

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Gates Family Papers

2012.FIA.03

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Collection Information

Abstract : Collection includes information relating to the Gates family of Worcester, Massachusetts, John Gates & Co., John Gates' Sons, Lumber Merchants, and Gates & Gates. Collection contains diaries, letters, financial records, legal records, and business records of the Gates family.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Found in Archives in 2012. First accessioned in July 1908, with no further accession information. In March 1979, item bearing accession number 1979.27.7 was donated by Miss Bertha E. Walton. In September 1979, items bearing accession number 1979.151 were donated by Clark University Archives. In March 1980, items bearing accession number 1980.26 were donated by Clark University Archives.

MARC Access :

Historical/Biographical Notes

John Gates was born in Worcester, Massachusetts circa 1806. He married Betsey Allen (date unknown) and they had 9 children, their youngest son being Charles Burton Gates (September 12, 1851 – October 18, 1930). During the late 1830s, John successfully established himself in the lumber business, opening John Gates & Co. He was a prominent member of the Worcester Community, serving multiple terms in the Legislature as well as a member of the Lumber Merchants of Worcester. He died on December 12, 1877.

Charles B. Gates was an attorney, a lumber dealer and nationally-known collector of antiques. Charles married Ida Eveline Noble of Michigan on February 2, 1881. They had two children, their only son being Burton Noble Gates (December 19, 1881 – October 21, 1972). Upon the death of his father, John, in 1877, Charles, along with his older brother Emery Gates (1848-1880), took over the family business, changing the name to John Gates' Sons, Lumber Merchants, which was in business from approximately 1877 through 1909. Much like his father, Charles was a prominent member of the community, involved in various organizations. He died on October 17, 1930.

Little is known of Ida E. (Noble) Gates, other than she was born in Michigan, December 1851. In 1900, she was involved in a Contestment of Last Will and Testament for Louise N. Page (a family member).

Burton N. Gates, Ph.D. was an apiarist, commonly known as a beekeeper. Originally a guest lecturer (1906) at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, the Massachusetts Agricultural College, Burton became the first "state apiary inspector" in 1911 and held the position until 1918. He worked with the Bureau of Entomology U.S. Department of Agriculture (1908) and the Department of Agriculture, Commonwealth of Massachusetts as the Chief Inspector of Apiaries (1939). Burton was also passionate about his family history and often conducted genealogic research. He married Winifred C. (maiden name unknown) (date unknown), who is believed to have originated from Amherst, Massachusetts. It is unknown whether they had any children. Burton and Winifred established Gates & Gates, antiques and books for collectors. Gates & Gates began circa 1931 and closed circa 1960. Burton died on October 21, 1972. It is believed that Winifred died between 1982 and 1984.

Scope and Content

This collection is comprised of personal correspondence of Burton N. Gates, centered on the genealogic research of the Gates family, Burton's professional correspondences regarding apiary, the personal papers, and personal correspondences of Winifred C. Gates, Charles B. Gates and Ida E. Gates. Also included are financials from Gates & Gates and Burton N. Gates, legal documents of Ida E. Gates, records of John Gates & Co., and miscellaneous family documents, 3 diaries of Winifred C. Gates, and a Transcript Poem to Winifred and Burton Gates by Paul R. Vigeant.

Series Description

Series 1: Correspondence

Sub-series 1: Charles B. Gates

Sub-series Description: Letters sent to Charles B. Gates

Sub-series 2: Ida E. (Noble) Gates

Sub-series Description: Letters sent to Ida E. (Noble) Gates

Sub-series 3: Burton N. Gates, Professional

Sub-series Description: Professional Letters to and from Burton N. Gates, Ph.D. while he was the Chief Inspector of Apiaries

Sub-series 4: Burton N. Gates, Personal

Sub-series Description: Personal Letters to and from Burton N. Gates regarding the Genealogy of the Gates, Noble and Crosman Families

Sub-series 5: Winifred Gates

Sub-series Description: Personal Letters to Winifred Gates. Includes letters from Gale McClung, regarding Mrs. Gates previous residence in Amherst, Massachusetts

Sub-series 6: Gates & Gates

Sub-series Description: Letters to Gates & Gates, Antiques and Books for Collectors

Series 2: John Gates & Co. / John Gates' Sons, Lumber Merchants

Series Description: Invoices, Payments, Business Cards, and materials relating to the death of John Gates

Series 3: Burton N. Gates, Finances

Series Description: Personal finances of Burton N. Gates and the ledger book for Gates & Gates, Antiques and Books for Collectors (1933-1944)

Series 4: Legal Information, Ida E. Gates

Series Description: Last Will & Testament of Louise N. Page and correspondence regarding Ida E. Gates contestment of the Last Will & Testament for Louise N. Page, her cousin.

Series 5: Miscellaneous

Gates Family Papers
 2012.FIA.03
 Series 1, Correspondence
 Subseries 1, Charles B. Gates

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2012.FIA.03.01.01.01	Letter, to Charles B. Gates from Charles G. Washburn, Near East Relief, February 14, 1928
1	1	2012.FIA.03.01.01.02	Letter to Charles B. Gates from Charles G. Washburn, Near East Relief,, March 15, 1928
1	1	2012.FIA.03.01.01.03	Letter to Charles B. Gates from Mary Hill, March 29, 1930, re: Genealogy

Gates Family Papers
 2012.FIA.03
 Series 1, Correspondence
 Sub-Series 2, Ida E. (Noble) Gates

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	2012.FIA.03.01.02.01	Letter to Ida E. Gates regarding Noble & Crosman Genealogy
1	2	2012.FIA.03.01.02.02	Letter to Ida E. Gates & All from F.E. Noble, M.D., August 30, 1896
1	2	2012.FIA.03.01.02.03	Letter to Ida E. Gates from Uncle Hayden, September 20, 1889
1	2	2012.FIA.03.01.02.04	Letter to Ida E. Gates from H.W. Noble, May 12, 1900

Gates Family Papers
2012.FIA.03
Series 1, Correspondence
Sub-Series 3, Burton N. Gates, Professional

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	3	2012.FIA.03.01.03.01	Letter to H.L. Walton from Burton N. Gates, Chief Inspector of Apiaries, September 20, 1938
1	3	2012.FIA.03.01.03.02	Carbon Copy of Letter to F.L. Arland from Burton N. Gates, Chief Apiary Inspector, April 17, 1945
1	3	2012.FIA.03.01.03.03	Letter to Burton N. Gates from F.L. Arland, April 22, 1945
1	3	2012.FIA.03.01.03.04	Carbon Copy of Letter to F.L. Arland from Burton N. Gates, Chief Apiary Inspector, May 2, 1945
1	3	2012.FIA.03.01.03.05	Envelope with Seeds of Epigaea repens from June 1944

Gates Family Papers
 2012.FIA.03
 Series 1, Correspondence
 Sub-Series 4, Burton N. Gates, Personal

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.01	Letter to Burton N. Gates, February 7, 1903 (incomplete) re: Coat of Arms
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.02	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Geo. W. Gates, May 16, 1905 re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.03	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Caroline Crosman, September 17, 1905 re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.04	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Caroline Crosman, September 28, 1905 re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.05	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Henry Fairbanks, October 16, 1905 re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.06	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Caroline Crosman, December 13, 1907 re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.07	Letter to Mama [Ida E. Gates] from Burton N. Gates, August 5, 1908 re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.08	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Samuel E. Winslow, Representative 68 th Congress, March 6, 1924 re: Lincoln
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.09	<i>Front:</i> Letter to Burton N. Gates from Allen Reed, October 20, 1924 re: Bee Society <i>Back:</i> Biography of Uncle Julius K. Gates
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.10	Letter to Burton N. and Ida Gates from Helen G. Noble, May 18, 1934 re: Passing of Brother
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.11	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Walter B. Gates, February 18, 1936 re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.12	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Alice M. Goddard, December 6, 1942 re: Genealogy

1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.12A	Detailed Genealogy Sheet from Alice M. Goddard, December 6, 1942
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.13	Copy of Letter to Mrs. Ralph W. Trow from Burton N. Gates, December 22, 1943, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.14	Copy of Letter to Helena Gates Page from Burton N. Gates, February 26, 1944, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.14A	Copy of Sheet with Information Requested on Genealogy from Burton N. Gates to Helena Gates Page, February 26, 1944
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.15	Letter to Burton N. Gates from R.W.G. Vail (Albany, New York, State Librarian), March 7, 1944, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.16	<i>Front:</i> Copy of Letter to Howard E. Gates from Burton N. Gates, March 10, 1944, re: Genealogy <i>Back:</i> Union Agricultural meeting, Horticultural Hall, Worcester, Massachusetts, Beekeeping Section, January 6, 1943
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.17	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Helena Gates Page, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.18	Postcard to Burton N. Gates from Helena Gates Page, March 10, 1944, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.19	Copy of Letter to Helena Gates Page from Burton N. Gates, March 11, 1944 (Incomplete), re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.20	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Dora Gates Hall, March 12, 1944, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.21	Copy of Letter to Dora Gates Hall from Burton N. Gates, March 13, 1944 re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.21A	Copy of Outline of Requested Information on Genealogy to Dora Gates Hall from Burton N. Gates, March 13, 1944

1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.22	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Dora Gates Hall, March 19, 1944, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.23	Postcard to Burton N. Gates from Dora Gates Hall, March 20, 1944, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.24	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Helena Gates Page, March 21, 1944, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.25	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Helena Gates Page, March 25, 1944, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.26	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Dora Gates Hall, March 26, 1944, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.27	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Dora Gates Hall, April 2, 1944
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.28	Postcard of Dooker's Hollow Bridge, PA to Burton N. Gates from Helena Gates Page, April [5], 1944, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.29	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Dora Gates Hall, April 10, 1944, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.29A	Postcard 135 – Gates Cottage, Shelburne, N.H.
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.29B	Postcard 1399 – At Shelburne, N.H. (Gravestone)
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.30	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Frank A. Vincent, April 10, 1944, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.31	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Dora Gates Hall, April 30, 1944, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.32	Letter to Burton N. Gates from [Don A.] Gates, July 20, 1944, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.33	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Helena Gates Page, June 18, 1945, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.33A	Envelope to Burton N. Gates, June 19, 1945
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.34	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Dora Gates Hall, May 19, 1946, re: Genealogy

1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.35	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Mrs. Fred D. Hall, October 6, 1946, re: Genealogy
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.35A	Envelope to Burton N. Gates from Mrs. Fred D. Hall, October 7, 1946
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.36	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Ralph M. Chambers, M.D. (Taunton State Hospital), July 22, 1948, re: Stephen M. Gates
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.37	Western Union Telegram to Burton N. Gates, July 29, 1948, re: Death of Stephen M. Gates
1	4	2012.FIA.03.01.04.38	Certification Number 17229, Burton N. Gates is a Subscriber to the George F. Hoar Memorial Fund

Gates Family Papers
 2012.FIA.03
 Series 1, Correspondence
 Sub-Series 5, Winifred Gates

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	2012.FIA.03.01.05.01	Letter to Winifred Gates from [Jane B. Carkelua], November 4, 1941, re: Genealogy
1	5	2012.FIA.03.01.05.02	Letter to Winifred Gates from [Jane B. Carkelua], November 16 1941, re: Genealogy
1	5	2012.FIA.03.01.05.03	Letter to Mrs. [Winifred] Gates from Gale McClung, February 19, re: Amherst, Massachusetts Home
1	5	2012.FIA.03.01.05.04	Letter to Mrs. [Winifred] Gates from Gale McClung, June 15, 1963, re: Amherst, Massachusetts Home
1	5	2012.FIA.03.01.05.04A	Envelope to Mrs. Burton N. Gates, June 16, 1963
1	5	2012.FIA.03.01.05.05	Letter to Mrs. [Winifred] Gates from Gale McClung, July 29, re: Amherst, Massachusetts Home
1	5	2012.FIA.03.01.05.06	Letter to Mrs. [Winifred] Gates from Gale McClung, October 14, re: Amherst, Massachusetts Home
1	5	2012.FIA.03.01.05.07	Christmas Card to Mrs. [Winifred] Gates from Gale McClung, November 25, re: Amherst, Massachusetts Home
1	5	2012.FIA.03.01.05.08	Letter to Mrs. [Winifred] Gates from Harriet V. Wellman, February 28, [1971], re: Family News
1	5	2012.FIA.03.01.05.08A	Envelope to Mrs. B. N. Gates, March 2, 1971
1	5	2012.FIA.03.01.05.09	Handwritten Copy of Agreement between Mrs. Burton N. Gates and Clark University, October 4, 1973, re: Acceptance of Residence and Property at 24 Charlotte Street, Worcester
1		2012.FIA.03.01.05.10	Diary of Winifred Gates, 1934
1		2012.FIA.03.01.05.11	Diary of Winifred Gates, 1938
1		2012.FIA.03.01.05.12	Diary of Winifred Gates, 1939

Gates Family Papers
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Series 1, Correspondence
Sub-Series 6, Gates & Gates

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	6	2012.FIA.03.01.06.01	Letter to Mr. [Burton] Gates from Mary H. Dodge, March 1, 1945, re: Work Order
1	6	2012.FIA.03.01.06.02	Letter to Mr. [Burton] Gates from Mary H. Dodge, re: Work Order

Gates Family Papers
2012.FIA.03
Series 2, John Gates & Co./John Gates' Sons, Lumber Merchants

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	7	2012.FIA.03.02.01	Invoice to the City of Worcester from John Gates & Co. in the Amount of \$453.50, May 21, 1866
1	7	2012.FIA.03.02.02	Request to the City of Worcester Treasurer for Payment to John Gates & Co. in the amount of \$435.50, July 3, 1866
1	7	2012.FIA.03.02.03	Lumber Merchants of Worcester, Massachusetts Resolutions, December 15, 1877, re: Death of John Gates (December 12, 1877)
1	7	2012.FIA.03.02.04	Received of John Gates' Sons, February 5, 1879, re: Forward Interest Due on Final Mortgage on Carol Street House in the amount of \$15.00
1	7	2012.FIA.03.02.05	John Gates & Co. Business Card with Handwritten Notes on Back
1	7	2012.FIA.03.02.06	John Gates & Co. Business Card with Handwritten Notes on Back
1	7	2012.FIA.03.02.07	John Gates & Co. Business Card with Handwritten Notes on Back

1	7	2012.FIA.03.02.08	Schedule of Lumber on Hand and For sale at the Lumber Yard, Washington Square, Worcester, Mass., belonging to the Estate of the Late John Gates
1	7	2012.FIA.03.02.09	John Gates' Sons, Lumber Merchants Envelope – George A. Gates. Obituary – etc. Written on Front, Envelope Empty

Gates Family Papers
2012.FIA.03
Series 3, Burton N. Gates, Finances

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1		2012.FIA.03.03.01	Ledger Book for Burton N. Gates & Gates and Gates, 1933-1944
1	8	2012.FIA.03.03.01A	Letter to Burton N. Gates from Philo A. Foote (Society of Philatelic Americans), February 8, 1935 re: Report on Books
1	8	2012.FIA.03.03.01B	Receipt to Burton N. Gates from Millbury Savings Bank, January 15, 1942, re: Dividend As Permanent Order
1	8	2012.FIA.03.03.01C	Invoice to Burton N. Gates for Worcester Historical Society Dues (1939-1942), January 26, 1942, for \$12.00
1	8	2012.FIA.03.03.01D	Auto Mileage Estimates, April 12, 1942
1	8	2012.FIA.03.03.01E	Receipt to Burton N. Gates from Millbury Savings Bank, July 15, 1942, re: Dividend As Permanent Order
1	8	2012.FIA.03.03.01F	<i>Front:</i> Burton N. Gates Tabulation for Tax Returns – 1942 <i>Back:</i> Copy of Memo from Dr. Burton N. Gates, Subject: Sugar for Feeding Bees
1	8	2012.FIA.03.03.01G	Receipt to Burton N. Gates from Millbury Savings Bank, January 15, 1943, re: Dividend As Permanent Order
1	8	2012.FIA.03.03.01H	Receipt to Burton N. Gates from Millbury Savings Bank, July 15, 1942, re: Dividend As Permanent Order
1	8	2012.FIA.03.03.01I	<i>Front:</i> Burton N. Gates Tabulation for Tax Returns – 1943

1	8	2012.FIA.03.03.01J	<p><i>Back:</i> The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Union Agricultural Meeting, Beekeepers' Convention Agenda, January 9, 1936</p> <p>Receipt to Burton N. Gates from Millbury Savings Bank, July 15, 1944, re: Dividend As Permanent Order</p>
1	8	2012.FIA.03.03.01K	<p><i>Front:</i> Burton N. Gates Tabulation for Tax Returns – 1944</p> <p><i>Back:</i> Copy of Letter to [Chas. M. Moulton], 1939, re: Bee Report Card</p>

Gates Family Papers
2012.FIA.03
Series 4, Legal Information – Ida E. Gates

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	9	2012.FIA.03.04.01	Last Will & Testament of Louise N. Page, September 12, 1898
1	9	2012.FIA.03.04.02	Codicil to Last Will & Testament of Louise N. Page, September 28, 1899
1	9	2012.FIA.03.04.03	Correspondence of J.C. Thompson (Counselor at Law) to H.L. Parker, Esq. (Counselor at Law), June 14, 1900, re: Procedures of Contestment of Will
1	9	2012.FIA.03.04.04	Correspondence of J.C. Thompson (Counselor at Law) to H.L. Parker, Esq. (Counselor at Law), June 23, 1900, re: Contestment of Will of Louise N. Page
1	9	2012.FIA.03.04.05	Correspondence of J.C. Thompson (Counselor at Law) to H.L. Parker, Esq. (Counselor at Law), July 11, 1900, re: Procedures of Contestment of Will of Louise N. Page by Mrs. [Ida] Gates and Miss Noble
1	9	2012.FIA.03.04.06	Citation to Ida E. Gates in the Matter of Proving the Last Will & Testament of Louise N. Page, July 30, 1900
1	9	2012.FIA.03.04.07	Petition for Probate in the Matter of Proving the Last Will & Testament of Louise N. Page, July 30, 1900
1	9	2012.FIA.03.04.08	Correspondence from J.C. Thompson (Counselor at Law) to C.B. Gates, Esquire, October 9, 1900, re: Trial date for Contestment of Will of Louise N. Page

Gates Family Papers
2012.FIA.03
Series 5, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Collection #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	10	2012.FIA.03.05.01	Transfer of Membership from Church to Church for John Gates, 1705
1	10	2012.FIA.03.05.02	Land Agreement of Luther Gates and Tarney W. Gates, December 24, 1821
1	10	2012.FIA.03.05.03	In Loved Memory of Joseph P. Noble, died September 17, 1880
1	10	2012.FIA.03.05.04	Letter to Willie & Esther from 85 Year Old Aunt, 1925
1	10	2012.FIA.03.05.05	Newspaper Article: Tribute to the Patience of a Beloved Teacher Miss Harriet Gates, November 2, 1932
1	10	2012.FIA.03.05.06	In Memoriam of Harriet Grant Gants
1	10	2012.FIA.03.05.07	The Visit: A Poem by Paul R. Vigeant, for Winifred and Burton Gates on Their Birthday's With Love, May 1972
1	10	2012.FIA.03.05.08	Label for Farrar & Gates, Insurance, 387 Main street, Worcester
1	10	2012.FIA.03.05.09	Autograph of Geo [E.] Gates
1	10	2012.FIA.03.05.10	Signature of Gates Family Relative, Horatio Gates
1	10	2012.FIA.03.05.11	Sketch of Unknown Church
1	10	2012.FIA.03.05.11A	Notes on Layout of Sketch of Unknown Church
1	10	2012.FIA.03.05.12	Family Timeline, 1881-1899