

Ward and Randolph Family Collection

COLLECTION, MS B142

DATE

1880 – 2006

CONTRIBUTOR

Fairfield Museum

ADMINISTRATIVE/BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY ELEMENT

Ida Miller and her husband William, a farmer, lived on Round Hill Road where they built an attractive two-story home. Both had come to the Fairfield area from Virginia after the Civil War. Ida's sister Lettie/Lottie, and her husband Edwin Randolph, lived around the corner on Barlow Road. Edwin Randolph, who was also born in Virginia, was the last former slave to reside in Fairfield; he died in 1934. He had his own farmland on Barlow and employed workers there, for five cents a day.

Edward Randolph's children were Nelson (1873-1908, who married Sarah Reeves); Cornelius (b. 1879, married Julia Small); Edward Jr. (1874-1945), Samuel (1880-1960), and Lottie (1891-1957, who married William Mitchell). Edward lived on (161) Barlow Road by 1930; Cornelius, Edward, Lottie, and Samuel all show address on Barlow Road. Apparently worked for Judge Lockwood in Fairfield.

The Millers did not have children, but raised Ida's grand-niece Harriet Randolph (1895-1984), who was daughter of Nelson and Sarah.

Harriet Randolph married Frederick Ward (1895-1984), who was born in Belport, Long Island. They had five children: Charlotte (1920-2015), Gwendolyn (1924-), Edith (1925-1985), Frederick Jr. (1930-2016) and Nelson (1934-2006); they also adopted and raised Stanley Jones; his siblings were adopted by Sara Randolph. Nathaniel Ward died as a baby, before Gwendolyn was born, in 1924.

Frederick Ward courted each of the Randolph sisters (Emma, Lillian, Harriet) before marrying Harriet. He was from Long Island; Gwendolyn wasn't sure why he came over to Fairfield/Bridgeport. He had one sister, Grace Ward, whose married name was Paris.

Ward family home (rented) was at 368 Round Hill Road.

Frederick Ward served in the military during World War I. He worked as stock clerk at Howland Dry Goods Co as of WWI draft card (matches 1920 census occupation); 1930 census listed as laborer on private estate; for U.S. Aluminum Co as of WWII draft card; in 1940 census was listed as a molder; highest schooling was 5th grade. He later worked for an auto garage/dealership in Fairfield. Harriet Ward worked at home as a dressmaker. She didn't set a price, just asked people to pay what they could afford, attracted customers from all over.

The Ward family were members of First Church. Gwendolyn Ward worked for GE for 45 years, starting in 1942. Her sister Charlotte joined the Women's Auxiliary Army Corps in 1942. Frederick, Jr. served in the Korean War and again in Vietnam.

SCOPE & CONTENT

The collection consists largely of photographs of the Ward and Randolph family members and friends, along with some memorabilia like marriage certificates, tax receipts, funeral programs, as well as photograph and postcard albums. The collection includes a large number of unidentified studio photographs and some tintypes/cased photographs from studios in Bridgeport, New York, Detroit, and a few other cities, dating from the late 19th century to early 20th century.

Collection Contents

Ward and Randolph Family Collection

Photograph albums and Assorted Photographs

Two photograph albums with unidentified studio photographs; includes some photographs of Ida Miller and Sarah Randolph. Unidentified photographs of African-American subjects, sorted by city of photography studio. Ward family snapshots; event photographs from Order of the Eastern Star.

Unidentified Bridgeport studio photographs and Ward Family friends

Includes photographs of Samuel Morehouse family and other neighbors/friends

Unidentified Bridgeport studio photographs

Assorted Ward Family photographs and Unidentified studio photographs

Includes photographs from New York, Detroit, and other studios, unidentified tintypes, as well as Ward family snapshots and Order of the Eastern Star events



Photograph albums

Charlotte Ward photographs and memorabilia

Ward Family Oversize Photos and Charlotte Ward Scrapbooks

Tuskegee Eastern Quartette, inscribed to Aunt Ida & Uncle Miller from Howard Wilson
Phylis Wheatley Branch YWCA mother and baby photographs, 1920s

Charlotte Ward - Women's Army Corps scrapbook
Engagement to Al Green scrapbook, 1970

Charlotte Ward Photographs and Memorabilia

Folder 10: Souvenir Programs

Folder 9: First Church certificates

Folder 8: Photographs from Friends

Folder 7: Order of the Eastern Star

Folder 6: Event Photographs

Folder 5: Misc. correspondence and photographs

Folder 4: D.M. Read, General Electric, and Red Cross

Folder 3: Women's Army Auxiliary Corps

Folder 2: Wedding Photographs and Ralph Congo Portraits

Folder 1: Photographs of Charlotte Ward

Ward Family

Photographs and other items relating to the family of Harriet and Frederick Ward. Includes Frederick's dog tags from World War I; Sunday School certificates for Ward children.

Ward Family

Stanley Jones

Frederick Ward, Jr.

Gwendolyn Ward

Edith Ward

Grace Ward Paris

Frederick Ward, Sr.

Harriet Randolph Ward

Assorted Ward Family photographs

Harriet Ward's postcard album; Ward children's school photographs; oversize photographs and "celebrity" photographs.

Ward Family snapshot album

Randolph Family

Photographs, documents, and tax receipts relating to members of Edwin Randolph's family, including Ida Miller.

Tax receipts for Randolph house

Lillian Randolph

Edward Randolph, Jr.

Cornelius and Julia Randolph

Emma Randolph Thompson & Stroud Thompson



Nelson and Sarah Randolph

Lottie Randolph Mitchell

Edward and Lottie Randolph

Ida Wilson Miller (1 record)

Photographs and music book

Ida Miller studio photograph

Oversize Items (3 records)

Portraits of Ida Miller, William Miller, Edward Randolph.
Charlotte Ward's Women's Army Corps scrapbook, 1942-3.
Charlotte Ward's engagement scrapbook, 1970.

Ida Miller

Portrait of Ida Miller

Portrait of William H. Miller