

THE FIVE FAMILIES COLLECTION GUIDE

Collection Title: The Five Families Collection

Dates: early 1800s to 2001

Size: 12.24 cubic feet

Creators: Betts family

Clark family

Medbery family

Verbeck family

Newton family

Todd, Neil

Acquisition info:

Many items received from Winifred Asprey of Vassar College. Items pertaining to Abba Newton were received in 1994 from this donor.

Verbeck items were gifted by the National Bottle Museum in 1995 after they were deaccessioned from their holdings. The museum was no longer associated with the Verbeck family and their administration felt their items would fit better in this repository.

Many items received from Neil and Joyce Todd, Newtonville, Massachusetts in installments beginning in 1986. Additional papers received from Lydia Todd in 2026. Lydia is the daughter of Neil and Joyce Todd.

Accruals: No further accruals are expected.

Language(s): English

Repository: Saratoga County Historical Center, Brookside Museum, 21 Fairground Ave., Ballston Spa, N.Y., 12020

Arranged by: Meaghan Dame, 2026

RIGHTS AND ACCESS

Access restrictions: None

Publication rights: Copyright restrictions may apply

INFORMATION FOR RESEARCHERS

Separated materials:

Clark/Betts/Medbery Small Artifacts-Small Artifacts

Verbeck Family Scrapbook-Scrapbooks

Verbeck Family Recipe Book-Small Manuscripts

James W. Verbeck Cash Books-Small Manuscripts

Stephen B. Medbery family record 1815-69-Family Records

Sarah Betts Clark journal indexes-shelf 57

Dr. George B. Verbeck Pocket Diaries-shelf 66

Subject headings:

New York-Saratoga County-Ballston Spa

Military-Civil War, WW1

Family history

Genealogy

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

The Clark, Medbery, Betts, Verbeck, and Newton families are interconnected through marriage. This collection features records from each branch of the family. The families all have ties to Saratoga County and its surrounding areas. This biographical note will attempt to illustrate the connections between the families.

Harvey Betts and Ruah (Brown) Betts were residents of Troy, N.Y. in the early 1800s. Their daughter, Sarah (Betts) Clark, married James Cushman Clark around 1841. They had two

daughters, Nellie and Mary. James served as captain in the Union, Company H, New York, 7th Cavalry Regiment during the Civil War, later becoming Colonel of the 79th United States Colored Troops in 1863. In 1864, James died from a recurring illness contracted during his service. Sarah Betts Clark mourned her husband and received a widow's pension following his death. She lived in Ballston Spa, N.Y. with her daughter, Mary Clark Medbery, at the time of her death in 1899.

Stephen B. Medbery, born in 1815, operated the Medbery Hotel in Ballston Spa, N.Y. This hotel is still located on Front Street in the village, though under new ownership at this point. Stephen married Sarah M. Clark and they had several children. One of these children, Stephen Clark Medbery Sr. was born in 1847 and married Mary Clark Medbery, daughter of Sarah and James Clark. Stephen C. Medbery Sr. was a well-respected banker at First National Bank in Ballston Spa, N.Y. Stephen B. and Sarah M. had a daughter Abba Horton Medbery who married James W. Verbeck in 1877. Their son, Dr. George B. Verbeck is featured in this collection and served as a doctor in the Medical Reserve Corps of the US Army in 1918. James and Abba's daughter, Sarah Clark Verbeck, married Samuel Smith Newton in 1905. Samuel Smith Newton worked for the American Hide and Leather Company which was a prominent business in Ballston Spa, N.Y. Samuel and Sarah had two daughters named Katherine and Abba Newton. Both daughters attended Mount Holyoke College. Katherine became a music teacher. Abba was one of the first women in America to earn a PhD in mathematics. She eventually went on to teach mathematics at Vassar College. The daughters never married.

Neil Todd was a descendent of the Medbery family and did extensive genealogical research based on his great-uncle's work (Stephen C. Medbery Jr.). He was a geneticist living outside of Boston, Massachusetts. His grandmother, Bell Noble Medbery Heath, was the sister of S.C. Medbery Jr. His research and documents were donated to this repository and are part of the

collection. These records give extensive information about the Betts, Clark, and Medbery family lines dating back to the Mayflower in some instances.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The records in the Five Family Collection include correspondences, diaries, photographs, legal documents, military appointments, scrapbooks, and a recipe book. The collection is arranged by series. Due to space issues in the archive, the entire collection cannot be grouped together at this time. Boxes are labeled with the “Five Families Collection” and the family they belong to. Series that have more than one box will feature the number of that box, i.e. Box 1 of 3. The oversized boxes are arranged by family and stored with the oversized boxes. Photographs are also arranged by family and will have box numbers by family, such as Verbeck Family Photographs Box 1 of 2. These will be found with the other photograph boxes.

CONTAINER CONTENTS

SERIES 1: Betts Family Papers 1833

The *Betts* series includes letters written by Harvey Betts to his daughter Sarah and their transcripts. There is also correspondence by George Babcock who married Jane (Jenny) Betts in 1848. Correspondence to James and Julia Betts Horton is also included. Content warning: Harvey’s letters include racist comments on a marriage between a white woman and an indigenous man.

Folder Title

Container Title/Number

Correspondence-Babcock, George

Clark/Betts/Medbery Family

Correspondence-Betts, Harvey

Clark/Betts/Medbery Family

Correspondence-Horton, James and Julia

Clark/Betts/Medbery Family

SERIES 2: Clark Family Papers 1831-1876

The *Clark* series includes war assignments, Col. James C. Clark journal, letters, and poetry by Sarah Clark. It also includes Sarah Betts Clark's journal transcripts which are stored in their own box. An index of these journals are stored separately from the collection.

Folder Title	Container Title/Number
Correspondence-Clark, Col. James C.	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Correspondence-Clark, Sarah Betts	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Correspondence-Pond, Sophia M.	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Journal-Clark, Col. James C.	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Military-Clark, Col. James C.	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Verse-Clark, Sarah Betts	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Sarah Betts Clark Journal 1	Sarah Betts Clark Journals
Sarah Betts Clark Journal 2	Sarah Betts Clark Journals

SERIES 3: Medbery Family Papers 1814-1950s

The *Medbery* series includes letters, death and marriage records, deeds, honors, and miscellaneous records. Stephen B. Medbery's family record is part of this series but stored separately from the rest of the collection.

Folder Title	Container Title/Number
Ballston Sewer Stock	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Bank Checks	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Calling Cards	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Community Events	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Condolences	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Correspondence-Heath, Bell Noble Medbery	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Folder Title	Container Title/Number
Correspondence-Medbery, Mary C.	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Correspondence-Medbery, Stephen C.	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Correspondence-Miscellaneous	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Death Records	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Family History	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Family Papers 1814-28	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Honors	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family

Marriages	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Miscellaneous	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Mortgages/Deeds	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Mount Washington School	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
“Ninety-Niners” Newsletters	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family
Will-Sherman, Frank J.	Clark/Betts/Medbery Family

SERIES 4: Verbeck Family Papers 1889-1966

The *Verbeck* series includes correspondence by the Verbeck family, documents created by the family and oversized documents. Dr. George B. Verbeck’s pocket diaries, James W. Verbeck’s cash books (1905-24 and 1924-35), a family scrapbook, and a family recipe book are stored separately from the rest of the collection.

Folder Title	Container Title/Number
Alumni Affairs (1 of 2)	1
Alumni Affairs (2 of 2)	1
Banking	1
Birth Records	1
Board of Education Medical Inspector	1
College-General	1
Correspondence 1889	1
Correspondence 1900-13	1
Correspondence 1920-29	1
Correspondence 1930-34	1
Correspondence 1936	1
Correspondence 1937-38	1
Correspondence 1939 January to March	1
Correspondence 1939 April to June	1
Folder Title	Container Title/Number
Correspondence 1939 July to September	1
Correspondence 1939 Oct. to December	1
Correspondence 1940	1
Correspondence 1941 January	1
Correspondence 1941 February	1
Correspondence 1941 March	1
Correspondence 1941 April	1
Correspondence 1941 May	1

Correspondence 1941 June	1
Correspondence 1941 July	1
Correspondence 1941 August	1
Correspondence 1941 September	1
Correspondence 1941 October	1
Correspondence 1941 November	1
Correspondence 1941 December	1
Correspondence 1942 January	2
Correspondence 1942 February	2
Correspondence 1942 March	2
Correspondence 1942 April	2
Correspondence 1942 May	2
Correspondence 1942 June	2
Correspondence 1942 July	2
Correspondence 1942 August	2
Correspondence 1942 September	2
Correspondence 1942 October	2
Correspondence 1942 December	2
Correspondence 1943	2
Correspondence 1948	2
Correspondence 1950-59	2
Correspondence 1960-69	2
Correspondence N.D.	2
Court Filings	2
Dance Cards	2
Drawings-Black and White	2
Drawings-Color	2
Envelopes	2
Envelopes and Stamps	2
Genealogy	2
Folder Title	Container Title/Number
Insurance-Miscellaneous	2
Insurance-New England Mutual	2
Insurance-Travelers	2
Invoices-Appliance and Telephone	2
Invoices-Fair Oaks Sanitarium	2
Invoices-Insurance and Legal	2
Invoices-Miscellaneous	2
Invoices-Paint and Hardware	2
Ledgers	2
Manuscript	2

Manuscript	2
Menus/Rationing	2
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. 1936-37	2
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. 1938-39	2
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. 1940-41	3
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. 1942-43	3
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. 1950-59	3
Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. 1960-69	3
Miscellaneous	3
Montclair Trust Company	3
National Bottle Museum	3
New Jersey Bell Telephone	3
Newspaper Clippings	3
Notes	3
Pamphlets	3
Postcards	3
Prayer and Table Cards	3
Religious	3
Taxes	3
Treasury Department	3
Saratoga Spa	3
Stencils	3
Union College	3

SERIES 5: Newton Family Papers 1896-1960s

The *Newton* series includes letters and postcards to and from members of the Newton family, including Abba and Katherine and their parents Sam and Sarah. Letters from the Verbeck family to the Newton family are included as well. In addition there are business correspondences regarding the estate of Sarah Verbeck's father, James W. Verbeck.

Folder Title	Container Title/Number
Business Correspondence	Newton Family Papers
Miscellaneous	Newton Family Papers
Newspaper clippings	Newton Family Papers
Newton, Abba--Letters sent	Newton Family Papers
Newton, Katherine--Letters sent	Newton Family Papers
Newton, Katherine--Letters received	Newton Family Papers
Newton, Sallie Verbeck--Letters received	Newton Family Papers

Newton, Sam and Sallie--Letters received	Newton Family Papers
Newton, Samuel--Letters sent 1896, 1899	Newton Family Papers
Newton, Samuel--Letters sent 1902-03	Newton Family Papers
Newton, Samuel--Letters sent 1904	Newton Family Papers
Newton, Samuel--Letters sent 1915-16	Newton Family Papers
Newton, Samuel--Letters sent 1935-53	Newton Family Papers
Newton, Samuel--Letters sent n.d.	Newton Family Papers
Poe, H.S.--Letters to Katherine	Newton Family Papers
Postcards	Newton Family Papers
Verbeck, George and Elizabeth	Newton Family Papers
Verbeck, Sarah (Clark)	Newton Family Papers

SERIES 6: Neil B. Todd Papers 1965-2001

The *Neil Todd* series includes correspondence with cousins regarding genealogical research, his family research, and miscellaneous records he created.

Folder Title	Container Title/Number
Correspondence-Ackley	1
Correspondence-Barr, Carolyn 1988-89	1
Correspondence-Barr, Carolyn 1990-96	1
Correspondence-Barr, John T.	1
Correspondence-Betts, Frank and Raymond	1
Correspondence-Bradway, Bette Innes	1
Correspondence-Brookside	1
Correspondence-DeLee, Nancy	1
Folder Title	Container Title/Number
Correspondence-Hoff, Candee	1
Correspondence-Hoffman, Martha	1
Correspondence-Hollingshead, Frank	1
Correspondence-Lemon, Alfred	1
Correspondence-Matthews, Katherine	1
Correspondence-McKillop, Dorothy Love	1
Correspondence-Medbery, Elisabeth	1
Correspondence-Parker, Margot	1
Correspondence-Pavelchak, Catherine	1
Correspondence-Pilkinton, Judge James	1
Correspondence-Schmitt, Cindy Medbury	1
Correspondence-Sergenian, Haig Hill	1
Correspondence-Spragins	1

Correspondence-Todd, Mary H.	1	
Correspondence-Troy Female Seminary	1	
Correspondence-Tucker, Patti	1	
Correspondence-Woods, Ann	1	
Correspondence-Miscellaneous	1	
Correspondence-Emails	1	
Betts, Nathan	1	
Betts, Chauncey Augustus Harvey	1	
Lemon, Hannah (Betts)	1	
Wickes, Sarah (Betts)		1
Betts, Harvey	1	
Betts, Jane (Jenny)	1	
Betts, Julia	1	
Betts, Chauncey J. H. (1)	1	
Betts, Chauncey J. H. (2)	1	
Miscellaneous Betts	1	
Clark, Elisha and Lewis, Parthena	1	
Clark, Jonathan L.	1	
Clark, Benedict	1	
Clark, Hezekiah Lewis	1	
Clark, Roswell	1	
Clark, Le Grand	1	
Reynolds-Cushman Line	1	
Clark, James Cushman	2	
Clark, Samuel	2	
Folder Title	Container Title/Number	
Copeland Line	2	
Medbery-Clark Lineage	2	
Medbury, Nathaniel	2	
Medbury, Benjamin	2	
Ballou Line	2	
Neil Gilmour	2	
Medbery, Stephen C. - Genealogy	2	
Taft, Josephine	2	
Allen, T. Clifton (George C. Medbury)	2	
Medbury, Rebecca	2	
Medbery-Miscellaneous	2	
"Mystery" Medburys	2	
Early Genealogies	2	
Weed Ancestry	2	
Howland, John	2	

Harris Genealogy	2
Harris-Guile Ancestry	2
Medbury-Bedfordshire UK	2
Medbury-Connecticut	2
Medbery-Rhode Island 1	2
Medbury-Rhode Island 2	2
Medbury-Massachusetts	2
Medbury-NY Counties	2
Medbury-PA and KY	2
Medbury-Midwest	2
Medbury-West	2
Betts Surname Album	2
Medbery Family Bibles	2
Medbury, Margaret A.-Pension Bureau	2
Medbery Cemetery-Greenfield, NY	2
Medbery, Stephen B.-Ledger Book Transcription	2
Oakwood Cemetery-Troy	2
Clark, Sarah Betts-Widow's Pension	2
Newspaper Clippings	2
1965 Family Photo Project	2
Portrait and Photo Conservation	2
Photographer Research	2
Miscellaneous	2

SERIES 7: Photographs

The *photographs* series contains photographs and negatives of the families, some are identified and labeled and some are unknown. The Verbeck, Clark/Betts/Medbery, and Newton photographs are in boxes by family. A box of cased photographs connected to the Clark/Betts/Medbery families is also in this series and stored in their own box.

Folder Title

Container Title/Number

Aldrich, Anne W. (Horton)	Clark/Betts/Medbery Photographs 1
Aldrich, Julia	Clark/Betts/Medbery Photographs 1
Babcock, Jennie (Betts)	Clark/Betts/Medbery Photographs 1
Betts, Harvey	Clark/Betts/Medbery Photographs 1
Beecher, Clara V. (Horton)	Clark/Betts/Medbery Photographs 1
Betts, Chauncey J. H. and Family	Clark/Betts/Medbery Photographs 1
Betts Children	Clark/Betts/Medbery Photographs 1
Beecher, Fannie and Nellie	Clark/Betts/Medbery Photographs 1

Beecher, George C.
Betts, Ruah (Brown)
Boyd, Sarah (Clark)
Betts, Sarah (Clark)
Copy Prints
Civil War
Clark, James C.
Descendents
First National Bank
Gilmour, Andrew J.
Gilmour, Allan II
Gilmour, Neil
Gilmour, Neil II
Gilmour, Nellie (Clark)
Gilmour, Harvey
Groups
Headstones
Heath, Belle Noble (Medbery)
Home
Horton, James W.
Lemon Family
Lewis, Henry E.
Folder Title

Medbery Family
Medbery, Alicia (Montrose)
Medbery, Annia and Clara
Medbery, Horace
Medbery, Mary Alice (Clark)
Medbery, Montrose
Medbery, Neil Gilmour
Medbery, Robert Montrose
Medbery, Sarah Ann (Clark)
Medbery, Stephen B.
Medbery, Stephen Clark Sr.
Medbery, Stephen Clark Jr.
Medbery, Stephen and Neil
Miscellaneous Identified
Negatives
Newton, Sarah (Verbeck)
Outdoor Scenes
Pets

[illegible]

Shakespeare Club	Verbeck Photographs 1
Simmonds, Albert	Verbeck Photographs 1
Simmonds, Clara (Verbeck)	Verbeck Photographs 1
Snapshots	Verbeck Photographs 1
Thompson Family	Verbeck Photographs 1
Travel	Verbeck Photographs 1
Unidentified Men	Verbeck Photographs 1
Verbeck, Abba (Medbery)	Verbeck Photographs 2
Verbeck–Children	Verbeck Photographs 2
Verbeck, Elizabeth (Glasby)	Verbeck Photographs 2
Verbeck, George Bissell	Verbeck Photographs 2
Verbeck, James Jr.	Verbeck Photographs 2
Verbeck, James Watson	Verbeck Photographs 2
Verbeck, James William	Verbeck Photographs 2
Verbeck, William Medbery	Verbeck Photographs 2
Washburn Family	Verbeck Photographs 2

SERIES 8: Oversized

The *oversized* documents include diplomas, larger portraits, military documents, and copies of genealogical charts. The Verbeck oversized box includes diplomas, drawings by James W. Verbeck, and loose notebook pages about World War II events. The oversized documents are stored with the oversized boxes in the archive rather than with the collection.

Container Title

Five Families Collection-Verbeck Oversized

Five Families Collection-Betts/Clark/Medbery Oversized

SERIES 9: Miscellaneous

The *miscellaneous* records include Civil War report books and journals produced by the Clark and Medbery families. They also include small ephemera such as small books, maps, and small clothing items from the Betts, Clark, and Medbery families.

Container Title

Five Families Collection Clark/Betts/Medbery Miscellaneous

Five Families Collection Clark/Betts/Medbery Small Ephemera