

Guide to the Nutting Family Correspondence, 1898-1926, bulk 1918, 1925

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Nutting Family Correspondence, 1898-1926, bulk 1918, 1925

Repository:

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

Collection Number:

2003.002

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; reformatted by Korrena Cowing and updated by Mylynda Gill

Creator:

Nutting family

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

2 boxes ; 0.54 linear feet

Abstract:

The Nutting Family Correspondence, 1898-1926, is comprised of personal letters and cards written to the Nutting family of Nashua, NH. Several folders contain correspondence to Blanche Nutting and provide insight on the Spanish influenza epidemic in New England and World War I. Other correspondence are condolence letters written after the passing of William Law Nutting on December 4, 1925.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Nutting Family Correspondence was purchased from DeWolfe and Wood in October 2002.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by David Smolen at an unknown date and was reprocessed by Mylynda Gill in November 2022. The finding aid was written by David Smolen at an unknown date, reformatted by Korrena Cowing in April 2020, and updated by Mylynda Gill in November 2022. 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, Nutting Family Correspondence, 2003.002. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Levi J. Nutting was born in Greenville, NH, on January 6, 1834. He married Emeline Nancy Simonds on July 2, 1855 in Nashua, NH. She was born on April 29, 1835 in Dunstable, MA, to Moses and Susan, and died on March 31, 1910. They had a son named William Law Nutting. Levi J. Nutting worked as a farmer and manufacturer. He died in Nashua on June 29, 1912.

William Law Nutting was born on November 28, 1874 in Bridgewater, MA. He married Myrtie Emma Downs on October 16, 1895, in Nashua. They had two daughters: Blanche Downs and Gloria Simonds. William was a prominent piano merchant. He had a store in Nashua for over twenty years and began to serve as president of the New England Music Trade Association in 1922. His success as a piano merchant is seen within the condolence correspondence folders, which includes letters from organizations within the piano industry reaching out to offer their sympathies to his family after his passing. He died in Boston, MA, on December 4, 1925.

Myrtie Emma Downs, wife of William Law Nutting, was born on November 21, 1876, in either Farmington or Hudson, NH, to Edwin P. and Emma A. (Patterson) Downs. She was a housewife, and according to content within the correspondence, enjoyed traveling. She died on August 6, 1967.

Blanche Downs Nutting was born on July 1, 1897 in Boston, MA. She married Jason Frederick Bickford on November 17, 1923 in Nashua. Jason Bickford was born on December 28, 1896, in Somerville, MA, to George and Cora (Wenzel) Bickford. He was an engineer when he married Blanche and after the passing of Blanche's father, William Law Nutting, Jason Bickford helped to run the piano store in Nashua. Blanche and Jason had three children: William (1924-2008) and twins, Robert (1929-2014) and Sylvia (1929-).

According to the content of the letters, Blanche Downs Nutting was part of the Nashua High School Class of 1916. There are letters that also mention she attended "The Castle" in Tarrytown, NY. It is believed that this is in reference to Miss Mason's School, which was made up of the Mason Collegiate School and The Castle Preparatory School. This was a private girls' school in Tarrytown, which was located in a mansion known as "The Castle". The content of the letters also indicate she volunteered to become a nurse during the Spanish Influenza Epidemic and World War I. Records found about her indicate that after the war she became a teacher, for example, the 1920 census states she was teaching kindergarten. Jason Bickford died on November 18, 1974. Blanche passed away on September 21, 1991.

Gloria Simonds Nutting was born on September 19, 1899, in Hudson, NH. Records indicate she never held an occupation or married. She died on July 24, 1964 in Nashua.

Edwin Pickering Downs was the father of Myrtie Emma (Downs) Nutting. He was born on July 29, 1855 in Milton, NH, to Henry and Elizabeth Downs. He married Emma A. Patterson on April 10, 1875, in Milton. Emma A. Patterson was born on July 6, 1857 to James and Delia Patterson in Mooers Forks, NY. They had one daughter, Myrtie Emma Downs (1876-1967). Edwin Downs held various jobs in the shoe industry. Records indicate that at the end of his life he resided with his daughter and her family. Emma died on September 22, 1921. Edwin died on August 22, 1945.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Nutting Family Correspondence dates from 1898 to 1926, though the bulk of the collection is dated 1918 and December 1925. The correspondence in this collection is addressed to various members of the Nutting family, including Levi J. Nutting, Blanche (Nutting) Bickford, Mrs. William Nutting or Myrtie Nutting, Gloria Nutting, and Edwin Downs.

The majority of the correspondence in 1917 and 1918 is addressed to Blanche Nutting, and consists of correspondence from her friends and family members. These letters are from individuals mostly residing in New Hampshire and New England and reveal perspectives on the Spanish Influenza and World War I, along with the standard flirtations and various dramas of young adults. The correspondence from December 1925 is composed of letters and cards expressing condolences and sympathy for the unexpected passing of William Law Nutting.

While most of this correspondence is addressed to Mrs. William Nutting, there is also condolence correspondence addressed to Blanche Bickford, Gloria Nutting, and Edwin Downs.

Some correspondence is particularly noteworthy. There is a letter dated October 2, 1918, which includes a schedule for drills and describes current life at Dartmouth College. Another letter dated November 11, 1918 includes two pictures of unidentified soldiers. From the buildings in the background, they appear to have been taken at Dartmouth College, however the corresponding letter does not mention the photos. A letter dated November 24, 1918, discusses being able to attend church and the movies once again after the Spanish Influenza bans were lifted. Then there is also the letter dated December 25th from a Louis Rusga, Sgt Battery F 3rd Field Artillery at Camp McClellan, Anniston, AL, thanking Blanche for the Christmas gift sent to a soldier, and he expresses that he hopes she is not too disappointed the gift was not given to a soldier overseas.

Arrangement:

This collection is arranged in chronological order.

Contents List

Box 1

- Folder 1 Correspondence, 1898-1899, 1911, 1916
- Folder 2 Correspondence, 1917
- Folder 3 Correspondence, 1918 January-May
- Folder 4 Correspondence, 1918 June-August
- Folder 5 Correspondence, 1918 September
- Folder 6 Correspondence, 1918 October
- Folder 7 Correspondence, 1918 November
- Folder 8 Correspondence, 1918 December
- Folder 9 Condolence Correspondence, 1925 December 5-6
- Folder 10 Condolence Correspondence, 1925 December 7

Box 2

- Folder 1 Condolence Correspondence, 1925 December 8
- Folder 2 Condolence Correspondence, 1925 December 9-14
- Folder 3 Condolence Correspondence, 1925 December 15-21
- Folder 4 Condolence Correspondence, 1925 December, undated
- Folder 5 Correspondence, 1926 February
- Folder 6 Graduation card and calling cards, undated
- Folder 7 Correspondence, undated

Subject Terms

People:

- Bickford, Blanche Downs, 1897-1991
- Downs, Edwin Pickering, 1855-1945
- Nutting family

Nutting, Gloria Simonds, 1899-1964
Nutting, Levi J., 1834-1912
Nutting, Myrtie Emma, 1876-1967
Nutting, William Law, 1874-1925

Organizations:

Castle School (Tarrytown, N.Y.)
Dartmouth College
Good Cheer Society (Nashua, N.H.)

Subjects:

Bereavement
Christmas
Condolence notes
Correspondence
Death
Education
Families
Friendship
Health
Influenza Epidemic, 1918-1919
Students
Travel
World War, 1914-1918

Locations:

Boston, MA
Durham, NH
Hanover, NH
Nashua, NH
New Haven, CT
New London, CT
Tarrytown, NY

Occupations:

Nurses
Soldiers