

Watkins Collection

A Finding Aid

Livingston County Historian's Office

5 Murray Hill Dr.

Mt. Morris, NY 14510

September 2022

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I. Collection Summary

Title	The Watkins Collection
Collection No.	C210
Extent	2 legal-sized archival boxes, 1 oversized flat box
Date Range	c. 1850-1930
Abstract	<p>This collection comprises personal correspondence, papers, and photographs of the Watkins family and its ancestors. These family branches include Guile, Ashton, Ames, Hyde, Miller, Andrews, and several others. The majority of materials trace the family to the Brooks Grove and surrounding Mt. Morris area in Livingston County, NY, while letters from other family members and friends show they also migrated to East North Central Division of the Midwest. Correspondence and financial papers include letters from Thomas G. Guile and his son Joseph A. Guile. The collection of photographs include portraits of the family members and friends. These portraits, paired with the corresponding papers, builds a more complete profile of each family member and their connection to the area.</p>
Languages	English.
Access and Restrictions	<p>Use of the documents in this collection is for serious research. The collection may be accessible by advance request and permission from the Livingston County Historian's Office. Any use of the material in print or online publications must be cited as follows: "Courtesy of Livingston County Historian's Office, New York." Additionally, all documents should be handled with care.</p> <p>To arrange to conduct research with the documents in the collection, contact the Livingston County Historian by mail at: 5 Murray Hill Drive, Mount Morris, NY, by phone at (585) 243-7955, or by e-mail at Historian@livingstoncountyny.gov.</p>
Copyright	<p>Some materials may be subject to copyright. Researchers are required to seek written permission from the copyright holder to reproduce and/or publish materials under copyright.</p>
Copyright	There are no items subject to copyright.

II. Biographical and Background Information

Beginning with the oldest records from the Guile family, this genealogy builds a preliminary family tree. Each generation goes down until the fourth generation, where Ruth Andrews married William Forrest Watkins, and continues from there.

THE GUILLES

Born in approximately 1803, Thomas G. Guile is listed as living in Mount Morris as a farmer in the 1855 New York State Census. He lived with his wife Paulina and his brother-in-law David Aurelius Hyde, who were both born in Connecticut. Farming sheep and grain, Thomas's son Joseph A. Guile followed in his footsteps and is represented in the collection by a considerable collection of business contacts and receipts. Joseph A. Guile married Isabella McCartney, and they had a son Franklin in about 1867.

Between 1878-1884, Isabella left Joseph and the couple were officially divorced. However, in the 1875 New York State Census, she and her son Franklin are listed as living with her sisters Mary, Sarah, and Rebecca. They are listed as farmers and Rebecca is "idiotic" and Sarah is "insane." Along the same line, Joseph's maternal uncle David Hyde is still living with the Guile family during the 1860 census, but is now also marked "insane." Another mystery is a collection of love letters to Joseph Guile from a Mary Aman, dated 1878. More research may reveal how she fits into the Guile history.

THE ASHTONS

In 1883, Joseph A. Guile married Sophia Ashton. Her grandparents were Matthew Ashton and Esther Rachel Lewis. They had many children, including two sons, Norman A. and Matthew Jr. Matthew Ashton Jr. married Esther Avery, and the couple had several children whose portraits are included in this collection, including Burt Ashton, Bruce Ashton, Nora or Elnora Ashton, Avery Ashton, Myra Jeanette Ashton (later Ames), and Joseph's wife Sophia. Sophia was the eldest child, born in 1855, and is listed living with her parents and working as a dress maker in the 1880 census.

The younger sister Myra Jeanette Ashton married Alfred Alphonson Ames in 1891. Their daughter Jennie Bernice Ames's portrait is also in this collection. She and her husband Clayton John Ashton married in 1905 and two of their children, Norman Alonzo and Jeanette Myra, are pictured riding a pony in this collection. Their father, Clayton, was the son of Ella Rice and Nathan Wellington Ashton who married in 1891. Nathan's parents Norman A. Ashton and Hanna C. Nichols married circa 1845, and Norman was the brother to Matthew Ashton Jr. This would mean that Jennie Bernice and Clayton John were second cousins, which for the time and place was not too shocking.

THE ANDREWS

Joseph A. Guile and Sophia Ashton had two children, Mary and Matthew. It is unknown if Matthew ever married, but Mary married Jay Miller Andrews in 1908 and they had two children. Their son Paul married Elizabeth Whiteman in 1941, and their daughter Ruth married William Forrest Watkins. It is through this marriage that it is believed that the Watkins line enters this family tree.

THE MILLERS

Mary Guile Andrews's husband's family is also featured frequently in this collection. His parents were Hosmer Andrews and Frances A. Miller. Frances's parents, Harriet and Hezekiah J. Miller, can be seen in a family portrait with their daughter and a son named Horace. Frances and Hosmer had three children. Melvin Andrews,

who died young, Jay Miller Andrews, and a daughter Melva Andrews. She married Elijah W. Fuller and they had three daughters, Florence, Martha, and Caroline.

III. Contents List

Box 1	Folder 1	Letters and papers of Thomas G. Guile and his wife Paulina
Box 1	Folder 2	Thomas G. Guile Receipts/Contracts
Box 1	Folder 3	Thomas G. Guile Receipts (School, Norman Seymore Jr., Miller & Canfield, Wool)
Box 1	Folder 4	Ashton/Guile Wills, Mary Aman Letters to Joseph Guile, Family Letters to Joseph Guile
Box 1	Folder 5	Letters to Joseph A. Guile from Murphy, Zerman (?), Norton
Box 1	Folder 6	Joseph A. Guile Business Letters, Receipts, and Contracts
Box 1	Folder 7	Hyde Papers
Box 1	Folder 8	Andrews Papers
Box 1	Folder 9	Miller Papers
Box 1	Folder 10	Watkins Papers
Box 1	Folder 11	Land Surveys
Box 1	Folder 12	Burial and Cemetery Records
Box 1	Folder 13	Misc. Documents and Letters
Box 2	Folder 1	Andrews Photos
Box 2	Folder 2	Ashton Photos
Box 2	Folder 3	Bartholomew Photos
Box 2	Folder 4	Ames, Beck, and Burdick Photos
Box 2	Folder 5	Christopher Photos
Box 2	Folder 6	Fuller Photos
Box 2	Folder 7	Guile Photos
Box 2	Folder 8	Glimpse and Patrick Photos
Box 2	Folder 9	Miller Photos
Box 2	Folder 10	Warren Photos
Box 2	Folder 11	Watkins Photos
Box 2	Folder 12	Miscellaneous identified photos
Box 2	Folder 13	Identified group photos
Box 2	Folder 14	Unidentified miscellaneous and children photos
Box 2	Folder 15	Unidentified photos of men and women
Box 3		Tintype photo of Jay Andrews
Box 3		Ashton, Ames, and Gleason family picture
Box 3		Nunda High School Class of 1928 photo
Box 3		Lulu Bartholomew's Intermediate Teacher's Certificate
Box 3		Short A. Bartholomew and Della Rodgers Marriage License