

Maine Historical Society

Coll. 2526

Wolf and Waterman family collection

ca. 1870 – 1969

Accession: 2005.411, 2005.295, 2010.350

Processed: Summer 2011 by Jane Cullen, volunteer (with pre-processing assistance from Adinah Barnett)

Access: Unrestricted

Copyright: Requests for permission to publish materials from this collection should be discussed with MHS Head of Library Services.

Size: 7.5 linear ft. + 2 flat boxes + 1 folder

Biographical note:

The collection primarily revolves around the life of Arthur Martin Waterman (1907-1974) and his younger sister, Harriet Wolf Waterman (1917-2005), both of whom were born and lived in Portland Maine. Family information about Bella and Ellis E. Waterman, the sibling's parents, and Joseph H. and Annie Wolf, their maternal grandparents, is also included. The Waterman and Wolf families were prominent in the Portland Jewish Community from the mid-1870s and the collection contains a number of Jewish historical elements.

Arthur "Marty" Waterman graduated from Portland High School in 1923, Harvard in 1927 and Harvard Law in 1930. He was part owner of State Motor Company and Maine Motors, including Maine Motors Marine Division. Married in 1931 to Frances Helfont, also a graduate of Portland High School, the couple sailed from New York to France on their honeymoon. The collection includes Frances' diary of her honeymoon. The couple divorced in 1934. Marty joined the US Army in 1942 and after graduating from Officer's Training School, rose to the rank of 2nd Lieutenant and worked in the Office of Dependent Benefits. The collection includes many US Army books, pamphlets and documents specific to his work and many photographs of Arthur's Army buddies in and out of uniform. Arthur was also on the board of the Portland Jewish Historical Society

Harriet, ten years younger than her brother "Marty," also graduated from Portland High School in 1933. Harriet corresponded with her brother while he was away at college and both visited and wrote to him during his years in the service. She was devoted to her family, and later cared for her aging parents. Harriet was a lifelong resident of Portland.

Ellis E. Waterman (1881-1955) was born in Russia and immigrated to the USA as a young child in 1885. Ellis married Bella Wolf (1882-1977), the fourth child and first daughter of Joseph and Annie Wolf, in 1905. The couple had three children, Arthur in 1907, Sadye in 1912 and Harriet in 1917. The Waterman's owned a jewelry store at 408 Congress Street in Portland and the family played an important role in the Jewish community.

Joseph H. Wolf (1852-1921) was born in Poland and immigrated to Boston in 1869. He settled in Portland Maine a few years later and married Hannah “Annie” Aaronson, the daughter of Reverend Aaron Aaronson, also of Portland. Joseph was a successful merchant in Portland and was also prominent in the early Portland Jewish community. He built, at his own expense, the first Jewish Synagogue in Portland. Joseph and Annie went on to have seven children, five boys and two girls. Marsh Joel was the son of Sayde Waterman Tellan.

Scope and Content: The collection consists of family photographs and letters of the Joseph Wolf and Ellis Waterman families; basic family genealogy (as researched by the volunteer processing the collection); Portland High School materials including a *Totem Yearbook*, 1923, many school class photos, circa early 1915 – 1933, individual senior class photos from 1923, and school theater productions; horse show pamphlets; theater production programs dating from 1907; US Army books, pamphlets, and materials including photographs related to Arthur’s tour of duty, work, and social life from 1941-1945; photographs and business materials from State Motors and Maine Motors, including the Marine Division of Maine Motors; three movie reels, one of Portland street scenes, one of the wedding of Marsh Joel and Louise Tellan, and one of the Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue on Newbury Street, Portland, ME (16 mm film, 47 minutes, 1955 – see DVD 13 to view); Jewish Community Center and Passover Bulletins; and a ledger from Portland Lodge Number 218, that dates from 1871-1880 when Joseph Wolf was a member.

Significant in the collection are old family photographs, class photographs dating from 1915- 1933, a Portland High School *Totem* from 1923; Jewish materials including select Jewish Community Center and Passover Bulletins and an old ledger book from Portland Lodge Number 218, Independent Order of B’nai B’rith that dates from 1874.

A number of other Waterman Family items have previously been placed in regular Maine Historical Society library collections including:

- *The Maine Register*....1822 (reproduction)
- *The Pearl of Orr’s Island*, Stowe, no date
- *Poems* by Longfellow, 1901
- Portland Maine telephone directories, 1945 and 1951
- Portland High School Yearbook, 1921
- James Olcott Brown academic medal given to Arthur Martin Waterman at Portland High School, circa 1923 (in museum collection: 2005.411.001)
- Photographs

Series:

The collection is organized into five (5) series as listed below and further organized chronologically into folders. Oversized photographs are stored separately and noted by an asterisk (*).

Series 1: Family: genealogy, letters and photographs [Box 1-4 and Boxes 1A]

Series 2: School: photographs, scrapbook and *Totem* yearbook [Box 5- 6]

Series 3: Arthur M. Waterman: U.S. Army letters, books, work-related materials, photographs, and social life [Box 7-12 & 16]

Series 4: Community: Horseback riding, Theater, Portland, Religion, and Business [Box 13, 14, & 14 A]

Series 5: Media and Objects [15-16]

Oversized (*) Photographs are stored separately – some in box in corner unit of garden level – others are in folder in 2nd floor compact storage (Row 19).

Provenance: From the estate of Harriet Waterman, Portland Maine and donated by her neighbor, Brian Peterson, who retrieved it from the Waterman Home on Belmeade Street after Harriet's death in 2005. Much of the collection was received in 2010 under the accession number 2010.350 however some items were received in 2005 under the accession numbers 2005.295 and 2005.411 (formerly Coll. 2218). These smaller collections were blended into to the present collection.

Inventory

Series 1: Family: genealogy, letters, and photographs

Box 1: Family: genealogy, letters and photographs

- Folder 1: Genealogy Wolf/Waterman/Tellan families
- Folder 2: Photographs of Joseph H. and Hannah "Annie" Wolf
- Folder 3: Newspaper clipping Joseph H. Wolf, 1901
- Folder 4: Joseph H. Wolf Jewelry Store & business associates, Portland, Maine
- Folder 5: Letters to/from Bella Waterman, circa 1907
- Folder 6: Photographs of Bertina Wolf, 1907
- Folder 7: Telegrams celebrating the birth of Arthur M. Waterman, circa 1907
- Folder 8: Telegram to M/M Joseph H. Wolf, May 1907
- Folder 9: Old family photographs, unlabeled, undated
- Folder 10: Wolf family infant
- Folder 11: Sarah Waterman, Ellis Waterman's mother, undated
- Folder 12: Photographs of Bella (Wolf) Waterman
- Folder 13: Photographs of Ellis Waterman
- Folder 14: Photographs of Ellis and Bella Waterman
- Folder 15: Bankbooks for Sarah and Lea Waterman
- Folder 16: Grandchildren of Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Wolf, circa September, 1915
- Folder 17: Photographs of Arthur Martin Waterman, childhood-adulthood
- Folder 18: Photographs of Sayde Waterman Tellan, childhood – adulthood

Box 1A: Family Photographs (oversized, located on corner shelf)

- Wooden carved framed photograph of bearded man and wife, unknown
- Photo album with Waterman family photographs and military; Photographs of Arthur M. Waterman and US Army buddies and friends.
- Joseph H. Wolf (Oval rounded photo)
- Unknown bearded man of same era as above (oval rounded photo)
- Bertina Wolf, age 3
- Jewish Memorial for Annie Wolf, Deceased 9 November 1931

Box 2: Family: genealogy, letters and photographs, continued

- Folder 1: Photographs of Harriet Wolf Waterman, childhood – adulthood
- Folder 2: Photograph of Sayde, Harriet and their mother, Bella Wolf Waterman
- Folder 3: Newspaper clipping of Frances D. Helfont, circa late 1920s
- Folder 4: Letters to Arthur M. Waterman from friends, circa summer 1923
- Folder 5: Letters to Arthur M. Waterman from friends, January - April, 1924
- Folder 6: Letters to Arthur M. Waterman from friends, May - Dec, 1924
- Folder 7: Letters from Harriet Waterman to Arthur Waterman, 1924
- Folder 8: Undated letters to Arthur M. Waterman from "Me," circa 1928
- Folder 9: Wedding information Arthur M. Waterman to Frances D. Helfont, 1931 including honeymoon diary

Folder 10: Arthur and Helen's honeymoon photographs, 1931
Folder 11: Bill for honeymoon cruise from New York to France, 1931
Folder 12: Arthur M. Waterman (& Frances H. Waterman) passport, issued 1931

Box 3: Family: genealogy, letters, and photographs, continued

Folder 1: Attorney letter to Arthur Waterman re: impending divorce, circa 1934
Folder 2: Dorothy L. Wolf engagement announcement, 1932
Folder 3: Notes, clippings, check to/from Arthur Waterman, 1930s-1940s
Folder 4: Photographs of Harriet Waterman and Sadye Waterman's cruise to West Indies, circa 1936
Folder 5: Photographs of Arthur M. Waterman, Miami Beach, circa 1938
Folder 6: Photographs of Arthur M. Waterman and friends camping, circa 1938
Folder 7: Arthur M. Waterman & friends, Miami Beach, 1939
Folder 8: Waterman Family photographs, circa 1940s
Folder 9: Medical and attorney bills for Ellis and Bella Waterman, 1935-1947
Folder 10: Letters/post cards from Arthur M. Waterman to parents, 1936- 1947
Folder 11: Arthur M. and Harriet W. Waterman cruise to Bermuda, not dated
Folder 12: Arthur M. Waterman banking materials
Folder 13: Letters from Arthur to Harriet Waterman, 1942-46
Folder 14: Letters to Arthur re: WWII related information, circa 1942
Folder 15: Birth announcement for George Michael Shur 10 November 1942
Folder 16: Photograph of Samuel Tellan
Folder 17: Family trips, unlabeled, undated

Box 4: Family: genealogy, letters and photographs, continued

Folder 1: Marsh Joel Tellan and family, 1940's, (1 of 2)
Folder 2: Marsh Joel Tellan and family, 1940's, (2 of 2)
Folder 3: Marsh Joel Tellan, second birthday announcement, 1943
Folder 4: Arthur M. Waterman Orange Bowl Classic, Miami Florida, 1943
Folder 5: Assets of Arthur M. Waterman, Feb. 1944
Folder 6: Postcards sent to Master Marsh Joel Tellan from Indianapolis, 1944
Folder 7: Letters to Arthur M. Waterman, circa 1944-1945
Folder 8: Letters to Harriet Waterman from Friends, circa 1944 -1946
Folder 9: Handbook & tickets for Williamsburg trip, 1945
Folder 10: Waterman/Tellan family photographs Old Orchard Beach, 1946
Folder 11: Letter to Mr. Len Waterman, 1952
Folder 12: Waterman family photographs, undated
Folder 13: Photograph holiday cards received by family
Folder 14: Miscellaneous materials
Folder 15: Photograph negatives of family

Series 2: School: class & individual photographs, scrapbook, "Totem" yearbook

Box 5: Folder 1: Arthur M. Waterman, Portland High School, 1922-1923

Folder 2: Portland High School, individual photographs Class of 1923 (1 of 4)
Folder 3: Portland High School, individual photographs Class of 1923 (2 of 4)
Folder 4: Portland High School, individual photographs Class of 1923 (3 of 4)
Folder 5: Portland High School, individual photographs Class of 1923 (4 of 4)
Folder 6: Arthur M. Waterman's senior high school scrapbook, 1923

Box 6: Folder 1: "The Totem" Portland High School yearbook, 1923
Folder 2: "She Stoops to Conquer" Portland High School senior play, April 14, 1923
Folder 3: Frances D. Helfont graduation, Portland High School, 1924
Folder 4: Sayde Waterman class photograph, undated
Folder 5: Sayde Waterman high school graduation, 1929
Folder 6: Harriet W. Waterman class photograph, undated
Folder 7: Harriet Waterman winner of Press Herald silver medal spelling contest, undated
Folder 8: Harriet Waterman, class photograph 5th Grade, 1926
Folder 9: Harriet Waterman graduation, Portland High School, 1933
Folder 10: School photographs, undated, unidentified
Folder 11: Essay "Out of Doors in Search of Truth," undated, no author
Folder 12: Portland High School memorabilia, 1924-1930
Folder 13: Harvard Alumni Bulletin, June 15, 1946

* Oversized (OS) Class Photographs (located in flat file on 2nd floor, Row 19)
Portland High School Class of 1923, June 25, 1923
Unidentified class portrait with Sayde Waterman, undated
Members of the (Jr. High School) graduation class of 1929 with Harriet Waterman
Portland High School graduation class of 1929 with Sayde Waterman
Portland High School graduation class of 1933 with Harriet Waterman
Harvard Freshman Smoker April 9, 1924 with Arthur M. Waterman

Series 3: Arthur Martin Waterman: U.S. Army Papers, Books, Letters and Photographs

Box 7: Folder 1: Personal Information including birth certificate, physical exam, Immunizations, military award
Folder 2: U.S. Army Officer's Training school papers
Folder 3: U.S. Army papers
Folder 4: U.S. Army separation papers
Folder 5: Letters To/From Arthur M. Waterman, 1944-45
Folder 6: Letters from Arthur M. Waterman to U.S. Army, 1944-45
Folder 7: U.S. Army Work Related Materials, 1944-45

Box 8: Series 3 Continued
Folder 1: U.S. Army Office of Dependent Benefits pamphlets
Folder 2: Letter to Arthur M. Waterman % Office of Dependency Benefits, October 1944

Folder 3: Miscellaneous papers filed during U. S. Army Service
Folder 4: Date Books for Arthur M. Waterman, 1944-45
Folder 5: 2nd Lt. Arthur M. Waterman War Bonds information
Folder 6: U. S. Army materials
Folder 7: Newspaper clipping, July 1945
Folder 8: Photographs of Arthur M. Waterman and friends in Florida, 1940's
Folder 9: U.S. Army Photographs of Arthur M. Waterman and buddies
Folder 10: Photographs of Arthur M. Waterman at Officer's Training School
* Oversized Photograph and Name Grid for Officers Training School Graduates
(A. Waterman is #145)
Folder 11: U.S. Army Buddies, 1942
Folder 12: Arthur M. Waterman and U.S. Army Buddies, December 1942 and early 1943

Box 9: Series 3 Continued

Folder 1: Photographs of U.S. Army buddies and girls, ca. 1943
Folder 2: U.S. Army buddies photographs
Folder 3: Photographs of Arthur M. Waterman and U.S. Army buddies, undated
Folder 4: Arthur M. Waterman U.S. Army
Folder 5: Arthur M. Waterman class photo with signatures
Folder 6: Negatives of U.S. Army photographs

Box 10: Series 3 Continued

Folder 1: U.S. Army Officer Candidate Regulations
Folder 2: U.S. Army Pay Tables, Revised June 16, 1942 (2 books)
Folder 3: U.S. Army Index to Army Regulations, Promulgated Prior to January 1, 1943
Folder 4: U.S. Army Company administration and personnel records, July 1942
Folder 5: *The Officer's Guide* Text

Box 11: Series 3 Continued

Folder 1: U.S. Army War Department Basic Field Guide (#6)
Folder 2: U.S. Army Songbook, 1941
Folder 3: U.S. Army Orders 3rd Edition, Revised September 1, 1942
Folder 4: Life Magazine, September 8, 1942
Folder 5: Statutes, Rules and Regulations, October 1, 1942
Folder 6: U.S. Army War Department Technical Manual for Administration, October 10, 1942
Folder 7: U. S. Army 2nd Lt Handbook
Folder 8: U.S. Army Finance Department Pay Table, Officers Pay Section, Undated
Folder 9: *U.S. Army Military Correspondence, 5th Edition*, March 1943
Folder 10: U.S. Army Morrison Field, Palm Beach, Florida, AAF Command, Caribbean Wing, 1943-45

Folder 11: Officers Memos compiled in notebook, 1944-45

Folder 12: *Flight* Newsletter, Morrison Field, Select Issues February - May 1944

Box 12: Series 3 Continued

Folder 1: *Air Force: The Official Journal of the U.S. Army Air Forces*, February 1944

Folder 2: Military Maps, Installations, Forts, World War II

Folder 3: U.S. Army finance office related

Folder 4: Theater/musical productions for officers, Palm Beach, FL, 1944-45

Folder 5: Newspaper clippings, military, WWII, and Palm Beach, 1944-45

Folder 6: Officer's Bowling League, 1945

Folder 7: Army related materials

Folder 8: Mementos from social scene in South Florida and Miami Beach, 1944-45

Folder 9: Esquire Magazine, Holiday Issue (Gift Packaging), January 1945

Folder 10: Esquire Girly Calendar, Holiday Issue, 1945

Folder 11: MGM's Eve Whitney as a Jigsaw-Puzzle, Holiday Issue of Esquire, 1945

Folder 12: Army vs. Duke Football Game program, October 27, 1945

Folder 13: Liberty Magazine, February 26, 1946

Series 4: Community: Horse Shows/Riding Clubs, Theater Programs, Religion, Portland and Business

Box 13: **Horse Shows/Riding Clubs**

Folder 1: Harriet Waterman horse riding photographs, 1936

Folder 2: Harriet and Arthur Waterman, Abenaki Riding Club Photographs, 1936

Folder 3: Horse show pamphlets, 1937

Folder 4: Arthur M. Waterman and friends horseback riding photographs, undated

Theater programs

Folder 5: Theater programs from early 1900s - 1920s, Portland, Maine

Folder 6: Theater programs from 1930 and 1935, Portland, Maine

Folder 7: Theater programs, 1930's and 1941, Miami Beach, Florida

Religion

Folder 8: Fourth Annual Ball of the Y.W.H.A.A., December 26, 1922

Folder 9: "The Women Haters" Musical presented by Israel Lodge, B'nai B'Rith Starring Ellis Waterman, date unknown

Folder 10: Photograph of the 50th Anniversary Munjoy Lodge Knights of Pythias, March 3, 1923

Folder 11: Passover Season of Liberation newsletter, circa WWII

Folder 12: Jewish Community Center bulletins, select issues 1943-1945

Folder 13: Jewish Community Center bulletins, select issues, 1953-1958

Portland

Folder 14: Newspaper Resolution from the City of Portland Maine to Mrs. Warren Harding after President Harding's death, August 2, 1922

Folder 15: *Maine Market Mirror Publication*, February 1952 and November 1952

Folder 16: Photographs of Portland scenes: Longfellow Gardens and Clapp Mansion

Folder 17: Photographs, unlabeled, undated

Box 14: Series 4 Community Continued:

Business

Folder 1: Stock List Maine Motors, November 30, 1942

Folder 2: Maine Motors correspondence

Folder 3: Maine Motors cars sold, August 1944- July 1945

Folder 4: Maine Motors cars sold, August 1945

Folder 5: Maine Motors cars sold, September 1945

Folder 6: Maine Motors cars sold, November 1945

Folder 7: Arthur M. Waterman and the Nash Dealership

Folder 8: Photographs of Maine Motors Marine Division

* Oversized Photographs: Victory Dinner Celebration, New England Nash Dealers and Salesmen, Hotel Statler, Boston, Mass, April 7, 1941

Box 14 A: Series 4 Community Continued:

Religion and Business

Folder 1: Photographs of State Motor Company

Folder 2: 1874 Ledger of Minutes of Portland Lodge # 218 which eventually became B'nai B'rith. The second half of ledger appears to be a tailor's measurements.

Series 5: Media and Objects

Box 15: Media (located in corner shelving in garden level)

- Movie Reel of Portland Street Scenes, Undated
- CD ROMs (2) Waterman Honeymoon and Waterman Grandchildren at Peaks Island
- Movie Reel of Wedding of Marsh and Louise Tellan, Shaarey Tphiloh in Portland, Maine
- Film Reel of Shaarey Tphiloh Synagogue on Newbury Street, Portland, ME (16 mm film, 47 minutes, 1955 – see DVD 13 to view)
- DVD of Shaarey Temple Film, 47 minutes
- DVD, loop of Shaarey Temple
- Video for library exhibit with audio

Box 16: Objects

- U.S. Army Patches for Uniforms (Navy/Green - 8 & Navy/Silver -2)
- U.S. Army Lapel Insignia for Morrison Air Base, Palm Beach, FL, circa WW II
- Chinese Coins (5)
- Pipe Cleaners and Matches
- Gold Bond Stamps and Stamp Books, circa 1950s - 60s
- Colorful Woven Fans from Mexico (2)

- Waterman Ink in Blue/Black and Stamps for A.M. Waterman, 1st Lt. F.D
- ~ 15 inch carved wooden object with four (4) prongs at one end.