

Guide to the Cutter and Merriam Family Papers, 1814-2006, bulk 1826-1967

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Cutter and Merriam Family Papers, 1814-2006, bulk 1826-1967

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
nhhistory.org

Collection Number:

2024.071

Author of Finding Aid:

Jay Lewis

Creator:

Cutter, Frederic Augustus, 1836-1902
Merriam, Clifton Harris, 1883-1962

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English

Extent:

5 boxes ; 1.92 linear feet

Abstract:

Frederick Augustus Cutter was born in Pelham, New Hampshire, on May 6, 1836. Clifton Harris Merriam was born on December 30, 1883, in Winchendon, Massachusetts, and married Virginia Francis Cutter, daughter of Frederick Augustus Cutter, on September 5, 1914. The original Cutter farm was built by John Cutter, in 1792. The ninety-acre farm was settled at the intersection of Mammoth and Shelburne Roads in Pelham. This collection consists of the papers of the Cutter and Merriam families. The bulk of the items in the collection are record books, notebooks, and ledgers from Cutter Farm. These books contain details on the farm's operation, as well as annual livestock and produce inventory. The collection also includes family photographs, miscellaneous financial records for the farm, and agricultural literature.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Cutter and Merriam Family Papers were a gift of the Cutter and Merriam families in 2024.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Jay Lewis in April 2025. The finding aid was written by Jay Lewis in April 2025. 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. A lightbox, available in the New Hampshire Historical Society Reading Room, is required to view negatives in this collection. Gloves must be worn when viewing the Herbarium Book and pages must be kept flat to prevent specimens from being damaged.

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, Cutter and Merriam Family Papers, 2024.071. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Frederick Augustus Cutter (1836-1902)

Frederick Augustus Cutter, son of Benjamin Franklin and Sarah Hall (Russell) Cutter, was born in Pelham, New Hampshire, on May 6, 1836. Educated at Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts, and Appleton Academy in New Ipswich, New Hampshire, he taught in Tyngsboro and Leominster, Massachusetts; Maine; and Illinois before returning to Pelham to operate the Cutter Farm. Interested in forestry and gardening, he often lectured and published articles in forestry and agricultural journals, as well as in the *Country Gentleman*. He was a Mason, an active member of the National Grange, and held several town offices. On October 11, 1870, he married his third wife, Susan Martine Hardy, born May 5, 1850. He died in Pelham on May 16, 1902 and is buried in the Gibson Cemetery in Pelham.

Clifton Harris Merriam (1883-1962)

Clifton Harris Merriam was born on December 30, 1883, in Winchendon, Massachusetts, to Lyman Wheeler and Ellen Maria (Lowe) Merriam. He graduated from Fitchburg High School in 1902 and attended various summer trainings in YMCA work. For a time, he worked as the Physical Education Director at YMCAs in Bangor, Maine; Somerville and Melrose, Massachusetts; and Bristol, Rhode Island. He married Virginia Francis Cutter, daughter of Frederick Augustus Cutter, on September 5, 1914, in Melrose. By April 1917, he and Virginia settled at Cutter Farm in Pelham, which he continued to operate as a dairy farm for the remainder of his life. Merriam was an active member in the Hillsborough County Farm Bureau, and was a leader in the 4-H Club of Pelham. He died December 3, 1962.

According to Frederick Augustus Cutter, the original Cutter Farm was built by his grandfather, John Cutter, in 1792. Settled at the intersection of Mammoth and Shelburne Roads in Pelham, New Hampshire, the ninety-acre lot was “covered almost entirely with a heavy growth of oak timber, with no pines except once in a while a stray tree mixed in.” The farm buildings were built in 1837, while the original John Cutter house was moved across the street. Frederick Augustus Cutter’s father, Benjamin Franklin Cutter, was successful on the farm, raising vegetables, fruits, and ornamental trees, and was the originator of the “Cutter’s Seedling” strawberry.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Cutter and Merriam Family Papers, 1814-2006, consist of the papers of the Frederic Augustus Cutter and Clifton Harris Merriam families. The bulk of the items in the collection are record books, notebooks, and ledgers from Cutter Farm in Pelham, New Hampshire. These books contain details on the farm’s operation, as well as annual livestock and produce inventory. The collection also includes family photographs, miscellaneous financial records for the farm, agricultural literature, and various family papers including diaries, a marriage announcement, estate papers, membership certificates, stock certificates, and an herbarium book. Most items were owned and used by Cutter and Merriam.

Arrangement:

The Cutter and Merriam Family Papers are organized into the following series and subseries:

Series 1. Frederic Augustus Cutter family papers, 1814-1911

Subseries 1.1. Record books, 1826-1900

Subseries 1.2. Miscellaneous papers, 1814-1911

Series 2. Clifton Merriam family papers, 1883-1989

Subseries 2.1. Farm records, 1891-1989

Subseries 2.2. Literature, 1897-1972

Subseries 2.3 Other materials, 1883-1955, undated

Series 3. Photographs, 1920-1967, 2006, undated

Contents List

Series 1. Frederic Augustus Cutter family papers, 1814-1911

Extent: 17 folders

Scope and Content: Series 1 includes record books owned and used by Frederic Augustus Cutter. The bulk of the series includes miscellaneous papers regarding the workings of the Cutter farm.

Subseries 1.1. Record books, 1826-1900

Extent: 5 folders

Scope and Content: Subseries 1.1 is made up of record books and ledgers kept by Frederic Augustus Cutter during his time on the Cutter farm. They include financial records and livestock and produce inventory. Some of the books may have had previous owners before they were used by Cutter, such as the volume in folder 2, as they include recipes, poetry, vital records (birth, marriage, and death dates), and diary entries, including a note on President Lincoln's assassination, but little else on the Civil War.

Box 1

Folder 1	Record book, 1826-1859
Folder 2	Record book, 1837-1872
Folder 3	Record book, 1855-1867
Folder 4	Record book, 1868-1890
Folder 5	Record book, 1897-1900

Subseries 1.2. Miscellaneous papers, 1814-1911

Extent: 12 folders

Scope and Content: Subseries 1.2 include various financial receipts and notes taken by Frederic Augustus Cutter, as well as a variety of family papers. Most of the receipts are for the construction of the Cutter farm as well as for taxes, lodge dues, insurance, and supplies. Other materials include an invitation to celebrate Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Cutter's 10th anniversary and a marriage announcement for Virginia Frances Cutter and Clifton Harris Merriam; estate papers including an estate inventory for Thomas Spofford, estate papers of Jonathan C. Whitehouse, and the will of Sarah Cutter; stock certificates for the Lowell Co-operative milk Association and a membership certificate to the Middlesex North Agricultural Society; deeds; power of attorney; printed material; labels for ketchup made on the farm and information on Cutter's Seedling Strawberry; and an issue of the *New England Farmer* dated March 21, 1896. These materials are organized chronologically.

Box 1

Folder 6	Miscellaneous papers, 1814-1833, 1845, 1849
Folder 7	Miscellaneous papers, 1852, 1855, 1869
Folder 8	Miscellaneous papers, 1870-1872
Folder 9	Miscellaneous papers, 1873
Folder 10	Miscellaneous papers, 1874
Folder 11	Miscellaneous papers, 1875
Folder 12	Miscellaneous papers, 1876
Folder 13	Miscellaneous papers, 1877
Folder 14	Felch, I. K., <i>The Breeding and Management of Poultry</i> , 1877
Folder 15	Miscellaneous papers, 1880-1881, 1888-1893
Folder 16	<i>The New Hampshire Register and Business Directory for 1886</i> , 1886
Folder 17	Miscellaneous papers, 1896-1906, 1911, undated

Series 2. Clifton Merriam family papers, 1883-1989

Extent: 48 folders

Scope and Content: Series 2 consists of the papers of the Clifton Merriam family, husband of Virginia (Cutter) Merriam. Much of the series highlights the day-to-day workings of the Cutter farm, and includes daily notebooks, account books, and inventory ledgers.

Subseries 2.1. Farm records, 1891-1989

Extent: 29 folders

Scope and Content: Subseries 2.1 is composed of farm records for the Cutter farm at the time it was owned and operated by Clifton and Virginia (Cutter) Merriam. The subseries highlights the day-to-day workings of the Cutter farm, and includes daily notebooks, account books, and inventory ledgers. Miscellaneous papers include a ribbon for "The Triennial Convention of Metropolitan Field Workers" dated 1916; receipts for taxes, supplies, and milk; two applications for the dairy production program from the War Food Administration dated 1945; a program for the 200th anniversary of Pelham, NH, which includes a welcome home to those who served in World War II; a record test for brucellosis; a receipt book; and more. The miscellaneous papers have a few notes from on the materials from the 1980s.

Box 2

Folder 1	Ledger, 1891-1895, 1924-1925
Folder 2	Notebook, 1896-1901
Folder 3	Notebook, 1918-1919, undated
Folder 4	Ledger, 1918-1922
Folder 5	Account book, 1919-1928
Folder 6	C.H. Merriam ledger, 1920-1926
Folder 7	"Record of Dairy Herd Owned by C.H. Merriam," 1921-1922, 1925-1926, 1936, 1937-1938
Folder 8	"Workmen's Weekly Time Book" notebook, 1922-1925
Folder 9	Duplicating order book, 1924-1925
Folder 10	"Weekly Time Book" notebook, 1925-1932
Folder 11	Memorandum book, 1927-1936
Folder 12	"Martine Merriam Egg record 1934" and "Poultry Account 1934," 1934-1935
Folder 13	"1 st year of keeping poultry" notebook, 1934-1935
Folder 14	"Farmer's Pocket Ledger," 1936
Folder 15	Inventory ledger, 1936-1943
Folder 16	Clifton and Virginia Merriam Farm Income and Expenses and Income Tax forms, 1940-1954, 1965
Folder 17	Account book, 1941-1946
Folder 18	"Book of Dairy Farm Accounts and Records," 1942-1943, 1948
Folder 19	Account book, 1943-1957
Folder 20	Account and inventory book, 1944-1957

Box 3

Folder 1	Ledger, 1946-1947
Folder 2	Memo book, 1947-1965
Folder 3	Cow records notebook, 1952-1958

Folder 4	Account notebook, 1955-1959
Folder 5	Notebook, "Painting House July 1964 1965," 1964-1966
Folder 6	Checkbooks, checks, and Union Old Lowell National Bank checks, 1922, 1927, 1931-1946, 1955
Folder 7	Check registers, 1948-1953, 1954-1958
Folder 8	B.F. Cutter Nursery business cards and cards, undated
Folder 9	Miscellaneous papers, 1915-1959, 1985, 1989, undated

Subseries 2.2 Literature, 1897-1972

Extent: 12 folders

Scope and Content: Subseries 2.2 includes miscellaneous literature owned by the Merriam family while living at the Cutter farm. Most of the literature is agricultural in nature, with many documents published by organizations like the Massachusetts State College Extension Service, the United States Department of Agriculture, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, and the University of New Hampshire Extension Service. The subseries also includes farm equipment manuals and literature on raising livestock.

Box 3

Folder 10	Miscellaneous literature, 1897, 1913, 1939-1950 <i>New Hampshire College Agricultural Experiment Station Ninth Annual Report</i> <i>The Home Garden</i> – Massachusetts State College Extension Service <i>Water</i> – Dr. Alvah H. Doty <i>Pruning White Pine</i> – Massachusetts State College Extension Service <i>The Farm Forest</i> – Massachusetts State College Extension Service <i>Herd Improvement Program on Hood Farms</i> – Harry L. Piper <i>Family fare: food management and recipes</i> – U.S. Department of Agriculture
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Box 4

Folder 1	Miscellaneous literature, 1953, 1962, undated <i>Soil Survey: Hillsborough County New Hampshire</i> – U.S. Department of Agriculture <i>Family fare: food management and recipes</i> – U.S. Department of Agriculture "Cheese Making on the Farm and in the House" – A.J. Cavanaugh "How to Save Your White Pine Crop" – U.S. Department of Agriculture
Folder 2	The Commonwealth of Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, 1914-1918 <i>Nature Leaflet, No. 45.</i> "Planting and Care of Trees," March 1914 <i>Nature Leaflet No. 24.</i> "Hints for Out-Door Bird Study," December 1915 <i>Nature Leaflet No. 27.</i> "The Gypsy Moth," December 1915 <i>Circular No. 47.</i> "Bird Houses and Nesting Boxes," March 1916 <i>Circular No. 49.</i> "Food Plants to Attract Birds and Protect Fruit," June 1916 <i>Circular No. 42.</i> "The Home Vegetable Garden," February 1918
Folder 3	<i>Bulletin of the U.S. Department of Agriculture</i> , 1915-1916 "The Eastern Hemlock," February 3, 1915

- Folder 4 “Measuring and Marketing Woodlot Products,” June 29, 1916
U.S. Department of Agriculture Farmer’s Bulletin, 1917-1941
 “The Small Vegetable Garden: Suggestions for Utilizing Limited Areas,” April 1917
 “Drying Fruits and Vegetables in the Home,” June 1917
 “Home Canning of Fruits and Vegetables,” July 1917
 “Food of Some Well-Known Birds of Forrest, Farm, and Garden,” March 1918
 “Community Bird Refuges,” January 1923
 “Bird Houses and How to Build Them,” November 1923
 “Homing Pigeons: Their Care and Training,” October 1923
 “Making Butter on the Farm,” February 1930
 “Eradication of Ferns: From Pasture Lands in the Eastern United States,” November 1936
 “Care and Improvement of the Farm Woods,” July 1941
- Folder 5 Gardening literature, 1918, 1927, 1942, undated
The Home Vegetable Garden – Allen French
 “Vegetable Gardening in New Hampshire,” – J.R. Hepler
Vegetable and Fruit Products
 “The Compost Pile – Artificial Manure”
- Folder 6 Home economics literature, 1925, 1938, 1944, 1948, undated
 “Furniture, Floors, and Finishes: Their Identification, Treatment, and Care,” – S.H. Boomer and K.W. Woodward
Kitchen Storage Space – Clara E. Jonas
 “Sewing Helps for the Beginner,” – Margery L. Bessom
 “Slick Tricks in Cleaning,” – Ann F. Beggs
Re-Make Clothes! – American Women’s Voluntary Services
- Folder 7 Hoard’s Dairyman literature, 1936-1940
How to Treat Common Ailments of Farm Animals
The Hoard’s Dairyman Feed Guide: Dairy Cattle, Poultry, Horses, Swine
Better Dairy Herds Through Breeding
- Folder 8 Miscellaneous animal literature, 1944, 1947, undated
 Vermont Jerseys Consignment Sale catalog
Insect: friends and enemies
Feeding and Managing Small Poultry Operations – Purina Poultry Chows
- Folder 9 Farm maintenance literature, 1937-1944, undated
Practical Construction Methods for the Farm
Care and Maintenance of the Farm Truck
Esso Farm Book
 “Chimney’s: Good and Bad”
Permanent Repairs on the Farm
- Folder 10 University of New Hampshire Extension Service, 1937, 1960
 “Handicraft and Art Suggestions”
 “New Hampshire Forest Market Report 1960”
- Folder 11 Farm equipment, 1949-1950, 1972, undated
 Planet Jr. catalogs

New Idea Farm Equipment 1972 Corn Machines catalog
McCormick Self-Dump Hay Rake instruction manual
McCormick-Deering No. 6 Vertical Lift Mower instruction manual

Subseries 2.3. Other materials, 1883-1955, undated

Extent: 7 folders

Scope and Content: Subseries 2.3 consists of three diaries from the Merriam family: two from Martine Merriam, the daughter of Clifton and Virginia Merriam, and one small notebook with wildlife sightings taken by Clifton. The subseries also includes Farm Bureau signs, newspapers, and an herbarium book created by Clifton Merriam's uncle, David Lowe of Fitchburg, MA. This volume contains pressed botanical specimens.

Box 5

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| Folder 1 | Newspapers, 1902, 1922, 1936, 1944
<i>The New England Homestead</i> , January 25, 1902
<i>New-Hampshire Department of Agriculture Weekly Market Bulletin</i> ,
January 4, 1922
<i>Hood News</i> , 1936
<i>The Milkpail</i> , October 1944 |
| Folder 2 | Farm Bureau signs, 1918, 1950-1954, undated |
| Folder 3 | Martine Merriam diary, 1933 |
| Folder 4 | Martine Merriam diary, 1935 |
| Folder 5 | <i>The Land Letter</i> , 1946-1947 |
| Folder 6 | Clifton Merriam notebook, 1955 |
| Folder 7 | David Lowe "Herbarium Book," 1883 |

Series 3. Photographs, 1920-1967, 2006, undated

Extent: 6 folders

Scope and Content: Series 3 consists of photographs of the Cutter and Merriam families. These include portraits of Frederic, Susan, and Virginia Cutter (see box 5, folder 8). The series also includes photographs of daily life on the Cutter farm, as well as photographic negatives.

Box 5

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| Folder 8 | Cutter family portraits, undated |
| Folder 9 | Farm photographs, 1920-1967, 2006, undated |
| Folder 10 | Animal photographs, 1937, undated |
| Folder 11 | Family photographs, 1927-1928, undated |
| Folder 12 | Miscellaneous photographs, undated |
| Folder 13 | Negatives, undated |

Separated Materials:

Due to its size, the following map has been moved to the Map Collection – Hillsborough County:
Soil Map, Hillsborough County – New Hampshire, circa 1940, 912.778a H655s

Subject Terms

People:

Cutter, Benjamin Franklin, 1802-1870

Cutter, Frederic Augustus, 1836-1902
Cutter, John, 1767-1842
Cutter, Sarah, 1811-1888
Cutter, Susan Martine, 1850-1944
Lowe, David, 1867-1956
Merriam, Clifton Harris, 1883-1962
Merriam, Martine, 1922-1999
Merriam, Virginia Frances, 1889-1942
Spofford, Thomas, 1743-1833
Whitehouse, Jonathan C.

Organizations:

Bulletin of the U.S. Department of Agriculture
Massachusetts. State Board of Agriculture
United States. Department of Agriculture
University of New Hampshire. Cooperative Extension Service
Lowell Co-operative Milk Association
Hillsborough County Farm Bureau
New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation

Subjects:

Account books
Agriculture
Botanical specimens
Checks
Dairy farming
Diaries
Estates (Law)
Farm life
Farms
Photographs
Registers of births, etc.
Signs and signboards
World War, 1939-1945

Locations:

Hudson, NH
Lowell, MA
Pelham, NH

Occupations:

Farmers
Nursery growers