

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Nevens Family
Papers
1999.FIA.07

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.
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Collection Information

Abstract : The collection includes letters, photographs, and other papers of Charles Nevens, his wife Jeanne Nevens, and their daughter Odette Nevens. Nevens was in the teaching profession and married Jeanne Fiat, a French citizen while at Grenoble, France. The collection illustrates the social, cultural, and professional aspects of the family.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository. Folder-level/item-level description.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Found in Archives, provenance unknown.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcs, aat, tgm, gmgcp)

Nevens, Charles F. (Charles Freeman), 1877-1951.
Nevens, Jeanne Fiat, 1883-1971.
Nevens, Odette Marguerite, 1912-1998.
Nevens family – Photograph collections.
Worcester County Light Opera Club (Worcester, Mass.)
Opera – Production and direction.
Operas – Performance – Massachusetts – Worcester.
Musicals – Production and direction.
Musicals – Auditions – Massachusetts – Worcester.
Lectures and lecturing.
Educators – France.
Educators – Puerto Rico.
Educators – Massachusetts.
Secretaries – Massachusetts – Worcester.
Universities and colleges – France.
Universities and colleges – United States.
Clippings Books, newspapers, etc.)
Birth certificates – France.
Marriage certificates – France.
Death certificates – Massachusetts – Concord.

Historical/Biographical Notes

Charles F. Nevens was born in Somerville, Massachusetts, in 1877. He was a graduate of Harvard University in 1902, and was employed in the insurance business. He also taught English in Comerio, Puerto Rico. During 1904-1905 he studied at the University of Berlin and the University of Grenoble, France. He taught modern language in several institutions through the next several years. During 1909 he again attended University of Grenoble. In 1910 he married Jeanne Fiat, a French citizen. He continued a teaching career for many years, and also operated the Nevens Book and Gift Shop in Worcester. He died in 1951.

Jeanne Fiat was born in 1883 in Grenoble, France. Following her marriage to Charles Nevens in 1910, she was occasionally employed as an assistant in institutional language departments. She was active in French organizations, and carried out an extensive correspondence with friends in the French language. She was also active socially in Worcester. She died in 1971.

Odette Marguerite Nevens, only child of Charles and Jeanne Nevens, was born in Grenoble, France, in 1912. She attended Worcester schools, and was employed for most of her adult life as a stenographer/secretary in Worcester businesses. She was active in the Worcester County Light Opera Club, and in various other musical organizations. She was also active in the YMCA, and was a regular contributor to the organization's newsletter. She was also involved in other organizations, including Rainbow Girls, and the Worcester Republican Committee. She died in Worcester in 1998.

Scope and Content

The collection includes letters from the late 1800s through the 1950s to Jeanne Nevens from numerous friends. Many are written in French. Letters to Charles Nevens are primarily business related, and range from the 1920s through the 1940s. Letters to Odette Nevens range from the 1930s through the 1970s, and are mostly social letters from friends. A number of letters from Charles and Jeanne to Odette while she was on vacation form part of the collection. There are also several Christmas cards to the family from various friends and acquaintances, most undated.

The collection also includes photographs in several formats from the 1860s to ca. 1970. Photographs include family pictures of Jeanne Fiat's parents and other relatives; Charles Nevens parents and relatives; childhood pictures of Odette Nevens, and a number of miscellaneous or unidentified photographs.

Legal and other documents include birth certificates, marriage and death certificates, diplomas, teaching licenses, and related papers. Miscellaneous papers include medical bills and receipts, documents relative to Odette's employment at U.S. Envelope Co., letters from Odette's attorney regarding her parents estate and her will, and other papers.

Several typescripts and manuscripts of lectures given by Charles Nevens in his teaching career include United States foreign relations during the 1920s and 1930s, Panama Canal, World affairs in the 1930s, and several lectures on French literature written in French.

The collection also includes a number of programs and publicity papers about presentations by the Worcester County Light Opera Club, and other local musical organizations.

Clippings relating to the Worcester County Light Opera Club, undated, were collected by Odette Nevens. Clippings of social activities, undated, were collected by Jeanne Nevens. The collection also includes a scrapbook of newsletters published by the Worcester YMCA under several names, with articles written by Odette Nevens.

Series Description

Series 1: Letters. Divided into five subseries as follows:

Subseries 1: Letters to Odette Nevens. Date from ca. 1930 through ca. 1970, from family and friends.

Subseries 2: Letters to Jeanne Nevens. Date from ca. 1890 through ca. 1950, from family and friends.

Subseries 3: Letters to Charles Nevens: Include business letters, letters from students, letters from family and friends.

Subseries 4: Other letters.

Subseries 5: Cards, sent to family or various members from friends and relatives, mostly Christmas cards. Undated.

Series 2: Photographs. Divided into four subseries as follows:

Subseries 1: Photographs of Odette Nevens, childhood to maturity, ca. 1910s through 1940s. Mostly snapshots, with some portrait photographs.

Subseries 2: Photographs of Jeanne Nevens, including her parents and other relatives. Includes tintype, cabinet card, cartes-de-visite, snapshots, portrait photographs. ca. 1860s through ca. 1940s.

Subseries 3: Photographs of Charles Nevens, including parents and relatives. Includes cabinet cards, other formats including a few snapshots. ca. 1890s through ca. 1930s.

Subseries 4: Miscellaneous and unidentified photographs.

Series 3: Documents. Includes legal documents, birth certificates etc., and other official papers, diplomas, certificates, etc. of all family members.

Series 4: Lectures of Charles Nevens. Includes lectures given by Charles Nevens during his teaching career on world history and affairs, Panama Canal, French literature. Some written in French. Typescript and manuscript.

Series 5: Organizations, Odette Nevens. Includes programs and publicity of presentations of the Worcester County Light Opera Club and other musical organizations, including letters relative to the programs. Also includes programs or pamphlets of other organizations in which Odette Nevens was active, and a scrapbook of news articles written by Odette for the YMCA newsletter.

Series 6: Clippings. Includes clippings of activities of Worcester County Light Opera Club collected by Odette Nevens, and clippings of various social activities collected by Jeanne Nevens.

Series Description, continued

Series 7: Miscellaneous. Includes medical statements and receipts for Odette Nevens, funeral arrangements and expenses for Jeanne and Charles Nevens, papers relative to Odette's employment at U.S. Envelope, identification cards, letters from attorneys relative to various bequests, etc.

Nevens Family Papers
1999.FIA.07
Series 1, Letters
Subseries 1, Odette Nevens

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1999.FIA.07.1.1.1	Letters to Odette Nevens while on vacation, from her parents, 1937-1945.
1	2	1999.FIA.07.1.1.2	Letters to Odette Nevens from friends, ca. 1930-1949. Many with envelopes.
1	3	1999.FIA.07.1.1.3	Letters to Odette Nevens from friends, ca. 1950-ca. 1985. Many with envelopes.

Nevens Family Papers
1999.FIA.07
Series 1, Letters
Subseries 2, Jeanne Fiat Nevens

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4	1999.FIA.07.1.2.1	Letters to Jeanne from Marie (her mother), from Moscow and Grenoble, France, 1916-1935. Some with envelopes. Written in French.
1	5	1999.FIA.07.1.2.2	Letters to Jeanne Nevens from friends, 1910-1939. Some with envelopes. Mostly in French.
1	6	1999.FIA.07.1.2.3	Letters to Jeanne Nevens from friends, 1940-1960s. Some with envelopes. Mostly in English.
1	7	1999.FIA.07.1.2.4	Letters to Jeanne Nevens from friends, undated. Mostly in French.

Nevens Family Papers
1999.FIA.07
Series 1, Letters
Subseries 3, Charles Nevens

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	8	1999.FIA.07.1.3.1	Letters to Charles Nevens from friends, family members, business associates, professional associates, 1910s-1950s. Manuscript and typescript. Some in French.

Nevens Family Papers
1999.FIA.07
Series 1, Letters
Subseries 4, Other letters

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	9	1999.FIA.07.1.4.1	Letters to/from other non-family persons, with mention of Nevens family legal/financial/medical affairs, 1910, 1933, 1950. 3 items

Nevens Family Papers
1999.FIA.07
Series 1, Letters
Subseries 5, Cards

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	10	1999.FIA.07.1.5.1	Christmas cards sent to Nevens Family and/or specific members, from friends and/or relatives. No dates.

Nevens Family Papers
1999.FIA.07
Series 2, Photographs
Subseries 1, Odette Nevens

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	11	1999.FIA.07.2.1.1-.2	“Odette as baby” : portrait photograph, ca. 1915, oval on 5 x 7 in. card / Ch. Piccardy a Grenoble. 2 items
		1999.FIA.07.2.1.3-.4	“Odette Nevens, 1930” : portrait photograph, 5 x 7 in. / Bushong, Worcester, Mass. 2 items
		.4a	Photograph mount, cardboard.
		1999.FIA.07.2.1.5-.6	“Odette Nevens, July 1932” : snapshot, 2 x 3 in. 2 items

Nevens Family Papers
 1999.FIA.07
 Series 2, Photographs
 Subseries 2, Jeanne Fiat Nevens

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	12	1999.FIA.07.2.2.1- .55	“Pictures of Mother’s early life in France – friends, etc.” : various formats :
		.1-.10	Unidentified : Photographic postcards.
		.11-.45	Unidentified : Snapshots.
		.46-.48	Unidentified : Tintype, carte-de-visite, cabinet card.
		.49	“Marte Melkior, fille du Professeur Melkior, Grenoble, 1904” : snapshot, 3 x 4 in.
		.50	“Jeanne Cote” : Photographic postcard.
		.51	“Aimee Cote” : Photographic postcard.
		.52	“Mother’s sister Marie” : Carte-de-visite / Antonin Usclade, Grenoble.
		.53-.54	“Odette, 1 year old” ; Photographic postcard. 2 items
		.55	“Marie Fiat, 1914” : Photographic postcard.
1	13	1999.FIA.07.2.2.56- .57	Unidentified group : snapshot, 3 x 4 in. 2 items
		.58	Unidentified group : Photographic postcard.
		.59	“Odette and her grandmother and I at grandmother’s home” : Photographic postcard, ca. 1913.
		.60	“Margaret” : Snapshot, 3 x 4 in.
		.61	“Mrs. Nevens at Woodmere” : snapshot, 2 x 3 in.
		.62	“Jeanne’s first catch” : Snapshot, 2 x 3 in.
		.63-.64	“Mother as a young girl” : Portrait photograph, 5 x 7 in. 2 items.
		.65	“Mother – Maid of honor at friend’s wedding” : Cabinet card, collodion printing-out paper.
		.66	“Mother with friends before marriage in France” : Snapshot, 5 x 7 in.
		.67	“Mother’s sister Marie” : Cabinet card / Antonin Usclade, Grenoble.
		.68	“Mother – Jeanne” : Cabinet card / Leon, Grenoble.
		.69	Unidentified, probably Jeanne : Portrait photograph / Plante, Worcester, Mass., with mount.

Nevens Family Papers
 1999.FIA.07
 Series 2, Photographs
 Subseries 3, Charles F. Nevens

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	14	1999.FIA.07.2.3.1	"Father" : Portrait photograph, 5 x 7 in. on 6 x 8 in. mount.
		.2	"Harwood Nevens Sufkin, age 19 months. Father's sister Gene and son Harwood who died at 21" : Portrait photograph, 4 x 6 in. on 6 x 8 in. mount.
		.3	Charles Nevens : Cabinet card / Geo. Lansil, Bangor, Maine.
		.4	"Father's nephew Harwood who died at 19 or 20" : Portrait photograph, 5 x 7 in. / Morrill Studios.
		.5	"Father's sister Genie" : Cabinet card, albumen print / Geo. Sansil, Bangor, Maine.
		.6	"Father's mother" : Cabinet card / Geo. Sansil, Bangor, Maine.

Nevens Family Papers
 1999.FIA.07
 Series 2, Photographs
 Subseries 4, Miscellaneous/unidentified

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	15	1999.FIA.07.2.4.1- .20	Unidentified individuals and groups : snapshots, to 4 x 5 in., N.d. 20 items
		.21-.24	“Summer house”, “Boat house”, and related views : Snapshots, 3 x 4 in. 4 items
		.25-.26	“Iris fountain in the home of Mrs. Homer Gage, corner of Chestnut and Pearl Streets, Worcester” : 3 x 5 in.
		.27	Robert Stoddard family : Snapshot, probably from a card. N.d.
		.28-.32	“House at Ossippee Road in Somerville, College Hill” : Snapshot, 5 x 7 in. 5 items
		.33	William W. Smith, President, Randolph Macon College, Virginia : Cabinet card, albumen print. Print of Natural Bridge, Virginia, on reverse with statistical information.

Nevens Family Papers
1999.FIA.07
Series 3, Documents

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	16	1999.FIA.07.3.1	Certificate of Birth of Odette Marguerite Nevens, born September 14, 1912 in Grenoble, France. Certified copy from Consulate of the United States of America at Grenoble, France.
		.1a	Photocopy
3	16	1999.FIA.07.3.2	Certificate of Birth of Charles F. Nevens, born September 6, 1877, in Somerville, Massachusetts. Certified copy from Somerville City Clerk.
3	16	1999.FIA.07.3.3	Death Certificate of Charles F. Nevens (elder), died May 7, 1895 in Concord, Massachusetts. Certified copy by Secretary of the Commonwealth, with manuscript notation and stamp on reverse by French Consul in Boston.
3	16	1999.FIA.07.3.4	Death Certificate of Frances A. (Elder) Nevens, died September 22, 1898 in Concord, Massachusetts. Certified copy by Secretary of the Commonwealth, with manuscript notation and stamp on reverse by French Consul in Boston.
3	16	1999.FIA.07.3.5	Certificate of Marriage, Charles F. Nevens and Jeanne Fiat, at Grenoble France, June 9, 1910. Certified copy from American Consular Service.
3	16	1999.FIA.07.3.6	Ville de Grenoble, Livret de Famille : official record of marriage of Charles F. Nevens and Jeanne Fiat, and birth of Odette Marguerite Nevens : Pamphlet, 8 p.
3	17	1999.FIA.07.3.7	Teacher's License, issued by Department of Education of Porto Rico, to Charles Freeman Nevens, as a teacher of English, June 30, 1904.

Series 3, continued

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|---|----|---------------------|---|
| 3 | 17 | 1999.FIA.07.3.8 | Certificate issued by the Republic of France to Jeanne Fiat as Institutrices (teacher), October 7, 1903. Written in French. |
| 3 | 17 | 1999.FIA.07.3.9 | certificate issued to Charles F. Nevens by University “”Fridericae Guilelmae”, November 2, 1904. In Latin. |
| 3 | 17 | 1999.FIA.07.3.10 | High School Diploma, to Odette Marguerite Nevens by Classical High School, Worcester, 1931. |
| 3 | 17 | 1999.FIA.07.3.11 | Grammar School Diploma, to Odette Margerite [sic] Nevens, by Sever Street Grammar School, Worcester, 1927. |
| 3 | 17 | 1999.FIA.07.3.12a-b | Report card, Concord High School, Concord, Massachusetts, to Charles F. Nevens: |
| | | .12a | March/April, 1897 |
| | | .12b | May/June, 1897. |

Nevens Family Papers
1999.FIA.07
Series 4, Lectures

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	18	1999.FIA.07.4.1	Outlines of courses given by Charles F. Nevens, with qualifications and letters of recommendation.
1	19	1999.FIA.07.4.2	Lectures on United States foreign policy and European economic affairs, 1916 and pre-World War II. Typescript.
2	20	1999.FIA.07.4.3	Lectures on the Panama Canal, mostly dealing with economic and trade implications. ca. 1910s. Typescript.
2	21	1999.FIA.07.4.4	Lectures on the Panama Canal, including comparisons of the Panama and Suez Canals, written in French, ca. 1910. Typescript.
2	22	1999.FIA.07.4.5	Lectures on French literature, mostly manuscript, written in French. N.d. (ca. 1910)

Nevens Family Papers
1999.FIA.07
Series 5, Organizations

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	23	1999.FIA.07.5.1-.10	Worcester County Light Opera Club programs, 1942-1955. 10 items
2	24	1999.FIA.07.5.11	Worcester County Light Opera Club newsletters, publicity, letters re auditions, etc. 1940s-1950s.
2	25	1999.FIA.07.5.12-.16	Worcester Firefighters Productions, programs of musical productions, 1979-1984. 5 items.
2	26	1999.FIA.07.5.17	Script (excerpt) from production "The Inn". 2 p. in folder. 2 copies.
2	26	1999.FIA.07.5.18a-d	Annual membership cards of Odette Nevens to Worcester, Mass., Civic Music Association, 1945-1949. 4 items.
2	26	1999.FIA.07.5.19a-1	Program, Worcester Assembly No. 9, Order of Rainbow for Girls, 1932-1933. 12 programs of monthly meetings.
2	26	1999.FIA.07.5.20a-b	List. republican new voters unit [Worcester, Mass.], 1939, 1940. 2 items.
2	26	1999.FIA.07.5.21	Roster, Worcester Business and Professional Woman's Club, Inc., 1955-1956.
2	26	1999.FIA.07.5.22a-b	program, Rainbow and Demolay Players production, April 11, 1930. 2 copies.
2	27	1999.FIA.07.5.23	Scrapbook. Clippings from YMCA newsletter "Trailblazer", Odette Nevens, reporter for Sunday Fireside column, 1940-1941. Binder.

Nevens Family Papers
1999.FIA.07
Series 6, Clippings

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	28	1999.FIA.07.6.1	Clippings collected by Odette Nevens, mostly publicity re Worcester County Light Opera Club presentations, ca. 1940s (most undated)
2	29	1999.FIA.07.6.2	Clippings collected by Jeanne Nevens, mostly weddings and social events in Worcester. Most undated (ca. 1950)

Nevens Family Collection
1999.07
Series 7, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	30	1999.FIA.07.7.1	Medical bills, statements, receipts, for Odette Nevens, 1970-1980.
2	31	1999.FIA.07.7.2	Letters and other documents re Odette Nevens' employment at U.S. Envelope in Worcester, ca. 1971.
2	32	1999.FIA.07.7.3	Documents re deaths of Charles F. Nevens and Jeanne Nevens, including statements for funeral services, letters re probate of wills, etc. Also includes other material re bequests to Nevens family members.
2	33	1999.FIA.07.7.4	Documents re Nevens property at 16 Ruthven Avenue, Worcester, including appraisal for tax purposes, offer to buy, etc.
2	34	1999.FIA.07.7.5	Miscellaneous papers, including photographic identification of Odette Nevens, addresses, sketch maps.