Finding aid for the George and Elenora Adams diaries, letters, and other material 7086

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USC Libraries Special Collections
2019 March
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URL: http://libraries.usc.edu/locations/special-collections
Language of Material: English
Contributing Institution: USC Libraries Special Collections
Title: George and Elenora Adams diaries, letters, and other material
creator: Adams, George Everett, 1845-1887
creator: Adams, Elenora Martin Learned, 1845-1921
Identifier/Call Number: 7086
Physical Description: 3.54 Linear Feet6 boxes
Date (inclusive): 1856-1909
Abstract: The George and Elenora Adams diaries, letters, and other material contain 39 diaries, four letters, and various personal documents and ephemera kept by George E. Adams and his wife Elenora Martin Learned Adams. Throughout the course of their lives—as documented in their journals—George and Elenora worked as farmers, teachers, and store owners in New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Maine before moving to Duarte near East Los Angeles in 1887. In California, George and Elenora tried their luck as fruit-pickers, real estate speculators, and store owners, including several months working on a relative's dairy farm and ranch in East Los Angeles, before eventually settling in Pasadena as merchants. The collection comprises a historically important and richly detailed first-hand account of a New England family's struggle to relocate during the California land boom of the mid-1880s and become successful merchants in Los Angeles.
Scope and Contents
The collection contains 29 diaries by George E. Adams spanning the period from 1862 to 1895 (missing the years 1863, 1882, and 1888-1890); and 10 diaries by Elenora M. Adams spanning from 1873 to 1885 (missing the years 1879, and 1881-1882). Accompanying the diaries is an 1864 Civil War letter written by Elenora's two brothers (while both were serving in the 14th New Hampshire Infantry); together with a few other personal letters and documents relating to George and Elenora's work as teachers and store owners -- including three letterpress broadsheets advertising the various goods and services offered at their store in Westborough, Massachusetts, and other store-related ephemera.
The diaries contain detailed and harrowing accounts of George Adams' two-year tenure (1873-1874) as an officer, teacher, and night watchman at the Massachusetts State Reform School for Boys in Westborough, and of both George and Elenora's employment at the State Reform School for Boys in Portland, Maine (1874-1876). In George Adams' final six diaries (from 1887 and 1891-1895), he provides detailed accounts of his overland travel from Boston to East Los Angeles and of his first year in California working as a fruit picker for the Porter Brothers Company and as a real estate broker at the height of the land boom in 1887. In his other California diaries from the early 1890s, George details his efforts to make a living as a store owner and merchant, while at the same time still managing his real estate holdings and continuing to work as an occasional fruit picker, dairy farm laborer, and ranch hand.
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Preferred Citation
[Box/folder no. or item name], George and Elenora Adams diaries, letters, and other material, Collection no. 7086, Regional History Collection, Special Collections, USC Libraries, University of Southern California
Immediate Source of Acquisition
Purchased from Between the Covers - Rare Books, Inc., February 26, 2019.
Subjects and Indexing Terms
Duarte (Calif.) -- Social life and customs -- 19th century -- Archival resources
East Los Angeles (Calif.) -- History -- Archival resources
Migration, internal -- United States -- History -- 19th century
Advertisements
Correspondence
Diaries
Adams, George Everett, 1845-1887 -- Archives
Adams, Elenora Martin Learned, 1845-1921 -- Archives
## Finding aid for the George and Elenora Adams diaries, letters, and other material 7086

### Diaries of George E. Adams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>George E. Adams / Dublin, N. H. 1862</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>George E. Adams / Dublin, N. H. 1864</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>George E. Adams / Dublin, N. H. 1865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>George E. Adams / Dublin, N. H. 1866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>George E. Adams / Dublin, N. H. 1867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>George E. Adams / Dublin, N. H. 1868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>George E. Adams / Dublin, N. H. 1869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>George E. Adams / Dublin, Cheshire Co., New Hampshire 1870</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>George E. Adams / Portland, Maine, Maine S.R.S. 1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>George E. Adams / Watertown, Mass. 1877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Geo. E. Adams / Geo. E. Adams, Glassware &amp; Crockery ... Watertown, Mass. 1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Geo. E. Adams ... / Geo. E. Adams, Glassware &amp; Crockery ... Watertown, Mass. 1879</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>[Ink stamp:] Geo. E. Adams, Glassware &amp; Crockery ... Watertown, Mass. 1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>[Ink stamp:] Geo. E. Adams, Glassware &amp; Crockery ... Watertown, Mass. 1881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Geo. E. Adams / Watertown, Mass. 1883</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Geo. E. Adams 1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>[No ownership signature or stamp] 1885</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>[No ownership signature or stamp] 1886</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Geo. E. Adams, 115 Hawkins St. / East Los Angeles, California 1887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Geo. E. Adams / Duarte, Cal. 1891</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Geo. E. Adams / Pico Heights, Cal. 1892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Geo. E. Adams / Pico Heights, Cal. 1893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Geo. E. Adams / East Los Angeles, Cal. 1894</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Geo. E. Adams / 1223 Pasadena Ave., East Los Angeles, Cal. 1895</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Diaries of Elenora Martin Learned Adams

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>E. M. Learned / alias E. M. Adams 1873</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Elenora M. Adams / Dublin, N.H. 1874</td>
</tr>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Elenora M. Adams / Dublin, N.H. 1875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elenora M. Adams / Portland, Me. / Watertown, Mass. 1876</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elenora Adams / A new year's present from George 1877</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elenora 1878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elenora M. Adams / Watertown, Mass. 1880</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>A present from George and to be kept for his express pleasure / Elenora M. Adams 1883</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Presented by George E. Adams to E. M. Adams 1884</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Elenora M. Adams / Watertown, Mass. 1885</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Scope and Contents

Five manuscripts and one printed flyer.

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**Massachusetts. State Reform School (Westborough, Mass.)**
Box 6, Folder 2

[Civil War letter from Elenora M. Adams' brothers] 1864-07

General

Creators: Corp. Lewis D. Learned, killed at the battle of Cedar Creek, Virginia, and Corp. Marion D. Learned.

Recipients: Elenora M. Adams (née Learned) and Louisa Learned.

Extract: "... Algiers is some like Carrollton but a little larger village. We get vegetables here but we have to pay very high for them. We have not had much duty to do yet and it being so warm we do not feel much like running about and we have a lot of spare time which we occupy in reading etc. The weather is very warm we have showers most every day sometimes it rains quite hard then we do not get much at other times there are quite a lot of soldiers encamped at this place some come and some leave most every day ... "

Scope and Contents

ALS. Octavo. 4pp. Algiers, La. Also includes typed transcription and biographical/historical information relating to the Learned brothers printed from the web.

Box 6, Folder 3

[Tax receipts] 1867-1872

Box 6, Folder 4

[Fraternal organization certificates and letter] 1869-1883

Scope and Contents

Nine documents re: Independent Order of Good Templars (IOGT) and Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF).

Box 6, Folder 5

[Price list for The Galvanized Eureka Sap Spout and Bucket Hanger] 1870

Scope and Contents

One broadside.

Box 6, Folder 6

[George E. Adams periodical subscription sales - checks and certification] 1870-1874

Box 6, Folder 7

[News clippings] 1870-1881, undated

Box 6, Folder 8

[Ephemera] 1871-1879

Scope and Contents

Reward of merit to George Adams; Republican Rallying Committee notice to Adams; bank check made out to Adams; Watertown Lecture Course ticket; Portland Steam Packet 1876 Centennial Excursion ticket; various business and personal cards.
Box 6, Folder 9

[Promotional material for Adams' store] 1873

Scope and Contents


Box 6, Folder 10

Certificate of Marriage 1873

General

George E. Adams and Elenora M. Learned, Dublin, N.H.

Box 6, Folder 11

[Family letter(s)] 1881-05-08

Scope and Contents

1-2 letters written on the same sheet of paper -- addressed "Dear Children."

Box 6, Folder 12


Box 6, Folder 13

[Small tintype - possibly George E. Adams when a young man] undated

Box 6, Folder 14

[George E. Adams business cards] undated

Scope and Contents