



Guide to the Augustus D. Ayling Papers, 1866-1910

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Augustus D. Ayling Papers, 1866-1910

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

<https://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

1971.028

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; rewritten and reformatted by Sandra L. Wheeler

Creator:

Ayling, Augustus D., 1840-1918

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

2 boxes ; 0.83 linear feet

Abstract:

Augustus Ayling (1840-1918) traveled throughout New England as a salesman between 1867 and 1868; his pocket diaries record the places he stayed and people with whom he interacted. He was appointed Adjutant General of New Hampshire in 1879 and served until 1907, during which time he saved invitations he received for his work.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Augustus D. Ayling Papers were a gift of the Cape Cod Museum of History and Art in May 1971. In 1995, the invitations in this collection were given the accession number S 1995.511 and were moved to the Ephemera Collection. On March 24, 2017, the invitations were removed from the Ephemera Collection and returned to the Augustus D. Ayling Papers. A photograph album, deconstructed at an unknown date, was returned to the collection on April 18, 2018.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date, and was rewritten and reformatted by Sandra L. Wheeler in April 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, Augustus D. Ayling Papers, 1971.028. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information

Augustus D. Ayling was born in Boston, MA, on July 28, 1840, son of William L. and Margaret C. (Hurley) Ayling. He served in the Civil War from Massachusetts with the 7th Massachusetts Battery, the 29th Massachusetts Volunteers, and the 24th Massachusetts Regiment. Following the war, he was employed as a traveling salesman for H. P. Hall & Co. of Nashua, NH, who was a manufacturer of a hair renewer. His pocket diaries, kept between 1867 and 1868, describe this experience. He travelled with his own horses and wagon in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont, picking up supplies at railroad depots and calling on newspapers and drug stores.

On 22 December 1869, he married Elizabeth F. Cornish, daughter of John F. and Elizabeth B. (Stevens) Cornish, born at Barnstable, MA, on March 19, 1850. They had two children: Edith C. born at Barnstable on April 28, 1871, and Charles L. born January 26, 1875 at Townsend, MA. During the 1870s, Ayling was a clerk to Charles A. Gillis, owner of R. P. Hall & Co. in Nashua. Ayling was very active in Nashua affairs, holding town offices and rising in the National Guard. In 1879, he was appointed Adjutant General of New Hampshire and held this office until 1907, when he retired to Centerville, MA. He compiled the *Revised Register of Soldiers and Sailors of NH in the War of the Rebellion*, published in 1895. Augustus D. Ayling died at Centerville on January 9, 1918. Elizabeth died there on August 11, 1939.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Augustus D. Ayling Papers, 1866-1910, are chiefly comprised of invitations to various events received while Ayling was adjutant general of New Hampshire. These invitations request his presence at events sponsored by military organizations; inaugurations of governors; dedications of statues, buildings, and memorials; commencements from schools and colleges; and other public functions in and out of New Hampshire. This collection also contains two diaries (two volumes, pocket size, 1867-1868), which describe Ayling's business travels through New England and parts of New York while he was a traveling salesman for R. P. Hall & Co. The diaries give the names of, and comments on, the hotels where he stayed, the people he met, and his evening pastimes. One of the diaries includes accounts of Ayling's courtship with his future wife.

There is also correspondence with George M. Rossman concerning the testimonial dinner given upon Ayling's retirement, as well as a photograph album, disbound at an unknown date, containing images primarily of Concord, NH, between 1879 and 1904. The images include military parades and camps, the adjutant general's office, Ayling's house and street, church, and travel photographs to various locations in New Hampshire and Cape Cod.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are organized into folders by type.

Contents List

Box 1

Envelope 1	Diary, 1867
Envelope 2	Diary, 1868
Folder 3	Invitations, 1866, 1879
Folder 4	Invitations, 1881-1882
Folder 5	Invitations, 1883-1885
Folder 6	Invitations, 1886-1887
Folder 7	Invitations, 1888-1889
Folder 8	Invitations to the Centennial Celebration of Washington's Inauguration, 1889 April 30-May 1
Folder 9	Invitations, 1890-1891
Folder 10	Invitations, 1892-1895
Folder 11	Invitations, 1896-1897

Folder 12 Invitations, 1898-1899

Box 2

Folder 1 Invitations, 1900-1901
Folder 2 Invitations, 1902
Folders 3-4 Invitations, 1903
Folder 5 Invitations, 1904
Folder 6 Invitations, 1905
Folder 7 Invitations, 1906
Folder 8 Invitations, 1907-1910
Folder 9 Invitations, undated
Folders 10-13 Correspondence, 1906-1907
Folder 14 Daniel C. Roberts poem, 1907
Folders 15-16 Photograph album, 1879-1904

Separated Materials:

A watercolor by Daniel C. Roberts in Box 2, Folder 14 has been removed to the museum. See museum accession 1971.028.25.

Subject Terms

People:

Ayling, Augustus D., 1840-1918
Bachelder, N. J. (Nahum Josiah), 1854-1934
Eddy, Mary Baker, 1821-1910
Floyd, Charles M., 1861-1923
Harrison, Benjamin, 1833-1901
Jones, Frank, 1832-1902
Jordan, Chester B. (Chester Bradley), 1839-1914
McLane, John, 1852-1911
Nesmith, George W., 1800-1890
Page, Calvin
Roby, Luther A.
Rollins, Frank W. (Frank West), 1860-1915
Roosevelt, Theodore, 1858-1919
Rossman, George M.

Organizations:

Granite State Fire Insurance Company
Holderness School
New Hampshire. Adjutant-General's Office
New Hampshire (Battleship)
New Hampshire College
New Hampshire State Library
R. P. Hall & Co.

Subjects:

Diaries

Invitation cards
Photograph albums
Ships

Locations:

Concord, NH
Nashua, NH
Newport, NH
Portsmouth, NH

Occupations:

Military administration
Traveling sales personnel

Related Materials

Archives

Bion Brown Papers, 1976.004 (m)
Company A, 1st Regiment New Hampshire National Guard record book, 2018.054

Library

Ayling, Augustus D., and Harry P. Hammond. *Revised Register of the Soldiers and Sailors of New Hampshire in the War of the Rebellion*. Concord, N.H.: Published by authority of the legislature by Augustus D. Ayling, Adjutant General, Ira C. Evans, Public Printer, 1895.
Call number: 973.7478 Ar

Museum

Banner, 1971.028.04
Painting, 1971.028.25
Picture, Ayling, Augustus D., 1971.028.05
Plate, Engraving, 1971.028.24.1-.2
Watch, Pocket, 1995.596.01