



## Guide to the Ayres-Givens Family Papers, 1869-1973

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Ayres-Givens Family Papers, 1869-1973

**Repository:**

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

**Collection Number:**

2002.032

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Unidentified; reformatted by Nancy J. Keane

**Creator:**

Ayres Family

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

9 boxes, approximately 1,000 items ; 2.3 linear feet

**Abstract:**

The Ayres-Givens Family Papers mainly consists of personal and family correspondence of Philip W. Ayres (1861-1945), conservationist and first forester of the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests. Included are many letters not only from Ayres but from his wife, Alice Stanley Taylor (1866-1933), whom he married in 1899. Also included is correspondence to and from their two children, Ruth Wheelock Ayres Givens (1901-1989) and Dwight Taylor Ayres (1907-1986). The collection also includes some photographs, memorabilia, and newspaper articles.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

When the Franconia property passed out of the family about 1990, Ruth Ayres Givens' son, Richard Ayres Givens, sold the contents—including these family papers—at auction. The New Hampshire Historical Society purchased these papers and transferred a few items, which seemed official in nature, to the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests in 2001.

### **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 reformatted by Nancy J. Keane 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.

### **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, Ayres-Givens Family Papers, 2002.032. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information:**

Philip Wheelock Ayres, son of Elias and Sarah Ardelia (Wheelock) Ayres, was born on May 26, 1861 at Winterset, Iowa.

At Newton, MA, on August 8, 1899, Philip married Alice Stanley Taylor. The daughter of Timothy D. and Mary M. (Kenrick) Taylor, Alice was born at Newton on October 3, 1866. Philip and Alice had two children: Ruth Wheelock Ayres Givens (1901-1989) born in Waltham, and Dwight Taylor Ayres (1907-1986) born in Boston.

Alice died in 1933. Philip died on November 3, 1945 at Bronx, NY.

**Collection Scope and Content Note:**

The Ayres-Givens Family Papers, 1869-1973, contain papers related to the Ayres Family and Givens Family. The papers mainly consist of correspondence between family members Philip W. Ayres, Alice Stanley Taylor Ayres, Ruth Wheelock Ayres-Givens, Dwight Taylor Ayres, Harriet C. Taylor, and other family members. Correspondence in the papers covers topics related to Phillip W. Ayres as first forester with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests as well as issues surrounding the changing roles of educated women. The Ruth Ayres-Givens correspondence mainly documents her travels in Europe and the pursuit of her educational goals. There is also a box containing photographic prints and negatives of the Ayres-Givens family.

There are also many letters from Alice Ayer sister, Harriet C. Taylor (ca. 1872-1934) known in the family as "Tatio," a graduate of Radcliff, and a high school teacher who lived with the Ayres at their home in Newton, MA, as well as, in summer, at "Hideaway Camp" in Franconia. There are also letters from members of Philip Ayres' family in the Midwest and California, and from members of the Givens family in the Midwest.

In addition to Philip Ayres' conservation interests, the papers speak to the changing roles of educated women in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Taylor sisters, Alice and Harriet respectively, grew up in a Newton, MA, family of nurserymen; both received college degrees (Alice at Smith 1889 and Harriet at Radcliffe 1899) and both were interested and active in causes outside the home.

Alice Ayres' daughter Ruth continued in this tradition; she graduated from Radcliffe in the mid-1920s and, after graduate work there, took a Ph.D. from the Brookings Graduate School of Government and Economics. After study in Europe, which included involvement with the League of Nations, she married Meredith B. Givens in 1929, who worked in Washington for the Social Science Research Council. Ruth Ayres Givens worked in New York and Washington for the NRA and later the OPA on consumer issues. She also taught in New York, and in later years was connected with Penn State University.

**Arrangement:**

The materials in this collection are organized into the following series:

Series 1. Correspondence, 1895-1973

Series 2. Books of writings, 1898-1905, undated

Series 3. Photographs, 1869-1940, undated

**Contents List****Series 1. Correspondence, 1895-1973**

**Extent:** 61 folders

**Scope and Content:** The papers mainly consist of correspondence between family members Philip W. Ayres, Alice Stanley Taylor Ayres, Ruth Wheelock Ayres-Givens, Dwight Taylor Ayres, Harriet C. Taylor, and other family members. Correspondence in the papers covers topics related to Philip W. Ayres as first forester with the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, as well as issues surrounding the changing roles of educated women. Also includes some

miscellaneous family papers, organized by family member, including a book of housekeeping hints. The materials in this series are arranged into folders by correspondent.

**Box 1**

- Folder 1 S. A. Ayres (Mrs. E. J.) correspondence to Philip W. Ayres (son), 1921-1923
- Folder 2 Ruth Ayres Philips correspondence to Philip W. Ayres (brother), 1923-1942
- Folder 3 Philip W. Ayres correspondence to/from Ayres Family, 1899-1929
- Folder 4 Philip W. Ayres correspondence to family, circa 1915-1930
- Folder 5 Jennie Ayres Mannington correspondence to Philip W. Ayres (brother), 1921-1928
- Folder 6 Philip W. Ayres correspondence to family while on European trip, 1895
- Folder 7 Henry A. Mannington (nephew of P. W. Ayres) correspondence to Ayres Family, 1918
- Folder 8 Philip W. Ayres and Alice Taylor Ayres family correspondence re: wedding and trip, 1899 August
- Folder 9 Alice S. Taylor Ayres miscellaneous papers, genealogy, will, Smith College information, letter from Lucy Larcom, 1889-1934

**Box 2**

- Folder 1 Alice S. Taylor Ayres correspondence to Philip Ayres/Ruth and Dwight Ayres, 1920-1924
- Folder 2 Alice S. Taylor Ayres correspondence to Ruth and Dwight Ayres, 1926 March-April
- Folder 3 Alice S. Taylor Ayres correspondence to Ruth and Dwight Ayres, 1926 May-September
- Folder 4 Alice S. Taylor Ayres correspondence to Ruth Ayres Givens, 1930 January-May
- Folder 5 Alice S. Taylor Ayres correspondence to Ruth W. Ayres Givens and Dwight T. Ayres, 1925-1929
- Folder 6 Alice S. Taylor Ayres correspondence to Ruth Ayres Givens, 1930 June-September

**Box 3**

- Folder 1 Alice S. Taylor Ayres correspondence to Ruth Ayres Givens, 1930 October-December, undated
- Folder 2 Alice S. Taylor Ayres correspondence to Ruth Ayres Givens and Dwight Ayres, 1931 January-April
- Folder 3 Alice S. Taylor Ayres correspondence to Ruth Ayres Givens and Dwight Ayres, 1931 May-December
- Folder 4 Alice S. Taylor Ayres book of housekeeping hints, circa 1899
- Folder 5 Alice S. Taylor Ayres correspondence to Ruth Ayres Givens and Dwight T. Ayres, 1932
- Folder 6 Alice S. Taylor Ayres correspondence, 1933
- Folder 7 Celeste B. Givens correspondence to Ruth Ayres Givens and others, 1929-1930

**Box 4**

- Folder 1 Celeste B. Givens correspondence to Ruth Ayres Givens, 1931-1933
- Folder 2 Givens and Bruner family genealogical data, 1940-1973, undated
- Folder 3 Alice S. Taylor Ayres correspondence to Harriet C. Taylor (sister), 1899-1926

- Folder 4 Ruth Ayres Givens correspondence to family, mostly from Europe, 1926
- Folder 5 Ruth Ayres Givens correspondence, 1920-circa 1944
- Folder 6 Ruth Ayres Givens correspondence to family, 1927
- Folder 7 Ruth Ayres Givens to (aunt) Harriet C. Taylor "Tatio", 1920-1936

**Box 5**

- Folder 1 Ruth Ayres Givens correspondence home from Camp Oahe, Granite Lake, NH, and childhood letters, 1921
- Folder 2 Ruth Ayres Givens memorabilia re: European travel, 1926-1927
- Folder 3 Ruth Ayres Givens correspondence to family, 1932
- Folder 4 Ruth Ayres Givens correspondence to family, 1933 and undated
- Folder 5 Ruth Ayres Givens European travel correspondence and memorabilia, 1926-1927
- Folder 6 Ruth Ayres Givens correspondence to/from Hilda Hulbert, Mary Elizabeth Campbell, 1920-circa 1935
- Folder 7 Ruth Ayres Givens correspondence to Brookings Institute Graduate School, 1927-1928
- Folder 8 Ruth Ayres Givens business correspondence, 1925-1933

**Box 6**

- Folder 1 Ruth Ayres Givens correspondence to family, 1928
- Folder 2 Ruth Ayres Givens miscellaneous papers, 1906-1944
- Folder 3 Richard Ayres Givens correspondence to family, 1944-1945
- Folder 4 Dwight Taylor Ayres correspondence, 1915-1929
- Folder 5 Dwight Taylor Ayres correspondence to family, 1930-1931
- Folder 6 Dwight Taylor Ayres correspondence to family, 1932
- Folder 7 Dwight Taylor Ayres correspondence to family, 1933-1945
- Folder 8 Dwight Taylor. Ayres miscellaneous papers, 1912-1937

**Box 7**

- Folder 1 Annie Garlin Spencer correspondence to niece(?) Alice S. Taylor Ayres, 1907-1923
- Folder 2 Harriet C. Taylor correspondence to Alice S. Taylor Ayres, 1906-1911, 1926
- Folder 3 Harriet C. Taylor correspondence to Ruth W. Ayres, 1906-1920, undated
- Folder 4 Harriet C. Taylor correspondence to Ruth W. and Dwight T. Ayres, 1926-1927
- Folder 5 Harriet C. Taylor correspondence to Ruth Ayres Givens, 1930-1933
- Folder 6 Harriet C. Taylor miscellaneous correspondence, 1910-1927
- Folder 7 Harriet C. Taylor miscellaneous papers, 1907-1910
- Folder 8 Lucy Mayo Fay (Lowell, MA), cousin of Alice S. T. Ayres and Harriet C. Taylor correspondence, estate papers, photographs, 1897-1913
- Folder 9 Philip W. Ayres correspondence re: Esther H. Hawks Trust (PWA Trustee), 1910-1912

**Box 8**

- Folder 1 Ruth Wheelock Ayres Givens articles, 1941-1942, undated
- Folder 2 Philip W. Ayres and Alice T. Ayres correspondence, 1907-1936

- Folder 3 Philip W. Ayres copies of correspondence with Allen Hollis re: Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, 1931-1939
- Folder 4 Philip W. Ayres articles by and about, biographical sketch, 1920-1946
- Folder 5 Philip W. Ayres correspondence to family, 1931-1945
- Folder 6 Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests printed flyers, undated
- Folder 7 Ruth Ayres Givens correspondence, 1910-1952

**Series 2. Books of writings, 1898-1905, undated**

**Extent:** 3 volumes

**Scope and Content:** Three volumes of writings from several members of the Ayers family: Alice Taylor Ayers, Alice Stanley Taylor, Harriet C. Taylor. Includes a volume on how to care for young children, with entries and additional booklets dating from 1898 to 1905, and two commonplace books.

**Box 8**

- Volume 1 Alice Taylor Ayres: A book about the care and feeding of young children, 1898-1905
- Volume 2 Alice Stanley Taylor commonplace book, undated
- Volume 3 Harriet C. Taylor commonplace book of poems and sayings, 1918-1921

**Series 3. Photographs, 1869-1940, undated**

**Extent:** 9 folders

**Scope and Content:** A box containing photographic prints, film negatives, glass plate negatives, and calling cards of the Ayres-Givens family.

**Box 9**

- Folder 1 Alice Stanley Taylor Ayres (1866-1933) and Philip Wheelock Ayres (1861-1945), 1869-1940, undated
- Folder 2 "Hideaway Camp" Ayres Family, Franconia, NH, undated
- Folder 3 Ruth Wheelock Ayers Givens (1901-1989), 1902-1913, undated
- Folder 4 Harriet Caroline Taylor (ca. 1872-1934), 1899-1925, undated
- Folder 5 Wedding of Ruth W. Ayres and Meredith B. Givens, Franconia, NH, 1929 October
- Folder 6 Dwight Taylor Ayres (1907-1986), undated
- Folder 7 Ayres-Givens miscellaneous photos, calling cards, memorabilia, 1911, undated
- Folder 8 Film negatives, 1908-1919, undated
- Folder 9 Glass plate negatives, 1920, undated

**Subject Terms**

**People:**

- Ayres Family
- Ayres, Alice Stanley, 1866-1933
- Ayres, Dwight Taylor, 1907-1986
- Ayres, Philip Wheelock, 1861-1945
- Bruner family
- Givens family
- Givens, Ruth Wheelock, 1901-1989

Larcom, Lucy, 1824-1893  
Taylor, Harriet C., circa 1872-1934

**Organizations:**

Radcliffe College  
Robert S. Brookings Graduate School of Economics and Government  
Smith College  
Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests

**Subjects:**

Commonplace books  
Conservation of natural resources  
Correspondence  
Forest protection  
Forests and forestry  
Overland journeys to the Pacific  
Scientific expeditions  
Voyages and travels  
Voyages around the world  
Women--Education

**Locations:**

Franconia, NH  
Granite Lake, NH  
New Hampshire  
Newton, MA