

Guide to the Ball Family Papers PVMA Library

The first member of the family to come to Deerfield was John Ball, (1743-1814) who relocated from Worcester Co. Many of John and Lydia Ward Ball's children settled in Deerfield. Beginning in 1865, the Ball Family resided on lot 7 in the village of Deerfield when Arthur William Ball (1839-1901) purchased it. He and his wife Frances Sheldon Ball, had three sons, one of whom, Arthur Ware Ball (1871-1956), inherited the lot in 1901. He married Elsa Eager (1893-1927) in 1916. Items relating to Arthur's farm are part of the collection, as are school compositions. Papers of Arthur's brother, Philip Hosmer Ball (1883-1938), and his wife, Mary Adams Ball (1889-1991) are also part of the collection. Mary Ball, who married Judge Philip Hosmer Ball in 1916, taught school in Turners Falls and Greenfield, MA. Beginning during WW II she served as a nurse's aide, and many of her papers relate to that occupation.

Hattie Ball of Deerfield, MA, donated most of the papers in the collection. Others were purchased at auction in July 2018.

Container List:

Folder 1: Document relating to two pieces of land acquired by John Ball, (1743-1814) in June 1779, and April 1787; the latter in Warwick, MA.

Folder 2: School compositions/exercises of Arthur Ware Ball, 1886-87 and undated; school notebook; graduation schedule (undated) Dickinson Academy; invitation; letter – 18 items

Folder 3: Business records of Arthur Ware Ball, 1875-1918 – 17 items

Folder 4: Correspondence of Mary Ball, 1937-1970 - 39 items

Folder 5: Correspondence of Mary Ball, 1971-1979 –51 items

Folder 6: Papers of Mary Ball, mostly relating to her work as a nurse's aide; obituary and newspaper clippings, 1944-1977 - 32 items

Folder 7: Miscellaneous: newspaper clippings; photocopies; manuscript piece of music by H. M. Ball; essay on the Old Indian House by William S. Ball; memorabilia and related items gathered by Philip Ball Jr. regarding Kanawake, Quebec; information on Terry Ball – 40 items

Folder 8: Correspondence and genealogical notes by George Sheldon and others relating to various members of the Ball family, 1873-1993 – 17 items

