

Guide to the Mary Jane Means Adams Family Papers, 1846-1956

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Mary Jane Means Adams Family Papers, 1846-1956

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

2019.070

Author of Finding Aid:

Korrena Cowing

Creator:

Adams family

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

2 boxes and 1 photograph album ; 0.84 linear feet

Abstract:

The Mary Jane Means Adams Family Papers consist of family correspondence, genealogy, diaries, newspaper clippings, a scrapbook, and family photographs from 1846 to 1956. The materials in this collection are from Nancy Ellis Means; Mary Jane (Means) Adams; her son, Frederic Adams Jr.; his wife, Ella King Adams; and their children, Rebecca Appleton Adams and Frederic A. Adams.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Mary Jane Means Adams Family Papers were a gift of Joanna Skinger Hall on December 7, 2019.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by NEDCC and finalized by Korrena Cowing in February 2020. The finding aid was written by Korrena Cowing in February 2020. This finding aid follows the standards set-forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special technical requirements for use. The scrapbook and photograph album are very fragile and should be used with supervision from the librarian on duty.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Mary Jane Means Adams Papers, 2019.070. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Mary Jane Means Adams was born in Amherst, NH, on January 11, 1819 to David McGregor and Catharine Means. She married Reverend Frederic Adams (1807-1888) on October 23, 1839 in Amherst, NH, and together they had three daughters who died young, and a son, Frederic (1840-1923). They moved to Byfield, MA, in 1840, where he became Principal of Dummer Academy. They remained there until 1847, after which he took charge of a day and boarding school for young ladies in Orange, NJ; then became Principal of the Newark Academy in Newark, NJ; and finally, a teacher at a private school for boys in Orange. Mary Jane died in Orange, NJ, on March 28, 1882.

Frederic Adams Jr. was born in Amherst, NH, on October 9, 1840. He graduated from Phillips Academy in Andover, MA, in 1858 and then from Yale in 1862. He went on to study at Harvard Law School from 1863 to 1864. Frederic was admitted to the New York Bar in 1864, then as

attorney at the New Jersey Bar in 1868, and as Councilor in 1873. He practiced law in Newark, NJ, before becoming the Judge of the Court of Errors and Appeals from 1897 to 1903 and Circuit Court Judge for three terms from 1903 until his retirement in 1919.

Frederic Adams Jr. married Ella (1848-1896), daughter of John Stearns King and Martha Messer, on October 27, 1870, and together they had five children: Constance (1874-1960), John K. (1878-), Ellis (1880-1956), Rebecca (1881-), and Frederic A. (1889-1973). Ella died on November 14, 1896 at Summit, NJ. Frederic married second the niece of his first wife, also named Ella (1876-1939), daughter of Morris K. King and Julia Goddard. Together they had a daughter: Nancy (1905-). He died in Hollywood, CA, on July 24, 1923.

Constance married Cecil B. DeMille (1881-1959), of film fame, on August 16, 1902; John K. married Blanche E. Woodruff; Ellis married Margaret Potter; and Frederic A. married Miriam Washburn.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Mary Jane Means Adams Family Papers consist primarily of family correspondence, but also includes genealogy, diaries, newspaper clippings, a scrapbook, and family photographs. The materials in this collection date from 1846 to 1956, with the bulk of materials dating from about 1881 to 1918. While other family members are represented, the majority of the materials are from Mary Jane (Means) Adams; her son, Frederic Adams Jr.; his wife, Ella King Adams; and their children, Rebecca Appleton Adams and Frederic A. Adams. Also included is correspondence to and from Aunt Nancy Ellis Means.

The correspondence in this collection is mostly between the family members listed above and details their daily lives. Frederic Adams Jr.'s correspondence includes two folders of letters detailing his European travels in 1911, which he wrote back to his children, Rebecca, Frederic, Constance, and John. Other materials include a memoir written by Mary Jane Means Adams after the death of her daughter, Emily M. Adams, in which she writes the memories she has of Emily; a travel diary of Rebecca Adams during her tour of England in 1897; and a volume titled, "An Account of My Personal Experiences during the Great War" by Frederic A. Adams, which details his time serving in World War I, from training camp to France with the 148th Field Artillery.

The newspaper clippings consist of articles on and obituaries for a number of Means and Adams family members from 1861 to 1923. The scrapbook in this collection is in fragile condition and includes programs, clippings, and lecture notices predominately for Frederic Adams, but also includes materials for other family members, including an obituary for Ella King Adams in 1896.

The majority of family photographs are undated and include images of family members and houses. An undated photograph album containing carte-de-visite portraits of identified and unidentified family members is also included. One portrait in the album is of President Franklin Pierce. Franklin Pierce married Jane Means (Appleton) Pierce, a relative of Mary Jane (Means) Adams.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are organized into folders by family member. Family genealogy is at the beginning of the collection, and materials from miscellaneous family members is at the end. The identified family members' folders are organized by their relationship to Mary Jane Means Adams.

Contents List**Box 1**

- Folder 1 Genealogical information, 1888-1953
- Folder 2 Nancy Ellis Means (1819-1902) correspondence, 1859-1890
- Folder 3 Nancy Ellis Means (1819-1902) correspondence and in memoriam, 1894-1903, undated
- Folder 4 Mary Jane Means Adams (1811-1882) correspondence, 1850-1859, undated
- Folder 5 Mary Jane Means Adams (1811-1882), *Memoir of Emily M. Adams*, 1849
- Folder 6 Frederic Adams Jr. (1840-1923) correspondence and writings, 1846-1881
- Folder 7 Frederic Adams Jr. (1840-1923) correspondence and writings, 1890-1916, undated
- Folder 8 Frederic Adams Jr. (1840-1923) correspondence: European tour, 1911 June 19-July 30
- Folder 9 Frederic Adams Jr. (1840-1923) correspondence: European tour, 1911 August 2-September 2
- Folder 10 Ella King Adams (1848-1896) correspondence, 1887, undated
- Folder 11 Rebecca Appleton Adams (1881-1957) correspondence, 1887-1888, 1956
- Folder 12 Rebecca Appleton Adams (1881-1957) diary: trip to England, 1897
- Folder 13 Frederic A. Adams (1889-1973), *An Account of My Personal Experiences During the Great War*, 1917-1918
- Folder 14 Family correspondence and papers, 1847-1863, 1896
- Folder 15 Newspaper clippings, 1861-1923, undated

Box 2

- Folder 1 Unidentified diary, 1905
- Folder 2 Scrapbook, 1867, 1884-1896
- Folders 3-7 Family photographs, 1896-1936, undated

- Volume 1 Family photograph album, undated

Subject Terms**People:**

- Adams family
- Adams, Ella King, 1848-1896
- Adams, Emily M., 1843-1849
- Adams, Frederic A., 1889-1973
- Adams, Frederic Augustus, 1807-1888
- Adams, Frederic, 1840-1923

Adams, Mary Jane Means, 1811-1882
Adams, Rebecca Appleton, 1881-1957
Means family
Means, Nancy Ellis, 1819-1902
Pierce, Franklin, 1804-1869

Organizations:

Phillips Academy
United States. Army. Field Artillery Regiment, 148th
Yale College (1718-1887)

Subjects:

Correspondence
Diaries
Genealogy
Memorials
Military service
Portrait photography
Scrapbooks
Travel
World War, 1914-1918

Locations:

Amherst, NH
Andover, MA
England
France
Italy
New Haven, CT
Orange, NJ

Occupations:

Soldiers

Related Materials

Library

Means, Anne M. *Amherst and Our Family Tree*. Boston: Privately Printed, 1921. Call number:
929.2 M483