

## **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.

Arthur William Ball, son of Daniel and Clarissa Clapp Ball, was born in 1839. After his father's death in 1852, Ball became a guardian of his uncle, Albert Ball, and went to live with William Sheldon where he worked as a farm laborer. In 1866, Ball married Frances W. Sheldon (b. 1841), daughter of William. The couple lived on lot 7 in the village, probably purchased with funds loaned by William Sheldon. Arthur William and Frances Sheldon Ball had three sons; one of whom, Arthur Ware Ball (1871-1956), inherited lot 7 in 1901. Arthur Ware married Elsa Eager (1893-1927) in 1916.

Documents regarding the estate of William Sheldon form part of the collection. Items relating to Arthur Ware's farm, and school compositions and certificates of merit, are also in the collection. Papers of Arthur Ware's brother, Philip Hosmer Ball (1883-1938), and his wife, Mary Adams Ball (1889-1991) are also present. Included are papers of Mary Ball, who married Judge Philip Hosmer Ball in 1916, and taught school in Turners Falls and Greenfield, MA. Beginning during WW II, she served as a nurse's aide; many of her papers relate to that occupation.

Hattie Ball of Deerfield, MA, donated the majority of the papers; 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; business papers (lumber) of Arthur William Ball (1839-1901) of Deerfield, 1881 and undated - 5 items

Folder 2: Documents relating to the estate of William Sheldon (1815 -1881) – 14 items

Folder 3: School compositions/exercises of Arthur Ware Ball, 1886-87 and undated; school notebook; graduation schedule (undated) Dickinson Academy; invitation; letters; also a story or description by his wife, Frances Sheldon Ball– 24 items

Folder 3a: Business records of Arthur Ware Ball, 1875-1918 – 27 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 – 41 items

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

Rolled on top of case: Deerfield Academy diplomas of Arthur Ware Ball (1889) and Eleanor Sheldon Ball (1938)