

Guide to the Arlon S. Atherton Papers, 1861-1922, bulk 1861-1865

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Arlon S. Atherton Papers, 1861-1922, bulk 1861-1865

Repository:

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

Collection Numbers:

1964.020, 2010.052, 2010.068, 2011.019, 2011.020, 2011.021, 2011.022, 2011.023, 2011.041,
2011.058

Author of Finding Aid:

Stephen Leavenworth; rewritten and formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler

Creator:

Atherton, Arlon S., 1842-1922

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box ; 0.21 linear feet

Abstract:

Papers, 1861-1922, of Arlon S. Atherton include letters, diaries, newspaper excerpts, and other official documents related to Atherton's service with the 3rd New Hampshire Volunteers during the United States Civil War.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The 1964.020 accession was a gift of Mrs. Albert LeBlanc in 1964. The remaining accessions were purchased in 2010 and 2011 from Raynor's Historical Collectible Auctions.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Stephen Leavenworth at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by Stephen Leavenworth at an unknown date and was rewritten and formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler in March 2014. 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.

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, Arlon S. Atherton Papers, 1964.020. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Arlon S. Atherton was born in Richmond, NH, on April 4, 1842, the son of Alvan Atherton and Mary Ann Stearns. He enlisted at Keene, NH, on August 14, 1861 into the 3rd New Hampshire Volunteers as a private in the Civil War. On July 7, 1864 he was appointed a 2nd Lieutenant. Atherton was severely wounded at Deep Bottom Run, VA, in August of 1864, following which he was captured and imprisoned at Libby Prison in Richmond, VA. He was paroled in September, promoted to 1st Lieutenant in November, promoted to Captain in May 1865, and mustered out on July 20, 1865.

After the war, on December 25, 1865 at Warwick, MA, he married the woman to whom the letters in this collection were written: Susan (Susie) M. Caldwell, of Charlestown, MA. She was born July 31, 1845, at Charlestown, MA, daughter of John B. and Susan Ann (Fisher) Caldwell. Arlon and Susan had three children:

Arlon Edward b. June 3, 1868 at Warwick, MA
Annabel Susan b. March 29, 1873 at Warwick, MA
Mary Grace b. February 27, 1875 at Wakefield, MA; d. March 18, 1900 at Wakefield

Arlon established a grocery business in Warwick, MA. He died there on December 16, 1922.
Susan died June 5, 1925 at Cambridge, MA.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Arlon S. Atherton Papers, 1861-1922, consist mainly of correspondence and diaries related to Atherton's service with the 3rd New Hampshire Volunteers during the Civil War. The diary dated June 16, 1862 to February 16, 1863 also includes a list of letters he wrote and a list of the items of clothing he was issued. The letters are generally from Atherton to his wife-to-be, Susan M. Caldwell, of Charlestown, MA. The collection also contains a post-war account of his imprisonment at Libby Prison, Richmond, VA. Other materials include miscellaneous newspaper clippings detailing the lives of Atherton and his wife, military documents, and a sketch of the Charleston, SC, area.

Arrangement:

The material is arranged chronologically within categories.

Contents List

Box 1

- Envelope 1 Diary, 1861 August 13-1863 May 22
- Envelope 2 Diary, 1862 June 16-1863 February 16
- Envelope 3 Diary, 1863 March 31-December 31
- Folder 1 Letters to Susie [Susan M. Caldwell], 1863
- Folder 2 Letters to Susie, 1864
- Folders 3-5 Letters to Susie, 1865
- Folder 6 Excerpts from *Wakefield Newspaper* [MA] and excerpts from *Ayling's Register of NH Soldiers of the Civil War*, 1922
- Folder 7 Post-war account of his imprisonment, undated
- Folder 8 Official documents, 1862-1912
- Folder 9 Biography; miscellaneous newspaper clippings; pencil sketch of the battleground at Morris Island, Charleston, SC, 1863, undated

Separated Materials:

The following items have been moved to Drawer 58 due to their size:

Appointment of Arlon S. Atherton as Corporal in Company I of the Third Regiment of Volunteers, 1862 August 4

Appointment of Arlon S. Atherton as Sergeant in Company I of the Third Regiment of Volunteers, 1863 September 22

Appointment of Arlon S. Atherton as 1st Sergeant in Company I of the Third Regiment of Volunteers, 1864 July 6

Appointment of Arlon S. Atherton as Second Lieutenant in Company E of the Third Regiment of Volunteers, 1864 July 7

Muster-In Roll of Arlon S. Atherton 2nd Lieutenant, 3rd N.H. Vols, 1864 July 12

Appointment of Arlon S. Atherton as First Lieutenant in Company G of the Third Regiment of Volunteers, 1864 November 9

Muster-Out Roll of Arlon S. Atherton 2nd Lieutenant, 3rd N.H. Vols., 1865 March 31

Appointment of Arlon S. Atherton as Captain of I Company in the Third Regiment of Volunteers, 1865 May 15

Subject Terms

People:

Atherton, Arlon S., 1842-1922

Atherton, Susan M. (Caldwell), 1845-1925

Organizations:

Libby Prison

United States. Army. New Hampshire Infantry Regiment, 3rd (1861-1865)

Subjects:

Correspondence

Diaries

Military service

Prisoners of war

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

Locations:

Charlestown, MA

Richmond, VA

Wakefield, MA

Occupations:

Soldiers