

TIMELINE

- 1823 June 8 William Denton born in Darlington, Durham Co., England, to Robert Denton (1797-1851) and Jane Dixon Denton (b. 1791-1854).
- 1826 May 2 Elizabeth Melissa Foote born in Williamstown, Mass., to Sherman and Margaret D. Foote.
- 1833 William apprenticed as a machinist; joined Shildon Mechanics Institute and began attending scientific lectures.
- 1842 William entered Normal School in London as a student, then a few months later as a teacher. Dismissed for supporting heretical ideas, specifically mesmerism.
- 1848 Sept After being dismissed from his job at the Railway Service for “having promulgated erroneous religious doctrines in the neighborhood,” William left England for America, initially taking a teaching position in Philadelphia.
- 1849 William was joined by his parents, his two sisters Anne and Lizzie, and fiancé Caroline Gilbert. A few months later, William and Caroline married.
- 1850 Death of Caroline Gilbert Denton. William moved to West Virginia, then to Dayton, Ohio, where he obtained a teaching position.
- 1854 August 15 William Denton and Elizabeth M. Foote married. At the time, Elizabeth worked at “The Type of the Time,” a Cincinnati journal.
- 1854 William’s first published work, a pamphlet entitled “Common Sense Thoughts on the Bible” printed.
- 1856 Sept 24 Sherman Foote Denton born in Dayton, Ohio.
- 1856 William Denton and John Paterson edited “The Social Revolutionist,” a radical journal.
- 1857 William and his brother-in-law, Alfred Cridge, edited “The Vanguard,” a newspaper.
- 1859 June 11 Shelley Wright Denton born in Middlefield, Ohio.

- 1865 Jun William published *The Soul of Things: Volume I*.
- 1865 August 7 William Dixon "Willie" Denton born in Mentor, Ohio.
- 1867 William built family home on Denton Road in Wellesley, Mass.
- 1868 Robert Winsford "Winsey" Denton born in Wellesley, Mass.
William published *Our Planet: Its Past and Future*.
- 1869 Sept 21 Carrie Delynia Denton born in Wellesley, Mass.
- 1871 William published *Radical Rhymes*.
- 1872 William published *The Irreconcilable Records; or, Genesis and Geology*. Also published *Radical Discourses*.
- 1873 William published *The Soul of Things: Vol. II*.
- 1874 William published *The Soul of Things: Vol. III*.
- 1881 Feb 2 William and Shelley left for lecture tour of Australia and New Zealand.
- 1882 Carrie enrolled at Dana Hall School, where her Latin teacher was Katharine Lee Bates. Sherman joined William and Shelley in New Zealand.
- 1883 Aug 26 Death of William Denton in New Guinea, from malaria while on a geological exploration sponsored by the *Melbourne Argus* newspaper.
- 1883 Oct 12 Elizabeth received a telegram with news of William's death.
- 1883 Shelley married Ella de Rochemont (b. 1868).
- 1886 March 8 Vanessa Denton born to Shelley and Ella.
- 1891 May 17 Mildred Denton born to Sherman and Hattie.
- 1893 March 26 Robert Baird Denton born to Sherman and Hattie.
- 1895 Willie and Winsey formed The Denton Brothers, a business for exhibiting and selling their butterfly collection.
- 1897 Shelley, Ella, and Vanessa moved to London, where Shelley

- opened a shop selling butterfly specimens.
- 1901 April 9 Winsey married Hattie Augusta Wiswall.
- 1906 Shelley, Ella, and Vanessa returned to America.
- 1910 Shelley opened a store on Bromfield Street, Boston, where he sold Denton Brothers jewelry.
- 1918 Death of Robert B. Denton from illness while serving in World War I.
- 1920 Willie married May C. Hurd.
- 1923 Feb 8 Death of Willie Denton in Wellesley, Mass.
- 1937 June Death of Sherman Denton.
- 1938 April 30 Death of Shelley Denton.
- 1959 Death of Winsey Denton.
- 1959 April 27 Death of Carrie Denton.
- 1969 Death of Mildred Denton.

*sources for timeline

- Ethel Ambler Hunter, "The Remarkable Dentons of Wellesley, Massachusetts." *The New England Galaxy*, Vol. 11, No. 4 (Spring 1970).

DENTON FAMILY BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

William Denton (1823-1883) – Geologist, writer, lecturer. Born in Darlington, Durham Co., England, to Robert Denton (1797-1851) and Jane Dixon Denton (1791-1854). Married Caroline Gilbert in 1849; she died the following year in childbirth. Married Elizabeth M. Foote in 1854. William and Elizabeth had five children – Sherman Foote, Shelley Wright, William Dixon “Willie”, Robert Winsford “Winsey”, and Carrie Delynia. Died of malaria while on a geological exploration in New Guinea. William had three sisters, Jane Denton (1829-1832), Anne Denton Cridge (1825-1875), and Elizabeth Denton Seybold (b. 1832); he corresponded frequently with his two surviving sisters, as well as with Anne’s husband, Alfred Cridge (1824-1902).

Elizabeth Melissa Foote Denton (1826-1916) – Publisher, Denton Family Publishing. Born in Williamstown, Massachusetts, to Sherman and Margaret D. Foote; raised in Painesville, Ohio [check name of town]. Elizabeth had two brothers, Aaron Foote and Lewis “S.L.N.” Foote, which whom she frequently corresponded.

Sherman Foote Denton (1856-1937) – Eldest child of William and Elizabeth Denton. Married Harriet Perkins. Father of Mildred (1891-1969) and Robert Baird (1893-1918). Robert died of illness while serving in World War I.

Shelley Wright Denton (1859-1938) – Second child of William and Elizabeth Denton. Married Ella de Rochemont (1868-1940) in 1883. Father of Vanessa Denton, who became a photographer.

William Dixon “Willie” Denton (1865-1923) – Third child of William and Elizabeth Denton. Married May C. Hurd in 1920. Formed Denton Brothers business with Winsey in 1895.

Robert Winsford “Winsey” Denton (1886-1959) – Fourth child of William and Elizabeth Denton. Married Hattie Augusta Wiswall in 1909. Retired to California.

Carrie Delynia Denton (1869-1959) – Youngest child of William and Elizabeth Denton. Geology teaching assistant at Teachers’ School of Science in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Denton Family Papers, 1828-1968, consist of one hundred twelve boxes, ten cased volumes, and four oversize boxes. The papers are arranged in six series:

- William Denton's Papers
- Elizabeth M. Foote Denton's Papers
- Carrie Denton's Papers
- Miscellaneous Denton Family Papers
- Photograph Collection
- Miscellaneous Printed Materials

The bulk of this collection includes the personal papers and published works of William Denton, a writer and lecturer on science, religion, and politics. William Denton's papers consist of manuscripts and bound volumes. His loose papers include correspondence dating from 1833-1883, the majority of which date from the 1860s and 1870s. The letters from these decades reflect William Denton's extensive lecture and touring schedule. This series also contains letters between William and his wife, Elizabeth M. Foote Denton. Other frequent correspondents include William's sisters Anne Cridge and Lizzie Seybold, as well as Anne's husband Alfred Cridge. A complete alphabetical list of William Denton's correspondence can be found in Appendix A.

William's loose papers also include lecture notes, arranged by title and topic (where untitled), which primarily address issues of science, religion, and psychometry. Essays on these topics can also be found in the notebooks of William Denton's bound volume collection, which contains over one hundred fifty notebooks. Also included in the bound volume section are diaries, dating from 1839-1883, many of which detail William's extensive travels on lecture tours or in search of geological specimens. Printed Materials in this series include published volumes of William Denton's work such as *Our Planet: Its Past and Future*, *The Soul of Things: Vols. I-III*, and *Radical Rhymes*.

Elizabeth M. Foote Denton's Papers consist of manuscripts and bound volumes. Her loose papers include general and family correspondence, dating from 1831-1915.

Elizabeth's correspondence, which encompasses the largest chronological range in the collection, represents her life before her marriage to William Denton, her work managing the Denton Family Publishing business, extensive correspondence between Elizabeth and her children, as well as a significant collection of condolence letters after the death of William, received from around the world. A complete alphabetical list of Elizabeth Denton's correspondence can be found in Appendix B. Elizabeth's writings her original poetry and writings on spiritualism and psychometry. The bound volumes in this series include Elizabeth's diaries, which date from 1861-1901, and her household account books, which date from 1860-1909.

Of the five Denton children, Carrie D. Denton is most represented in this collection. Her manuscripts consist of correspondence, lecture notes, and teaching materials from her work as a geology teaching assistant at the Teachers' School of Science in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Her correspondence dates from 1874-1959, and includes both general and family letters. Her most frequent correspondent was her brother Winsey, who wrote over one hundred twenty letters to Carrie from 1894-1959. A complete alphabetical list of Carrie Denton's correspondence can be found in Appendix C. Carrie's lecture notes cover a wide variety of geological topics, including fossils, lithology, mineralogy, physical and historical geology, and topography, as well as information on different types of rocks, minerals, and elements. Her teaching materials include examinations, field lessons, course outlines, and classroom materials such as seating charts and samples of student work. Bound volumes in this series include Carrie's diaries, which date from 1876-1952, account books, which date from 1890-1957, and geology course outlines.

Miscellaneous Denton Family Papers are organized into:

- Denton Brothers Business Papers
- Sherman Denton Papers
- Shelley Denton Papers
- William "Willie" Denton & R. Winsford "Winsey" Papers
- Mildred Denton Papers
- Denton Family Miscellaneous Papers

The Denton Brothers Business Papers consist of thirteen boxes arranged by loose papers and bound volumes. The collection of loose papers contains inventory lists, catalogs, and miscellaneous papers related to the business. Bound volumes consist of carbon correspondence books, which date from 1900-1919, inventory and account books, which date from 1899-1947, and undated guest books. This collection includes six cased volumes of Denton Brothers account books, dating from 1899-1942.

Sherman Denton's Papers consist of three boxes arranged by loose papers and printed materials. His loose papers include general and family correspondence [dates], legal and financial records, and illustrations. His writings include short stories, essays on psychometry, and original poetry. Sherman Denton's printed materials include volumes of his works *Incidents of a Collector's Rambles in Australia, New Zealand, and New Guinea*, and *The Story of a Pearl*. Shelley Denton's Papers consist of two boxes arranged by loose papers and printed materials. His loose papers include general and family correspondence, original poetry, illustrations, and flyers. The correspondence and miscellaneous papers of Shelley's daughter, Vanessa Denton, are also included in this section. Shelley Denton's printed materials include three volumes of his work *Pages from a Naturalist's Diary*.

Willie Denton and Winsey Denton's Papers have been combined in one box of miscellaneous papers. Willie's papers include general and family correspondence, lecture notes, flyers for his lectures, and illustrations. Winsey's papers include general and family correspondence, as well as legal and financial records. Mildred Denton's papers consist of three boxes arranged by loose papers and bound volumes. Her loose papers include correspondence dating from 1915-1968, as well as legal records, writings, and illustrations. Mildred's bound volumes include diaries, dating from 1920-1961. Complete correspondence lists for all four Denton brothers can be found in Appendix D.

The Denton Family Miscellaneous Papers contain one box of miscellaneous papers, which include a collection of business cards, maps, programs, and miscellaneous writings. Wellesley Historical Society papers relating to the Denton Family Papers are also included in this series. This series also includes a collection of bound volumes, which consist of one box and four cased volumes of the account books of Elizabeth Denton's father, Sherman Foote. These account books dates from 1852-1862.

The Denton Family Photograph Collection consists of eleven boxes and one oversize box of undated photographs arranged by subject. These subjects include William and Elizabeth Denton, Carrie Denton, Denton Brothers: Winsey and Shelley, Denton Brothers: Sherman and Willie, Denton Family Friends, and Framed Photographs. Within each of the first four sections, photographs are divided by portrait and then groups of people represented. Denton Family Friends are arranged alphabetically by last name.

Printed Materials consist of four boxes that include academic journals collected by Denton family members. Over forty journals are represented, including the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Museum of Natural History, Boston Society of National History, and the Smithsonian Institution.

In addition to Appendices A-D, which contain alphabetical correspondence lists from the papers of William Denton, Elizabeth Denton, Carrie Denton, and the four Denton brothers, Sherman, Shelley, Willie, and Winsey, this collection contains two auxiliary sections outlined in Appendices E and F. The Denton Family Library, consisting of the family's personal book collection, is described in Appendix E, while various artifacts collected or created by Denton family members, are outlined in Appendix F.

PROVENANCE

The bulk of materials in the Denton Family Papers were acquired in 1969, from the estate of Mildred Denton. Assigned the accession number 69-70, a preliminary inventory dated November 1969 lists many items that are still contained in the Denton Family Papers. These items include portraits and photographs of Denton family members, and diaries and manuscripts belonging to William and Elizabeth Denton, as well as Sherman, Shelley, and Carrie Denton. The inventory also records “writings, lectures, psychometric experiments, reports, manuscripts of some articles by William Denton, his wife, and sons.” Denton Family Account Books were also acquired at this time, as well as letters consisting of a “27-drawer metal file, 3 cartons, and 1 letter file box.” Carrie Denton’s records, including geological research and teaching materials, were also acquired from Mildred Denton’s estate.

This acquisition also included papers belonging to the Denton Brothers business, boxes of lantern slides, Sherman Denton’s fish models and paintings, minerals collected by the Denton Brothers, and books belonging to the Denton family library. In addition, three cabinets of butterflies and moths collected by the Denton Brothers was acquired from the estate of Mildred Denton. These cabinets are also located at the Wellesley Historical Society, and still contain the original exhibit of butterfly specimens.

Throughout the years, the Wellesley Historical Society has also acquired Denton Family materials from individual donors. Two additional butterfly exhibition cases were acquired from the estates of Robert Winsford Denton and Carrie Denton in 1960. Several individuals have donated butterfly lockets crafted by the Denton brothers, including Mildred Hanks and Judy Schofield in 1960, and Emily Ballou in 1974. Books written by Denton family members have been donated from local libraries, including a volume of Shelley Denton’s *Pages from a Naturalist’s Diary* from Wellesley Library in 1961, and a volume of Sherman Denton’s *Incidents of a Collector’s Rambles* from South Natick Library in 1964.

DENTON FAMILY PAPERS IN OTHER LOCATIONS

Although the core collection of Denton Family Papers has been acquired by the Wellesley Historical Society, additional papers belonging to William and Elizabeth Denton can be found at the Labadie Collection of Social Protest Material, located at the University of Michigan. Many of the papers in William and Elizabeth Denton's papers at Wellesley Historical Society reflect their commitment to social justice, particularly their involvement in the abolition movement and free speech causes. In the 1870s, William and Elizabeth advocated for the release from prison of Ezra Heywood, who had been convicted of the distribution of obscene materials. The Labadie Collection contains papers belonging to the Heywood family, which include several letters to and from the Dentons. More information on the Labadie Collection of Social Protest Material is available on their website [www.lib.umich.edu/spec-coll/ohio-mich/labadie.html].

ARRANGEMENT & DESCRIPTION

I. William Denton papers, 1832-1883 **42 boxes; 1 oversize box; Appendix A**

William Denton's papers are arranged by Loose Papers, Bound Volumes, and Printed Materials. His loose papers consist of correspondence, lecture notes, and miscellaneous papers. The correspondence in this series includes approximately 3,000 letters received from William Denton from 1833-1883. Also included is a small collection of letters that were posthumously addressed to him. The bulk of correspondence dates from the 1860s and 1870s, which could be considered William Denton's most prolific years, both in his published writings and lecture tours. A significant portion of the letters from this period relate to William Denton's lectures, both invitations from lecture organizers and correspondence from students and other lecture attendees. In addition to general correspondence, four boxes in this series contain 1,900 letters between William and Elizabeth Denton, written between 1853 and 1883. William Denton also corresponded with his parents and his two surviving sisters, Anne and Lizzie, throughout his life. He also corresponded frequently with his brother-in-law, Anne's husband Alfred Cridge. This section also contains a small collection of letters from William's first wife, Caroline Gilbert, who died in 1850. For a complete alphabetical list of William Denton's correspondence, please see Appendix A.

Also included in William Denton's loose papers are three boxes of lecture notes, arranged by title and topic (where untitled). These works consist of notes for essays and books, one of which, "Garrison in Heaven: A Dream," can be found in published pamphlet form with William Denton's Printed Materials. Other titles, such as "The Bible and the Word of God," "Is Darn Right," "Our Planet," and "Women in the Bible" reflect William Denton's interest and knowledge of religion and science. The majority of untitled writings relate to psychometry, astronomy, and geology. Psychometry writings can also be found in Oversize Box 1. William Denton's miscellaneous papers include legal records, as well as ephemera such as flyers and tickets for his scientific lectures.

The collection of bound volumes in this series includes William Denton's diaries and lecture notes. His diaries date from 1839-1883 and are notable for their documentation not only of William's personal reflections, but as a record of his extensive travels and scientific observations in his lecture tours and geological expeditions. In addition, this series includes over one hundred fifty notebooks containing William Denton's lecture notes. As in the lecture notes contained in his loose papers, these notebooks are arranged first by title and, where untitled, by topic. Again, religion and science are the topics most represented by these titles. William Denton's essays on religion include "Bible and Prophecy," "Does the Spirit of Man Survive Death?," "History of the Bible," and "Jesus and Resurrection." His essays on science include "Comets and Meteors," "The Magnificence of Nature," and "Minerals, Metals, and Mining." Several notebooks include essays that ask questions about the relationship between science and religion, such as "God in the Light of Science," "Prayer in the Light of Science," and "The Scientific Method Applied to Religion." Other titles reflect William Denton's interest in spiritualism, such as "The Connection Between Mesmerism and Spiritualism," "Our Mission the Mission of Spiritualism," and "Spiritualism the Religion for Universal Humanity. The majority of untitled notebooks relate to the study and practice of psychometry, with essays that date from 1858-1880.

Many of the handwritten lecture notes found in this section can also be found in published form, both as books and pamphlets, in Williams Denton's Printed Materials. Works in this series that can be found in both handwritten form (in Bound Volumes) and printed pamphlet form (in Printed Materials) include "The Deluge in the Light of Modern Science," "Garrison in Heaven," "God in the Light of Science and Common Sense," "The Irreconcilable Records," "Orthodoxy False, Since Spiritualism is True," "The Pocasset Tragedy," "Sermon from Shakespeare's Text," "What is Right?: A Discourse," and "Who Are Christians?: A Discourse." Works in this series that can be found both in handwritten form (in Bound Volumes) and printed bound volume form in (in Printed Materials) include "The Irreconcilable Records; or, Genesis and Geology" and the handwritten manuscript for William Denton's three-volume work *The Soul of Things*, an account of extensive psychometric experiments.

William Denton's Printed Materials in this series include one box of printed pamphlets and five boxes of bound volumes. The bound volumes include seven volumes of *Our Planet: Its Past and Future* in four different editions, four volumes of the 1888 edition of *The Soul of Things: Vol. I*, two volumes of the 1873 edition of *The Soul of Things: Volume II*, and one volume of the 1873 edition of *The Soul of Things: Vol. III*. Other volumes include *The Irreconcilable Records, Is Darwin Right?*, and three volumes of *Radical Rhymes*.

II. Elizabeth M. Foote Denton papers, 1831-1915

16 boxes; Appendix B

Elizabeth M. Foote Denton's papers are arranged by Loose Papers and Bound Volumes. Her loose papers consist of correspondence, writings, and miscellaneous papers. Elizabeth's correspondence, which encompasses the largest chronological range in the collection, consists of more than 3,000 letters received from 1831-1915. The bulk of the correspondence is from 1872-1884, and includes a significant collection of condolence letters received in 1883-1884 after the death of her husband, William Denton. Throughout her life, Elizabeth also corresponded with her parents, her brothers Aaron and Lewis, and her five children. When Carrie Denton brought the Denton Brothers butterfly collection to the Paris Exposition in 1900, she wrote her mother thirty-eight letters documenting the experience, which are included in this collection.

Elizabeth Denton's writings include essays on spiritualism and psychometry, such as "Mediumship, Psychometry, Clairvoyance," and "Spiritual Manifestations," as well as an account of "The Harris Bond Robbery" in which Elizabeth was called upon to give testimony. Elizabeth's miscellaneous papers include loose accounts, flyers, and legal and financial records. Also included in this section are printed pamphlets of Elizabeth's writing, such as "Some Points Outlining a New Theory of Life" and a poem titled "Life: My Questionings."

Bound volumes in this series include Elizabeth Denton's diaries, which date from 1861-1901, as well as account books that date from 1860-1909. These account books

document household expenses and purchases as well as sales from The Denton Publishing Company, which Elizabeth Denton managed.

III. Carrie D. Denton papers, 1874-1959
14 boxes; Appendix C

Carrie Denton's papers are arranged by Loose Papers and Bound Volumes. Her loose papers consist of correspondence, lecture notes, legal papers, teaching materials, and miscellaneous papers. Carrie's correspondence, which dates from 1874-1959, is divided into general and family correspondence. Her general correspondence includes a significant collection of condolence letters received after the deaths of family members, such as her mother Elizabeth Denton in 1916, her nephew Robert Denton in 1918, her brother Willie Denton in 1923, her brother Sherman Denton in 1937, her brother Shelley Denton in 1938, and her niece Vanessa Denton in 1957. Carrie's most frequent correspondent was her brother Winsey Denton. This collection contains over one hundred twenty letters from Winsey that date from 1894-1959.

Carrie Denton's lecture notes relate to her work as a geology teaching assistant at the Teachers' School of Science in Cambridge, Massachusetts. These writings include notes on fossils, geography, lithology, mineral locations, mineralogy, physical and historical geology, silicates, and topography. Topics such as lithology, geology, and mineralogy can also be found in two boxes of Carrie's teaching materials. These materials include field lessons, examinations, class materials such as seating charts and student work, course outlines, and ephemera such as flyers for programs.

Carrie Denton's loose papers also include legal and miscellaneous papers. Her legal papers include her estate records, income tax returns, records and maps relating to Denton family property. Also included in this section are records for the estates of Josephine Tilton and Lovetta Beckler Rand, for which Carrie Denton was executor. Carrie's miscellaneous papers include ephemera such as school papers and programs, as well as her original poetry.

The bound volumes in this series include Carrie Denton's diaries, which date from 1876-1952, and her account books, which date from 1890-1957. Included with Carrie's diaries are three autograph books dating from 1878-1881. Bound volumes of geology course outlines are also included in this section. These courses include Historical Geology, Lithology, Mineralogy, and Structural Geology.

IV. Miscellaneous Denton Family papers, 1852-1961

25 boxes, 2 oversize boxes, 10 cased volumes; Appendix D

Miscellaneous Denton Family papers are arranged by:

- Denton Brothers Business Papers
- Sherman Denton Papers
- Shelley Denton Papers
- William "Willie" Denton & R. Winsford "Winsey" Denton Papers
- Mildred Denton Papers
- Denton Family Miscellaneous Papers

- **The Denton Brothers Business Papers** consist of thirteen boxes arranged by Loose Papers and Bound Volumes. The loose papers in this collection include inventory lists, catalogs, and miscellaneous papers. The inventory and catalogs represent the Denton Brothers' collection of butterflies and butterfly jewelry. Two boxes of miscellaneous papers include ephemera such as awards, flyers, and papers relating to the Paris Exposition of 1900, in which the Denton Brothers butterfly collection won a gold and silver medal. This section also includes samples of insect pins invented by the Denton Brothers, which they patented and sold through their company, as well as notebooks of pressed flowers collected by the Denton brothers. Also included in the miscellaneous papers are artwork related to the Denton Brothers butterfly business, representing butterflies in their collection or other geological specimens collected or observed in their travels. Additional artwork by the Denton Brothers can be found in Oversize Box 2.

Miscellaneous papers, including framed certificates, can be found in Oversize Box 3.

Bound volumes in the Denton Brothers Business Papers consist of carbon correspondence books, which date from 1900-1919, inventory books, and account books, which date from 1899-1947, and undated guest books from exhibits and visitors to the Denton Brothers Store. This collection also includes six cased volumes of Denton Brothers account books, dating from 1899-1942.

- **Sherman Denton's Papers** consist of three boxes arranged by Loose Papers and Printed Materials. His loose papers include general and family correspondence, records, a looseleaf diary from 1880, and illustrations. His writings are arranged by title and, where untitled, by topic. These writings include short stories such as "The Log of the Sea Swallow" and "The Shaker Girl," essays on psychometry, and original poetry. Sherman Denton's printed materials include two volumes of his 1889 work *Incidents of a Collector's Rambles in Australia, New Zealand, and New Guinea* and seven volumes of *The Story of a Pearl*.
- **Shelley Denton's Papers** consist of two boxes arranged by Loose Papers and Printed Materials. His loose papers include general and family correspondence, records, original poetry, illustrations, and flyers. Also included in this section are the correspondence and miscellaneous papers of Shelley Denton's daughter, Vanessa Denton. Shelley's printed materials consist of three volumes of his 1949 work *Pages from a Naturalist's Diary*, which was arranged and published by Vanessa Denton.
- **William "Willie" Denton and R. Winsford "Winsey" Denton's Papers** have been combined in one box of miscellaneous papers. Willie Denton's papers include general and family correspondence, records, lecture notes, and illustrations. Also included are flyers for his scientific lectures. Winsey Denton's

- papers also consist of general and family correspondence, as well as records and schoolbooks.
- **Mildred Denton's Papers** consist of three boxes arranged by Loose Papers and Bound Volumes. Her loose papers consist of general correspondence dating from 1915-1968, as well as family correspondence. Mildred's miscellaneous papers include her records, writings, and illustrations. Bound volumes in this collection include Mildred's diaries, which date from 1920-1961.

 - **Denton Family Miscellaneous Papers** consist of one box of miscellaneous papers belonging to extended family, such as William Denton's sister Anne Denton Cridge, her husband Alfred Cridge, and Elizabeth's mother Margaret D. Foote. The bulk of this collection, however, consists of papers not attributed to a specific member of the Denton family. These papers include a large collection of miscellaneous business cards, flyers, maps, programs, schoolbooks, and unlabeled writings. Bound volumes in this series consist of the accounts books of Elizabeth Denton's father, Sherman Foote. One box and four cased volumes are included in this collection, which date from 1852-1862. This series also includes Wellesley Historical Society papers that relate to the Denton Family Papers, including archival notes, accession and inventory reports, correspondence, and secondary biographical information on individual Denton family members.

V. Photograph Collection
11 boxes, 1 oversize box

The Denton Photograph Collection consists of eleven boxes of undated photographs that have arranged by subject: William and Elizabeth Denton, Carrie Denton, Denton Brothers, Family Friends, and Framed Photographs. William and Elizabeth's photographs primarily contain portraits, including the last known photograph of William Denton, taken on June 2, 1883, in Queensland. This section also includes

photographs of Denton family property, including the family home in Wellesley and the Denton Brothers shop.

Carrie Denton's Photographs consist of portraits of Carrie Denton, candid photographs of Carrie with friends and students on geology field trips, and photographs from the 1900 Paris Exposition. Also included in this section are scenic photographs taken by Carrie Denton on geological trips. These geology photographs include locations in New England such as Gloucester, Marblehead Neck, and Mt. Holyoke, as well as locations on the west coast such as Los Angeles and Red Rock Canyon.

Winsey Denton's Photographs include portraits of Winsey and his wife Hattie, as well as photographs of the couple together and with friends. Shelley Denton's Photographs include portraits of Shelley, his wife Ella and daughter Vanessa, as well as photographs of the family together and with friends. Also included are photographs of Vanessa Denton with friends.

Sherman Denton's Photographs include portraits of Sherman, as well as group photographs and portraits of his children, Mildred and Robert. Willie Denton's Photographs include portraits of Willie and his wife May, as well as photographs of the couple together and with friends. Also included in this section are photographs of Denton siblings together, most frequently Carrie, Shelley, and Willie Denton on geological trips.

Photographs of Denton Friends consist of two boxes arranged alphabetically by last name. This section includes over one hundred portraits of relatives and friends, many of whom appear frequently in Denton family correspondence. These correspondents include Anne Cridge (William Denton's sister), Lovetta Plumb Beckler Rand (corresponded with Carrie Denton), Josephine Tilton (corresponded with Carrie Denton), and Shelley Townend (Elizabeth Denton's cousin). Also included is a portrait of Charles Darwin.

Framed Photographs consist of one box in this series and one oversize box (Oversize Box 4). Photographs in this series include portraits of Elizabeth Denton, a portrait of Elizabeth and an infant Willie Denton, as well as portraits of Robert Denton and Willie Denton. Also included are several dagguerotypes. This section also includes

three boxes of Photograph Plates, which depict friends of the Denton family as well as scenes from Wellesley and geological expeditions.

VI. Miscellaneous Printed Materials

4 boxes

This series includes academic journals and books from the Denton family's personal collection. Journals in this series include the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Museum of Natural History, Boston Society of Natural History, Department of Commerce and Labor, Department of the Interior, The Geographical Society, The Naturalist's Journal, and the Smithsonian Institution. The bulk of these journals date from 1884-1943.

Oversize Boxes

This collection contains four oversize boxes, which are cross-referenced in each Series with the Oversize Box List. Oversize Box 1 consists of William Denton's lecture notes on psychometry, as well as three scrolled papers that can be classified with Denton Family Miscellaneous Papers. These papers consist of a certificate, signed by Woodrow Wilson, commending Robert B. Denton for dying in service during World War I, a certificate awarding the Silver Medal to the Denton Brothers Butterflies at the 1901 Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York, and maps of Wyandotte Cave in Indiana, drawn in 1853.

Denton Family Library

The Denton Family Library, described in Appendix E, consists of fifty-three books from the Dentons' personal collection. Although none of these books were written by Denton family members, some books have signatures of Denton family members as well as personal messages or author signatures. Notable titles in this collection include *The Selected Poems of Katharine Lee Bates*, *Oriole Emerson Lloyd: Her Poems and Appreciations*, Samuel Adams Drake's *Old Landmarks of Boston*, *A Genealogical Register of the First Settlers of New England*, Theodore Roosevelt's *Through the Brazilian Wilderness*, and *Records of Massachusetts, Volumes II-V*.

Addition, 2011. A box of books published by William Denton was found in the attic of the Wellesley Historical Society in January 2011. The box includes multiple copies of the following books: *The Soul of Things V.1* (1888), *The Soul of Things V.2* (1873), *Radical Rhymes* (1881), *Our Planet and Its Past and Future* (1882) and *Is Darwin Right* (1881)

Artifacts

The artifacts in this collection, noted in Appendix F, include boxes of collecting equipment, collections of minerals and shells, and lantern slides. In addition, ten boxes of Sherman Denton's fish paintings and models are included. Three miscellaneous boxes include a jar that appears to have been found in an archaeological dig, a house model constructed of natural materials such as twigs and stones, and a sample of Denton Brothers jewelry, stamps, and medals.