spectacles and two spectacle cases	Undated

---

## 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.

### Subjects

Abolitionists -- United States  
African Americans -- Colonization -- Africa  
African Americans -- Social conditions -- 19th century  
Clergy -- United States  
Presbyterian Church -- Clergy

### Occupations

Poets -- Great Britain -- 19th century  
Poets -- United States -- 19th century

### Families

Bourne family

### Names

Bourne, George, 1780-1845  
Bourne, Mary Oland Stibbs, 1780-1851  
Bourne, Rowland Hill, 1812-1886  
Bourne, Theodore, 1822-1910  
Bourne, Wm. Oland (William Oland), 1819-1901  
Montgomery, James, 1771-1854  
Whittier, John Greenleaf, 1807-1892  
Williams, Helen Maria, 1762-1827