

**Hartness Family
Papers, 1774-2000
Doc 643**

Introduction

This collection documents the Hartness and Beardsley families of Springfield, Vermont, during the period, 1774-2000. The collection was given to the Vermont Historical Society by descendant Mary Beardsley Fenn in 2007 (ms. acc. no. 2007.14). It is stored in one document box and consumes 1 linear foot of shelf space.

Biographical Notes

James Hartness (1861-1934), the son of John Williams (1830-1906) and Ursilla Jackson Hartness (1834-1891), was born in Schenectady, New York, on September 3, 1861. He came to Springfield, Vermont, from Schenectady, by way of Cleveland, Ohio, where he attended school. He took after his father, John, who worked in machine shops in Cleveland, and developed an interest and talent in mechanics. After working a series of jobs in Connecticut from 1886-1888, James Hartness took his flat turret lathe design to the Jones and Lamson Machine Company in Springfield, Vermont, in 1889. This company flourished, due in large part to Hartness' many other inventions as well as changes he made to their business model in his position as superintendent, and became an important player in the very successful machine tool industry in Springfield. James Hartness procured many patents for machines and possessed a business acumen that probably made him a major force in the developing machine tool industry.

James Hartness had many interests and pursuits outside of business. He served as governor of Vermont for one term (1921-1923) and was an early proponent of aviation in the state. He was a member, and at one time president, of the Vermont Aero Club. He also gave land for the Springfield Aerodrome, which is now known as the "Hartness State Airport" and was then the first airfield in Vermont, to the state. In 1927, he welcomed the famous aviator, Charles Lindbergh, when he touched down in Springfield, Vermont. Additionally, Hartness was an avid astronomer and established Stellafane, an observatory in Springfield, Vermont.

James Hartness married Lena Sanford Pond (1885-1933) in West Windsor, Connecticut, on May 13, 1885. Lena Hartness became quite talented as a gardener and landscape painter. She and James Hartness had two daughters, Anna Jackson Hartness (1889-1966) and Helen Edith Hartness (1890-1972). Anna Hartness married William H. Beardsley (1881-1935), a doctor and later official for the Jones and Lamson Machine Company, in Springfield, Vermont, in 1912. They had three children, one of whom was Mary Hartness Beardsley, assembler and donor of this collection. Anna Hartness Beardsley's sister, Helen, married Ralph Flanders (1880-1970), who also became involved in the machine tool industry and Vermont politics, in 1911.

James Hartness encouraged other promising young men, including his sons in law Dr. William Henry Beardsley (1882-1935) and Ralph Edward Flanders (1880-1970) to add their talents to the machine tool industry. Both were leaders in the field and Flanders also became a United States Senator from Vermont from 1946 to 1958.

Organization

This collection is organized in four series: I. History, general; II. Genealogy; III. Photographs; and IV. House inventory.

Scope and Content

This collection consists of papers documenting both the lives of James and Lena Hartness, in particular, and, more generally, the Hartness and Beardsley families of Springfield, Vermont. These materials were assembled and donated by Mary Hartness Beardsley Fenn, granddaughter of James and Lena Hartness, and document her family research as well as the lives of her grandparents.

The general history series in the collection focuses on materials documenting the private and public lives of James and Lena Hartness, especially his term as Vermont Governor (campaign materials and retiring message) and interest in aviation (photocopies of clippings). Also included is more general family history, including a brief history of the family by Mary Beardsley Fenn, miscellaneous correspondence, and family recipes. Lena Hartness' life is represented in a photocopied manuscript memoir and information related to her funeral.

The collection also contains an extensive genealogy section with contributions by various family members along with pedigree and family charts by Bill Lowe derived from Mary Fenn's data. Genealogical information in the collection is focused primarily on the Hartness and Beardsley families; however, the related Pond, Claghorn, and Holt families are also mentioned and documented to a lesser extent.

Also included is a large collection of family photographs of people, houses and grounds. Photographs of the Hartness house and grounds as well as of the observatory document some of the material aspects of the Hartness family's lifestyle in the 1930s and also reflect Lena and James Hartness' interests in gardening and astronomy. An inventory of all the contents of Hartness mansion, ca. 1919, also documents the physical household down to the most minute details. The contents of the basement and three stories plus the observatory are described in this inventory.

Related Collections

The VHS library collection contains several items written by the donor, Mary Beardsley Fenn, about the Beardsley and Hartness families. Among them are *Letters, 1911-1915: William Henry Beardsley to Anna Jackson Hartness before marriage; Anna*

Hartness Beardsley to Lena Pond Hartness after marriage; and a few others, 2010 (920 B38f); *The curves in the road : a legacy from a great-grandmother* (920 F36c); and *Will and Anna Beardsley, my parents* (920 B38).

Oversized photographs of Hartness and Beardsley family members have been removed to the library's oversized photograph collection (Size D F-PO-Hartness). Other photographs of family members may be found elsewhere in the photograph collection.

Inventory

I. History, general

- Doc 643:01 *James Hartness and Lena Pond Hartness*, 1986
(duplicate of B / H 256 f)
- 02 Memoir re: Lena Hartness, 1865-1933
- 03 James Hartness, Aviation
- 04 Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1889-2000
- 05 Lena Pond Hartness, funeral, 1933
- 06 Lena's dress at Vermont History Center
- 07 Recipes – Holt, Pond, Hartness, Beardsley
- 08 James Hartness for Governor, 1920
- 09 *Retiring Message of James Hartness, Governor of the State of Vermont to the General Assembly*, 1923
(duplicate of Pam. Gov. Messages, Hartness)
- 10 History

II. Genealogy

- 11 Pedigree charts – Family Charts
- 12 Genealogy by Anna H. Beardsley
- 13 Genealogy by Mildred Q. Fenn – A
- 14 Genealogy by Mildred Q. Fenn – B
- 15 Genealogy by Barrow
- 16 Hartness family record, 1774-1965
- 17 Ancestry with line to Alfred the Great, born 849
- 18 Mary Beardsley Fenn correspondence
- 19 The Beardsley homestead, 1840-1957
- 20 Colonial Order of the Crown
- 21 Beardsley genealogy – miscellaneous
- 22 *Hudson Valley Sketchbook* by Marion C. Smith, no date.
- 23 The Roeliff Jensen Historical Society, 1975
- 24 Bulletins – Beardsley Family Association, 1939-1943

III. Photographs

- 25 Lena with daughter, mother, grandmother

- 26 Photo collection by Constance B. Claghorn
- 27 Anna Jackson Hartness Beardsley, 1889-1966
- 28 Ancestors
- 29 James Hartness, 1861- 1934
- 30 Lena Sanford Pond Hartness
- 31 Beardsleys, Flanders, and Coolidges
- 32 Hartness house, grounds, and interior, 1935
- 33 House, observatory, history
- 34 Photo album, house and gardens

IV. House Inventory, ca. 1919

- 35 Index, 1st Floor
- 36 1st Floor (cont.), 2nd Floor
- 37 2nd Floor (cont.)
- 38 3rd Floor
- 39 Basement to end

Bill Lowe
March 2008
hartness.doc