



BHC-MSS 0016  
Guide to the Papers of the Mallett, Fairchild, and Shelton Families  
By Meghan Rinn  
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**Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Anna Mallett, Charles Mallett, Robert P. Shelton, Mary L. Fairchild, and others **Title:** Papers of the Mallett, Fairchild, and Shelton Families

**Dates:** 1870s-1940s [bulk 1900-1940]

**Quantity:** 18 manuscript boxes

**Abstract:** The Mallett, Fairchild, and Shelton papers provide documentation of the families behind the massively successful Fairchild and Shelton Soap Company. Related to the Sheltons are the Malletts, who also did genealogical work that is present in the collection. Both correspondence and account books are major features of the collection.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

**Biographical History:**

*Anna Smith Mallet (1845-1907)* was the daughter of Charles and Mary Smith Mallett. The family itself was from the Stratford/Bridgeport area of Connecticut and had been settled since at least the late 1700s. Family lore states that the Malletts were one of five families to settle along the Pequannock in 1639.

Anna was related to the Sheltons. John Constance Shelton was a cousin, which is why her papers were collected and associated with the Shelton family. Unmarried, an extensive traveler, and able to live well in Washington, D.C., Anna was among other things a skillful genealogist. In 1895 she published "John Mallet, the Huguenot, and his descendants, 1694-1894 compiled by Anna Smith Mallett." The book offers information on her Huguenot ancestor, and her research is included among her papers, along with proofs. There is extensive correspondence that spans most of her life in the collection, as well as writing in German, business information, and extensive account books that detail intimate parts of her life.

Also present, although smaller in volume, are papers related to Anna's father, Charles. Likewise there are several account books, although they are not as complete as Anna's.

*Robert Philo Shelton (1896-1976)* was a lifelong resident of Bridgeport, Connecticut. The son of Robert Constance Shelton and his wife Jean Watson, Robert P. was an active part of the Bridgeport community. He was not only a Yale graduate (class of 1919), but Robert P. Shelton was a part of the U.S. Army and a veteran of World War One. A relation of Anna Mallett, he was named a beneficiary in her will. His community activities included being a part of the special police, and a member of the volunteer fire department for approximately 30 years.

His papers document most of his life, and range from family correspondence and photos to postcards, collected cigar coupons, and reflect a person who was active, involved, and a part of the

fabric of Bridgeport. His father's company, Fairchild and Shelton, was a soap company based in Bridgeport. There is little from his father's own hand in the collection, but it is present. His father's obituary highlights the man as genial and with a large social circle himself.

*Henry C. Fairchild (1842-1917) and Mary Shelton (1842-1922)*

Henry C. Fairchild was one half of Fairchild and Shelton, a soap company based in Bridgeport, Connecticut. A major figure in the city due to his business success, he was born in Nichols, Connecticut on July 17, 1842. His grandfather was one of the first manufacturers in the area to produce saddle trees and carriages. The Fairchild Mills in Connecticut also helped produce early newspapers. He married Mary L. Shelton in 1863, and they had one son together. Mary herself has proved elusive in the historic record, but it is known that she ended up looking after several other Shelton children of other family members, including Robert Philo.

*Fairchild and Shelton Company*

The Fairchilds and Sheltons are often paired together because of their manufacturing firm, Fairchild and Shelton. They produced soap, and the partnership with John C. Shelton began in 1872. They were the first to create toilet soap (it is unclear in articles if this means soap for the bathroom or specifically soap used to clean toilets themselves), but are best known for their "Ozone Soap." In the 1800s they were the largest manufacturer of soap in Connecticut, and were a major brand in the United States.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The bulk of each series is made up of correspondence and account books, providing robust documentation of the daily activities and inner lives of Anna Mallett, Robert P. Shelton, and Mary L. Fairchild. What is not well documented is the business of Fairchild and Shelton, and it is likely this documentation is indeed elsewhere.

The last series includes material from distant relations, as well as a number of composition books with an undetermined owner or author. There was also a set of books included in the collection, which occupies the final box in the collection.

**Arrangement note:**

The papers of these three families were a part of an accession that contained material related to the Barnum Museum and papers from one of the staff members at the museum. At the time of inventory, they were kept under the same accession number. Upon being processed, the museum and the museum staff material were removed because they had no relation to the family papers.

Based on the amount of material, the following series were made. Series I, the Mallett Family which has material related primarily to Anna Mallett, series II covers the Shelton family and whose primary creator is Robert P. Shelton, series III relates to the Fairchild family, and series IV which contains additional material that relates to the families but has no logical placement within the specific family collection. The arrangement within each series prioritizes correspondence from the primary family member identified in that group and is then arranged chronologically. Other significant record groupings like account books follow and all other material is then arranged chronologically.

**Administrative information:**

**Provenance:** Donation of Elizabeth Seeley, 1974. Originally accession number 1974.09, came in with material that now makes up MSS 0017 and MSS 0018.

**Preferred Citation:**

Papers of the Mallet, Fairchild, and Shelton Families (BHC-MSS 0016), Bridgeport History Center.

**Names and Subject Tracings**

Subject tracings

Connecticut--Bridgeport.

**Detailed box and folder listing**

## Box 1

## Series I, the Mallett Family

1. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1858
2. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1861-1869
3. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1870
4. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1871
5. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1872
6. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1873
7. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1874
8. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1875
9. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1876
10. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1877
11. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1878
12. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1879
13. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1880-1882
14. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1883
15. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1883
16. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1884
17. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1885
18. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1886

## Box 2

1. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1887
2. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1888
3. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1889
4. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1890
5. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1891-1897
6. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, 1902

## Box 3

1. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, undated
2. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, undated
3. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, undated
4. 3. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, undated

4. Correspondence to Anna Mallett, misc.
5. Correspondence from Anna Mallett, 1860s-1901
6. Bills to Anna Mallett, 1857-1886
7. Bills to Anna Mallett, 1887-1888
8. Bills to Anna Mallett, 1889-1890s
9. Anna Mallett, cancelled checks

#### Box 4

1. Anna Mallett, diary, 1883-1885
2. Anna Mallett, Travel notes, 1884
3. Anna Mallett, DAR registration and address book, 1895
4. Anna Mallett, German lessons and poetry compositions, undated
5. Anna Mallett, Household expenses book, undated
6. Anna Mallett, Account books, 1860s-1880s
7. Anna Mallett, Account books, 1880s
8. Anna Mallett, Account books, 1880s

#### Box 5

1. Anna Mallett, account books, 1885-1887
2. Anna Mallett, account books, 1900
3. Anna Mallett, accounts, 1870s
4. Anna Mallett, accounts, 1880s-1890s
5. Anna Mallett, accounts, general
6. Anna Mallett, holdings in San Miguel Gold Mine and Dr. Henely Extract
7. Anna Mallett, property in Iowa and Nebraska
8. Anna Mallett, business correspondence, 1880s
9. Anna Mallett, estate

#### Box 6

1. Mallet general proofs, pages 11-149
2. Mallett general proofs, pages 150-232
3. Anna Mallet genealogy, mostly Keeler
4. Letters to Anna Mallett regarding genealogy, 1890s
5. Letters to Anna Mallett regarding genealogy, 1890s
6. Letters to Anna Mallett regarding genealogy, undated
7. Historical society pamphlets, 1890s

#### Box 7

1. Genealogy notes on other families
2. Genealogy notes on other families
3. Genealogy notes on the Malletts
4. Anna Mallett's cards

## 5. Clippings

### Box 8

1. Letters to Charles Mallett, 1840-1850
2. Letters to Charles Mallett, 1865-1873
3. Letters to Charles Mallett, 1880-1882
4. Letters to Charles Mallett, 1835-1868
5. Charles Mallett's day book, 1850-1870
6. Charles Mallett's account books, 1841; 1845;1869
7. Charles Mallett's account books and bills, 1840s-1880s
8. Charles Mallett, accounts, 1828-1839
9. Charles Mallett, accounts, 1833-1839
10. Charles Mallett, accounts, 1840-1849

### Box 9

1. Charles Mallett, accounts, 1850-1859
2. Charles Mallett, accounts, 1860-1869
3. Charles Mallett, accounts, 1870-1874
4. Charles Mallett, accounts, 1875-`879
5. Charles Mallett, accounts, 1880-1884
6. Charles Mallett, accounts, undated
7. Charles Mallett, Christ Church of Stratford, Milford
8. Older Mallet papers

### Box 10

#### Series II, the Shelton Family

- 1., Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1910
2. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1914
3. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1915
4. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1916
5. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1917
6. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1918
7. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1919
8. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1920
9. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1920-1921
10. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1920-1921
11. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1920-1921
12. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1921
13. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1922
14. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1937

### Box 11

1. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1938

2. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1954-1970
3. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, 1971
4. Correspondence with Robert P. Shelton, undated
5. Robert P. Shelton, checks, 1915-1916
6. Robert P. Shelton, account books, 1915-1916
7. Robert P. Shelton, address book, 1913
8. Robert P. Shelton, Bills, memos, and notices, 1915-1938

#### Box 12

1. Robert P. Shelton, Bills, memos, and notices, 1915-1938
2. Robert P. Shelton Postcards
3. Robert P. Shelton and Fairchild, Postcards
4. Robert P. Shelton , Calling cards and postcards
5. Robert P. Shelton , Postcards and ephemera
6. Robert P. Shelton , Cigar coupons

#### Box 13

1. Robert P. Shelton , Metal stamp and memento
2. Robert P. Shelton, Wallets
3. Photographs, Shelton family likely including young Robert
4. Photographs, Shelton family
5. Photographs, Shelton family
6. Photographs, Shelton family, 1880s
7. Photographs, Shelton family, 1880s-1890s
- 8/. Photographs, Shelton family photo albums

#### Box 14

1. Shelton family tree by Mr. Palmquist
  2. Genealogy, Shelton
  3. Genealogy, Mallett
  4. Older Shelton family documents, 1813-1832
  5. Papers of John C. Shelton, 1880s-1890s
  6. Papers of Jean L. Shelton, 1890s-1990s
  7. Papers of Jean L. Shelton, 1890s-1900s
  8. Letters to Jean L. Shelton, 1898-1913
  9. Papers relating to Philip W. Warner and Jean Shelton, 1938
  10. Account book for Jean, Anna and Philo Shelton, 1902-1907
- Series III, the Fairchild family
11. Accounts to Jean L. Shelton and Mary L. Fairchild, 1920-1921
  12. Jean E. Shelton estate, 1913
  13. Letters to Frederick S. Fairchild, 1883-1890
  14. Papers of Henry C. Fairchild, 1900s

#### Box 15

1. Correspondence with Henry C. Fairchild, 1900-1916
2. Correspondence with Mary L. Fairchild, 1900s
3. Correspondence with Mary L. Fairchild, 1900s
4. Correspondence with Mary L. Fairchild, 1900s
5. Correspondence with Mary L. Fairchild, 1900s
6. Correspondence with Mary L. Fairchild, 1900s
7. Letters from Valicitos Hydrolic Gold Mining to Mary L. Fairchild, 1900s
8. Frederick S. Fairchild, school compositions and correspondence
9. Frederick S. Fairchild, Bridgeport High School, 1881-1885
10. Frederick S. Fairchild, Christ Church Sunday school, 1870s
11. Frederick S. Fairchild, additional
11. Henry C. Fairchild house contract, 1906

#### Box 16

1. Correspondence with Fairchild and Shelton, 1870-1909
  2. Fairchild and Shelton papers, 1870s-1903
  3. Fairchild and Shelton account books, 1875-1886
  4. Fairchild and Shelton timesheets and bank notes, 1882-1899
  5. Fairchild and Shelton advertising, undated
- Series IV, additional
6. Smith correspondence, 1834-1847
  7. Beardsley accounts, 1836
  8. James Watson's account book, 1872
  9. James Watson estate, 1891
  10. Haines papers, 1879-1883
  11. Nevada Camluet Copper Mining Co. 1900s

#### Box 17

1. Newspaper clippings, 1800s
2. Unidentified poetry and composition books, 1 of 2
2. Unidentified poetry and composition books, 2 of 2

#### Box 18

- Fanny's Return to School, 1846
- The American Botanic Medical Family Instructor by Dr. Jeremy Taylor, 1944
- Don't by Censor, 1887
- The Island Plant, a Nantucket Story by Mary Catherine Lee, 1896
- An Interview with Henry L. Dohery, New York Tribune, 1920
- The Mother at Home or Principles of Maternal Duty by Rev John Rip Van Winkle and Christmas Eve by Washington Irving, undated
- Song book, Firth, Pond and Co. undated

