

DEERFIELD ACADEMY
ARCHIVES



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**Jennie Maria Arms Sheldon Papers, 1900-2002:
Finding Aid**

Summary Information

Location: Deerfield Academy Archives, Deerfield, MA.

Title: Jennie Maria Arms Sheldon Papers, 1900-2002.

ID No.: MSS011

Creator: Sheldon, J.M. Arms (Jennie Maria Arms), 1852-1938.

Quantity: 2 boxes, .5 linear ft

Abstract: Collection of material primarily documenting the personal and professional relationship between trustee and friend J.M. Arms Sheldon and Frank L. Boyden. Includes biographical material, correspondence, and publications by and about Sheldon.

Administrative Information

Processing Information: Processed by Anne Lozier, 2009.

Acquisition: The Jennie Maria Arms Sheldon Papers were transferred to the Academy Archives in various stages over time.

Access: Access to these papers is governed by the rules and regulations of the Deerfield Academy Archives. The collection is open to the public without restrictions.

Preferred citation: [Identification of item], [Box #, folder #], in Jennie Maria Arms Sheldon Papers, Deerfield Academy Archives, Deerfield, MA.

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Historical/Biographical Information

Jennie Maria Arms Sheldon was a scientist, suffragette, naturalist, and historian, as well as a benefactor and trustee (1913-1938) of Deerfield Academy. Born in 1852 in Bellows Falls, VT, she lived with her aunt in Deerfield from 1857-1859, after the death of mother. She then moved to Greenfield where she lived and went to school until 1873, when she went to Boston and attended Mrs. Ada Shepard Badger's school for young women. In 1876, she became one of the first women to attend the MIT Women's Laboratory. Although she did not finish her degree, she met her mentor, zoologist and paleontologist Professor Alpheus Hyatt, and became a special student and assistant in the laboratory of the Boston Society of Natural History (now the Boston Museum of Science). She assisted Hyatt, lectured, taught at various schools, and worked at the museum until 1906, when she moved with her husband George Sheldon (m. 1897) to his hometown of Deerfield. In 1912, she became curator and president of the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, and in 1913 a trustee of Deerfield Academy. In 1930, she donated \$100,000 to build the Arms Building, in memory of her father George Albert Arms. She died in 1938.

Scope and Content

The Jennie Maria Arms Sheldon Papers span the years 1900-2002 and consist mainly of correspondence to Frank L. Boyden. The letters document a friendship, a business relationship, and a deep interest and commitment to education for young people. Also included are scientific and historic publications written by Sheldon as well as various biographical material.

- SERIES I. Biographical
- SERIES II. Correspondence
- SERIES III. Publications

Additional Index Terms

The following entries represent persons, organizations, and topics documented in this collection.
THIS IS NOT AN INDEX.

People

Boyden, Frank L. (Frank Learoyd), 1879-1972

Sheldon, George, 1818-1916

Sheldon, J.M. Arms (Jennie Maria Arms), 1852-1938

Organizations

Deerfield Academy

Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association

Subjects

Women in education

Deerfield Academy – Arms Building

Deerfield Academy – Girls Club

Related materials

PVMA Deerfield

Memorial Libraries

P.O. Box 428

8 Memorial Street

Deerfield, MA 01342-0428

Container List

BOX-FOLDER

Contents

SERIES I. Biographical

1-1	Biographical – articles, obituaries, notes, autobiographical sketch etc.	1908-1938
1-2	Writings about – student papers, other publications	1939-2002
1-3	Post-obit – correspondence, etc.	1938
1-4	Will and Inheritance	1923-1951
1-5	Gifts to Deerfield Academy – Science building (Arms building), general	1915-1938
1-6	Documents that J.M. Arms Sheldon wanted placed in the cornerstone of the new school building	1929-1930
1-7	PVMA	ca. 1937
1-8	Photos	n.d.

SERIES II. Correspondence

1-9	Correspondence – undated personal and professional correspondence mostly to FLB	n.d.
1-10	Correspondence – personal and professional correspondence mostly to FLB	1912-1929
1-11	Correspondence – personal and professional correspondence mostly to FLB	1930-1934
1-12	Correspondence – personal and professional correspondence mostly to FLB	1935-1938

SERIES III. Publications

BOX 2

2-1	Publications by – <i>Newly Exposed Geologic Features, 1903</i> <i>Concretions from the Champlain Clays of the Connecticut Valley, 1900</i>	
2-2	Publications by – <i>John Sheldon and the Old Indian Homestead, 1911</i> <i>The Sycamore, Elms and Maples of Old Deerfield, 1930</i> <i>George Arms Sheldon: A Tribute, 1934</i> <i>The Lewis W. Sears Collection, 1934</i>	