Burr, Charles, U.C.?
Pearson tells of his romantic background as the insane and neglected son of a wealthy British citizen of Washington County. Notes his inheritance of large fortune, marriage to a "fashion widow" and the building of Saratoga's most fashionable "palace" by him in 1856... Pearson Diaries V. 5
Col. Charles Burr died at his residence in this village, on Tuesday evening, the 7th inst.—The Daily Saratogian, August 9, 1860.

The funeral of Charles Burr, Esq., will take place from his late residence on Broadway this (Friday) afternoon, at 4 o'clock.—Daily Saratogian, August 16, 1860.
A correspondent of the New York Times, dating from Saratoga, writes that paper as below:

There is a good deal of conversation about town in regard to the personal affairs of a gentleman well known in this neighborhood, who has recently disappeared, under circumstances calculated to elicit comment, if nothing more—Mr. Charles Burr. Visitors at the Springs may have seen him, as he was in the habit of wandering about the hotels and discussing theology, and kindred topics with everybody who would listen to him. His father was Jonathan Burr, of Sandy Hill, an eccentric, intemperate man of harsh temper and large wealth. His wife, who was of a distinguished family, lost several children before her own death. Mr. Burr married again, and his second wife died soon after, leaving Charles, an infant. He was sent to Union College but soon after, for some reason or other, he was turned out of doors by his father, who would never lift a finger to help him, or even recognize him afterwards. Not being a person of great energy or character, this abandonment completely ruined him, and he fell into dissolute habits and became occasionally and partially insane. He obtained a precarious livelihood by peddling about the streets, and continued this for a number of years, until the death of his father, not long since, at an advanced age, left him sole heir to an immense estate, consisting of several hundred thousand dollars. By his consent, the Court appointed guardians for him, making Hon. J. Cramer (Union 1801) trustee of his property, and B.F. Hoag of his person—Col. Burr, as he was generally called, being authorized to draw liberally on the estate for his support. For several years he has employed a man named Darwin Cole to travel with and take care of him, paying him the liberal sum of $2,500 a year, and making a very handsome provision for him in his will.

Within a few weeks past, a story has been current, that the Colonel was engaged to be married to a widow lady of great personal attractions, half his own age, and well known in the fashionable circles of Saratoga. Of the facts of this matter, of course I cannot speak with any certainty; but it seems agreed that his next of kin, at all events, believed the rumor to be true. Several weeks since, Col. Burr gave up his rooms at the American, saying that he should be absent only a few days. He went away with Cole, and although the latter has frequently been heard from, no tidings whatever of the whereabouts of Burr
can be obtained. I understand that his misfortunes and his character have made for him many influential and devoted friends, among whom are Chancellor Walworth, Judge Bockes, Ald. Peters of New York, Judge Willard, his counsel Messrs. Cramer and Hoag, his trustees, and others, and that none of them can learn anything of his whereabouts, altho' they have made very diligent inquiry. Rumors of all sorts are current on the subject—some that he has been seen in various cities of the United States; others that he is to be clandestinely taken to Europe, etc., all of course implying that there is a conspiracy to retain possession of him for the sake of controlling his property. He is somewhat advanced in years, infirm in health, and at least eccentric in habits—all of which circumstances naturally encourage such rumors.

If there is any ground for such suspicion, the parties to it would do well to bear in mind, that the dangers it involves are at least equal to the stake for which they are playing. Still, the whole thing may prove to be unfounded, though nothing but Burr's return will put an end to the rumors that are now current in this vicinity.

FROM:– Daily Saratogian
July 6, 1855.

Mr. Charles Burr, whose mysterious disappearance has been chronicled by the papers, is, if confidence can be reposed in the statements of Mr. Cole, his personal protector, in New York City—that gentleman having so assured the editor of the New York Times on Friday last. But there are those whose minds are still perplexed with doubts upon the subject, and such will not be satisfied that Mr. Burr is enjoying his personal freedom unless he allows himself to be seen about his favorite haunts.

FROM:– Daily Saratogian
July 9, 1855.
MARRIED:—At the residence of John R. Peters, Esq., in this village, on the 18th inst., by the Rev. Mr. Kidney, Mr. Charles Burr, to Mrs. Mary S. Beach, daughter of the late Hon. Samuel Young.

The ceremony took place, we are informed about 11 o'clock, A.M., yesterday. The company were very select. Shortly afterward the bridal party left in a carriage for Lansingburgh, from which place, we understand, they will proceed to New York and the sea-shore.

Thus ends the troubled history of the last three weeks. The Colonel, if he has not outwitted, has at least outdone, all his adversaries. He has won a prize of which he may well be proud, and his happy bride, to say nothing of the Colonel himself, has secured a purse which the most favored might envy. "Let those laugh who win" long life to the wedded pair.

FROM:—Daily Saratogan
July 19, 1855.

MARRIED:—On the 18th July, 1855, 12 o'clock, M., at the summer residence of John R. Peters, Esq., Saratoga Springs, by the Rev. Mr. Kidney, Rector of Bethesda Church, Mr. Charles Burr, sole surviving heir to the large estate of his late father, Jonathan Burr, to Mrs. Mary S. Beach, daughter of the late Governor Samuel Young.

This match appears to be highly approved by the numerous friends of these well known parties. The contemporaries of Mr. Burr who remember his poverty and long suffering from the unnatural persecution of his parents and the neglect of some of his other kindred, rejoice in his late prosperity, and to learn that he has married a substantial lady in the prime of life, of a disposition and capacity to smooth his path in the downward hill of life, to take good care of him and his dependent kindred, and also to aid him in his liberal view in the disposition of the large estate which has fallen to him thus late in life.

FROM:—Schenectady Reflector
July 27, 1855.
Mary S. Beach was the daughter of Col. Samuel Young and Mary Gibson. She married (1) John Beach; (2) Charles Burr.

FROM: History of Saratoga Co., N.Y.
    p. 142
CHARLES BURR

Married, on the 23d inst. at Saratoga Spa, Mr. Charles Burr to Mrs. Mary Beach, daughter of the late Hon. Samuel Young.

Charley Burr, as he is known by most of our long resident citizens, was the son of a very wealthy father. That father died in the early part of November, 1844, worth, according to the judgment of the appraisers, $130,000. "Charley" was an only child, and hence it would be, without the intervention of a will, his only heir.

The son was of a strange cast of mind. Some cause had shaken his intellect, and made him at times "put strange antics on," and yet those who knew him best, and especially those who imagined the cause, never doubted his sanity. His father treated him with disdain and contumely, contributted in no wise to his support, refused intercourse with him, and denied him the shelter of his roof. Burr for many years was thus an outcast. He lived upon the cold charities of the world, gathering at times a starving subsistence by peddling books. Some few humble citizens of Albany, to whom he attached himself, gave him at times bread and shelter. All this while lived in this vicinage, several collateral relatives of the father and his heir-at-law, in the absence or case of disfranchisement of the son. That the father would utterly disinherit the son no one ever doubted. Those relatives were all rich, and yet poor Charley Burr eked out an existence for years by peddling books at their door. He was recognized only as a repulsive mendicant in the streets.

At length the father died, with his coffers of wealth filled full about him. His relatives knew, and every one supposed, that he had left a will. But the search even of avarice and of most bitter chagrin, could not find any. Charley Burr, the beggar, was by law, and the fortune of his father's sudden death, the possessor of a world of wealth. His relatives and new-born friends forthwith declared him insane, and with a kindly motive of saving his property from waste, applied for a commission of lunacy. The application was made to the Chancellor on the 16th November, 1844, and upon the petition of a relative residing in this city. No one doubts what would have been the result had Burr resisted it; but he, for some inducement or reason, consented to a decree that his property might be secured from the reach of casualty, and a man servant was selected to wait upon his outgoings and incomings. John Cramer was appointed the committee of his estate, and Benjamin F. Hoag the committee of his person. From that period down, the dockets of the Court abound with applications for divers purposes. A clerk was appointed to keep accounts; solicitor's fees were audited; the salaries of the clerk and servant were increased from time to time; books and furniture were authorized to be given Burr, &c.

By the terms of the decree of insanity, Burr could not by will or otherwise dispose of his property. It was shut up within the keeping of chancery and his committee, to descend at his death, to
his legal heirs. But in the early part of 1847, he made application for a modification of the decree in this respect, so that he could dispose of his property. This application was supported by the testimony of physicians and other reputable witnesses, as to his sanity, and on the 28th of May, 1847, chancery yielded to the pressure of truth and justice, and thus modified the decree. So that from that time, Burr was the absolute and unrestrained owner of his immense estate. His "keeper" has been retained about him from prudential motives, and he has enjoyed the full fruition of his wealth.

The sequel to this "strange, eventful story," is written above. No one living ever dreamed that Charley Burr would marry. And yet he had, and, as the story runs, has made a marriage settlement of half his wealth upon his wife. And more than all is the startling fact to some, that if he shall have issue of this marriage the large balance of his wealth will go in a direction most totally adverse to his father's purposes and others' long awaiting hopes. — State Police Tribune.

Prof. Pearson's Scrap Book p. 411

CHARLES BURR, 1809, a resident of Lansingburgh, N.Y., was a member of the Philomathean Society.

Philomathean Catalogue 1830.
Mr. Joseph R. Brown  
27 West Erie Street,  
Albany, N. Y.

Dear Joe:

I enclose copy of the letter about Jonathan Burr which I was telling you about on Saturday. The reason that I am interested in Jonathan is that some sixty years ago my mother bought some old Sheraton chairs which at one time had belonged to Jonathan Burr. She paid only $44 for them and passed them along to me when I was married. They are now in the American Wing of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and I got $1200 for them. As at one time you were interested in securities, I will finish the story briefly by saying that in the palmy days of the 20's we built the $1200 up to about $4400, which has now dropped back to near the original $4400.

Very truly,

Frederick B. Richards - Class 1888

Jonathan Burr was father of Charles Burr, 1809.
COPY

12 Hudson Place, Hudson Falls, N.Y.
April 23, 1941.

Dear Mr. Richards:

After another trip to the Clerk's office I have more information about the Woodworth's place. Mr. Smith insisted on helping and went from one book to another so fast that I have only notes, but hope some day to read them (deeds, mortgages, etc.) more thoroughly. I asked to look at Dr. Pashley's deed but that went back to Woodworth only. We then found Mrs. W. was Julia Ann Brownell. In 1845 a deed was recorded showing the land at corner S/8 A. deeded by Cornbury Carpenter and wife to Julia Ann Brownell. Phoebe Lane deeded it to Cornbury Carpenter. Mortgage, Phoebe Lane to Stephen Lee, 1815 recorded 1818. I think there is a reference to Baker ownership but I haven't traced it.

Nothing to show that Jonathan Burr owned or had interest in it. As there are records showing Jonathan and wife Sarah lived in Lansingburg in 1855, the records of 1856 show he was of Kingsbury. No mention of wife in 1856 so she had probably died. I feel Mrs. Burr may have been related or that Burrs and Woodworths were friends and he boarded with them. There are many Woodworths in both Lansingburg and local history. Some Revolutionary soldiers. Brownell one of early settlers. There is no Jonathan Burr will recorded.

Sincerely,

Evelyn F. Cronkhite

[Handwritten note: Have asked Mrs. C. if she knows anything about Charles or Jerry Burr]