

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Borton Family Papers

GEN MSS 801



by Leigh Golden

2007

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: GEN MSS 801

CREATOR: Borton family

TITLE: Borton family papers

DATES: 1804–1973

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 5 linear feet (6 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of correspondence, journals, photographs, maps, printed material and other papers, documenting four generations of the Borton family and their military and personal experiences within the First Anglo-Afghan War (1839-1842), the Second Anglo-Afghan War (1843-1880), the First Anglo-Sikh War (1845-1846), also known as the Sutlej campaign, the Crimean War (1853-1856), the Second Boer War (1899-1902), the First World War (1914-1918), India, Iraq, Mauritius and many other postings throughout the world.

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

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.borton>.

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.

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

b. box

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Bernard Quaritch, Ltd. on the Edwin J. Beinecke Book Fund, 2007.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The Borton 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

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

Processing Information

This collection received a basic level of processing, including rehousing and minimal organization. Descriptive information is drawn in large part from information supplied with the collection and from an initial survey of the contents. Some folder titles were supplied by staff during initial processing. Biographical information is drawn largely from the dealer description, and is included in the finding aid in order to provide context. Biographical facts have not been verified in all cases.

John Drew Borton (1769-1847)

John Drew Borton was the son of a furrier from Diss, Norfolk. Borton was ordained in 1803. In 1805, he was installed as the Rector of Blofield, near Norwich. He remained at Blofield for 42 years and is commemorated by a plaque in the church there. He had five children with his wife Louisa Carthew: sons John, William, Edward, Sir Arthur Borton and daughter Harriet.

Arthur Borton (1814-1893)

General Sir Arthur Borton was the youngest son of John Drew Borton, Rector of Blofield, and his wife, Louisa Carthew. Born in 1814 at Blofield, he bought a commission as an ensign in the 9th (East Norfolk) regiment in 1832. Initially posted to Ireland, Mauritius and India, in 1842 he served in Afghanistan where he helped to force the Khyber Pass, took part in the victory over Muhammad Akbar Khan at the Tezini Pass and the Haft Kotal, and assisted at the capture of the fortified town of Istalif. In 1845, Borton took part in the First Anglo-Sikh war and served in the Sutlej campaign. In 1853, he took command of his regiment and led it at the Siege of Sevastopol in the Crimea and in the assault on the Redan in 1855. In 1870, after postings in Canada, England and Ireland, Borton was appointed to the command of the Mysore division of the Madras army. From 1878-1884, he was governor and commander-in-chief at Malta. Borton married Caroline Mary Georgina in 1850. She was the daughter of Rev. John Forbes Close, Rector of Mourne, co. Down. They had two sons and two daughters.

Henry Drummond

General Sir Henry Drummond was the father of Adelaide Drummond, who was the wife of Sir Arthur Borton's eldest son, Arthur Close Borton. Henry Drummond was in the Bengal Cavalry and served in the Anglo-Afghan War of 1838-1842.

Arthur Close Borton (1851-1927)

Colonel Arthur Close Borton was the elder son of General Sir Arthur Borton and the brother of Colonel Charles Edward Borton. He became a Lieutenant Colonel in the 13th Somerset (Prince Albert's) light infantry. In 1888, he was called to the Bar, and from 1899 he farmed at Cheveney, Kent. He married Adelaide Drummond, daughter of General Henry Drummond. Together they had two sons, Arthur Drummond Borton and Amyas Eden Borton, as well as a daughter Dorothea. After his first wife's death, he married Laura Devas in 1912.

Charles Edward Borton (b.1857)

Colonel Charles Edward Borton was the younger son of General Sir Arthur Borton. Joining the 9th Norfolk regiment, he served in the Second Anglo-Afghan War, taking part in the advance on Kabul. He also served in Burma from 1887-1889, South Africa from 1900-1902 and France from 1917-1918. In 1893, he married Amy Parson, nee Lewin, and had one son: Charles Victor.

Arthur Drummond Borton (1883-1933)

Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Drummond Borton VC, CMG, DSO was the elder son of Arthur Close Borton. Nicknamed "Bosky" by the family, he served in the Boer War and in India with the King's Royal Rifle Corps. He was invalided from the army in 1907. At the outbreak of the First World War, he rejoined and became an observer with the Royal Flying Corps in France, where he broke his neck and was again invalided. Borton won the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) at Gallipoli as a Lieutenant Commander in the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. After serving in France and Salonika with the 2nd/22nd London Regiment (The Queen's), he was given command of the battalion and moved to Palestine. On 7 November 1917 at Tel-el-sheria, he led his battallion against a strongly held enemy position and won the Victoria Cross (VC) for his bravery.

Amyas Eden Borton (1886-1969)

Air Vice-Marshal Amyas Eden Borton CB CMG DSO AFC was Arthur "Bosky" Borton's younger brother. Nicknamed "Biffy" by the family, he joined the Black Watch in 1906 and in 1911 learned to fly while on leave from his regiment. He was seconded to the Royal Flying Corps in 1914 and served in France until he was injured in aerial combat in 1915, winning the Distinguished Service Order (DSO) for bravery. In 1917, Borton took command of the Fifth Wing in Palestine, playing an important role in the Battles of Gaza and the capture of Jerusalem. He later took command of the entire RFC Palestine Brigade. In 1918, Borton made the longest flight undertaken up to that time, a flight to Cairo in a Handley Page bomber. He followed this with the first flight from England to India and then a trip to reconnoitre the aerial route to Australia. After the war, he commanded the RAF in Iraq until 1923, when he married Muriel Slater and became Commandant of the RAF college, Cranwell. In 1933 he retired as an Air Vice-Marshal in command of the inland area of the RAF.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of correspondence, journals, photographs, maps, printed material and other papers, documenting four generations of the Borton family and their military and personal experiences within the First Anglo-Afghan War (1839-1842), the Second Anglo-Afghan War (1843-1880), the First Anglo-Sikh War (1845-1846), also known as the Sutlej campaign, the Crimean War (1853-1856), the Second Boer War (1899-1902), the First World War (1914-1918), India, Iraq, Mauritius and many other postings throughout the world.

Arrangement

The collection is arranged into seven series, primarily according to individual family member: I. John Drew Borton papers, circa 1804-1854. II. Arthur Borton papers, circa 1829-1893. III. Henry Drummond papers, 1837-1894. IV. Arthur Close Borton papers, circa 1886-1919. V. Arthur Drummond Borton papers, circa 1901-1914. VI. Amyas Eden Borton papers, 1877-1963. VII. Other Family papers, circa 1816-1973.

Collection Contents

Series I: John Drew Borton papers, circa 1804-1854

The series consists of correspondence and other papers relating to John Drew Borton, his family, especially his cousin Harriet Drew, and his work as Rector of Blofield.

b.1	Harriet Drew correspondence <i>2 Folders</i>	
b.1	Correspondence to "Miss Drew"	1829 January
b.1	Harriet Drew Will and Estate Papers	
b.1	Correspondence, "Old Letters and 'Franks' "	
b.1	John Drew Borton funeral instructions and other papers	
b.1	John Drew Borton and William Borton parish and ecclesiastical papers	1804-1843
b.1	Ecclesiastical certficants and correspondence	1813-1854
b.1	Income and expenditures <i>2 Folders</i>	1813-1835

Series II: Arthur Borton papers, circa 1829-1893

This series consists of correspondence and other papers relating to Arthur Borton, his and his wife's family, and his service as a military officer and governor.

b.1	Correspondence	1829-1855, 1893
b.1	Correspondence	1831
b.1	Correspondence	1832
b.1	Correspondence	1833-1835
b.1	Correspondence to Family	1839-1841
b.1	Correspondence from Afghanistan	1842
b.1	Correspondence	1843-1846
b.1	Correspondence	1846-1847
b.1	Correspondence to siblings Harriet and William	1850-1853
b.1-2	Correspondence to wife Caroline Close <i>5 Folders</i>	1850-1856
b.2	Close Family correspondence	1854-1855
b.2	Correspondence (includes letter to parents, 1844)	1844, 1855-1871
b.2	Correspondence to wife and mother from Malta <i>2 Folders</i>	1878-1880
b.2	Correspondence to son Arthur Close Borton <i>2 Folders</i>	1882-1892
b.2	Military correspondence	
b.2	Close Family: "Power of Faith", "Eric the Dane" and other poems	
b.2	Clippings regarding Siege of Sevastopol	circa 1854
b.2	Record of service	
b.2	Small sketchbook	1852-1860
b.2	"In memoriam", Rev. John Forbes Close	1883
b.2	Collection of epitaphs for Gladstone	1886
b.2	Press cuttings about death of Arthur Borton	circa 1893

Series III: Henry Drummond papers, 1837-1894

This series consists of correspondence and other papers relating Henry Drummond, his family and his service as a military officer.

b. 2	Various correspondence	1837-1844
b. 2	Emmeline Drummond correspondence from Charles Phipps	1852
b. 2	Correspondence	1865
b. 2	Emmeline Drummond correspondence	1859-1894

Series IV: Arthur Close Borton papers, circa 1886-1919

This series consists of correspondence and other papers relating to Arthur Close Borton, his family, and his service as a military officer.

b. 2	Family papers	1886-1890
b. 2	Correspondence, Charles Edward Borton	1901-1917
b. 2	Correspondence, Dorothea Borton	1912
b. 2-3	Diary of the Family of Borton during the Great War, 1914-1918 <i>9 Folders</i>	1914 -1919

Series V: Arthur Drummond Borton papers, circa 1901-1914

This series consists of correspondence and other papers relating to Arthur Drummond Borton, his family, and his service as a military officer.

b. 3	Letters from Barbara Tomkinson regarding broken engagement	no date
b. 3	Correspondence to father, South Africa	1901-1902
b. 3	Family correspondence from India	1905-1907
b. 3	Correspondence and photographs to father	1909-1914
b. 3	Clippings	1902

Series VI: Amyas Eden Borton papers, 1877-1963

This series consists of correspondence and other papers relating to Amyas Eden Borton, his family, and his service as a military officer.

b. 3	Correspondence from India to father	1906-1908
b. 3	Correspondence from India to father and family	1908 December-1911 February
b. 4	Correspondence to father, France	1914-1916
b. 4	Correspondence to father, Palestine	1917-1918
b. 4	Mesopotamia correspondence <i>2 Folders</i>	1921-1923
b. 4	Paper, correspondence and aerial photographs, Royal Flying Corps	1915-1963
b. 4	Flight into Egypt correspondence	1917
b. 4	Various papers regarding flying career	1916-1948
b. 4	Newspaper clippings regarding flying career	
b. 4	"Our Trip to the English Lakes, Septr. 1877"	1877
	Richard Peck "Alice in Wonderland" Stored in: Oversize, Box 6	1944

Series VII: Other Family papers, circa 1816-1973

b. 4	Borton and Eden Family Tree	
b. 4	Borton Family Pedigree Notes	
b. 4	"Borton Papers - various verses", verses and acrostics	
b. 4	Book, <i>My Warrior Sons: The Borton Family Diary, 1914 - 1918.</i>	1973
b. 4	"P.A. Somerset Weekly Budget and Light Bob Gazette, No. 1"	1893 February
b. 4	Correspondence regarding land purchase proposal	1902
b. 4	Tourist Booklet about Madeira - printed	1958
b. 4	Visitor's books for Cheveney <i>2 Folders</i>	1905-1959
b. 5	Ordnance survey - B&W engraved maps of Surrey, Middlesex and Kent	1816, 1819, 1822, 1844
b. 5	John Walker map of India	1852
	"The Tyrant of the Cuchullin Hills" Stored in: Oversize, Box 6	circa 1860's

Oversize, circa 1860's, 1944

b. 6	Richard Peck "Alice in Wonderland"	1944
b. 6	"The Tyrant of the Cuchullin Hills"	circa 1860's

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

Afghan Wars -- Personal narratives, English
Crimean War, 1853-1856
Sikh War, 1845-1846 -- Personal narratives,
British
Soldiers -- Great Britain
South African War, 1899-1902
World War, 1914-1918 -- Personal narratives,
English

Occupations

Soldiers

Names

Borton, Amyas Eden
Borton, Arthur
Borton, Arthur Close
Borton, Arthur Drummond
Borton, Charles Edward
Borton, John Drew
Drummond, Henry

Families

Barton family