



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**C. A. Burgess receipt book**

1855-1864

MssCol 26968

Processed by Susan P. Waide, 2020

## Summary

**Creator:** Burgess, C. A. (Caleb A.), 1817-1896

**Title:** C. A. Burgess receipt book

**Date:** 1855-1864

**Size:** .21 linear feet (1 volume)

**Source:** Purchase, 2019.

**Abstract:** Caleb Alonzo Burgess (1817-1896) was a commission merchant in New York City from the late 1840s to the late 1870s. By 1880, Burgess had established himself as a capitalist in mining ventures in San Francisco, where he died on May 24, 1896. The C. A. Burgess receipt book, 1855-1864, contains written and pasted receipts acknowledging Burgess's payments, chiefly at New York, to numerous merchants, their agents, and others for commodities such as cotton, raw silk, rice, flour, sugar, cocoa, pork products, and whiskey; services such as cartage, brokerage and storage; and interests in shared ventures. Entries, dated 1855 November-1864 April, include place and date of payment, quantity and type of goods, signature of payee and, occasionally, destination or point of origin, and ship. Locations mentioned include San Francisco, Mobile, New Orleans, and Australia. Transactions from 1860 forward, roughly three-quarters of the volume, pertain mostly to cotton, identifying quantity, cost, and payee. Also found are payments for mining and telegraph stock, City of San Francisco bonds, office rent, and a few personal expenses. The volume, labelled "Receipts No. 3 C.A.B." on its spine, with an interior ownership note "C. A. Burgess No. 3," is interleaved with blotting paper containing pasted items.

**Preferred citation:** C. A. Burgess receipt book, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Language of the Material:** English

**Processing note:** Processed by Susan P. Waide, 2020

## Creator History

Caleb Alonzo Burgess (1817-1896) was a commission merchant in New York City from the late 1840s

to the late 1870s. He was born in Boston, Massachusetts to William Burgess (b. 1777) and Sarah Everett Burgess. In 1835 he left Manhattan, where his widowed mother ran a boarding house, to begin his mercantile career in Mobile, Alabama. During that time he married Harriet L. Proctor (1818-1886). Burgess and his family were living in New York by at least 1847, when he advertised as a merchant in lower Manhattan, his name appearing in New York City directories in following years as a merchant or commission merchant. In 1861 he sat on the Board of Directors of the American Telegraph Company, and was later involved in real estate development in New Rochelle, New York. By 1880, Burgess had established himself in San Francisco, California as a capitalist in mining ventures, where he died on May 24, 1896.

## **Scope and Content Note**

The C. A. Burgess receipt book, 1855-1864, contains written and pasted receipts acknowledging Burgess's payments, chiefly at New York, to numerous merchants, their agents, and others for commodities such as cotton, raw silk, rice, flour, sugar, cocoa, pork products, and whiskey; services such as cartage, brokerage and storage; and interests in shared ventures. Entries, dated 1855 November-1864 April, include place and date of payment, quantity and type of goods, signature of payee and, occasionally, destination or point of origin, and ship. Locations mentioned include San Francisco, Mobile, New Orleans, and Australia. Transactions from 1860 forward, roughly three-quarters of the volume, pertain mostly to cotton, identifying quantity, cost, and payee. Also found are payments for mining and telegraph stock, City of San Francisco bonds, office rent, and a few personal expenses. The volume, labelled "Receipts No. 3 C.A.B." on its spine, with an interior ownership note "C. A. Burgess No. 3," is interleaved with blotting paper containing pasted items.

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Account books  
Receipts (financial records)

### **Subjects**

Commission merchants -- New York (State) -- New York  
Cotton trade -- United States  
Merchants -- New York (State) -- New York

### **Occupations**

Merchants.

### **Geographic Names**

New York (N.Y.) -- Commerce  
United States -- Commerce  
United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Economic aspects

### **Names**

Burgess, C. A. (Caleb A.), 1817-1896