



## Guide to the Arlon S. Atherton Papers, 1861-1912

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Arlon S. Atherton Papers, 1861-1912, bulk 1861-1865

**Repository:**

New Hampshire Historical Society

30 Park Street

Concord, NH 03301

603-228-6688

<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

**Collection Numbers:**

1964.020, 2010.052, 2010.068, 2011.019, 2011.020, 2011.021, 2011.022, 2011.023, 2011.041, 2011.058

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Stephen Leavenworth. Rewritten and formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler, March, 2014.

**Creator:**

Arlon S. Atherton, 1842-1922

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

One box containing seven folders and three envelopes.

**Abstract:**

The Arlon S. Atherton Papers, 1861-1912, consist mainly of correspondence and diaries relating to his service with the Third New Hampshire Volunteers during the Civil War. The collection also contains a retrospective account of his war-time imprisonment at Libby Prison in Richmond, VA.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

The 1964.020 accession was a gift of Mrs. Albert LeBlanc in 1964. The remaining accessions were purchased in 2010 and 2011.

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by Stephen Leavenworth at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by Stephen Leavenworth at an unknown date and was rewritten and formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler in March, 2014. This finding aid follows the standards set-forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### **Access Restrictions:**

Available for research.

### **Location:**

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

### **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:**

The collection is on paper; there are no technical requirements for use.

### **Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Researchers are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Arlon S. Atherton Papers, 1964.020. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH.  
Date accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Biographical Information:**

Arlon S. Atherton was born in Richmond, NH on April 4, 1842, the son of Saben Atherton and Mary Ann Stearns. He enlisted at Keene, NH on August 14, 1861 into the Third NH Volunteers as a private. He was severely wounded at Deep Bottom Run, VA in the summer of 1864, following which he was captured and imprisoned at Libby Prison in Richmond, VA.

After the war, he married the woman to whom the letters in this collection were written, Susan (Susie) M. Caldwell, of Charlestown, MA. He established a grocery business in Wakefield, MA.

### **Collection Scope and Content Note:**

The Arlon S. Atherton Papers consist mainly of correspondence and diaries related to Atherton's service with the Third New Hampshire Volunteers during the Civil War. The

letters are generally from Atherton to his wife-to-be, Susan M. Caldwell, of Charlestown, MA. The collection also contains an account of his imprisonment at Libby Prison, Richmond, VA, that Atherton completed after the war. There are also miscellaneous newspaper clippings detailing the lives of Atherton and his wife.

**Arrangement:**

The material is arranged chronologically within categories in a single box. Three diaries, 1861-1863, are in the front of the box, followed by folders of letters he wrote to his future wife (1863-1865). The final folders contain his post-war account of captivity in Libby Prison (folder 5), some official documents, and newspaper clippings.

Contents List

**Box 1**

- Envelope 1    Diary, August 13, 1861 – May 22, 1862
- Envelope 2    Diary, March 31, 1863 – December 31, 1863
- Envelope 3    Diary, June 16, 1862 – March 16, 1863  
                  This also contains a list of letters he wrote and items of clothing he was issued.
- Folder 1      Letters to Susie [Susan M Caldwell], 1863
- Folder 2      Letters to Susie, 1864
- Folder 3      Letters to Susie, 1865
- Folder 4      Excerpts from a 1922 issue of *Wakefield Newspaper* [MA] and excerpts from *Ayling's Register of NH Soldiers of the Civil War*.
- Folder 5      Post-war account of his imprisonment
- Folder 6      Official documents
- Folder 7      Miscellaneous newspaper clippings; pencil sketch of the battleground at Morris Island, Charleston, NC

Subject Terms

**People:**

Atherton, Arlon S., 1842-

**Organizations:**

New Hampshire – History - Third NH Volunteers  
United States – History – Civil War

**Subjects:**

Military service – Civil War  
Prisoner of War Camps

**Locations:**

Richmond, VA – Libby Prison

**Occupations:**

Military – Civil War