



# Smithsonian

*Archives of American Art*

Nelly Littlehale Murphy papers

Archives of American Art  
750 9th Street, NW  
Victor Building, Suite 2200  
Washington, D.C. 20001  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/services/questions>  
<https://www.aaa.si.edu/>

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## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Archives of American Art
<b>Title:</b>	Nelly Littlehale Murphy papers
<b>Date:</b>	1846-1945
<b>Identifier:</b>	AAA.murpnell
<b>Creator:</b>	Murphy, Nelly Littlehale
<b>Extent:</b>	0.2 Linear feet
<b>Language:</b>	English .

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## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

The donors, Alexander B. Samoiloff and Dudley D. B. Samoiloff, are the sons of Nelly Littlehale Murphy's stepdaughter, Caroline Bowles Murphy Samoiloff.

### Restrictions

Use of original papers requires an appointment and is limited to the Archives' Washington, D.C., Research Center. Contact Reference Services for more information.

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## Biographical / Historical

Born 1867, died ca. 1942. Painter, illustrator, and etcher, noted for her watercolor paintings of landscapes and flowers. Lived and exhibited in the Massachusetts area. Nellie Littlehale married Herman Daniel Umbstaetter in 1893. In 1916, she married again, to painter Hermann Dudley Murphy.

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## Scope and Contents

Clippings, exhibition catalogs, and photographs documenting Murphy's work as a painter and illustrator in the Massachusetts area. The clippings are comprised of reviews for Nelly Murphy and her husband, painter Hermann Dudley Murphy, and his 1945 obituary. The exhibition catalogs, many of them illustrated, range from 1846 (National Academy of Design catalog inscribed to Murphy) to 1942 (her memorial exhibition). Photographs depict paintings and Murphy and her husband. Other materials consist of an original pencil sketch, 4 reproductions, a 4 page inventory of her paintings, a 1941 letter inventorying her work, and a short original essay entitled "The Land That Never Was".

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## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Watercolor painting -- Massachusetts  
Women artists  
Women illustrators  
Women painters

Names:

Murphy, Hermann Dudley, 1867-1945

Occupations:

Landscape painters -- Massachusetts  
Watercolorists