

American Antiquarian Society
Manuscript Collections

Name of collection:

Atkinson Academy, Record Book, 1803-1945

Location:

Folio vols. "A"
Misc. mss. boxes "A"

Size of collection:

1 folio volume
1 folder (8 items)

N.U.C.M.C. number:

RLIN id:

Sources of information on collection:

Marr, Harriet Webster. Atkinson Academy The Early Years. [Springfield, Mass.: n.p., c. 1940]

Source of collection:

Purchased from DeWolfe & Wood, 1995

Collection description:

Atkinson Academy was founded in Atkinson, N.H. in 1787 by three professional men, Rev. Stephen Peabody (1741-1819), Gen. Nathaniel Peabody (1741-1823), and Dr. William Cogswell (1760-1831). The academy began its first term in 1789, but was not incorporated until 17 February 1791, at which point it became co-educational. The Academy closed in 1949.

The folio volume contains the "Records of the Proceedings of the Board of Trustees Atkinson Academy." The volume begins on 28 January 1803 with a "Copy of original proceedings to Nathaniel Peabody, Esq. one of the Board of Trustees of Atkinson Academy, in the state of New Hampshire," consisting of a letter, signed by Stephen Peabody, William Cogswell, and Peter Clement (1740-1815), requesting Nathaniel Peabody call a meeting of the Board of Trustees so as " ... to vote & act upon the several matters ..." including making rules, regulations, and ordinances; electing and appointing all officers; establishing a method for calling meetings; electing and appointing members to the board to fill vacancies; and discussing the construction and completion of a building to be used by the academy. A notification and request for a meeting was made by Nathaniel Peabody to the members of the board on 3 February 1803.

Adopted during the 20 June 1815 meeting was a constitution for the board and bylaws for the academy. The four articles of the constitution concerned the annual meeting, the principle instructor, vacations, and rules and regulations to be observed by the students of the academy (e.g., attendance, morality and religion, bylaws of the preceptor).

The meetings usually consisted of mundane matters (e.g., elections of officers, appointments of committees, resignations, elections of new members, appointments of preceptors, etc.).

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Collection description (continued):

Toward the end of the volume is a "List of Apparatus" (1 p.), of mostly scientific items, and a "Catalogue of Books contained in the Atkinson Academy Library" (15 p.). The volume also includes lists of books donated to the library by such people as Rev. Dr. Joseph Barlow Felt (1789-1869), Daniel Appleton White (1776-1861), Robert Sharp Davis (1811-1874), and William Smith Peabody (1818-1877).

The back flyleaf and inside back cover contains a list of "Preceptors of Atkinson Academy, as ascertained from the records, and other sources." This list contains the names of the preceptors and the dates each held the position, for the period 1803 to 1917.

The folder contains miscellaneous items, including a newspaper clipping, several sets of meeting notes, a typewritten description of some of the land surrounding the academy, a rental agreement, and a letter.

December 27, 1995