

Guide to the Bartlett, Cilley, and Shepard Family Papers, 1775, 1814-1922, bulk 1847-1888

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Bartlett, Cilley, and Shepard Family Papers, 1775, 1814-1922, bulk 1847-1888

Repository:

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

Collection Number:

2024.045

Author of Finding Aid:

Sandra L. Wheeler

Creator:

Bartlett family

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box ; 0.21 linear feet

Abstract:

The Bartlett, Cilley, and Shepard Family Papers contain letters to the young Victoria Cilley [Bartlett] (1831-1905) from school friends, written between 1847 and 1851; these document the activities and concerns of young unmarried women of the era. A later set of letters are between and among Victoria and several of her children - Annie, Jenny, and Nathaniel - were written when the children were teenagers or young adults away at school. In addition, the collection contains the regulations and daily reports of Bradbury Bartlett's company while on duty at Ft. Sullivan, New Hampshire, in May-July 1814.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Bartlett, Cilley and Shepard Family Papers were given to the New Hampshire Historical Society by Hannah G. Weisenburger on July 9, 2024.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Sandra L. Wheeler in June 2025. The finding aid was written by Sandra L. Wheeler in July 2025. This finding aid follows the standards set-forth by *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, Bartlett, Cilley, and Shepard Family Papers, 2024.045. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information

This collection centers around Victoria (Cilley) Bartlett (1831-1905), daughter of Colonel Joseph Cilley (1791-1887) and Elizabeth (Williams) Cilley (1791-1843) of Nottingham, NH. She was born on September 24, 1831 and married Thomas Bradbury Bartlett (1826-1905), son of Bradbury Bartlett and Molly (True) Bartlett, on April 29, 1857. They had six children, three of whom are among the correspondents in this collection: Nathaniel Cilley (1858-1921), Annie (1861-1944), Joseph Bradbury (1863-1927), Mary Victoria (1865-1919), Jenny Nealey (1871-1956), and Benjamin Thomas (1872-1930). Victoria died in Wakefield, MA, on June 9, 1905.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Bartlett, Cilley, and Shepard Family Papers, 1775, 1814-1922, consist primarily of correspondence to and from Victoria (Cilley) Bartlett, but also includes some photographs, military records, and a speech on Southern succession.

The earliest item in this collection is a sewn-together record of Captain Bradbury Bartlett's (1783-1869) regulations and daily reports at Fort Sullivan in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, in the summer of 1814.

Letters to Victoria Cilley [Bartlett] (1831-1905) from her friends between 1847 and 1851 were written while they were boarding school, normal school, and later working as teachers. They contain details of their studies, social life, dress, travels (often alone), news about each other, hopes for the future and trials of the moment. There are no descriptions of weddings or young married life.

Letters among Victoria and three of her children - Annie (1861-1944), Jenny Nealey (1871-1966), and Nathaniel Cilley (1858-1921) - were written when the children were teenagers away at boarding school or in their young adult years. They discuss homesickness, clothing and other supplies, logistics of travel, family news, and, in the case of Nathaniel, efforts to establish his career as a lawyer.

Arrangement:

Materials are arranged alphabetically by surname, then chronologically. For women, if there are letters written both before and after they married, those before are listed with the married name in square brackets, thus: [Bartlett], Victoria Cilley.

Contents List

Box 1

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|-----------|--|
| Folder 1 | Bartlett, Bradbury, military and financial records, 1814 May-July, 1818, 1832
[Regulations and morning reports of Fort Sullivan, Portsmouth, NH,
Captain Bradbury Bartlett's Company] |
| Folder 2 | Bartlett, Annie, correspondence, outgoing, 1887-1889, 1894-1898, 1921-1922 |
| Folder 3 | Bartlett, Annie, correspondence, outgoing, undated |
| Folder 4 | Bartlett, Annie, transcriptions of correspondence by donor |
| Folder 5 | Bartlett, Jenny Nealey, writings: <i>Cilley-Bartlett Romances</i> , undated
[Family history and genealogy, 1700s-1820s] |
| Folder 6 | Bartlett, Nathaniel Cilley, correspondence, outgoing, 1879-1888, 1921, undated |
| Folder 7 | Cilley, Joseph, will [transcription], 1775 |
| Folder 8 | Bartlett, Victoria Cilley, correspondence, outgoing, 1894, 1897-1898, undated |
| Folder 9 | [Bartlett], Victoria Cilley, correspondence, incoming, 1847-1848 |
| Folder 10 | [Bartlett], Victoria Cilley, correspondence, incoming, 1849-1850 |
| Folder 11 | [Bartlett], Victoria Cilley, correspondence, incoming, 1851-1853 |
| Folder 12 | [Bartlett], Victoria Cilley, correspondence, incoming, undated |
| Folder 13 | Printed matter: <i>Speech of Hon. Thomas Corwin of Ohio delivered in the House of Representatives</i> , 1861 January 21 |
| Folder 14 | Photographs:
Bartlett: Nathaniel, Thomas Bradbury, Victoria Cilley, 1888, undated
Piper, Benjamin, 1905
Shepard: Alan, Alan B., Annie Bartlett, Frederick, Henry, 1900, undated
Group, unidentified, undated photocopy |

Subject Terms

People:

- Bartlett family
- Bartlett, Bradbury, 1783-1869
- Bartlett, Nathaniel Cilley, 1858-1921
- Bartlett, Victoria Cilley, 1831-1905
- Grinnell, Jenny Nealey Bartlett, 1871-1966
- Shepard family
- Shepard, Alan B. (Alan Bartlett), 1923-1998
- Shepard, Annie Bartlett, 1861-1944

Organizations:

- Harvard University
- Merrimack Normal Institute (Merrimack, N.H.)
- New Hampshire. Militia
- New Hampton Female Seminary

Subjects:

- Correspondence
- Education
- Families
- Friendship
- Militia
- Travel
- United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865
- United States--History--War of 1812
- Women
- Women--Education
- Wills

Locations:

- Cambridge, MA
- Concord, NH
- Derry, NH
- Epping, NH
- Hampton Falls, NH
- Haverhill, MA
- Jamaica Plain, Boston, MA
- Nottingham, NH
- Portsmouth, NH

Occupations:

- Lawyers
- Soldiers
- Students
- Teachers

Related Materials

Archives

Burley and Haley Family Papers, 2017.078

Perry-Dudley Family Papers, 2003.006

Museum

Cloth, fragment, cloth from the wedding dress of Annie Bartlett Shepard and Frances Perry
Dudley, 1887-1890, 1998.024.21

Cloth, fragment, lace from the wedding dress of Annie Bartlett Shepard, 1887, 2015.027.04

Corset, 1886-1895, 1998.024.07

Dress, wedding, of Annie Shepard Bartlett, 1887, 1997.010

Niddy Noddy, 1800-1900, 2002.023.01