

# **Barr, John Gorman**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit January 29, 2015

English

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of  
Alabama March 2014

Box 870266

Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 35487-0266

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## Table of Contents

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Summary Information .....	3
Biographical/Historical note .....	3
Scope and Contents note .....	4
Administrative Information .....	4
Controlled Access Headings .....	5
Collection Inventory .....	5

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama
<b>Creator:</b>	Barr, John Gorman, 1823-1858
<b>Title:</b>	John Gorman Barr papers
<b>ID:</b>	MSS.0116
<b>Date:</b>	1840-1858
<b>Physical Description:</b>	1.7 Linear feet
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English
<b>Abstract:</b>	Contains correspondence to and from John Gorman Barr, as well as other papers of this University of Alabama student, Tuscaloosa attorney, and United States Consul in Australia, known for his humorous writings.

### Preferred Citation note

John Gorman Barr papers, University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Biographical/Historical note

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John Gorman Barr was born on November 22, 1823, in Milton, North Carolina. His father, Thomas Barr, died in 1826 when Barr was three, and his mother, Mary Jane Gorman Barr, died in 1835, shortly after moving her family to Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Barr was apprenticed to a Tuscaloosa printer, but in 1838, with the help of a local merchant, David M. Boyd, he entered The University of Alabama as a scholarship student. He finished with an AB degree (with a .99 grade point average) in 1841, and with an MA in 1842. He tutored math at the University while privately studying law under Harvey Ellis and was admitted to the bar. He began practicing law in 1845. He also wrote for the Tuscaloosa Observer during this time. He made an unsuccessful bid for the Alabama House of Representatives in 1847. That fall, when the war with Mexico began, Barr lead

a company of Alabama volunteers to fight. He distinguished himself, winning promotion to Lt. Col. of Volunteers. He was afterwards known as Capt. Barr.

When he returned from Mexico, Barr resumed his law practice and became the editor of the Tuscaloosa Observer, also writing for the paper; some of his stories were reprinted in larger newspapers. In October of 1855, one of his stories appeared in the national weekly *The Spirit of the Times*. After that, his stories were published nationally for several years.

In 1857, he ran again for public office, this time for the United States House of Representatives. It was a heated and spiteful race and he eventually withdrew. Barr was an elector for Tuscaloosa in the Presidential election of 1856 and was instrumental in the victory of President James Buchanan. In 1858, Buchanan appointed Barr to serve as the United States Consul in Melbourne, Australia. After making a tour of Europe, he died of sunstroke on May 18, 1858 before reaching Australia. He was buried at sea in the Indian Ocean.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Scope and Contents note

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This collection contains correspondence to and from John Gorman Barr as well as other documents and manuscripts pertaining to his travels on his way through Europe to Australia to take up his post there as the United States Consul. Many of the letters to his sister describe the cities and places along his journey. There are also letters of condolence from J. M. Tarleton of the State Department and other friends to Barr's family after his death from sunstroke on the way to Australia. There are also four speeches and an essay by Barr when he was a student at The University of Alabama, and two newspaper clippings concerning him.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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Box 870266  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama, 35487-0266  
205.348.0500  
[archives@ua.edu](mailto:archives@ua.edu)

## Revision Description

Amended by April Burnett September 2014

## Provenance

Gift of J. William Sherar, 1982

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

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## Controlled Access Headings

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- Barr, John Gorman, 1823-1858
- Alabama--Authors
- Clippings (information artifacts)
- Daily Life and Family
- England
- Legal documents
- Letters (correspondence)
- Mexican War, 1846-1848
- Speeches
- Travel
- Tuscaloosa (Ala.)
- University of Alabama

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## Collection Inventory

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Title/Description	Instances
Outgoing correspondence from John Barr to his sister, 1848, 1857-1858 <u>Date:</u> 1848, 1857-1858	Box 2548      Folder 1
Letter from John G. Barr, Veracruz, Mexico, to Margarett Barr, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, January 17, 1848 <u>Digital Object:</u> <a href="#">u0003_0000116_0000001</a>	
Letter from John G. Barr, Washington, D. C., to Margarett Barr Gooch, Double Springs, Alabama, January 2, 1857 <u>Digital Object:</u> <a href="#">u0003_0000116_0000002</a>	
Letter from John G. Barr, Montgomery, Alabama, to Margarett Barr Gooch, Double Springs, Alabama, November 29, 1857	

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000003](#)

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Letter from John G. Barr, Washington, D. C., to Margarette Barr Gooch, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, January 17, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000004](#)

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Letter from John G. Barr, Washington, D. C., to Margarette Barr Gooch, Double Springs, Alabama, February 18, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000005](#)

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Letter from John G. Barr, New York, New York, to Margarette Barr Gooch, Double Springs, Alabama, February 25, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000006](#)

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Letter from John G. Barr, New York, New York, to Margarette Barr Gooch, Double Springs, Alabama, February 27, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000007](#)

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Letter from John G. Barr, on board steamship Africa, to Margarette Barr Gooch, Double Springs, Alabama, March 3, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000008](#)

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Letter from John G. Barr, Liverpool, England, to Margarette Barr Gooch, Double Springs, Alabama, March 15, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000009](#)

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Letter from John G. Barr, London, England, to Margarette Barr Gooch, Double Springs, Alabama, March 21, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000010](#)

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Letter from John G. Barr, London, England, to Margarette Barr Gooch, Double Springs, Alabama, March 27, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000011](#)

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Letter from John G. Barr, London, England, to Margarette Barr Gooch, March 28, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000012](#)

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Letter from John G. Barr, Paris, France, to Margarette Barr Gooch, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, March 31, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000013](#)

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Letter from John G. Barr, Paris, France, to Margarette Barr Gooch, Double Springs, Alabama, April 13, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000014](#)

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Letter from John G. Barr, Malta, to Margarette Barr Gooch, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, April 21, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000015](#)

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Outgoing correspondence from John Barr to others, 1858 February

Box 2548

Folder 2

Date: 1858 February

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Letter from John G. Barr, U. S. Consulate, Melbourne, Australia,  
to Mr. J. W. Saymich, St. Louis, Missouri, February 22, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000016](#)

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Letter from John G. Barr, U. S. Consulate, Melbourne, Australia,  
to Lewis Cass, Secretary of State, February 25, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000017](#)

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Letter from John G. Barr, U. S. Consulate, Melbourne, Australia,  
to Howell Cobb, Secretary of Treasury, Washington, D. C.,  
February 26, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000018](#)

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Incoming correspondence to John Barr, 1850, 1858

Box 2548

Folder 3

Date: 1850, 1858

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Letter from W. Garrett, Montgomery, Alabama, to John G. Barr,  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama, January 17, 1850

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000019](#)

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Letter from William Webster, Washington, D. C., to John G. Barr,  
Melbourne, Australia, February 23, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000020](#)

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Letter from S. Casey, Treasurer of the United States, to John G.  
Barr, Consul, February 25, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000021](#)

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Correspondence on the death of John Barr, 1858

Box 2548

Folder 4

Date: 1858

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Letter from James M. Tarleton, U. S. Consul, Melbourne,  
Australia, June 15, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000022](#)

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Letter from James M. Tarleton, U. S. Consul, Melbourne,  
Australia, to relatives of late Captain J. G. Barr, Tuscaloosa,  
Alabama, September 21, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000023](#)

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Letter from John F. Warren, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to Mrs. A. G.  
Gooch, September 8, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000024](#)

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Financial and legal documents, 1848-1858

Box 2548

Folder 5

Date: 1848-1858

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Power of attorney by Stephen F. and Harriet T. Miller to Albert G.  
Gooch, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama, February 25, 1848

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000025](#)

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Invoice from Joseph Last, London, England, to John G. Barr,  
March 22, 1852

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000026](#)

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Bond signed by John Gorman Barr, Felix Tait, and Thomas E.  
Irby, January 28, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000027](#)

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Receipt for payment from John G. Barr, Melbourne, Australia, to  
Washington Union, Washington, D. C., February 22, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000028](#)

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Financial report of M. McConnel, Auditor, Treasury Department,  
September 6, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000029](#)

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Statement of account of John G. Barr with Margaret Gooch,  
December 2, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000030](#)

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Speeches, essay, and poem by John Barr, 1840-1842

Box 2548

Folder 6

Date: 1840-1842

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On the Inquisition, John G. Barr, 1840

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000031](#)

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Fellow members of the Philomathic Society, John G. Barr, 1841

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000032](#)

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Character of Pitt: Relative conditions of France and England at the  
time of the French Revolution with a disquisition on the character  
of Pitt, John G. Barr, July 7, 1841

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000033](#)

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Pro Virtute et Patria: Two most prominent Evils in our Country,  
John G. Barr, September 5, 1841

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000034](#)

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Science and Nature, handmaids of Revealed Truth, John G. Barr,  
December 4, 1842

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000035](#)

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Tired of reading, tired of writing, John G. Barr, circa 1840

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000036](#)

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Newspaper clippings concerning John Barr, 1858

Box 2548

Folder 7

Date: 1858

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Appointment of Col. Jno. G. Barr, 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000037](#)

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Death of Col. Barr; Tribute of Respect, 1858



Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000038](#)

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Miscellaneous, circa 1858

Box 2548

Folder 8

Date: circa 1858

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Personal description of R. V. B. Shankland, circa 1858

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000039](#)

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Mailler, Lord, and Quereau, New York, Lord and Company,  
Melbourne, Australia, Shipping and Commission Merchants

Digital Object: [u0003\\_0000116\\_0000040](#)

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Envelopes

Box 2548

Folder 9

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Miscellaneous photocopies

Box 2548

Folder 10

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Photocopies (contains one folder with copies of the first 8 folders)

Box 2548

Folder 11

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Photocopies (contains one folder with the second copy of the first 8 folders)

Box 2548

Folder 12

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Copies of newspaper clippings

Box 2417