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EARL ALVIN GERHARDT, JR. COLLECTION

The collection includes articles, pamphlets, notes, newspaper clippings, etc., relating to the history of Lynchburg, Virginia, and the surrounding area and the creation of the city museum. Topics include historic buildings, education, slavery, African-American businesses, as well as biographical studies such as John Warwick Daniel (1842-1910), and a study of New London Academy in Forest, Virginia. Also included are the records of the Lynchburg Hosiery Mill Association, a benefit association for workers in the mill, records of the closing of Lynchburg Hosiery Mills, and records of the Burton Hosiery Company.

[Detailed finding guide available with the collection.]

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- BOX 1**
- 1-1 Lynchburg Historical Society (1936-1962)
 - 1-2 Lynchburg Historical Society (1963-1968)
 - 1-3 "Lynchburg Historical Society 1934-1969" (Evelyn L. Moore)
 - 1-4 Miller-Claytor House
 - 1-5 "Memoir" (Susan Leigh Blackford) (Lynchburg Historical Society)
 - 1-6 Publications (Lynchburg Historical Society)
 - 1-7 Historic Lynchburg Foundation (1967-)
 - 1-8 Point of Honor
 - 1-9 Museum of Living History (1) – the Old Court House
 - 1-10 Museum of Living History (2) – Other Court Houses, Court House Hill
 - 1-11 Museum of Living History (3) – Lynchburg City Museum (1933-1972)
 - 1-12 Museum of Living History (1973-)
 - 1-13 Museum of Living History – Correspondence
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- BOX 2**
- 2-1 Bicentennial – Miscellaneous
 - 2-2 Virginia Independence Bicentennial Commission
 - 2-3 Theme City Proposal – Fredericksburg, Virginia
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 - 2-5 Bicentennial (Virginia) – Correspondence
 - 2-6 *Bicentennial Era / Bicentennial Newsletter* (1970-1976) (U.S.)
 - 2-7 *Virginia Independence Bicentennial News* (1971-1973)
 - 2-8 Miscellaneous correspondence & notes (1972-1980)

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EARL ALVIN GERHARDT, JR. COLLECTION, Cont'd.

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 - 3-2 Archaeology
 - 3-3 Automobiles – Piedmont, Dawson, Kline
 - 3-4 Banks
 - 3-5 Beale Treasure
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 - 3-7 Chamber of Commerce
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- BOX 4**
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 - 4-19 Reminiscences
 - 4-20 Rotary Club of Lynchburg, Va.
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- BOX 5**
- 5-1 Schools, Public
 - 5-2 Schools, Private
 - 5-3 School Reports

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EARL ALVIN GERHARDT, JR. COLLECTION, Cont'd.

BOX 5

- 5-4 "American High School" – Marion Rattray (1911-1912)
- 5-5 "Lynchburg High School (to 1935)" – Students
- 5-6 "Public Schools of Lynchburg"
- 5-7 Public Schools of Lynchburg – First Day Cover (1971)
- 5-8 "Teacher, Teacher" – A play by Garnell Stamps (1971)
- 5-9 "History of Public School Education for Negroes in Lynchburg 1877-1900" – Jeannette E. Irvine (1949)
- 5-10 "Negro Business in Lynchburg, Virginia, 1880-1910" – John Langston Mitchell (1952)
- 5-11 "Participation of the Lynchburg, Virginia Negro in Politics 1865-1900" – Harry S. Ferguson (1950)
- 5-12 Silversmiths
- 5-13 "Slavery in Lynchburg" – Paul Waibel (1965)
- 5-14 SPHEX Club
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- 6-3 People (N-Z) (Miscellaneous clippings)
- 6-4 John Warwick DANIEL – Memorial Addresses
- 6-5 "John Warwick Daniel: A Study in the Virginia Democracy" Richard B. Doss (1955) (pp. 1-162)
- 6-6 "John Warwick Daniel: A Study in the Virginia Democracy" Richard B. Doss (1955) (pp. 163-345)
- 6-7 "John Warwick Daniel: A Study in the Virginia Democracy" Richard B. Doss (1955) (pp. 346-430)
- 6-8 A. H. Plecker photograph collection
- 6-9 Garland-Braxton family information/charts; History of Clifford (Amherst County, Va.)

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EARL ALVIN GERHARDT, JR. COLLECTION, Cont'd.

- BOX 7** Miscellaneous Clippings – Historic Houses (Lynchburg area)
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- 8-3** “Proposed Comprehensive Plan for the City of Lynchburg, Virginia” (1971)
- 8-4** “Economic Summary of Lynchburg Virginia” (1948)
- 8-5** “Dixie’s Dead – Why They Died” – Lucian L. Knight
- 8-6** “Lynchburg in 1852” – Map
- BOX 8** **8-7** “Lynchburg”
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- 8-9** “Cultural Life in Lynchburg” – James Burroughs Noell
- 8-10** “Lynchburg’s Record” (Publication of the Chamber of Commerce 1956-1958)
- 8-11** “Lynchburg from 1756-1870: An Outline for School Children” (1924)
- 8-12** “Something About Lynchburg Virginia” – Robert Slaughter (1890)
- 8-13** “Sketchbook of Lynchburg” – Edward Pollock (1887)
- 8-14** “Centennial Souvenir of Lynchburg, Virginia” – Hinton A. Helper (1886)
- 8-15** “Lynchburg Men of the Confederacy” – Jennings
- 8-16** “Virginia’s Lost Industry” – Capron (1942)
- 8-17** “Hostesses in a Hospitable House (1000 Court St.)
- 8-18** “People and Places Mentioned...Sketches and Recollections...” (Cabell, Blunt)
- BOX 9** **9-1** Miscellaneous notes and articles – Lynchburg
- 9-2** Miscellaneous clippings – Lynchburg businesses
- 9-3** Miscellaneous brochures – Lynchburg
- 9-4** Amherst County
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EARL ALVIN GERHARDT, JR. COLLECTION, Cont'd.

- BOX 9**
- 9-6 Bedford County
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 - 9-8 "New London Academy 1795-1941" – Samuel Clarke Morgan (1941) (pp. 149-260)
 - 9-9 Campbell County
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NOTE: BOXES 10-16 (LYNCHBURG HOSIERY MILL ASSOCIATION, LYNCHBURG HOSIERY MILL, INC., AND BURTON HOSIERY COMPANY) ARE SEALED UNTIL 2030 AND CANNOT BE REVIEWED WITHOUT PERMISSION OF THE DONOR.

- BOX 10**
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 - 10-2 Service Pins (1940-1955)
 - 10-3 Service Pins (1956-1965)
 - 10-4 Financial Records (1940-1955)
 - 10-5 Financial Records (1955-1973)
 - 10-6 Cash Book (1922-1934); Savings Account (1928-1965)
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- 10-7 Association bank books
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- Lynchburg Hosiery Mill Association
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- BOX 12**
- Lynchburg Hosiery Mill Association
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EARL ALVIN GERHARDT, JR. COLLECTION, Cont'd

- BOX 16**
- 16-8** Burton, Clarence Godber – Correspondence, Miscellaneous notes
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LYNCHBURG HISTORICAL MUSEUM

The first Lynchburg Historical Museum was organized by the Woman's Club of Lynchburg in 1933, and opened to the public on 15 December 1934. A room in City Hall was offered by City Council for this purpose.

During World War II, the museum was closed and its contents were stored in the Fort Hill Fire Station. After several attempts to reopen, and with the Woman's Club giving up the project, the new museum housed in the old Court House finally reopened on 16 November 1963. It was sponsored by the Lynchburg Historical Society.

LYNCHBURG HISTORICAL SOCIETY

In 1935, spearheaded by the Junior League of Lynchburg, the Lynchburg Garden Club, the Architects Club and the Art Club, the Lynchburg Historical Society, incorporated in 1936 as the Lynchburg Historical Society, Inc., was formed. The aims of the organization included the “preservation of Lynchburg antiquities” and “to encourage, foster and promote an interest in and study of the history of the City of Lynchburg” along with maintaining a museum and to identify and work to preserve “historical buildings, landmarks and other objects of historical value.” Its major project was to move the Miller-Claytor House from its original site to its present location in Riverside Park.

HISTORIC LYNCHBURG FOUNDATION

Historic Lynchburg Foundation was incorporated in 1967. Its stated purposes included “the acquisition, restoration and preservation of houses, buildings, monuments, sites and objects in and around the city of Lynchburg that are connected or illustrative of the history and culture of Lynchburg, Virginia, and the United States.” The initial project of the Foundation was the restoration of Point of Honor, the historic Cabell “mansion house” on Daniel’s Hill in Lynchburg.

The second property acquired by the Foundation was the Dabney-Scott-Adams House. The restored house was planned as headquarters for the Foundation, the Lynchburg Historical Society and the Lynchburg Branch of the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities.

The Foundation also supported the restoration of the Academy of Music, a historic theater in Lynchburg.

LYNCHBURG HISTORICAL FOUNDATION, INC.

The Lynchburg Historical Foundation, Inc. was formed in 1972, out of the merger of the Lynchburg Historical Society and the Historic Lynchburg Foundation. One of the early projects of the Foundation was the establishment of a “living history museum” as a bicentennial project begun in 1973. With the support of the Bicentennial Commission of Lynchburg, it was felt that “both the renovation of the Court House and the development of a living museum as an educational heritage to serve the citizens of Lynchburg could well be combined into one [project].” It was hoped that the project could be completed for an opening on July 3, 1976 “as a major feature of the Bicentennial Celebration.” Today, the City of Lynchburg through the Department of Libraries and Museums operates the museum.

LYNCHBURG HOSIERY MILLS, INC.

Joseph Godber Burton, of Nottingham, England, was interested in the manufacture of hosiery and knit goods. With his uncle, he owned a bleach yard and finishing plant. Later he affiliated himself with the firm of I. and R. Morley, one of the world’s largest manufacturers and exporters of knit goods. In the late nineteenth century, Burton, immigrated to Providence, Rhode Island, where he joined with a group of men to establish one of the first “full-fashioned” hosiery mills in America.

In April 1899, the Midland Hosiery Company, forerunner of the Lynchburg Hosiery Mill, was established as a branch of the Chemnitz Hosiery Company of Providence. The original plant was situated at Fourteenth Street and Stephenson Avenue. It contained 125 knitting machines and had a daily output of 500 pairs of men’s, women’s and children’s and infants’ hosiery.

In 1900 Joseph G. Burton came to Lynchburg, Virginia, and was associated with R. Colston Blackford in the establishment of a second hosiery plant. The mill was located on Twelfth Street (now Fort Avenue) and consisted of a one-story brick building approximately 100 feet by 40 feet. The site was ideal for the plant due to the springs of water above the building which provided a gravity water supply to the dye house. The mill was one of the first in the country to install the full automatic seamless knitter. The Lynchburg Hosiery Mill went into operation with fifty of these knitting machines. The company was incorporated as Lynchburg Hosiery Mills, Inc., in 1907.

In 1908, a two-story addition to the plant, 60 by 40 feet, was constructed, with ninety additional knitting machines in operation. In 1919, a branch knitting plant was opened at 410 Court Street for the manufacture of “goods in the grey” state (before

bleaching or dyeing). Upon Joseph G. Burton's death in 1921, his son, Clarence Godber Burton, became president of the mill.

Lynchburg Hosiery Mills, Inc., was one of the first mills in the South to manufacture government socks. The mill received its first contract from the Army in the early years of the twentieth century and during World War I, a large part of its capacity to the production of socks for the Army.

The mill was one of four mills to work with the government on a pre-shrinking process with special emphasis on cushioned soled socks for field usage where laundries were scarce. Before World War I, the company was engaged in the production of cushioned soled golf socks and presented samples to the research and development department of the Quartermaster depot. The cushion soled sock was adopted as standard issue by the Army and became its principal marching sock. The mill also produced full-fashioned stockings for the Women's Army Corps and heavy woolen desert top socks for the British and American armies during the North Africa campaign.

Lynchburg Hosiery Mills also produced bomb parachutes for Army Ordnance, woolen blankets for the Army and cargo parachutes for the Navy. During World War II, the mill produced more than twenty-eight million pairs of hose for the armed forces.

Following the war, the mill became one of the largest producers of hosiery in the country, turning out about 25,000 dozen pairs of half hose and 2,500 dozen pairs of ladies full-fashioned hose per week. The company produced stockings of nylon, rayon and silk, including mesh or clocked hose. Because temperature was an important factor in the processing of nylon, the plant was completely air conditioned.

Women's stockings, under the names of Natural Bridge and Silversheen, as well as men's fancy half hose are distributed through the New York office of the company.

From its small beginning, the Lynchburg Hosiery Mills grew to be among the top ten percent in the production of hosiery in the United States.

In 1972, the mill was sold to a group of three Chicago-area businessmen. The new owners pledge to keep production operations in Lynchburg and concentrated on the manufacture and distribution of top-quality socks for the sports and leisure market. The mill, with more than 200 employees in 1972, ranked among the leading employers of Lynchburg when it was sold.

LYNCHBURG HOSIERY MILLS ASSOCIATION

The Lynchburg Hosiery Mills Association was established circa 1920 “to promote friendship among its members, to furnish a method of full and frank discussion of the business of the mill in its relation to those who work for it, the promotion of constructive criticism of methods of manufacture, working conditions, and manufactured product; and for the creation of health benefit funds.” The Association was opened to all “white persons” employed by the Lynchburg Hosiery Mills, Inc. The Shop Committee consisted of the foremen of the several departments in the mill and was the governing body of the Association. A separate committee, the Benefit Committee, had jurisdiction over the payment of benefits, approving claims before payment and calling on ill or disabled members. Members made weekly contributions to the Association, these being matched by the company. In addition to claims for disability and sickness, the Association also paid benefits for members laid off by the company.

EARL ALVIN GERHARDT, JR. (1930-)

Earl Alvin Gerhardt, Jr., son of Earl Alvin Gerhardt, Sr. and Winifred Georgia Burton was born 15 October 1930 in Lynchburg, Virginia. He was educated in Lynchburg schools and graduated from E. C. Glass High School in 1947. He graduated from Davidson College in North Carolina in May, 1951, with a degree in economics and business administration. He spent one semester in the Textile School at North Carolina State College in Raleigh and one semester at Lebanon Valley College. He received a master’s degree in historic museum administration from New York State University at Cooperstown in May 1974.

During the Korean conflict, Mr. Gerhardt served two years as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Returning from military service, he spent a while working as a salesman and was in sales and finance with the Lynchburg Hosiery Mills in Lynchburg. In the early 1970s he decided to change careers to museum administration and returned to graduate school.

During his career, Mr. Gerhardt was a founding director of the Virginia History Federation and served as director, vice-president and president. In 1963, he was chairman of the museum committee for the Lynchburg Historical Society and served as director and curator of the Lynchburg Historical Museum in the old Court House. The Museum’s stated purpose was “to preserve a continuing picture of Lynchburg and its people through the past and give permanent housing and display to valuable items relating to important events in the history of the Lynchburg area.” To carry out that purpose, Mr. Gerhardt inaugurated a plan for the Museum to publish occasional research papers of local historic interest, written by various members of the Society, or other students of history, to tie in with each new exhibit when possible. Under his direction, these publications grew to include subjects of wider interest. In 1967, the Museum was awarded a certificate of commendation by the American Association for State and Local

History for excellence in exhibitions and publications in the local history field, in which Mr. Gerhardt had won state-wide recognition. He served as president of the Society from 1970 until 1971.

Mr. Gerhardt was also a member of the American Association of State and Local History and of the American Association of Museums. In 1974, he was named executive director of the Rocky Mount Historical Association in Rocky Mount, Tennessee. In 1992 he became Director of museum studies program and the President Andrew Johnson Museum and Library at Tusculum College in Greeneville, Tennessee.

In 1993, Mr. Gerhardt received the James R. Short Award from the Southeastern Museums Conference (SEMC) for distinguished service to the museum profession.

In 2000, Mr. Gerhardt was honored for meritorious service to Tusculum College. In that same year, he became the first recipient of the Tennessee Association of Museums (TAM) Millennium Award for exceptional accomplishments and service to the museum field. (The award was later renamed the E. Alvin Gerhardt Award in his honor) He served as vice-president of TAM 1975-1977 and as president 1977-1979. He was elected vice-president of the Appalachian Consortium, a non-profit educational organization which seeks to perpetuate, preserve and promote the heritage of Southern Appalachia.

In 1972, Mr. Gerhardt authored a pamphlet, *The Battle of Lynchburg, June 17-18, 1864*, for the Lynchburg Historical Society. He was also author of *The Historic Museum Survival Guide* in 1988. In 1979, he was co-author with Liz M. Johnson of a museum handbook, *Rocky Mountain Education Handbook*. He was also co-author with Robert Andrew Howard of the book, *Mary Patton: Powder Maker of the Revolution*, in 1980.

Earl Alvin Gerhardt, Jr. retired from Tusculum College in 2000 after eight years of service to the college and after 26 years in the museum field. Currently he is a consultant for museums, historical societies, and architects in planning, landscape design, and administration of museums.

[Earl Alvin Gerhard, Jr. Collection, MS1299, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, Va.]