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Adams-Mills Family Papers

1840-1965 (*Bulk:* 1880-1940)
8 boxes (6 linear ft.)
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Read collection overview

Son of Nathaniel Dickinson Adams and Harriet Hastings, Charles Dickinson Adams (1839-1889) was valedictorian at Amherst College, finished the 2-year law program at Columbia in one year, and practiced law in New York City until his early death. He was active in church and community work, and married Mary Clark Wood. The couple had two children, Georgiana and Mason. In 1905, Georgiana Wood Adams (1874-1957) married Franklin Hubbell Mills, the only son of George Franklin Mills, a classics teacher and later Dean at the Massachusetts Agricultural College. George's father, Benjamin F. Mills, started the Greylock Institute which was active several decades, and both Franklin and his father George were graduates of Williams College. Franklin and Georgiana Mills lived in New York City, and had one child, Mary Mills (1908-1963). Mason Tyler Adams (1877-1933) married Juliette Emily Hubbell, and the couple had two children. Many in the Adams-Mills-Wood extended family are buried at Wildwood Cemetery in Amherst, MA, as Mary Clark Adams and her mother-in-law Harriet bought two side-by-side lots for the family.

The Adams-Mills Family papers document three core generations of the Adams and Mills families with roots in western Massachusetts. Manuscript material, ephemera and numerous photographs document Charles Dickinson Adams, his wife Mary Clark Wood Adams, and George Franklin Mills; the merging of their families through Georgiana Wood Adams Mills and Franklin Hubbell Mills; and their children, other family, and friends. Highlights include Mary Mills' baby book, over 20 years of correspondence from Mason to his sister Georgiana, correspondence between other family members reflecting attitudes and events in the late 1800s through mid-1900s, several travel journals and scrapbooks, and records from local schools such as Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst College, and Williams College. Over one-third of the collection is photographs, reflecting photographic technology, clothing styles, vacation spots, and home aesthetics from the 19th and 20th centuries.

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[Family](#)
[Mass Agricultural College \(1863-1931\)](#)
[Massachusetts \(West\)](#)
[Photographs](#)

Background on Adams-Mills family

Son of Nathaniel Dickinson Adams and Harriet Hastings, Charles Dickinson Adams (1839-1889) was valedictorian at Amherst College, finished the 2-year law program at Columbia in one year, and practiced law in New York City until his early death. He was active in church and community work, and married Mary Clark Wood. The couple had two children, Georgiana and Mason. Charles's brother Henry Martyn Adams (1844-1909) was a West Point graduate, and became a general in the Army Corps of Engineers. Charles's youngest brother Herbert Baxter Adams (1850-1901) was encouraged to study in Germany, returned with a PhD and landed in the newly opened Johns Hopkins University where he taught (as well as a couple of courses at Smith College) until his death at the turn of the century. In 1905, Georgiana Wood Adams (1874-1957) married Franklin Hubbell Mills, the only son of George Franklin Mills, a classics teacher and later Dean at the Massachusetts Agricultural College. George's father, Benjamin F. Mills, started the Greylock Institute which was active several decades, and both Franklin and his father George were graduates of Williams College. Franklin and Georgiana Mills lived in New York City, and had one child, Mary Mills (1908-1963). Mason Tyler Adams (1877-1933) married Juliette Emily Hubbell, and the couple had two children. Many in the Adams-Mills-Wood extended family are buried at Wildwood Cemetery in Amherst, MA, as Mary Clark Adams and her mother-in-law Harriet bought two side-by-side lots for the family.

Scope of collection

The Adams-Mills Family papers document three core generations of the Adams and Mills families with roots in western Massachusetts. Manuscript material, ephemera and numerous photographs document Charles Dickinson Adams, his wife Mary Clark Wood Adams, and George Franklin Mills; the merging of their families through Georgiana Wood Adams Mills and Franklin Hubbell Mills; and their children, other family, and friends. Highlights include Mary Mills' baby book, over 20 years of correspondence from Mason to his sister Georgiana, correspondence between other family members reflecting attitudes and events in the late 1800s through mid-1900s, several travel journals and scrapbooks, and records from local schools such as Massachusetts Agricultural College, Amherst College, and Williams College.

Over one-third of the collection is photographs, another highlight of this small but significant family collection. Most photographs are formally taken portraits or studio shots, but there are certainly numerous images from the daily lives and gatherings of the extended Adams-Mills family communities and of their dwellings. In addition to reflecting the clothing and hair styles, home aesthetics, and vacation spots of these families in the 19th and 20th centuries, photographic technologies from these eras - including cyanotypes, tintypes, carbon prints, silver gelatin prints, carte de visite, and cabinet cards - are documented. Families and friends identified include members of the Adams, Buddy, Colby, Dickinson, Fowler, Hubbell, Mills, and Wood families.

Inventory

Manuscripts Material

Adams, Charles Dickinson - financial

1876, 1887-1889

Box 6: 1

Adams, Charles Dickinson - invitations, speeches

1840-1888

Box 6: 2

Adams, Charles Dickinson - Sabbath School certificate

1850

Box 8: 1

Adams, Charles Dickinson and Mary Clark - travel scrapbook

1884-07

Box 1: 1

Adams, Mary Clark - checkbooks

1920-1922

Box 1: 2

Adams, Mary Clark - correspondence to daughter

1904

Box 1: 3

Adams, Mary Clark - correspondence to daughter and FHM

1909

Box 1: 4

Adams, Mary Clark - correspondence

1922

Box 1: 5

Adams, Mary Clark - financial

1913-1921

Box 1: 6
Adams, Mary Clark - financial
1920

Box 6: 3
Adams, Mary Clark - income taxes
1917-1921

Box 1: 7
Adams, Mary Clark - notes, religious
1911

Box 1: 8
Adams, Mary Clark - travel diary
1894-1912

Box 1: 9
Adams, Mason Tyler - correspondence to sister
1889-1891

Box 1: 10
Adams, Mason Tyler - correspondence to sister
1893-1894

Box 1: 11
Adams, Mason Tyler - correspondence to sister
1895-1897

Box 1: 12
Adams, Mason Tyler - correspondence to sister
1898-1900

Box 1: 13
Adams, Mason Tyler - correspondence to sister
1902

Box 6: 4
Adams, Mason Tyler - correspondence to sister
1903

Box 1: 14
Adams, Mason Tyler - correspondence to sister
1904

Box 1: 15
Adams, Mason Tyler - correspondence to sister
1905-1906

Box 1: 16
Adams, Mason Tyler - correspondence to sister
1907-1928

Box 1: 17
Adams, Mason Tyler - drawings
1883

Box 1: 18
Adams, Mason Tyler - writings
1883-1913

Box 1: 19
Adams, Henry Martyn
1909-1910

Box 1: 20
Adams, Peggy and Samuel Hopkins
1940, 1955

Box 1: 21
Amherst College - Class History 1963 (Adams, Charles D.)
1888

Box 2: 1
Amherst College - Valedictory Oration (Adams, Charles D.)
1863

Box 2: 2
Butterfield, Kenyon L.
1913

Box 2: 3
Cards and clippings
1955-1956

Box 2: 4
Daughters of the American Revolution of Amherst, MA book: Mary Mattoon and Her Hero of the Revolution
1902

Box 2: 5
Daughters of the American Revolution - certificates (Adams, Mills)

1895-1899
Box 8
Greylock Institute
1842, 1874
Box 2: 6
Hubbell, Algernon Sidney - In Memoria
1892
Box 2: 7
In the Wake of the 1938 Hurricane, Amherst, MA
1938
Box 2: 8
Mills - clippings, house
1914-1945
Box 2: 9
Mills - deeds, mortgages
1884-1913
Box 6: 5
Mills - genealogy
1860
Box 2: 10
Mills, Benjamin - correspondence to grandchildren (esp. FHM)
1900-1905
Box 2: 11
Mills, Benjamin - funeral service
1906-01-01T00:00:00
Box 2: 12
Mills, George Franklin - correspondence
1880-1885
Box 2: 13
Mills, George Franklin - correspondence
1904, 1912
Box 2: 14
Mills, George Franklin - correspondence, re: father's death
1914-1915
Box 2: 15
Mills, George Franklin - death and memorial - Massachusetts Agricultural College (MAC)
1915
Box 2: 16
Mills, George Franklin -journal
1856-1858
Box 2: 17
Mills, George Franklin -journal
1857-1861
Box 2: 18
Mills, George Franklin - Massachusetts Agricultural College (MAC)
1907-1913
Box 2: 19
Mills, Georgiana Adams - Bible verses
1910
Box 2: 20
Mills, Georgiana Adams - clippings (copies), notes
1955
Box 2: 21
Mills, Georgiana Adams - clippings (originals)
1955
Box 2: 22
Mills, Georgiana Adams - financial
1921-1922
Box 2: 23
Mills, Georgiana Adams - postcards
1933, 1943
Box 2: 24
Mills, Georgiana Adams and Mary - scrapbook
1909-1920
Box 7
Mills, Mary - Committee for Devastated France
1922
Box 2: 25

Mills, Mary - Amherst Cemetery Association - Wildwood Cemetery
1904-1950
Box 2: 26
Mills, Mary - baby diary
1908-1920
Box 2: 27
Mills, Mary - baby diary - art and writing
1910-1921
Box 3: 1
Mills, Mary - baby diary - Brearley School
1921
Box 3: 2
Mills, Mary - baby diary - correspondence
1915-1921
Box 3: 3
Mills, Mary - baby diary - dance and music
1917-1923
Box 3: 4
Mills, Mary - baby diary - miscellaneous
1883, 1918
Box 3: 5
Mills, Mary - correspondence, re: father's death
1940
Box 3: 6
Mills, Mary - correspondence
1944-1960
Box 3: 7
Mills, Mary - estate
1962-1965
Box 3: 8
Mills, Mary - Executor (Sutherland, Arthur E.)
1963
Box 6: 6
Mills, Mary - fencing diplomas
1925, 1926
Box 8
The New England Primer (Adams, Henry Martyn)
1830
Box 6: 10
Obituaries - Adams, Wood
1889-1934
Box 3: 9
Postcards - Amherst, Amherst College, Northampton
1901-1902
Box 3: 10
Postcards - Connecticut, Vermont
1900
Box 3: 11
Rainsford House of St. George's Church
1938
Box 3: 12
Smith, Jonathan - clippings
1881-1909
Box 3: 13
Theatre Arts: The Negro in the American Theatre
1942-08-01T00:00:00
Box 3: 14
Wedding list
1900
Box 3: 15
Williams College
1860-1920
Box 3: 16
Williams College - class of 1862
1902
Box 3: 17
Williamstown Bicentennial
1953

Box 3: 18
Williamstown - Idlewild and Williams Inn
1935-1947
Box 3: 19
Wills, estates
1864-1964
Box 6: 7
Wood - Aunt Mary and Uncle John Fund
1924-1929
Box 3: 20
Wood - Aunt Mary and Uncle John Fund
1924
Box 3: 21
Wood - Aunt Mary and Uncle John Fund
1926
Box 3: 22
Wood - Aunt Mary and Uncle John Fund
1929
Box 3: 23
Wood - Aunt Mary and Uncle John Fund
1930-1934
Box 3: 24
Wood - Aunt Mary and Uncle John Fund
1923-1947
Box 3: 25
Wood, George - profiles
1951
Box 3: 26
Wood, George - travel journals
1853, 1879
Box 6: 8
Photographs

Adams, Charles Dickinson and Mary Clark Wood
1870
Box 4: 1
Adams children (Mason and Georgiana) and family
1880-1900
Box 4: 2
Adams children (Mason and Georgiana) and family
1880-1901
Box 4: 3
Adams, Mason Tyler - Yale University
1895
Box 4: 4
Amherst, South Deerfield - landscapes

Box 4: 5
Amherst College class reunions
1900
Box 8: 2
Bartlett Carry Club
1889
Box 4: 6
Bartlett Carry Club - Mary and Barbara
1890
Box 6: 9
Buddy family
1900-1943
Box 4: 7
Colby, Harriet Wood and children

Box 4: 8
Darling family

Box 4: 9
Dickinson, Lizzie and Marjorie Lowrie
1889-1900
Box 4: 10
Dickinsons, Wilsons, and others
1890-1921
Box 4: 11
Mills, Franklin Hubbell
1900-1930
Box 4: 12
Mills, Franklin Hubbell
1885-1955
Box 4: 13
Mills, George Franklin
1890-1905
Box 4: 14
Mills, Georgiana Adams
1892-1912
Box 4: 15
Mills, Mary
1912-1935
Box 4: 16
Mills wedding trip - Templeton Inn
1905
Box 4: 17
Mills family
1850-1900
Box 8: 3
Mills house
1850-1900
Box 8: 4
Smith, Jonathan - tomb
1910
Box 4: 18
Travels - Europe
1905
Box 4: 19
Travels - South
1905
Box 4: 20
Travels - South - Camden, SC - Hobkirk Inn
1906
Box 4: 21
Williamstown
1900-1925
Box 4: 22
Wood, Frank
1900-1920
Box 5: 1
Wood, George - house, school - Skanaeteles, NY
1922-1926
Box 5: 2
Wood, John and Mary
1900-1920
Box 5: 3
Wood, Tom, Jessie, and Kittie
1900-1920
Box 5: 4
Wood family
1884-1920
Box 5: 5
Wood family
1884-1920
Box 5: 6
Woods, Fowlers, Colbys
1876-1885
Box 5: 7

Woods, Adams, Colbys and others
1884-1920
Box 5: 8
Woods, Adams, Colbys and others (Lyle, William)
1884-1920
Box 5: 9
Woods, Adams, and others (cabinet cards)
1900-1920
Box 5: 10
Woods, Adams, and others (carte de viste)
1900-1920
Box 5: 11
Photographs - nature, homes
1900-1940
Box 5: 12
Photographs (cyanotypes)
1900-1920
Box 5: 13
Photographs
1900
Box 5: 14
Photographs
1900
Box 5: 15
Photographs
1900-1930
Box 5: 16
Photographs
1900-1930
Box 5: 17

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Anora Sutherland McGaha, 2024.

Processing Information

Processed by Blake Spitz, September 2024.

Related Material

Related materials on George Franklin Mills in RG 6/1 Dean of the College, and RG 40/11 Mills.

Language:

English

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Search terms

Subjects

- Amherst (Mass.)--History
- Amherst (Mass.)--Social life and customs
- Amherst College
- Massachusetts Agricultural College

- New England--History

Contributors

- Adams-Mills family [main entry]

Genres and formats

- Correspondence
- Photographs

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