

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

**Repository Identifier**

mawelhs

**Local Identifier**

2018.04

**Name and Location of Repository**

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

**Title**

Denton Family Papers

**Date**

1828-1968, bulk 1847-1916

**Extent**

31 linear feet, 57boxes

**Names of Creators**

Denton Family  
Denton, Carrie Delynia, 1869-1959  
Denton, Elizabeth M. Foote (1826-1916), often in correspondence as "Lizzie"  
Denton, Robert Winsford (1868-1959), referred to as "Winsey"  
Denton, Shelley Wright, 1859-1938  
Denton, Sherman F. (Sherman Foote), 1856-1937  
Denton, Vanessa, 1886-1957  
Denton, William, 1823-1883  
Denton, William Dixon (1865-1923), referred to as "Willie"  
Foote, Aaron H.  
Foote, Lewis (S.L.N.)  
Foote, M. D. (Margaret) [EMF Denton's mother]

**Biographical Note and Timeline**

The Denton Family roots lie in England; William Denton was born in Darlington, Durham County, England in 1823, and moved to the United States in 1848, settling initially in Philadelphia. William married Elizabeth Melissa Foote in 1854; they had five children: Sherman Foote, Shelley Wright, William Dixon "Willie", Robert Winsford "Winsey," and Carrie Delynia. William and Elizabeth settled in Wellesley in 1867, after living in West Virginia and Ohio. Winsey and Carrie, their last two children, were born in Wellesley. The children settled and raised their families in Wellesley. This collection also contains papers from Vanessa Denton, daughter of Shelley and Ella Denton.

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

Denton family timeline. See Biographical Note for each series for further biographical and historical details.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
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, September	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 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 marry. At the time, Elizabeth was working at <i>The Type of the Time</i> , a Cincinnati journal.
1854	William’s first published work, a pamphlet entitled “Common Sense Thoughts on the Bible” printed.
1856, September 24	Sherman Foote Denton born in Dayton, Ohio.
1856	William Denton and John Paterson edit <i>The Social Revolutionist</i> , a radical journal.
1857	William and his brother-in-law, Alfred Cridge, edit <i>The Vanguard</i> , a newspaper.
1859, June 11	Shelley Wright Denton born in Middlefield, Ohio.
1865, June	William publishes <i>The Soul of Things: Volume I</i> .
1865, August 7	William Dixon “Willie” Denton born in Mentor, Ohio.
1867	William built family home on Denton Road in Wellesley, Mass.

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

1868	Robert Winsford “Winsey” Denton born in Wellesley, Massachusetts. William published <i>Our Planet: Its Past and Future</i> .
1869, September 21	Carrie Delynia Denton born in Wellesley, Massachusetts.
1871	William publishes <i>Radical Rhymes</i> .
1872	William publishes <i>The Irreconcilable Records; or, Genesis and Geology</i> . Also publishes <i>Radical Discourses</i> .
1873	William publishes <i>The Soul of Things: Volume II</i> .
1874	William publishes <i>The Soul of Things: Volume III</i> .
1881, February 2	William and Shelley leave for lecture tour of Australia, New Zealand.
1882	Carrie enrolls at Dana Hall School, where her Latin teacher was Katharine Lee Bates. Sherman joins William and Shelley in New Zealand.
1883, August 26	Death of William Denton in New Guinea, from malaria while on a geological exploration sponsored by the <i>Melbourne Argus</i> newspaper.
1883, October 12	Elizabeth receives a telegram with news of William’s death.
1883	Shelley marries 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 marries Hattie Augusta Wiswall.
1906	Shelley, Ella, and Vanessa returned to America.
1910	Shelley opens a store on Bromfield Street, Boston, where he sells Denton Brothers jewelry.
1918	Death of Robert B. Denton, son of Sherman and Harriet Denton, from illness while serving in World War I.
1920	Willie marries May C. Hurd.
1923, February 8	Death of Willie Denton in Wellesley, Massachusetts.
1937, June	Death of Sherman Denton.
1938 April 30	Death of Shelley Denton.
1957, January 3	Death of Vanessa Denton, daughter of Shelley and Ella Denton.

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

1959	Death of Winsey Denton.
1959, April 27	Death of Carrie Denton.
1969	Death of Mildred Denton, daughter of Sherman and Harriet Denton.

**Scope and Content Note**

The Denton Family Papers contain over four generations of Denton family materials in various forms. The papers consist of 112 boxes, 10 cased volumes, and 4 oversize boxes. The collection also encompasses the Denton Family Library and the Denton Artifacts Collection. See full Scope and Content Notes with each series for details.

Note that the Denton Family Papers, and the collection generally, are currently being reprocessed as of early 2019. Only Series I and II are completed. For information on access and use of Series III-VI, please contact the Wellesley Historical Society.

**Library of Congress Index Terms**

Christianity and science  
Clairvoyance  
Entomology  
Entomology – Study and teaching  
Entomology – Technique  
Fossils  
Fossils – Study and teaching  
Geology  
Geology – Study and teaching  
Geology – United States – 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Geology and religion  
Geologists  
Mining geology  
Psychometry (Parapsychology)  
Psychometry (Parapsychology) – Journals – United States – 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Religion and Science – 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Spiritualism – United States – 19<sup>th</sup> Century  
Wellesley (Mass.)  
Women and spiritualism – United States – 19<sup>th</sup> Century

**Library of Congress Name Authority Files**

Denton, Carrie Delynia, 1869-1959  
Denton, Elizabeth M. Foote  
Denton, Robert Winsford, 1868-1959  
Denton, Shelley Wright, 1859-1938  
Denton, Sherman F. (Sherman Foote), 1856-1937  
Denton, Vanessa  
Denton, William, 1823-1883  
Denton, William Dixon, 1865-1923

# Denton Family Papers

## Wellesley Historical Society

Foote, Sherman, 1804-1880

### **System of Arrangement**

The papers are arranged in six series:

- I. William Denton Papers
- II. Elizabeth M. Foote Denton Papers
- III. Carrie Denton Papers
- IV. Miscellaneous Denton Family Papers
- V. Photograph Collection
- VI. Miscellaneous Printed Materials

Note that the Denton Family Papers, and the collection generally, are currently being reprocessed as of early 2019. Only Series I and II are completed. For information on access and use of Series III-VI, please contact the Wellesley Historical Society.

### **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.

### **Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use**

Copyright restrictions may apply.

### **Languages and Scripts of the Material**

English

### **Finding Aids**

Additional legacy finding aids are available at the repository, including alphabetical correspondence inventories. Note that the Denton Family Papers, and the collection generally, are currently being reprocessed as of early 2019. Only Series I and II are completed. For information on access and use of Series III-VI, please contact the Wellesley Historical Society.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

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 [1969.70], 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

## Denton Family Papers

### Wellesley Historical Society

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.

#### **Accruals**

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

#### **Related Archival Materials**

The core collection of the Denton Family Papers has been acquired by the Wellesley Historical Society, but additional papers belonging to William and Elizabeth Denton can be found in the Joseph A. Labadie Collection of Social Protest Material, located at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. 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 the University of Michigan website at URL <https://www.lib.umich.edu/labadie-collection>.

#### **Description**

DACS-compliant Finding Aid created December 2018 by Alden Ludlow following legacy finding aids and research guide materials. The reprocessing of the Denton Family Papers has been made possible by generous support from the Wellesley Community Preservation Commission (CPC), as well as a Mass Humanities Research Inventory Grant (RIG).

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

**Bibliography**

Hunter, Ethel Ambler. "The Remarkable Dentons of Wellesley, Massachusetts." *The New England Galaxy*, Vol. 11, No. 4 (Spring 1970). This article is the source for much of the biographical timeline.

# Denton Family Papers

## Wellesley Historical Society

### Container List

Note that the Denton Family Papers, and the collection generally, are currently being reprocessed as of early 2019. Only Series I and II are completed. For information on access and use of Series III-VI, please contact the Wellesley Historical Society. Much of the information contained in the following notes is in draft format.

#### **I. William Denton Papers**

##### **Biographical Note**

William Denton (1823-1883) was a geologist, writer, and lecturer. William was born in Darlington, Durham Co., England, to Robert Denton (1797-1851) and Jane Dixon Denton (1791-1854). He married Caroline Gilbert in 1849; she died the following year in childbirth. He then 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.

William died of malaria while on a geological exploration in New Guinea. He 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).

##### **Scope and Content**

This series contains correspondence, lecture notes, bound volumes, diaries, and printed materials relating to William Denton (1832-1883). The papers are organized into 42 boxes, plus one oversize box; Appendix A is a comprehensive alphabetical index to the correspondence. Boxes 1-12 contain correspondence. Boxes 13-17, 25, and 27-33 contain lecture notes. Boxes 18-24 and 26 and 34-36 contain various bound volumes and bound notebooks. Boxes 37-42 contain printed materials, including published pamphlets and other writings.

A folder of legal documents in Box 18, Folder 8, includes William’s naturalization papers, Will, and property deeds.

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



## Denton Family Papers Wellesley Historical Society

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.

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 interests in 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

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

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 several boxes of bound volumes. The bound volumes include *Our Planet: Its Past and Future* in different editions; several volumes of the 1888 edition of *The Soul of Things: Volume 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: Volume III*. Other volumes include *The Irreconcilable Records, Is Darwin Right?*, and *Radical Rhymes*.

**Box 1: William Denton Papers, Correspondence; undated**

Folder 1:	Correspondence, undated, A
Folder 2:	Correspondence, undated, B
Folder 3:	Correspondence, undated, C
Folder 4:	Correspondence, undated, D
Folder 5:	Correspondence, undated, E
Folder 6:	Correspondence, undated, F
Folder 7:	Correspondence, undated, G
Folder 8:	Correspondence, undated, H
Folder 9:	Correspondence, undated, J
Folder 10:	Correspondence, undated, K
Folder 11:	Correspondence, undated, L
Folder 12:	Correspondence, undated, M
Folder 13:	Correspondence, undated, N-O
Folder 14:	Correspondence, undated, P
Folder 15:	Correspondence, undated, R
Folder 16:	Correspondence, undated, S
Folder 17:	Correspondence, undated, T
Folder 18:	Correspondence, undated, V-Y
Folder 19:	Correspondence, undated, First Name
Folder 20:	Correspondence, undated, Unsigned

**Box 2: William Denton Papers, Correspondence; 1832 – 1859**

Folder 1:	1832-1842
Folder 2:	1843
Folder 3:	1844 January-May
Folder 4:	1844 June - December
Folder 5:	1845
Folder 6:	1846
Folder 7:	1847
Folder 8:	1848

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

Folder 9: 1849  
Folder 10: 1850  
Folder 11: 1851  
Folder 12: 1852  
Folder 13: 1853 January - June  
Folder 14: 1853 July - December  
Folder 15: 1854  
Folder 16: 1855  
Folder 17: 1856 January - July  
Folder 18: 1856 August - December  
Folder 19: 1857 January - July  
Folder 20: 1857 August - December  
Folder 21: 1858  
Folder 22: 1859

**Box 3: William Denton Papers, Correspondence; 1860 – 1867**

Folder 1: 1860 January - March  
Folder 2: 1860 April - June  
Folder 3: 1860 July - December  
Folder 4: 1861 January - June  
Folder 5: 1861 July - December  
Folder 6: 1862 January - May  
Folder 7: 1862 June - December  
Folder 8: 1863 January - August  
Folder 9: 1863 September - December  
Folder 10: 1864 January - March  
Folder 11: 1864 April - August  
Folder 12: 1864 September - December  
Folder 13: 1865 January - March  
Folder 14: 1865 April - July  
Folder 15: 1865 August - December  
Folder 16: 1866 January - April  
Folder 17: 1866 May - August  
Folder 18: 1866 September - December  
Folder 19: 1867 January - April  
Folder 20: 1867 May - September  
Folder 21: 1867 October - December

**Box 4: Correspondence; 1868 – 1871**

Folder 1: 1868 January - March  
Folder 2: 1868 April - July  
Folder 3: 1868 August - September  
Folder 4: 1868 October - December

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

Folder 5: 1869 January - March  
Folder 6: 1869 April - July  
Folder 7: 1869 August - September  
Folder 8: 1869 October - December  
Folder 9: 1870 January - February  
Folder 10: 1870 March - April  
Folder 11: 1870 May - June  
Folder 12: 1870 July - October  
Folder 13: 1870 November - December  
Folder 14: 1871 January - February  
Folder 15: 1871 March - June  
Folder 16: 1871 July - September  
Folder 17: 1871 October - December

**Box 5: Correspondence; 1872 – 1877**

Folder 1: 1872 January - June  
Folder 2: 1872 July - September  
Folder 3: 1872 October - December  
Folder 4: 1873 January - April  
Folder 5: 1873 May - August  
Folder 6: 1873 September - December  
Folder 7: 1874 January - March  
Folder 8: 1874 April - August  
Folder 9: 1874 September - December  
Folder 10: 1875 January - April  
Folder 11: 1875 May - July  
Folder 12: 1875 August - September  
Folder 13: 1875 October - December  
Folder 14: 1876 January - April  
Folder 15: 1876 May - December  
Folder 16: 1877

**Box 6: Correspondence; 1878 – 1899**

Folder 1: 1878  
Folder 2: 1879 January - July  
Folder 3: 1879 August – December  
Folder 4: 1880 January - July  
Folder 5: 1880 August - December  
Folder 6: 1881  
Folder 7: 1882 January - August  
Folder 8: 1882 September - December

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

- Folder 9: 1883 January - March  
Folder 10: 1883 April - December  
Folder 11: 1884-1889 [Posthumous replies and requests]

**Box 7: Family Correspondence; 1834 – 1882**

- Folder 1: From daughter, Carrie Denton, undated  
Folder 2: From son, Shelley Denton, 1866-1881  
Folder 3: From son, Sherman Denton, 1857-1881  
Folder 4: From son, Willie Denton, 1875-1887  
Folder 5: From son, Winsey Denton, 1876-1882  
Folder 6: From father, Robert Denton, 1843-1846  
Folder 7: From mother, Jane Denton, 1843-1846  
Folder 8: From sister, Annie Denton Cridge, undated fragments  
Folder 9: From sister, Annie Denton Cridge, 1843  
Folder 10: From sister, Annie Denton Cridge, 1844-1846  
Folder 11: From sister, Annie Denton Cridge, 1847-1849  
Folder 12: From sister, Annie Denton Cridge, 1850-1852  
Folder 13: From sister, Annie Denton Cridge, 1853  
Folder 14: From sister, Annie Denton Cridge, 1854  
Folder 15: From sister, Annie Denton Cridge, 1855-1856  
Folder 16: From sister, Annie Denton Cridge, 1857-1859  
Folder 17: From sister, Annie Denton Cridge, 1860-1862  
Folder 18: From sister, Annie Denton Cridge, 1863-1864  
Folder 19: From sister, Annie Denton Cridge, 1865-1866  
Folder 20: From sister, Annie Denton Cridge, 1867-1869  
Folder 21: From sister, Annie Denton Cridge, 1870-1878  
Folder 22: From sister, Lizzie Denton Seybold, undated fragments  
Folder 23: From sister, Lizzie Denton Seybold, 1846-1859  
Folder 24: From sister, Lizzie Denton Seybold, 1860-1871  
Folder 25: From sister, Lizzie Denton Seybold, 1872-1882  
Folder 26: From Caroline Gilbert Denton (William's first wife), c.1845-1849

**Box 8: Correspondence, William to Elizabeth M. Foote Denton; 1853-1865, & undated**

- Folder 1: Undated I  
Folder 2: Undated II  
Folder 3: Undated III  
Folder 4: Undated IV  
Folder 5: Undated V  
Folder 6: Undated VI  
Folder 7: Undated VII

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

Folder 8: 1853-1856  
Folder 9: 1857-1858  
Folder 10: 1859  
Folder 11: 1860  
Folder 12: 1861-1862  
Folder 13: 1863  
Folder 14: 1864  
Folder 15: 1865

**Box 9: Correspondence, William to Elizabeth M. Foote Denton; 1866-1883, & undated**

Folder 1: 1866-1867  
Folder 2: 1868-1872  
Folder 3: 1873  
Folder 4: 1874  
Folder 5: 1875  
Folder 6: 1876  
Folder 7: 1877  
Folder 8: 1878 January - May  
Folder 9: 1878 June - December  
Folder 10: 1879  
Folder 11: 1880 January - June  
Folder 12: 1880 July - December  
Folder 13: 1881  
Folder 14: 1882  
Folder 15: 1883

**Box 10: Correspondence, Elizabeth M. F. Denton to William; 1853-1873, & undated**

Folder 1: Undated  
Folder 2: 1853-1856  
Folder 3: 1857-1859  
Folder 4: 1860  
Folder 5: 1861  
Folder 6: 1862  
Folder 7: 1863  
Folder 8: 1864  
Folder 9: 1865  
Folder 10: 1866  
Folder 11: 1867  
Folder 12: 1868-1869  
Folder 13: 1871-1873

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

**Box 11: Correspondence, Elizabeth M. F. Denton to William; 1874-1883**

Folder 1:	1874
Folder 2:	1875
Folder 3:	1876
Folder 4:	1877
Folder 5:	1878 January - June
Folder 6:	1878 July - December
Folder 7:	1879
Folder 8:	1880
Folder 9:	1881
Folder 10:	1882
Folder 11:	1883

**Box 12: Correspondence—Miscellaneous; 1843-1975, & undated**

Folder 1:	From William Denton to Caroline Gilbert Denton, c.1849
Folder 2:	From William Denton to miscellaneous, undated
Folder 3:	From William Denton to miscellaneous, 1843-1859
Folder 4:	From William Denton to miscellaneous, 1860-1869
Folder 5:	From William Denton to miscellaneous, 1870-1883
Folder 6:	Other correspondents, undated
Folder 7:	Other correspondents, 1834-1851
Folder 8:	Other correspondents, 1852-1858
Folder 9:	Other correspondents, 1860-1869
Folder 10:	Other correspondents, 1870-1975
Folder 11:	Empty envelopes

**Box 13: Lecture Notes, (alphabetical by title); undated**

This set of lecture notes has been organized by title. See also Series I, Boxes 25-33 for additional Lecture Notes organized by title.

Folder 1:	The Aboriginal Britons [A]
Folder 2:	The Bible and the Word of God [B]
Folder 3:	The Bible Not the Word of God [B]
Folder 4:	Did Jesus Rise From the Dead? [D]
Folder 5:	Garrison in Heaven [G]
Folder 6:	The Irreconcilables [I]
Folder 7:	Is Darwin Right? [I]
Folder 8:	“Man” [M] (incomplete manuscript, pages 23-68e)
Folder 9:	Our Planet [O] (incomplete manuscript, pages 1-85)
Folder 10:	Our Planet [O] (incomplete manuscript, pages 86-154)
Folder 11:	Radical Discourses [R]
Folder 12:	Sideros [S]

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

- Folder 13: The Watcher on the Tower [W]
- Folder 14: The Way to Be Happy [W]
- Folder 15: Where Does Beauty Dwell? [W]
- Folder 16: Women in the Bible: "What Does the Bible Say of Woman?" [W]
- Folder 17: Undetermined title

**Box 14: Lecture Notes, (organized by topic); undated**

Some of the notes in Folders 1, 2, and 5 contain lecture materials as well as the psychometric observations of William's son, Sherman.

- Folder 1: Astronomy, Geology, with psychometric observations
- Folder 2: Astronomy, with psychometric observations (c.1869)
- Folder 3: Geology
- Folder 4: Geology – By Place
- Folder 5: Geology (pages 422-579 of MSS), with psychometric observations
- Folder 6: Illustrations and Sketches
- Folder 7: Poetry
- Folder 8: Miscellaneous topics and titles I
- Folder 9: Miscellaneous topics and titles II
- Folder 10: Miscellaneous topics and titles III
- Folder 11: Miscellaneous topics and titles IV
- Folder 12: Miscellaneous topics and titles V

**Box 15: Lecture Notes on Spiritualism and Psychometry; 1851-1876, & undated**

This set contains William Denton's lecture notes on the subject of psychometry. See also Series I, Box 34 and Archival Oversize Box 1 for more materials on psychometry.

- Folder 1: Lectures and letters (to Denton) on Spiritualism, 1851-1876
- Folder 2: Lectures and letters (to Denton) on Spiritualism, 1851-1876
- Folder 3: Psychometry, by region or planet
- Folder 4: Psychometry I
- Folder 5: Psychometry II
- Folder 6: Psychometry III
- Folder 7: Psychometry IV

**Box 16: Lecture Notes – Miscellaneous; undated**

See also Series I, Box 17 and Series I, Box 36.

- Folder 1: Miscellaneous
- Folder 2: Miscellaneous
- Folder 3: Miscellaneous
- Folder 4: Miscellaneous



Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

Folder 5:       Miscellaneous  
Folder 6:       Miscellaneous  
Folder 7:       Miscellaneous fragments  
Folder 8:       Miscellaneous  
Folder 9:       Miscellaneous

**Box 17: Lecture Notes – Miscellaneous; undated**

See also Series I, Box 16 and Series I, Box 36.

Folder 1:       Miscellaneous  
Folder 2:       Miscellaneous  
Folder 3:       Miscellaneous  
Folder 4:       Miscellaneous  
Folder 5:       Miscellaneous  
Folder 6:       Miscellaneous  
Folder 7:       Miscellaneous  
Folder 8:       Miscellaneous  
Folder 9:       Miscellaneous  
Folder 10:      Miscellaneous  
Folder 11:      Miscellaneous

**Box 18: Miscellaneous Papers; 1845-1883, & undated**

Folder 1:       Address Book  
Folder 2:       Flyers – Scientific Lectures  
Folder 3:       Flyers – Scientific Lectures  
Folder 3:       Flyers - Miscellaneous  
Folder 4:       Illustrations of William Denton  
Folder 5:       Lecture admission tickets  
Folder 6:       Business records, 1845-1883 and undated  
Folder 7:       Library of Congress copyright certificates  
Folder 8:       Legal records, 1855-1881  
Folder 9:       Records, undated  
Folder 10:      Miscellaneous

**Box 19: Bound Volumes — Diaries; 1838-1851**

Folder 1:       William Denton Diary, 1839 (1 item)  
Folder 2:       William Denton Diary, 1841 and 1842 (2 items)  
Folder 3:       William Denton Diary, 1843 (1 item)  
Folder 4:       William Denton Diary, 1844-1848 (2 items)  
Folder 5:       William Denton Diary, 1845 (1 item)  
Folder 6:       William Denton Diary, 1848 (1 item)  
Folder 7:       William Denton Diary, 1849-1850 (2 items)

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

Folder 8: William Denton Diary, 1850-1851 (2 items)

**Box 20: Bound Volumes — Diaries; 1852-1865**

Folder 1: William Denton Diary, October 1852 to December 1854 (1 item)  
Folder 2: William Denton Diaries, 1855 and 1859  
Folder 3: William Denton Diaries, 1860 and 1860-1862  
Folder 4: William Denton Diaries, 1861-1862  
Folder 5: William Denton Diaries, 1863 (lecture schedules)  
Folder 6: William Denton Diaries, 1863-1864  
Folder 7: William Denton Diaries, 1865

**Box 21: Bound Volumes — Diaries; 1865-1872**

Folder 1: William Denton Diaries, 1865-1872 (2 items)  
Folder 2: William Denton Diaries, 1866 (2 items)  
Folder 3: William Denton Diaries, 1867-1868 (2 items)  
Folder 4: William Denton Diaries, 1869 (2 items)  
Folder 5: William Denton Diaries, 1870-1871 (2 items)  
Folder 6: William Denton Diaries, 1872 (1 item)

**Box 22: Bound Volumes — Diaries; 1873-1876**

Folder 1: William Denton Diaries, 1874 (2 items)  
Folder 2: William Denton Diaries, February 1874 – September 1875 (1 item)  
Folder 3: William Denton Diaries, 1875 (1 item)  
Folder 4: William Denton Diaries, 1876 (2 items)  
Archives Oversize Materials: William Denton Diaries, 1873-1874, Psychometric journal

**Box 23: Bound Volumes — Diaries; 1877 – 1882**

Folder 1: William Denton Diaries, 1877 (2 items)  
Folder 2: William Denton Diaries, 1878 (1 item)  
Folder 3: William Denton Diaries, 1879 (1 item)  
Folder 4: William Denton Diaries, 1880 (2 items)  
Folder 5: William Denton Diaries, 1881 (2 items)  
Folder 6: William Denton Diaries, December 1881 – March 1882

**Box 24: Bound Volumes — Diaries; 1882 – 1883**

This box includes the diary Shelley Denton (Folder 6) kept while travelling with his father at the time of his father's death. The diary parallels the events in William's diary in Folder 4. It has been placed in Series I because of context.

Folder 1: William Denton Diaries, 1882

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

- Folder 2: William Denton Diary, November 1882 – June 1883
- Folder 3: William Denton Diary, May – September 1883
- Folder 4: William Denton Diary, January - August 1883
- Folder 5: William Denton, undated memoir recounting c.1848 move to America
- Folder 6: Shelley Wright Denton Diary, 1883

**Box 25: Bound Volumes — Lecture Notes, A – D; undated**

See also Series I, Box 13.

- Folder 1: 31<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Modern Spiritualism
- Folder 2: Antilles
- Folder 3: Antiquity of Man
- Folder 4: Astronomy
- Folder 5: Babylon and Nineveh
- Folder 6: The Battle of the Books
- Folder 7: Be Thyself
- Folder 8: Bible and Prophecy
- Folder 9: Bible Position of Women (also, Position of Women in the Bible)
- Folder 10: California and Nevada (flip volume for notes on Temperance)
- Folder 11: Can Man Please or Offend God?
- Folder 12: Comets and Meteors and their Relation to the Death of Worlds
- Folder 13: The Coming Day
- Folder 14: The Connection Between Mesmerism and Spiritualism
- Folder 15: Contradictions of the Bible
- Folder 16: Constitution [incomplete, misleading title, notes on God and the Bible]
- Folder 17: Creation of Man / Nature as personal creator

**Box 26: Bound Volumes — Lecture Notes, D – Ge; undated**

See also Series I, Box 13.

- Folder 1: Death
- Folder 2: The Deluge [in the Light of Science] (4 items)
- Folder 3: Did Jesus Rise From the Dead?
- Folder 4: Does the Human Race Advance?
- Folder 5: Does the Spirit of Man Survive Death? Has Man a Spirit?
- Folder 6: Egypt
- Folder 7: Evidence of Christianity Compared with the Evidence of Spiritualism
- Folder 8: Evolution in Religion
- Folder 9: Fables of the Bible
- Folder 10: Garrison in Heaven
- Folder 11: Genesis or Geology (flip volume for Origins and Cure of Evil)
- Folder 12: Geology
- Folder 13: Geology

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

**Box 27: Bound Volumes — Lecture Notes, Ge – H; undated**

See also Series I, Box 13.

- Folder 1: Geology – William Denton Mineral Collection Inventory
- Folder 2: The Glacial Period and Advent of Man
- Folder 3: God
- Folder 4: God is the Light of Science
- Folder 5: The Gospel of Good Health
- Folder 6: Gospel of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- Folder 7: Gospels
- Folder 8: The Grand Origin
- Folder 9: Growth versus Creation
- Folder 10: Health
- Folder 11: Heaven
- Folder 12: Hindrances to the Spread of Spiritualism
- Folder 13: History of the Bible
- Folder 14: How the World Was Made

**Box 28: Bound Volumes — Lecture Notes, I – Ma; undated**

- Folder 1: Ignorance
- Folder 2: The Immorality of Orthodoxy
- Folder 3: Irreconcilable Records
- Folder 4: Jehovah an Idol
- Folder 5: Jehovah of the Jews
- Folder 6: Jesus
- Folder 7: Jesus, a Fanatic
- Folder 8: Jesus and Resurrection
- Folder 9: The Kind of God Proposed for Our National Constitution
- Folder 10: Life [and Evolution]
- Folder 11: Love Scientifically Considered
- Folder 12: Lying
- Folder 13: Magnificence of Nature and the Puerilities of Christianity Contrasted
- Folder 14: Man in the Stone Age
- Folder 15: Man, Object and Ultimate of Life on Our Planet
- Folder 16: Manhood

**Box 29: Bound Volumes — Lecture Notes, Ma – N; undated**

- Folder 1: Marriage
- Folder 2: Mars
- Folder 3: Materialization
- Folder 4: Men

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

- Folder 5: Minerals, Metals, and Mining
- Folder 6: The Missing Link Found
- Folder 7: Mohammed
- Folder 8: The Moon and the Exterior Planets
- Folder 9: Morality
- Folder 10: Morality of the Bible
- Folder 11: Mound Builders
- Folder 12: The Natural and Supernatural
- Folder 13: The New Religion

**Box 30: Bound Volumes — Lecture Notes, O – P; undated**

- Folder 1: Objections to Spiritualism
- Folder 2: The Old and New Testaments
- Folder 3: Origins and Cure of Evil
- Folder 4: Origins of Man
- Folder 5: Orthodoxy False
- Folder 6: Our Mission, the Mission of Spiritualism
- Folder 7: Paine, Thomas
- Folder 8: Philosophy of Death
- Folder 9: Phrenology (flip volume for notes on Bible)
- Folder 10: The Pocasset Tragedy
- Folder 11: Poetry [1852]
- Folder 12: Poverty
- Folder 13: Prayer in the Light of Science
- Folder 14: Prophecies of the Bible
- Folder 15: Progress as Represented in the Life History of Our Planet

**Box 31: Bound Volumes — Lecture Notes, R – S; undated**

- Folder 1: Races / Races of Mankind
- Folder 2: Radical Discourses / Radical Rhymes
- Folder 3: Rational Religion
- Folder 4: The Reliable and Unreliable in Spiritualism
- Folder 5: Religion
- Folder 6: The Religion of Blood
- Folder 7: Remarks Concerning the Gospels
- Folder 8: Revelations of Geology Regarding Man
- Folder 9: Revivals
- Folder 10: Right of Labor
- Folder 11: Salvation / The Plan of Salvation
- Folder 12: Science the True Revelation
- Folder 13: Science is Evolutionary
- Folder 14: Scientific Evidence of Future Existence

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

**Box 32: Bound Volumes — Lecture Notes, Sc – To; undated**

- Folder 1: The Scientific Method Applied to Religion
- Folder 2: The Seen
- Folder 3: Shakespeare
- Folder 4: Slides
- Folder 5: The Soul of Things
- Folder 6: The Spiritual Universe
- Folder 7: Spiritualism: The Religion for Universal Humanity
- Folder 8: Spiritualism Superior to Christianity
- Folder 9: Spiritualism (miscellaneous)
- Folder 10: Stars (also, Astronomy)
- Folder 11: Swedenborg
- Folder 12: Temperance
- Folder 13: Temperance & Health
- Folder 14: Thou Shalt Not Lie
- Folder 15: To Be Happy

**Box 33: Bound Volumes — Lecture Notes, Tr – Z; undated**

- Folder 1: True Religion
- Folder 2: True Word of God
- Folder 3: Truth and Its Standards
- Folder 4: The Unseen
- Folder 5: Utility of Spiritualism
- Folder 6: What Have We Left?
- Folder 7: What is Right?
- Folder 8: What the Heavens Teach
- Folder 9: What the Scriptures of the Earth Reveal
- Folder 10: What was Jesus?
- Folder 11: Who are Christians?
- Folder 12: Who Shall Be Master
- Folder 13: Will Not the Judge of All the Earth Do Right?
- Folder 14: World's Future in Light of History

**Box 34: Bound Volumes — Lecture Notes on Psychometry; undated**

See also Series I, Box 25 and Archival Oversize Box 1

- Folder 1: Psychometry, undated
- Folder 2: Psychometry notebook, c.1879
- Folder 3: Psychometry notebook, undated (includes pasted clippings of lectures)
- Folder 4: Psychometry notebook, c.1880

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

**Box 35: Bound Volumes — Lecture Notes on Psychometry; 1858 – 1880**

- Folder 1: Psychometry notebook, 1858-1863
- Folder 2: Psychometry notebook, 1866
- Folder 3: Psychometry notebooks, 1870-1873
- Folder 4: Psychometry notebook, "Psychometric Notes," 1872
- Folder 5: Psychometry notebook, "Psychometric Examinations," 1873
- Folder 6: Psychometry notebook, "Psychometric Notes No. 5," September 1873
- Folder 7: Psychometry notebook, October 1874 (Jesus / Mount of Olives)
- Folder 8: Psychometry notebook, August 1880

**Box 36: Bound Volumes — Lecture Notes, Miscellaneous; undated**

See also Series I, Boxes 16 and 17.

- Folder 1: Miscellaneous
- Folder 2: Miscellaneous
- Folder 3: Miscellaneous
- Folder 4: Miscellaneous
- Folder 5: Miscellaneous
- Folder 6: Miscellaneous
- Folder 7: Miscellaneous, undated scrapbook

**Box 37: Printed Materials — Pamphlets; 1856 – 1883**

- Folder 1: Be Thyself
- Folder 2: Bible Prophecies
- Folder 3: Christianity No Finality
- Folder 4: Common Sense Thoughts on the Bible
- Folder 5: The Deluge in the Light of Modern Science
- Folder 6: A Few Words to the Young Men of England on the Use of Tobacco
- Folder 7: Garrison in Heaven
- Folder 8: God in the Light of Science and Common Sense
- Folder 9: The God Proposed for Our National Constitution
- Folder 10: The Irreconcilable Records — Genesis and Geology
- Folder 11: Is Spiritualism True?
- Folder 12: Jehovah and the Bible, Enslavers of Woman
- Folder 13: Man's True Saviors
- Folder 14: Opening Remarks of William Denton
- Folder 15: Orthodoxy False
- Folder 16: The Pocasset Tragedy
- Folder 17: Sermon from Shakespeare's Text
- Folder 18: What is Right?
- Folder 19: What Was He? Jesus in Light of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century
- Folder 20: Who Are Christians?

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

- Folder 21: Who Killed Mary Stannard? Clairvoyance and Psychometry Demonstrated  
Folder 22: Man's Rights (by Annie Denton Cridge)  
Folder 23: Reply to Criticisms of William Denton's Lectures (by Edward Crosby)  
Folder 24: The Resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth (Charles C. Hennell)  
Folder 25: William Denton, the Geologist and Radical (J. H. Powell)  
Folder 26: An Examination of a Work Entitled "Common Sense Thoughts on the Bible" by William Denton (D. L. Wood)

**Box 38: Printed Materials — Books; 1868, 1881, & 1882**

This box contains several different editions of William Denton's *Our Planet, Its Past and Future: or, Lectures on Geology*. Editions are from 1868 (two copies, one ex-Wellesley Free Library), 1881 (one copy, a reprint of the 1868 format), and 1882 (three copies, one a reprint of the 1868 format, two a new format).

- Folder 1: *Our Planet, Its Past and Future: or, Lectures on Geology*  
Folder 2: *Our Planet, Its Past and Future: or, Lectures on Geology*  
Folder 3: *Our Planet, Its Past and Future: or, Lectures on Geology*

**Box 39: Printed Materials — Books; 1888**

This box contains several copies of William Denton's *The Soul of Things; or, Psychometric Researches and Discoveries*. There are two copies of *Volume I* (8<sup>th</sup> Edition, Revised published 1888); two copies of *Volume II*; and one copy of *Volume III*. Each of the three volumes includes different accounts of various psychometric experiments. All were published by the Denton Publishing Company.

- Folder 1: *The Soul of Things -- Volume I*  
Folder 2: *The Soul of Things -- Volume II*  
Folder 3: *The Soul of Things -- Volume III*

**Box 40: Printed Materials — Books; 1879 & 1881**

- Folder 1: *The Irreconcilable Records; or, Genesis and Geology* (1882)  
Folder 2: *Is Darwin Right? Or, The Origin of Man* (1881)  
Folder 3: *Radical Rhymes* (1879 edition)  
Folder 4: *Radical Rhymes* (1881 edition)  
Folder 5: *Radical Rhymes* (1881 edition)

**II. Elizabeth M. Foote Denton Papers 1831-1915**

**Biographical Note**

Elizabeth Melissa Foote Denton (1826-1916) was born in Williamstown, Massachusetts to Sherman and Margaret D. Foote; she was raised in Painesville, Ohio [check name of



Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

town]. She was the publisher for Denton Family Publishing. She had two brothers, Aaron Foote and Lewis "S.L.N." Foote, which whom she frequently corresponded.

**Scope and Content Note**

This series contains correspondence, writings, bound volumes and diaries, and account books related to Elizabeth M. Foote Denton, wife of William Denton. There are 16 boxes of material; boxes 1-11 contain Correspondence; box 12 contains Writings; box 13 contains Miscellaneous Papers; boxes 14-16 contain Bound Volumes.

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, Sherman and Mary D. Foote, 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. She also authored 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.

**Box 1: Correspondence, A – Z; undated**

Much of this correspondence is undated because the year is not noted; often the month and day are included.

Folder 1:	Undated, A
Folder 2:	Undated, B
Folder 3:	Undated, C
Folder 4:	Undated, D-E
Folder 5:	Undated, F

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

Folder 6:	Undated, G-H
Folder 7:	Undated, J-L
Folder 8:	Undated, M-P
Folder 9:	Undated, R-S
Folder 10:	Undated, T-U
Folder 11:	Undated, W-Z
Folder 12:	Undated, by first name
Folder 13:	Unsigned and fragments

**Box 2: Correspondence; 1831 – 1871**

Folder 1:	1831-1832
Folder 2:	1841-1847
Folder 3:	1848-1849
Folder 4:	1850
Folder 5:	1851
Folder 6:	1852
Folder 7:	1853, January - July
Folder 8:	1853, August - December
Folder 9:	1854
Folder 10:	1855
Folder 11:	1856
Folder 12:	1857
Folder 13:	1858
Folder 14:	1859
Folder 15:	1860
Folder 16:	1861
Folder 17:	1862
Folder 18:	1863
Folder 19:	1864
Folder 20:	1865
Folder 21:	1866
Folder 22:	1867
Folder 23:	1868
Folder 24:	1869
Folder 25:	1870
Folder 26:	1871

**Box 3: Correspondence; 1872 – 1877**

Folder 1:	1872, January - March
Folder 2:	1872, April - June
Folder 3:	1872, July - December
Folder 4:	1873, January - March
Folder 5:	1873, April - August

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

Folder 6: 1873, September - December  
Folder 7: 1874, January - March  
Folder 8: 1874, April - June  
Folder 9: 1874, July - December  
Folder 10: 1875, January - June  
Folder 11: 1875, July - December  
Folder 12: 1876, January - March  
Folder 13: 1876, April - August  
Folder 14: 1876, September - December  
Folder 15: 1877, January - June  
Folder 16: 1877, July - December

**Box 4: Correspondence; 1878 – 1887**

Folder 1: 1878, January - July  
Folder 2: 1878, August - December  
Folder 3: 1879  
Folder 4: 1880  
Folder 5: 1881  
Folder 6: 1882  
Folder 7: 1883, January - September  
Folder 8: 1883, October  
Folder 9: 1883, November  
Folder 10: 1883, December  
Folder 11: 1884, January  
Folder 12: 1884, February - December  
Folder 13: 1885  
Folder 14: 1886  
Folder 15: 1887

**Box 5: Correspondence; 1888 – 1900**

Folder 1: 1888  
Folder 2: 1889  
Folder 3: 1890  
Folder 4: 1891  
Folder 5: 1892  
Folder 6: 1893  
Folder 7: 1894-1895  
Folder 8: 1896  
Folder 9: 1897  
Folder 10: 1898  
Folder 11: 1899  
Folder 12: 1900

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

**Box 6: Correspondence; 1901 – 1915**

The letters in this 1901-1915 time period are increasingly written by family members, including Elizabeth's children and grandchildren.

Folder 1:	1901
Folder 2:	1902
Folder 3:	1903
Folder 4:	1904
Folder 5:	1905
Folder 6:	1906
Folder 7:	1907
Folder 8:	1908
Folder 9:	1909
Folder 10:	1910
Folder 11:	1911-1912
Folder 12:	1913
Folder 13:	1914
Folder 14:	1915

**Box 7: Correspondence, from brothers Aaron and Lewis Foote; 1848 – 1914**

Folder 1:	From brother, Aaron H. Foote, 1851-1859
Folder 2:	From brother, Aaron H. Foote, 1860-1869
Folder 3:	From brother, Aaron H. Foote, 1870-1879
Folder 4:	From brother, Aaron H. Foote, 1880-1883
Folder 5:	From brother, Aaron H. Foote, 1884-1889
Folder 6:	From brother, Aaron H. Foote, 1890-1914
Folder 7:	From brother, Lewis Foote (S.L.N. Foote), 1848-1879
Folder 8:	From brother, Lewis Foote (S.L.N. Foote), 1880-1902

**Box 8: Correspondence, Foote Family; 1828 – 1888**

Folder 1:	To Elizabeth M. F. Denton, from mother M. D. Foote, 1841-1859
Folder 2:	To Elizabeth M. F. Denton, from mother M. D. Foote, 1860-1866
Folder 3:	To Elizabeth M. F. Denton, from mother M. D. Foote, 1867-1869
Folder 4:	To Elizabeth M. F. Denton, from mother M. D. Foote, 1870-1878
Folder 5:	To Elizabeth M. F. Denton, from father, Sherman Foote
Folder 6:	To M. D. Foote, from miscellaneous, 1828-1888
Folder 7:	To M. D. Foote from her son, Aaron Foote
Folder 8:	To Sherman Foote, from miscellaneous, 1832-1878
Folder 9:	Foote family, miscellaneous correspondence

**Box 9: Correspondence, from sons Sherman and Shelley Denton; 1867 – 1914**

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

This set of correspondence... Some of this correspondence is addressed to “dear mother and sister,” being Elizabeth and Carrie; some of these letters have correspondence to Carrie within the text of the letter to Elizabeth.

- Folder 1: From son, Sherman Denton, undated
- Folder 2: From son, Sherman Denton, 1867-1883
- Folder 3: From son, Sherman Denton, 1886-1889
- Folder 4: From son, Sherman Denton, 1890-1913
- Folder 5: From son, Shelley Denton, undated
- Folder 6: From son, Shelley Denton, 1871-1881
- Folder 7: From son, Shelley Denton, 1882-1887
- Folder 8: From son, Shelley Denton, 1890-1900
- Folder 9: From son, Shelley Denton, 1902-1914

**Box 10: Correspondence, from family, children Willie, Winsey, & Carrie Denton,  
1880 – 1913**

- Folder 1: From son, Willie Denton, undated
- Folder 2: From son, Willie Denton, 1880-1889
- Folder 3: From son, Willie Denton, 1890-1894
- Folder 4: From son, Willie Denton, 1895-1899
- Folder 5: From son, Willie Denton, 1900-1914
- Folder 6: From son, Winsey Denton, undated
- Folder 7: From son, Winsey Denton, 1880-1898
- Folder 8: From son, Winsey Denton, 1899-1915
- Folder 9: From daughter, Carrie Denton, undated
- Folder 10: From daughter, Carrie Denton, 1881-1888
- Folder 11: From daughter, Carrie Denton, 1892-1898
- Folder 12: From daughter, Carrie Denton, 1900 (including Paris, France)
- Folder 13: From daughter, Carrie Denton, 1902-1913

**Box 11: Correspondence, miscellaneous, from E. M. F. Denton to others;  
1855 – 1909, & undated**

This set of correspondence contains a variety of materials authored by Elizabeth M. Foote Denton. Included are drafts of letters, as well as letters that were posted to friends, family, and business interests which made their way back to her.

- Folder 1: Undated I
- Folder 2: Undated II
- Folder 3: From Elizabeth Denton, 1855-1869
- Folder 4: From Elizabeth Denton, 1870-1871
- Folder 5: From E.M.F. Denton, 1872
- Folder 6: From E.M.F. Denton, letters to “Phipps,” 1872
- Folder 7: From Elizabeth Denton, 1873-1877

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

- Folder 8: From E.M.F. Denton, 1878-1879
- Folder 9: From Elizabeth Denton, 1880-1889
- Folder 10: From Elizabeth Denton, 1890-1909
- Folder 11: Other correspondence relating to Elizabeth M. Foote Denton
- Folder 12: Letter fragments
- Folder 13: Miscellaneous envelopes

**Box 12: Writings, by title; undated**

- Folder 1: Appeal to the Pulpit
- Folder 2: Good No. Two and Three
- Folder 3: Great Society
- Folder 4: Mediumship, Psychometry, Clairvoyance, Etc.
- Folder 5: Natural History of Man
- Folder 6: New Theory of Life
- Folder 7: Spiritual Manifestations
- Folder 8: The Harris Bond Robbery
- Folder 9: Life of William Denton
- Folder 10: Poetry
- Folder 11: Psychometry
- Folder 12: Miscellaneous titles
- Folder 13: Miscellaneous fragments/drafts 1
- Folder 14: Miscellaneous fragments/drafts 2
- Folder 15: Miscellaneous fragments/drafts 3

**Box 13: Miscellaneous Papers; 1854 – 1856, & undated**

- Folder 1: Accounts (loose-leaf)
  - Folder 2: Accounts, 1854-1856 account book
  - Folder 3: Family Documents, Sherman Foote's will and related documents
  - Folder 4: Flyers
  - Folder 5: Illustrations
  - Folder 6: Published Pamphlets (prepress proof): Harris Bond Robbery
  - Folder 7: Published Pamphlets: Poetry -- Life: My Questionings
  - Folder 8: Published Pamphlets: Some Points Outlining a New Theory of Life
  - Folder 9: Records – Certificates
  - Folder 10: Records – Financial
  - Folder 11: Records – Legal
  - Folder 12: Records – Library of Congress
  - Folder 13: Records – Property: Mortgages and Deeds
  - Folder 14: Other
- Archives Oversize Materials: National Liberal League diplomas  
Archives Oversize Materials: Globe Gold and Silver Mining Co. Stock Certificate

**Box 14: Bound Volumes — Diaries; 1861 – 1901**

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society

The diaries in this box contain different types of materials, ranging from daily accounts to records of psychometric experiments. Folder 6 contains accounts from January-April 1884, with reflections upon the loss of her husband late in 1883.

Folder 1:	1861-1878 (bulk of entries 1861-1864)
Folder 2:	1864 and 1865
Folder 3:	1866 and 1868
Folder 4:	1869 and 1870
Folder 5:	1872, 1881-1883, 1901
Folder 6:	1884 (fragment, January-April)
Folder 7:	Undated
Folder 8:	Memory Book with poetry, 1846-1898

**Box 15: Bound Volumes — Account Books; 1857 – 1924 (bulk 1857 – 1924)**

Folder 1:	1857-1858, 1859-1861
Folder 2:	1860-1924 (bulk 1910-1924), 1869
Folder 3:	1882-1888 (January 1882 to January 1888)
Folder 4:	1884-1887

**Box 16: Bound Volumes — Account Books; 1885 – 1909**

Folder 1:	1885-1889 (January 1885 to November 1889)
Folder 2:	1888-1889 (January 1888 to June 1889)
Folder 3:	1901-1909 (January 1901 to January 1909)

Note that the Denton Family Papers, and the collection generally, are currently being reprocessed as of early 2019. Only Series I and II are completed. For information on access and use of Series III-VI, please contact the Wellesley Historical Society.

**III. Carrie D. Denton Papers**

**IV. Miscellaneous Denton Family Papers, 1852-1961**

**Denton Brothers Business Papers**

**Sherman Denton Papers**

**Shelley Denton Papers**

**William “Willie” Denton and R. Winsford “Winsey” Denton’s Papers**

**Mildred Denton’s Papers**

**V. Photograph Collection**

**VI. Printed Materials: Academic Journals**

Denton Family Papers  
Wellesley Historical Society