

Christine Barnes Family Collection
Wellesley Historical Society

Repository Identifier

mawelhs

Local Identifier

2017.40

Name and Location of Repository

The Wellesley Historical Society
229 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA 02481
(781) 235-6690
www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org

Title

Christine Barnes Family Collection, c.1840 – 1965

Date

c.1840 – 1965

Extent

1 linear foot, 2 boxes

Name of Creator

Barnes, Christine (1923 – 2015)

Biographical Note

Christine Barnes (1923 – 2015)

Christine Barnes was the daughter of Irving Taylor Barnes and Edith (Butman) Barnes. She was born in Newton January 27, 1923 and died June 27, 2015. During World War II she volunteered at the Newton Wellesley Hospital; this volunteer work would lead to a nearly 50-year career at the hospital, where she worked as a mail distributor and at the reception desk. She was an avid birdwatcher, loved wildflowers, and was an active member of Wellesley Congregational Village Church. She was involved with the Friendship Circle of the Wellesley Friendly Aid and was involved in classes with Wellesley Lifetime Learning. Her collection shows an interest in family history and documents several generations.

Irving Taylor Barnes (1894 – 1968)

and Edith Perkins (Butman) Barnes (1898 – 1986)

Christine's parents, Irving and Edith Barnes, married October 26, 1921 in Wellesley. Irving was from Waltham, Edith from Wellesley. Irving was an Electrical Draftsman, and the materials reveal that he worked for the Marconi Company, and later Edison utilities. More biographical information on Irving Taylor Barnes can be found in the Series V notes.

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William Henry Butman (1864 – 1942)
and Eva (de Rochemont) Butman (1868 – c.1940)

William and Eva Butman were Christine's grandparents, and were married in Wellesley and were lifelong Wellesley residents.

Alfred P. de Rochemont (1841 – 1908)
and Emma Harriet (Stone) de Rochemont (1848 – 1884)

Alfred and Emma de Rochemont were Christine's great-grandparents and were the parents of Eva (de Rochemont) Butman. Alfred was born in Kingston, New Hampshire; Emma born in Grantville, Massachusetts (originally Grantville was a neighborhood of West Needham, the neighborhood was later incorporated as the town of Wellesley in 1881). They were married in the West Needham neighborhood of Grantville on February 2, 1865. After their marriage, they returned to live in New Hampshire. However, at some point Emma returned to Wellesley, where she died.

Daniel Stone, Jr. (1826 – 1864)
and Mary Elizabeth (Chapin) Stone (1829 – 1897)

Daniel Stone, Jr. was born in Boston in 1826; he and Mary married in the West Needham neighborhood of Grantville in 1847. They were the great-great grandparents of Christine Barnes and the parents of Emma Stone. The Stone family has associations with the West Needham neighborhood of Grantville ; Daniel Stone, Sr. died in Grantville in 1870, and a "Daniel Stone" owned the Elm Park Hotel from 1845 – 1851 (Fiske, 56), though it is not clear whether the father or the son was the owner. More biographical information on Daniel Stone, Jr. can be found in the Series II notes.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains documents and materials collected by Christine Barnes pertaining to several generations of her family. The collection contains materials from her parents, Edith (Butman) Barnes and Irving Taylor Barnes; her grandparents, William Butman and Eva (de Rochemont) Butman; her great-grandparents, Alfred de Rochemont and Emma Harriet (Stone) de Rochemont; and her great-great grandfather, Daniel Stone, Jr.

Materials in the collection include genealogical research documents, correspondence, photographs (including tintypes and ambrotypes), photograph albums, manuscript diaries, and greeting cards.

Notable items include Daniel Stone's correspondence with his daughter Emma in Series II, and Irving Taylor Barnes' "Standard Diary" narrative in Series V. Detailed notes on these specific materials can be found in the series notes in the box and contents appendix below.

Index Terms

Barnes, Christine, 1923-2015
Barnes, Edith Perkins (Butman), 1898-1986
Barnes, Irving Taylor, 1894-1968
Butman, Eva Gerrard (de Rochemont), 1868-c.1940
Butman, William Henry, 1864-1942

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de Rochemont, Alfred P., 1841-1908
de Rochemont, Emma Harriet (Stone), 1848-1884
Marconi's Wireless Telegraph Company—Diaries
Stone, Daniel, Jr., 1826-1864
Stone, Emma
Stone, Mary Elizabeth (Chapin), 1829-1897
United States—Gulf Coast
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Naval operations
United States—History—Civil War, 1861-1865—Riverine operations
United States—Navy—History—Civil War, 1861-1865
Wellesley (Mass.)
Wellesley (Mass.)—Genealogy
Wellesley Hills (Mass.)

System of Arrangement

The collection is organized into seven series, organized by material type. Within each series materials and folders are organized by topic (Series I, III, VI) or chronologically (Series II). Series IV contains only one item; Series V contains two items.

- I. Genealogical Materials
- II. Correspondence
- III. Photographs, including Ambrotypes and Tintypes
- IV. Photograph Albums
- V. Diary and Log Book
- VI. Greeting Cards
- VII. Newspaper and Newsletter Clippings

Conditions Governing Access

The Collection is open for research purposes by appointment only. Please contact the Wellesley Historical Society for more information.
info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org
(781) 235-6690

Physical Access

Some of the materials are fragile.

Conservation Note

Some of the small tintypes in Series III are in degraded condition. They have been placed in individual packets made from archival paper. Some of the tintypes have gone almost fully black, while others have been damaged by fingerprints. At some point they should be evaluated for conservation treatment if warranted.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply.

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Languages and Scripts of the Material

English

Immediate Source of Acquisition

2017.40

Accruals

The Historical Society may add materials to this collection in the future; however, no further accruals are currently expected.

Related Materials

Wellesley Historical Society, Denton Family Collection:

Various people in Christine Barnes' family tree have associations with the Denton family. Eva (de Rochemont) Butman was the sister of Ella Mae (de Rochemont) Denton (1868 – 1940), who married Shelley Wright Denton (1859 – 1938) in 1883; Shelley was the son of William Denton (1823 – 1883). Shelley and Ella Mae were the parents of Vanessa Denton (b.1886).

Description

DACS-compliant Finding Aid created in May 2017 by Alden Ludlow. Processing of this collection was made possible through a grant from the Wellesley Community Preservation Committee.

Bibliography

Fiske, Joseph Emory. *History of the Town of Wellesley, Massachusetts*. Boston & Chicago: Pilgrim Press, 1917.

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Container List

I. Genealogical Materials

This series contains genealogical materials relating to the Stone, de Rochemont, Butman, and Barnes families. Documents include family histories, family association charts and forms, birth certificates, and manuscript accounts relating to these three families. The materials have been placed in three distinct family groupings.

Box 1

- Folder 1: Genealogical materials, Stone Family
- Folder 2: Genealogical Materials, de Rochemont Family
- Folder 3: Genealogical Materials, Butman and Barnes Families

II. Correspondence

This series contains correspondence between various family members from different families and time periods. The earliest correspondence is between Daniel Stone and his daughter Emma Stone, circa 1861 – 1864. The latest correspondence dates from the 1960s, between members of the Barnes family. In the Barnes correspondence, Christine is often referred to as “Chris,” and Irving is often referred to as “Jimmie.”

Daniel Stone’s Civil War-era letters to his daughter Emma (folders 4 and 5) recount his military service travels aboard the U.S. Bark Roebuck; the letters date from 1861 – 1864. These letters depict a relationship full of love, strained by absence. Though the letters date from the time of the Civil War, Stone mostly writes about personal matters and seldom mentions the war. The U.S. Bark Roebuck was a three-masted sailing ship which was part of the Union Navy’s East Gulf Blockading Squadron. The ship was involved in several skirmishes in blockade-related missions, but was primarily used for reconnaissance in and around St. Andrew’s Bay in the panhandle of Florida. Portsmouth, N.H. was the home port for the Roebuck, and it returned to port September 28, 1864. Daniel Stone, however, died on August 30, 1864 in Egmont Key, Florida. The official actions of the Roebuck are well documented in *Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion. Series I, Volume 17: East Gulf Blockading Squadron* (Library of Congress).

Box 1

- Folder 4: Correspondence, Daniel Stone to Emma Stone, 1861 – 1864
- Folder 5: Correspondence, Daniel Stone to Emma Stone, 1861 – 1864, and undated
- Folder 6: Correspondence, Eva (de Rochemont) Butman to daughter Edith, 1913 – 1946
- Folder 7: Correspondence, Butman family
- Folder 8: Correspondence, Barnes family, Irving to wife Edith and daughter Christine
- Folder 9: Correspondence, Barnes family, addressed to Christine Barnes, 1928 – 1956

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III. Photographs, including Ambrotypes and Tintypes

This series contains photographs, tintypes, and ambrotypes of members of the Stone, de Rochemont, Butman, and Barnes families. Materials are divided into family folders; some of the tintypes and ambrotypes have been foldered separately for preservation reasons. Box 2, Folder 2 contains photographs and a “Christmas Tree” poem/song manuscript which was kept with the photographs to preserve context.

Box 1

- Folder 10: Photograph and Ambrotype, Daniel Stone, Jr., c.1850
- Folder 11: Photographs and Ambrotypes, Emma (Stone), Alfred de Rochemont, c.1865
- Folder 12: Tintypes and Ambrotypes, de Rochemont family
- Folder 13: Photographs, de Rochemont family
- Folder 14: Photographs, Barnes family, Edith with Christine as a baby
- Folder 15: Photographs, Christine Barnes as a toddler, c.1925 [?]

Box 2

- Folder 1: Photographs, Butman Family
- Folder 2: Photographs, Butman Family at 31 Avon Road
- Folder 3: Photographs, Butman Family at 31 Atwood Street
- Folder 4: Photographs, Irving Taylor Barnes

IV. Photograph Albums

This series contains two photo albums containing photographs pertinent to the Butman family. In the black photo album, photographs are often annotated, providing dates and locations; the date range on the photographs is 1920 – 1924. Topics include family members (Will and Eva Butman, their daughters Edith and Geraldine, and cat Buster) and others; their house at 31 Atwood Street, Wellesley; and photos of other Wellesley-area destinations, including Hunnewell Gardens. The album also contains a number of photographs documenting the damage caused by an ice storm in November 1921; photographs include damage to homes and public areas in Wellesley, Natick, and Needham. The second photo album, which has been removed from its binding, are photographs of the Butman family; a note on the original cover stated that many of the photographs were taken at their 31 Atwood Street home.

Box 2

- Folder 5: Photograph Album, Butman family, c.1920 – 1924 (Black photo album)
- Folder 6: Photograph Album, Butman family (Disbound photo album)

V. Diary and Log Book

This series contains two items, both relating to the life and work of Irving Taylor Barnes, (father of Christine Barnes). Barnes was involved in electrical engineering and radio transmission, and these two items reflect his interest in these topics.

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Barnes attended the Boston Radio Institute c.1913, and then went to work for the Marconi Company office in Boston, which assigned him to serve as a wireless radio operator on ships. The “Standard Diary” in this series starts out with daily accounts of weather conditions and travel information, but at the April 23 entry he abandons this method and opts for pages of personal narrative about his travels and work in what amounts to a mini-autobiography for the years 1914 – 1917.

His diary vividly recounts his maritime operations serving as a wireless radio operator aboard passenger and cargo ships travelling in the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean. His account tells of port calls in Havana, Key West, and Tampa, as well as other cities. This diary covers the years 1914 – 1917, with reminiscences of 1913, when he started working for the Marconi Company.

The second item in this series is a “Log Book” dated 1923, mostly recording weather conditions and radio station reception; it is not clear whether this is a personal account, or a work-related project.

Box 2

Folder 7: Diary (1914 – 1917) and Log Book (1923)

VI. Greeting Cards

This series contains various greeting cards either given to, or received by, Christine Barnes. Folder 7 contains mostly homemade cards and drawings which Christine gave to family members. Folder 8 contains commercial greeting cards shared between Christine and her family members.

Box 2

Folder 8: Barnes family, handmade greeting cards and notes

Folder 9: Barnes family, commercial greeting cards

VII. Clippings

This series contains a few newspaper and newsletter clippings collected by Barnes. A few touch on her hobbies and work, others are clippings pertain to the career activities of her father.

Box 2

Folder 10: Newspaper and Newsletter clippings