

Atwood-Carlton-Millett Archives
1829-2007 (inclusive)

Westford Historical Society & Museum
2-4 Boston Rd
Westford MA
01886

Prepared By
Jeffrey Henry, MA, MSLIS
February, 2021

Revised: March 2025

Shelf Space Occupied: ~105 linear ft
Number of Boxes: 14

Table of Contents

Archive Information.....2

Overview of Arrangement..... 4

Family Archive..... 5

Art Archive..... 21

Appendix.....24

Archive Information

Abstract: The family archive was created out of the donation from the estate of William Atwood “Bill” Millett (1922-2007). Objects from the donation were individually accessioned under *W.2008.13.x*. The majority of the archive was organized by Nora *Newhard* Daigle after 2008. Work was completed by Jeffrey Henry by 2017. The Art Archive was donated to the museum by the J.V. Fletcher Library in 2020. Framed pieces are separately accessioned, and not considered part of the archive.

Location

Back Stairwell, Front Hall

Creators

Westford Historical Society & J.V. Fletcher Library

Title

Atwood-Carlton-Millett Archives

Accession

TBD

Date

1829-2007 (inclusive)

Extent

105 linear ft (approx), 14 boxes, 2 locations

Author

Prepared by Jeffrey Henry

Language

English

Historical Background

Daniel Atwood (1822-1902) and Caroline (Carlton) Atwood (1821-1911) moved to Westford by the 1850s, running a farm off Concord Rd. By the 1880s, Daniel retired from farming, and built the family home on Graniteville Rd. His son, also Daniel (1850-1931), stayed on the family farm. The family has connections to other places like Cape Cod and Florida. Lillian, Mary, and Sarah “Carrie” Atwood were lifelong Westford residents. Grace (Atwood) Millett was a nurse in Westford into the 1950s, and she is highlighted in the museum’s medical exhibit. Her son, William “Bill” Millett, was a local artist and the last of the family to live in Westford. Bill died in 2007, and his estate, overseen by relative Deborah Stein Sharpe, donated a large portion of his possessions to the museum and Fletcher Library in 2008. Much of the art collection donated to the library was donated to the museum in 2020, with framed or otherwise

separate works removed to be individually accessioned. The items were all originally found in the family home.

Scope and Content

The collection has items that go back to as far as 1829, from before the family's time in Westford, to the 2000s. Correspondences, books, photographs, and probate records, and artist sketches represent the bulk of the Archive. Items were dated whenever possible. The artwork is from the mid to late twentieth century.

Arrangement Notes

The Atwood Family Archive represents one portion of the overall Atwood-Millett Collection. These archives are split between two sections: The Atwood Family Archive and William Millett Art Archive. Overall, the Family Archive was organized by item type and is chronological, where possible. The order presented in this section was devised in 2012 by intern Nora *Newhard* Daigle, as part of an effort to better organize the overall Atwood Collection. This archive is organized into multiple sectors: Correspondence, Newspaper Clippings, Church, Nursing School, Booklets, Recipe Boolets, Books, Cooking, Financial, Genealogy and Family History, Financial (Accounts), Financial (General), and Photographs. These Sectors span seven boxes. Some folders were specifically given further short descriptions if they had more specific items. Folders and groups of folders within a sector were normally described as "sections." Digital surrogates, where available, may be arranged differently.

The Art Archive retains the organization created by the Fletcher Library and the Estate of Willam A. Millett, and is not chronologically ordered. Most items feature their own identification numbers created by the collection's prior owners. The IDs are organized between different series, which are split between four boxes. Box 1 features a mix of *U* and *D* series, Box 2 features *D* series, Boxes 3 through 5 feature a series of *sketch pads*, and Box 6 features primarily *U* and *WC* series. The *sketch pads* series has letter designations on the individual folders, added by WHS to better describe the series. Item inventories at WHS have a separate, chronological item number within the inventory spreadsheet. Original listings do not always correspond to items present, due to some items being retained by the Fletcher Library at the time of donation. Digital surrogates of this archive's items are available.

Associated items, as well as any inventories, are highlighted in the [Appendix](#).

Overview of Arrangement

Section I *The Atwood Family Archive*

- 1: [Correspondence Sector](#)
- 2: [Newspaper Clippings Sector](#)
- 3: [Church Sector](#)
- 4: [Nursing School Sector](#)
- 5: [Booklets Sector: General](#)
- 6: [Booklets Sector: Cookbooks and Recipes](#)
- 7: [Books Sector](#)
- 8: [Cooking Sector](#)
- 9: [Financial Sector](#)
- 10: [Genealogy and Family History Sector](#)
- 11-12: [Financial Sector Continued](#)
- 13: [Photographs Sector](#)

Section II *William Millett Art Archive*

- 1: [*Watercolors-Drawings*](#)
- 2: [*Drawings*](#)
- 3: [*Sketch-Pads*](#)

Family Archive

1

Correspondence Sector

1829-1960s (inclusive); 17 folders

Scope and Contents

Documents in the sector represent correspondence between family members and friends, starting from before the family's time in Westford. The earliest correspondence is from 1829, and relates a case between F.W. Batchelder Admr. and D. Atwood. Estates of various Atwood family members are mentioned, particularly in the mid to late nineteenth century. There are also travel logs from the late nineteenth century, relating to Florida and Vienna. Latter correspondence are through postcards from Boston, MA.

Arrangement Note

The correspondence is largely arranged chronologically within their individual folders. However, the folders themselves are not truly chronological. Also, not all letters are dated, and those undated items are presumably from the same time as the dated letters around them.

Folder List		
Section Description	Folder #	Box
<i>Correspondence</i>	1	1
Misc letters	2	1
1839-1951	3	1
<i>Correspondence</i>	4	1
<i>Correspondence</i>	5	1
Atwood Family Letters, 1888-1948	6	1
Charles Hildreth I (ca 1832-1909) Letters to Mary Atwood, 1900-1906	7	1
1900-1960s	8	1
<i>Correspondence</i>	9	1
Wm. Atwood Letters to Lillie Atwood, 1914-1924	10	1
Letters from Carlone (Shaw) Atwood to Sarah C. Atwood, 1932-1936	11	1
Letter from Wm. Atwood to his sisters, 1935-1936	12	1
<i>Correspondence</i>	13	1

<i>Correspondence</i>	14	1
<i>Correspondence</i>	15	1
<i>Correspondence</i>	16	1
<i>Correspondence</i>	17	1

2

Newspaper Clippings Sector

1911-1963 (inclusive); 1 folder

Scope and Contents

Various newspaper clippings from the early to mid twentieth century. Some are from the *Boston Journal* and *Lowell Courier Citizen*. Many relate to the family or Westford. One specific undated article is about the U.S.S. Abbot returning to active duty. Other articles specifically are Atwood family obituaries.

Arrangement Note

The items are not completely chronological. Many if not most of which are undated. Being clippings, most of the items are loosely arranged and inconsistently shaped.

Folder List		
Section Description	Folder #	Box
<i>Newspaper Clippings</i>	1	1

3

Church Sector

1887-1962 (inclusive); 3 folders

Scope and Contents

The items in this sector relate to churches attended by the family. Specific churches mentioned included Westford's First Parish Church and Union Congregational Church (today the single First Parish Church United), First Congregational Church in St. Petersburg, FL, and Kings Chapel, Boston. There are by-laws, prayer meeting cards, programs, bulletins, temperance pledge certificates, among other related items.

Arrangement Note

Items in these folders are not fully chronological. Their arrangement is largely based on subject and original order, if known. Many items are from Grace Atwood's front bedroom bureau.

Folder List		
Section Description	Folder #	Box
<i>Church</i>	1	1
<i>Church</i>	2	1
<i>Church</i>	3	1

4

Nursing School Sector

1912-1913 (bulk), 1912-1954 (inclusive); 2 folders

Scope and Contents

The items in this sector are mostly from Grace Atwood, who was a nurse. There are numerous hand written notes from her time in nursing school, Brockton Hospital Training School for Nurses. Subjects studied included diseases of the heart, typhoid fever, physiology, hygiene, among others. There is also a composition booklet labeled "Shakespeare. Henry W. Hildreth, Class '93, P.H.S" that was used as a travelog ca. 1918.

Arrangement Notes

The school notes are technically not chronologically arranged, but all fall within 1912 and 1913. Items beyond those years are separate from the main notes, albeit not in separate folders.

Folder List		
Section Description	Folder #	Box
<i>Nursing School</i>	1	1
<i>Nursing School</i>	2	1

5

Booklets Sector: General

1870-1953 (bulk), 1843-1953 (inclusive); 8 folders

Scope and Contents

Various booklets, including diaries, passbooks, autograph books. Some specific items include gathered letters written by one of Sarah Atwood's sisters when onboard the White Star Line Adriatic in 1930, and medical notes from Dr. Daniel Atwood. Another is a "New England Primer" for religious education in 1843. Some booklets are unused, but contain calendars and ads (Swift's Animal Fertilizers).

Arrangement Notes

Items in this sector do not appear chronological. However, many items are undated. Folders are largely organized by item type, such as diaries, notebooks, and autograph books.

Folder List		
Section Description	Folder #	Box
<i>Booklets</i>	1	2
<i>Booklets</i>	2	2
<i>Booklets</i>	3	2
<i>Booklets</i>	4	2
<i>Booklets</i>	5	2
<i>Booklets</i>	6	2
<i>Booklets</i>	7	2
<i>Booklets</i>	8	2

6

Booklets Sector: Cookbooks and Recipes

1911-1960 (inclusive); 8 folders

Scope and Contents

Primarily a collection of cookbooks and recipes. Some items are pages from cookbooks, which include *The Ball Blue Book*, *Your Frigidaire Recipes*, and *Ocean Spray Cranberry Products*. In many circumstances the recipes are written on the back of items such as calendars, or are printed on newspaper clippings. Many recipes are handwritten.

Arrangement Notes

Items in this section are not in chronological order. Many if not most of the items are undated. There is some loose organization relating to item type such as clippings and booklets. Items from the Atwood Recipe Box should be as close to the original order as was possible.

Folder List		
Section Description	Folder #	Box
<i>Recipes</i>	1	2
<i>Recipes</i>	2	2
<i>Recipes</i>	3	2
Atwood Recipe Box Contents	4	2
Atwood Recipe Box Contents	5	2
Atwood Recipe Box Contents	6	2
<i>Recipes</i>	7	2
<i>Recipes</i>	8	2

7

Books Sector

1876-1943 (inclusive); 5 folders

Scope and Contents

Included items are account books, general household expenses, Grace Atwood's school books. One book was started by Eliakim Hutchins, and later used by Daniel Atwood. Other specific items include one labeled as Sarah Atwood Bank Accounts, as well as Mary Atwood's *Houston's Physical Geography* book. There is also some correspondence with Frank M. Erskine of the Bobbs-Merrill Company in Indianapolis.

Arrangement Notes

The items are largely arranged chronologically. Each folder tends to follow specific kinds of items like account books. Dr. E.C. Atwood's account book was very large and in poor condition (relocated to Box 5: Books).

Folder List		
Section Description	Folder #	Box
<i>Books</i>	1	3
Atwood Household Accounts and Books	2	3
Grace Atwood's School Books	3	3
<i>Books</i>	4	3
<i>Books</i>	5	3

8**Cooking Sector**

1905-1908 (inclusive); 3 folders

Scope and Contents

This sector includes books relating to cooking. One is *The Boston Cooking-School Cookbook* from 1905.

Arrangement Notes

The contents are essentially chronological. One item is undated. Each section holds only one or two large items.

Folder List		
Section Description	Folder #	Box
<i>Cooking</i>	1	3
<i>Cooking</i>	2	3
<i>Cooking</i>	3	3

9

Financial Sector

1948-1952 (bulk), 1932-1952 (inclusive); 11 folders

Scope and Contents

Many items are correspondence, particularly between Grace Millett and various recipients. There are bank statements, asset inventories, and a large amount of probate records. Mentioned estates include Carlton, Osgood, and Sarah Atwood. There are also many drafts of will, such as ones from Lillie Atwood.

Arrangement Notes

This sector is split between two subsections: MISC and Probate Sections. These subsections have their own folder counts. The first two folders, MISC, are not chronologically arranged, but the succeeding folders, Probate, largely are. The exceptions in the latter folders relate directly to the otherwise chronological records. Not all items are dated in this overall Sector.

Folder List		
Section Description	Folder #	Box
MISC: Financial	1	4
MISC: Investments	2	4
Probate	1	4
Probate	2	4
Probate	3	4
Probate	4	4
Probate	5	4
Probate	6	4
Probate: Mary Atwood's Taxes	7	4
Probate	8	4
Probate	9	4

10

Genealogy and Family History Sector

1935-1940 (inclusive); 1 folder

Scope and Contents

Specific objects include a wedding band and three unmatching shirt studs. There are handwritten notes and narratives relating to the family histories of Atwood, Carleton, Lowell and Cutter. Related are handwritten genealogy sheets of the eighteenth century lines of Ebenezer and Cyrus. There is also an essay titled "The Atwoods and Their Name" that discusses the family back to 1203.

Arrangement Notes

Items are not chronologically arranged. The overall arrangement is by kind, such as handwritten notes and essays.

Folder List		
Section Description	Folder #	Box
Genealogy	1	4

11

Financial Sector Continued

1837-1941 (inclusive); 9 folders

Scope and Contents

A continuation of the above Financial Sector. This subsection primarily involves family accounts and expenses. Lowell Cents Savings Bank and People's Saving Bank are specifically mentioned. The account books were mostly Daniel, Caroline, Sarah, and Lillie Atwood's.

Arrangement Notes

This is the Accounts-Expenses Section. The folders themselves are not chronological, but the items within them mostly are. However, many items are undated. There is no Folder 8.

Folder List		
Section Description	Folder #	Box
<i>Accounts-Expenses</i>	1	4
Bank Books	2	4
<i>Accounts-Expenses</i>	3	4
<i>Accounts-Expenses</i>	4	4
<i>Accounts-Expenses</i>	5	4
<i>Accounts-Expenses</i>	6	4
Bank Books, etc.	7	4
<i>Accounts-Expenses</i>	9	4

12

Financial Sector Continued

1844-1954 (inclusive); 7 Folders, 2 boxes

Scope and Contents

A continuation of the above Financial Sector. The various subsections include materials relating to stocks, taxes, deeds, insurance, and receipts. Many of the mid to late nineteenth century items relate to Daniel Atwood. Items into the mid twentieth century relate to Willam Millett, Grace Millett, Lilly Atwood, Sarah Atwood, and Mary Atwood. Deeds from the nineteenth century relate to a variety of other people such as Nathan Batchelder, Jeremiah Dearborn, and J.F. Kimball.

Arrangement Notes

The entirety of Box five contains the General Financial Section. There are five separate subsections, which are numbered separately: Stocks, Taxes, Deeds and Investments, Insurance, and Receipts. They are chronological within each subsection. There are also associated account books outside folders, including Dr. E.C. Atwood's account book, poor condition. This box was split into two: Books, Folders.

Folder List		
Section Description	Folder #	Box
Stock	1	5
Taxes	1	5
Deeds and Investments	1	5
Deeds and Investments	2	5
Insurance	1	5
Receipts	1	5
Receipts	2	5
Account Books	N/A	5: Books

13

Photographs Sector

1875-1969 (inclusive); 49 containers

Scope and Contents

A collection of primarily photographs spanning almost 100 years. Not all are fully identified. Of the family, Grace Millett, Nathan Millett, and Edward Carlton Atwood are identified. Some photos appear to be of the family branch in Dayton, FL. There are also numerous postcards, and photos of the Union Congregational Church (now First Parish Church United, Westford).

Arrangement Notes

The items are largely not chronological. Many of the items are undated and unidentified. The order is based on the order of which they were received in the case of items in groups. Groups of photos are contained within bags, albums, and folders. Other items may be separate (i.e. portraits). There is no numbering scheme amongst the containers. Some large photos may not be in the order described ("floating").

Folder List		
Section Description		Box
Bagged photos w/captions -- attic box w/carrie letters		6
Bag labeled ¾ century chorus St. Petersburg Fla. 1940-1947		6
Photo album		6
Photos of Union Congregational Church		6
General photographs		6
Westford photos: in bag marked postcards, photos, Westford ads		6
Bag of photo albums (Daguerreotypes), some badly damaged, so significant IDs		6
In a large Ziplock bag marked "Old Photos"		6
Set of badly faded unmarked 3 ½ x 4 ½" photos in small Ziplock bag (Dayton FL?)		6
Bag with Album		6
"4 Grantville"		6
Portrait (Of Nathan?)		6
Small Album		6
2 Pictures		6

Portrait (C.E. Atwood)		6
Portrait (Daniel Lowell)		6
"Snapshot"		6
Portraits		6
Portrait (Pa's cousin Adolph), 2 copies		6
"Post Cards" album with brown cover with photos and cards inside, identified as "Grace & Nathan Millett"		6
Long rolled up photos		6
Large mounted photo <i>floating</i>		6
In a small Ziplock bag marked "Found in 1864 date book w/Mary's name on it, Possibly William?"		6
Folder of Misc Photos		7
Album		7
Album		7
Daguerreotype		7
Mary Atwood		7
MISC		7
William Atwood (1847-1942)		7
"Wm. Atwood Millett"		7
Westford's 200th Anniversary Pageant 1929		7
Daniel H, Caroline, Daughters		7
Negatives		7
Picture ([Lizzie] Atwood and Eastman?)		7
General Pictures		7
Portrait (Caroline [Atwood]?)		7
General Pictures		7
General Pictures		7
Mary Atwood (1860-1957)		7

General Pictures		7
Dr. Batchelder (Portrait)		7
Daniel E. and Lizzie Atwood		7
Daguerreotype		7
Westford Home		7
General Pictures		7
Lillie Atwood		7
Mrs. Doctor Atwood		7
Mrs. William Atwood (Margaret Stewart) (2 portraits)		7

Art Archive

1

Watercolors -- Drawings

1976 -1981 (inclusive); 5 folders, 2 boxes

Scope and Contents

Various watercolors, drawings, and sketches from Series U, D, and WC. Framed works are separate from the archive. Most images are of people at local bars. Some are seaside landscapes or portraits. There are specifically images of Wyman's Beach in Westford.

Arrangement Note

The items are technically chronological. However, the majority of the items are undated and unidentified. The series IDs are primarily U, D, and WC, but some lack a letter designation, having just a number. Some items in the original listing are not present, likely retained by the Fletcher Library.

Folder List		
Description	Folder #	Box #
Watercolors, undated	1	1
Sketches, undated	2	1
Sketches, 1976 to 1981	3	1
Watercolors and Sketches, undated	N/A	1A
Watercolors and Sketches, undated	1	1A
Watercolors and Sketches, undated	2	1A

2**Drawings**

1976-1981 (inclusive); 4 folders

Scope and Contents

Various sketches and drawings from Series D. Most images are of people at local bars. Some are seaside landscapes. There are specifically images of Edwards Beach in Westford.

Arrangement Note

The items are not chronological, while most are undated and unidentified. The IDs state the items are all from Series D.

Folder List		
Description	Folder #	Box #
Sketches, undated	1	2
Sketches, 1977	2	2
Sketches, 1976-1977	3	2
Sketches, 1976-1981	4	2

3

Sketch Pads

1965-1994 (inclusive); 10 folders, 3 boxes

Scope and Contents

Various utilized sketch pads. Each pad contains sketches of people and landscapes. Some pads also contain notes relating to the work. One item is the Blaw-Knox Company 1965 Annual Report with "PAINTING A PICTURE" painted on the back.

Arrangement Notes

The items are not truly chronological, but many are undated. Original arrangement of the enclosures was loose, with many enclosures side-by-side. None of the enclosures came with their own designation. Alphabetic designations were added by WHS to improve accessibility. Some items in the original listing are not present, likely retained by the Fletcher Library.

Folder List		
Description	Folder #	Box #
Sketches with notes, 1983-1984	A	3
Sketches, 1985-1986	B	3
Sketches, cartoons, 1994	C	3
Note pads, 1968	D	3
Sketches, undated	E	3
Sketch notations	F	3
Sketchbooks, undated	A	4
Sketchbooks, 1989	B	4
Sketchbooks, 1976	C	4
Sketchbooks, 1986	D	4
Drawing Pad # 1	A	5

Appendix

A: [Atwood Millet Collection](#) (accessioned items)

B: [Family Archive Inventory](#)

C: [Art Archive Inventory](#)

D: [Atwood Online Exhibit](#)

A: Atwood Collection (accessioned items)

Note: some items to be accessioned at later date

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1iHcqklmWnQs2IBvhlXskAQC7vqPAyjoB/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=104303070049334423934&rtpof=true&sd=true>



B: Family Archive Inventory

Note: Scanned documents

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12ALfkW5ycaEerl2bGGXZ_BF7baDJX4YK?usp=sharing



C: Art Archive Inventory

Note: "Item #" added on spreadsheet to aid in accessibility

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1e_siWUSwcOlfl6xWoBKpk0cQbZo9KzR7bsFPRW_RrOo/edit?usp=sharing



D: Atwood Online Exhibit

<https://museum.westford.org/the-atwood-carlton-millett-family/>

