

# **West Family Collection**

**Donated by**

**Jeff Murray**

**115 Pearl Street**

**Cambridge, Massachusetts**

**May 15, 2007**

Prepared by

Alice Dodds

June 2007

Cambridge Historical Commission

831 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge, MA 02139

## West Family Collection

### Description

The West Family Collection was donated to the Cambridge Historical Commission by Jeff Murray of 115 Pearl Street in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Mr. Murray had been a long term tenant of the Wests, and his account provides the only, very sketchy, descriptive material available on the family.

Alfred West came from Bristol, England in the early 1900s, settled in Cambridge, and bought properties at 115 Pearl Street and 6 Cottage Street. The family, of

five children, maintained these properties, the former as a rental unit and the latter as their home, until the death of the last child, Gertrude, in 1987. Little is known of the family's activities except for Alfred's brief foray into a clock business and Gertrude's fifty years of service at the Jordan Marsh store in Boston.

### Scope and Content

The materials found in this collection include blue prints and a contract for work done on the two West properties; the ledger of a short-lived family clock business; school copy books for Alfred, George, and Gertrude, which reflect the educational methods of the times; grade school essays by George, and; a large album of unidentified photographs. Of particular interest are the essays composed by George, which describe the experiences of a schoolboy in the early 1900s; an eighth grade class visit to the new Cambridge Public Library being a particularly expansive and engaging account. The family's penchant for copying and clipping famous poetry brought into the collection the poem "Hagerty," written to honor a Cambridge soldier killed in the Spanish American War.

### Folder List

#### Box I

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Baseball Players, Photographs            | undated         |
| 2. Blue Prints, 115 Pearl Street            | Undated         |
| 3. Contract, 6 Cottage Street               | March 10, 1913\ |
| 4. "Hagerty," A Poem                        | undated         |
| 5. Ledger, Clock Business                   | 1916            |
| 6. Maps, Civil War                          | 1885, undated   |
| 7. Murray, Jeff, Account of the West Family | May 15, 2007    |
| 8. West, Alfred, Copy Book                  | undated         |
| 9. West, George, Copy Book                  | undated         |
| 10. West George, Essays                     | c 1912-1915     |

11. West, Gertrude, Copy Book

undated

12. West, Gertrude, Photograph

undated

Box II

Photograph Album

1920-1926

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