

# Bedortha Family Collection

## Finding Aid

Windsor Historical Society  
96 Palisado Avenue, Windsor, CT 06095

**Creator:** Bedortha Family, L. L. Bedortha

**Dates:** 1863-1897, undated

**Extent:** 1 linear foot

**Accession #:** 2013.66

### Biographical/Historical Note

Laurence Loomis Bedortha (1837–1926) established and ran the Bedortha Mill on Mill Brook in Windsor for the majority of his life. A resident of Windsor, Connecticut from his birth in 1837 to his death in 1926, Bedortha was a lifelong and notable member of the town. The mills along Mill Brook served as the nexus of all economic activity in the area, and Bedortha Mill operated for nearly a century. Originally a wheelwright shop, the bulk of manufacturing ultimately included the blocks for rolling cigars, cutting tools for cigars, blocks for meat cutters, and the manufacturer of levels. Many of the photographs and glass plate negatives featured in this collection include images of dams, bridges, and landscapes near the Bedortha Mill. At his death at the age of 89, Laurence Loomis Bedortha was the oldest member of the Washington Lodge (Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons) of Windsor, CT and was believed to be one of the oldest Masons in Connecticut. Widowed in 1886, he had two sons and one daughter. He is buried in Palisado Cemetery in Windsor, CT.

His sons Alfred Calvin Bedortha (1872–1963) and George Quartus Bedortha (1874–1962) continued work at the Bedortha mill until their deaths in the mid-1960s. Unable to continue operation, the mill was demolished in 1963. Notably, machinery from the mill developed by Arthur H. Eddy, inventor and founder of the Eddy Electric Corporation, was donated to the Smithsonian Institute. Their sister, Clara R. Bedortha (1876–1972), also lived in Windsor until her death. Neither George nor Clara married, and both are buried in the Palisado Cemetery with the Bedortha family. In 1916 Alfred C. Bedortha married Grace (Roberts) Bedortha (1885–), who worked as a school teacher, and they had four children together. He is buried in Elm Grove Cemetery in Windsor, CT.

The following is a brief genealogy of the Bedortha family in Windsor:

Quartus Bedortha (1808-1879)

Ruth Loomis (June 4, 1811–Dec 30, 1896)

m. February 28, 1832

- Laurence Loomis Bedortha (Aug 16, 1837-1926)
- Agnes Bedortha (April 8, 1844 –)

Laurence Loomis Bedortha (Aug 16, 1837–May 19, 1926)

Letitia Smith (~1842 – April 11, 1886)

m. January 10, 1871

- Alfred Calvin Bedortha (1872–1963)
  - m. Grace R. (Roberts) Bedortha, (~1885–) on October 7, 1916
    - Margaret G. Bedortha (~1919–)
    - M. Bedortha (~1923–)
    - Ruth Roberts Bedortha (~1925–2013)
- George Quartus Bedortha (~1874–1962)
- Clara Ruth Bedortha (1876–1972 )

## Scope and Contents

The Bedortha Family Collection consists of mostly visual materials, including glass plate negatives and photographs of Bedortha family members and friends, and of the local area. The collection also includes a pocket diary, correspondence, and advertisements belonging to L. L. Bedortha, as well as information concerning photography.

## Arrangement

This collection is organized by material type.

### Series I. Papers

### Series II. Images

Subseries A: Glass Plate Negatives

Subseries B: Photographs

## Box and Folder Lists

### Series I. Papers

Box 1, Folder 1

Bedortha Family Papers, including a letter written to A. C. Bedortha from Pennsylvania State College, September 19, 1896; Pocket Diary of L. L. Bedortha, 1863; Bedortha Brothers Advertisements; and L. L. Bedortha stationery, instructions on how to use Nepera Bromide Paper, 1896, blank sheets of bromide paper wrapped in black paper; 1863-1896, undated.

### Series II. Images

Subseries A. Glass Plate Negatives

Boxes 2 and 3

- 2013.66.1 L.L. Bedortha reading in a wicker chair, undated
- 2013.66.2 machinery, inside of a mill, undated
- 2013.66.3 man in house in front of clock, undated
- 2013.66.4 woman in house in front of clock, undated (envelope dated 1902)
- 2013.66.5 landscape, path through the woods, undated
- 2013.66.6 landscape, river in woods with tree fallen across it, undated
- 2013.66.7 African American family and dog sitting outside a cabin with man playing the banjo, undated
- 2013.66.8 L. L. Bedortha sitting on porch, undated
- 2013.66.9 L. L. Bedortha sitting in wicker chair, undated
- 2013.66.10 man with glasses sitting on porch reading (A. C. Bedortha?), undated
- 2013.66.11 woman in bonnet standing outdoors, undated

- 2013.66.12 man watering a horse, undated
- 2013.66.13 man standing near fireplace, undated
- 2013.66.14 landscape, trees near a bank, one tree fallen, undated
- 2013.66.15 woman in bonnet with bicycle, undated
- 2013.66.16 woman reading in wicker chair, undated
- 2013.66.17 horses in front of house, undated
- 2013.66.18 landscape, plowed field with trees in distance, undated
- 2013.66.19 palm frond plants (trees?) in front of fence, undated
- 2013.66.20 baby alligators (?), undated
- 2013.66.21 fish tank, undated
- 2013.66.22 plowed field with fence and houses/cabins in distance, undated
- 2013.66.23 landscape, partially logged woods, undated
- 2013.66.24 fish tank, undated
- 2013.66.25 Stringing tobacco, 2 sec 66 carbul ortho 27, Hazy Bright, August 21, 1894, 5 o'clock
- 2013.66.26 Bedortha's Tobacco Field, Allen on the Wagon, carbul ortho 27, carbul eikon and hydrodenlope, 2 sec d.16, August 21, 1894, 5:50 pm
- 2013.66.27 Gathering tobacco on the hill, Haze 2 sec, d64, Ortho plate 27, Plate in the holder glass to the lens by mistake, August 27, 1894
- 2013.66.28 Bedortha's Tobacco Shed on the Hill, August 27, 1894
- 2013.66.29 weir in S. H. Barber's Lot, N. W. Hayden, June 1, 1896, about 9 a.m.
- 2013.66.30 weir in woods below Barber's Dam, N. W. Hayden, June 1, 1896, about 2 p.m.
- 2013.66.31 weir in woods below Barber's Dam, N.W. Hayden, June 1, 1896, about 2 p.m.
- 2013.66.32 weir in G. M. Wrisley's lot, front full, about November 3, 1896
- 2013.66.33 weir near Barber's Dam, front full, about November 3, 1896
- 2013.66.34 weir in G. M. Wrisley's lot, back empty, about November 3, 1896
- 2013.66.35 weir at Barber's pond, back empty, about November 3, 1896
- 2013.66.36 weir in G. M. Wrisley's lot, front empty, about November 3, 1896
- 2013.66.37 weir at Barber's Pond, front empty, about November 3, 1896
- 2013.66.38 weir in G. M. Wrisley's lot, back full, about November 3, 1896
- 2013.66.39 weir near Barber's Dam, back full, about November 3, 1896
- 2013.66.40 plug in 10" gate in Barber's Dam, gate closed, January 9, 1897
- 2013.66.41 plug in 10" gate in Barber's Dam, water running, January 9, 1897
- 2013.66.42 weir board 4' drove on edge, September 6, 1897
- 2013.66.43 weir at Barber's pond, 3' board, September 25, 1897
- 2013.66.44 weir in G. M. Wrisley's lot, 6' board, September 25, 1897

Subseries B: Photographs & Portraits

Box 1, Folder 2

- 2013.66.45 house and yard with white fence, undated
- 2013.66.46 landscape, hillside with tree stump, undated
- 2013.66.47 tree in front of house and fence, undated

- 2013.66.48 people in canoes on a river, undated
- 2013.66.49 pond in winter, man in the background, undated
- 2013.66.50 square building with 'watch tower,' undated
- 2013.66.51 cyanotype, three men picking tobacco, house on a hill in background, undated
- 2013.66.52 cyanotype, three men picking tobacco, house on a hill in background, undated
- 2013.66.53 cyanotype, man driving tobacco wagon in field, house on a hill in background, undated
- 2013.66.54a cyanotype, man driving tobacco wagon in field, house on a hill in background, 'baked H. H.,' undated
- 2013.66.54b cyanotype, man driving tobacco wagon in field, house on a hill in background, undated
- 2013.66.55 weir in woods below Barber's dam, N.W. Hayden, June 1, 1896, about 2 p.m.
- 2013.66.56 weir in woods below Barber's dam, N.W. Hayden, June 1, 1896, about 2 p.m.
- 2013.66.57 wood post (weir up close?), undated
- 2013.66.58 wood post (weir up close?), undated
- 2013.66.59 family seated outside of wood cabins, man playing banjo, undated
- 2013.66.60 landscape, partially logged woods, undated

Box 1, Folder 3

- 2013.66.61 Ma Rockwell and Holin, C. M. Marsh Photographer, N. Y., undated
- 2013.66.62 Business card, J. H. True, Traveling Agent, L. S. & M. S. R.'Y, Buffalo, N. Y., undated
- 2013.66.63 Laura Loomis, Kellogg Photographer, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.64 James L. Loomis, Cartes De Viste by Davis, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.65 Agnes Bedortha, Cartes De Viste by Davis, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.66 R. H. Tuttle, B. S. De Lamater, Photographer, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.67 P. L. Rockwell, C. M. Marsh Photographer, Canandaigua, N.Y., undated
- 2013.66.68 George Rockwell, C. M. Marsh Photographer, Canandaigua, N.Y., undated
- 2013.66.69 Man with glasses and robe (clergy?), Kellogg Brothers, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.70 Mother of Eli Francis, N.A. & R.A. Moore Photographers, undated
- 2013.66.71 Nancy E. Reynolds, Cartes De Viste by Davis, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.72 Joseph Bedortha, Marshall Photographer, Boston, M.A., undated
- 2013.66.73 Rhoda Bumsted and Julia Akford, Kellogg Brothers, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.74 Arthur Mills, Kellogg Brothers, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.75 Harriet Mills, Cartes de Viste by Davis, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.76 Pliney Holcomb, Chase's Photograph Rooms, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.77 Edward Loomis, Cartes de Viste by Davis, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.78 Julia Loomis Holcomb, Chase's Photograph Rooms, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.79 Woman with embroidered bow sitting near table, Kellogg Brothers, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.80 Gertrude Waterman, S. H. Waite's, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.81 Baby, 1-2 years, Fred E. North Photographer, undated

- 2013.66.82 Julia Waterman, S. H. Waite's, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.83 Joseph Bedortha, S.J. & A.H. Bishop Photographers, Springfield, M.A., undated
- 2013.66.84 Miss L. E. Stins, Bundy Photographer, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.85 Fannie Leonard, Kellogg Brothers, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.86 Man with bowtie in tasseled chair, Ingraham Brothers, Northampton, M.A., undated
- 2013.66.87 Man in tasseled chair, Prescott & Gage, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.88 Man in tasseled chair, Prescott & Gage, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.89 Mrs. Rockwood, Mother of Mrs. French, M. Moulthrop, New Haven, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.90 Mrs. A. Reynolds, James Reynold's Mother, D. W. Wilson Photographer, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.91 Man with small table, April 1885
- 2013.66.92 Man with goatee, Ingraham Brothers, Northampton, M.A., undated
- 2013.66.93 Elizabeth Francis, Cartes de Visite by Davis, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.94 Capt. A. D. French, Prescott & Gage, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.95 Mrs. Raymond, S. Parmelee, Windsor Locks, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.96 Henry A. Goodale, Cartes de Visite by Davis. Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.97 Mrs. A. D. French, Cartes de Visite by Davis, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.98 Atherton, Kellogg Brothers, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.99 Mrs. Henry A. Goodale, Cartes de Visite by Davis, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.100 Harriet Austin, E. P. Kellogg, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.101 Mrs. Atherton or Mrs. M. D. Thirlkel, S. B. Brown, Providence, R.I., undated
- 2013.66.102 baby in chair wearing plaid dress, Prescott & Gage, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.103 woman with brooch, N.A. & R. A. Moore, undated
- 2013.66.104 man with bowtie and watch chain, R. A. Lewis, N.Y., undated
- 2013.66.105 female child Holcomb, Bartlett & Webster, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.106 James Reynolds, (?), undated
- 2013.66.107 Julia Waterman, Prescott & Gage, Hartford, C.T., undated

Box 1, Folder 4

- 2013.66.108 Laurence Bedortha, C. T. Stuart Photographer, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.109 Laurence Bedortha, C. T. Stuart Photographer, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.110 Clara Bedortha, Kellogg, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.111 Clara Bedortha, Kellogg, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.112 George Bedortha, Rodgers Photographic Portraiture, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.113 George Bedortha, Rodgers Photographic Portraiture, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.114 Alfred and George Bedortha, C. T. Stuart, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.115 Alfred and George Bedortha, C. T. Stuart, Hartford, C.T., undated
- 2013.66.116 Woman in bonnet, A. Bogardus, N.Y., undated
- 2013.66.117 Woman in bonnet, A. Bogardus, N.Y., undated

- 2013.66.118 Laurence Bedortha in wicker chair, undated  
2013.66.119 Laurence Bedortha in wicker chair, undated  
2013.66.120 Alfred Bedortha in swimming costume, Farmington River, April 1955  
2013.66.121 57 Poquonock Ave, Windsor C.T., undated  
2013.66.122 57 Poquonock Ave, Windsor C.T., undated  
2013.66.123 Bridge over river, undated  
2013.66.124 cyanotype, town center, printed deep, washed in cold water and ammonia, undated  
2013.66.125 cyanotype, house with porch in town, undated  
2013.66.126 cyanotype, church, plain brush, undated  
2013.66.127 cyanotype, church, undated  
2013.66.128 weir, undated  
2013.66.129 Inglis' Home Bakery, undated

### **Related Materials in Windsor Historical Society**

#### Family files:

Bedortha Family  
Loomis Family

#### Subject files:

Businesses – Manufacturing – Mills  
Businesses – Tobacco

### **Subject Terms**

Bedortha, Laurence Loomis (1837-1926)  
Bedortha, Alfred Calvin (1872-1963)  
Bedortha, George Quartus (1874-1962)  
Windsor, Conn.

### **Custodial history**

The Bedortha Family Papers were donated to Windsor Historical Society by Janet Bedortha Moran in 2013, from the estate of Janet's aunt Ruth Bedortha. The collection was processed and this finding aid written by Kathryn Angelica in 2017.