

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Hill, Benjamin Thomas, Collection, 1780s-1920s

LOCATION:

Mss. boxes "H"
Oversize mss. boxes "H"
Octavo vols. "H"
Folio vols. "H"
Oversize vols. "H"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

5 manuscript boxes; 1 oversize folder; 10 octavo volumes; 5 folio volumes; 2 oversize volumes

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

For biographical sketches of B. T. Hill, see *AAS Proceedings*, vol. 38, p. 18-19, and *Fiftieth Anniversary Report of the Harvard Class of 1886*, (Boston: Anchor Linotype Printing Co., 1936), p. 219.

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Gift of the Estate of Benjamin Thomas Hill, 1928; tracings, the gift of George Rockwood, 1942

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Benjamin Thomas Hill (1863-1927), son of Jonathan Henry and Sarah Bruce Jenkins Hill, was born in Worcester, Mass. He graduated from Harvard in 1886 and from Harvard Law School in 1889. Although he practiced law in Worcester from 1889 to 1927, he was best known as a historian and local antiquarian. Hill possessed a remarkable technical ability in inlaying and mounting manuscripts, portraits and early prints, and illuminating the page with lettering and design. His greatest works in this line concerned early American transportation, Lafayette's tour of America, and the Artemas Ward manuscripts. He was elected to the American Antiquarian Society in 1901.

This collection consists in part of manuscript books concerning prehistoric mounds in Ohio, Christopher Columbus, Spanish explorations and settlements in America, Isaiah Thomas (1749-1831) and Thomas family members, Lafayette in the U.S., Christopher Columbus Baldwin (1800-1835), and Carl's tour of Main Street, Worcester. These works are illustrated with prints, photos, and portraits, and contain extracts from newspapers and various historical works. The collection also includes the newspaper series, "Carl's Tour in Main Street," as well as newspaper clippings on Worcester and its prominent citizens. There is also a volume of newspaper clippings entitled, "The Early Drama in Worcester, 1787-1854," in addition to Worcester-related deeds, writs, receipts, prints, and photos.

The collection also includes a volume of large photos of B. T. Hill's house and grounds in Worcester, tracings for designs in his house, and copies of a B. T. Hill bookplate.

See Contents List.

29 March 1976
revised 23 June 1983
revised 25 February 2010

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Benjamin Thomas Hill, Collection, 1780s-1920s

Contents List

Manuscript Box

- 1 "Carl's Tour in Main Street"
- Folder 1 Number 1.
Folder 2 Chapter III (2 copies)
Folder 3 Chapter IV (4 copies)
Folder 4 Chapter V (6 copies)
Folder 5 Chapter VI (4 copies)
Folder 6 Chapter VII (2 copies)
Folder 7 Chapter VIII
Folder 8 Chapter X (4 copies)
Folder 9 Chapter XI (2 copies)
Folder 10 Chapter XII (3 copies)
Folder 11 Chapter XIII
Folder 12 Chapter XIV
Folder 13 Chapter XV
Folder 14 Chapter XVI
Folder 15 Chapter XIX (2 copies)
Folder 16 Chapter XX
Folder 17 Chapter XXI (2 copies)
Folder 18 Chapter XXII
Folder 19 Chapter XXIII (2 copies)
Folder 20 Chapter XXV
Folder 21 Chapter XXVI (2 copies)
Folder 22 Chapter XXVII
Folder 23 Chapter XXVIII (2 copies)
Folder 24 Chapter XXIX (3 copies)
Folder 25 Chapter XXXI (3 copies)
Folder 26 Chapter XXXII
- Newspaper Clippings
- Folder 27 "The Real Cattle Show. Flouring Fairs in Worcester's Early Days. ..." n.d.
Folder 28 "Learned Goat, ..." 1803 January 25
Folder 29 "Stafford Mineral Springs. ..." 1815 June 21
Folder 30 "Cadets. ..." 1821 August 8
Folder 31 "Museum. ..." 1824 March 10
Folder 32 "Worcester Manual Labor High School. ..." 1833 August 19
Folder 33 "Mr. Cooper. ..." Detroit Morning Post, 1837 August
Folder 34 "The Buttonwoods. ..." 1850 June 19
Folder 35 "Historical Societies. ..." New-York Daily Tribune, 1854 November 20
Folder 36 "The Christmas Fair. ..." 1858 December 25
Folder 37 "An Old Stand. ..." 1867 April 3, 2001
Folder 38 "Pictures for Mechanics Hall. ..." 1867 June 12
Folder 39 "Jewelry Store-Removed. ..." 1867 June 26
Folder 40 New York Circus advertisement, 1867 September 14
Folder 41 The Great European Circus advertisements, 1867 May 8, September 17, and September 24
Folder 42 "The Main Street Nuisance. ..." 1880 May 6
Folder 43 "Mary's Lamb. ..." 1886
Folder 44 "Death Penalty for Burglars. How Malefactors Were Punished in Early Days. ..." 1894 November 10
Folder 45 "Old Trumbull Mansion Goes. ..." 1899 March 12
Folder 46 "The Dying Declaration of James Buchanan, Ezra Ross, and William Brooks, ..." Barre Gazette, 1899 May 12
Folder 47 Blackstone Canal (early notices)
Folder 48 Columbian Museum (Boston, Mass.)
Folder 49 Boston, Mass., Paintings, Early Exhibits
Folder 50 Leicester Academy

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Worcester Newspaper Clippings
(mostly concerning Worcester personalities)

Folder 1	Adams, John Quincy
Folder 2	Allen, Albert S.
Folder 3	Allen, Rev. George
Folder 4	Allen, Joseph
Folder 5	Austin, Charles
Folder 6	Austin, Jane G.
Folder 7	Baldwin, Christopher C.
Folder 8	Bancroft, Aaron
Folder 9	Bancroft, George
Folder 10	Bancroft, Lucretia Chandler
Folder 11	Barton, Ira M.
Folder 12	Bates, George A.
Folder 13	Blake, Harrison G. O.
Folder 14	Blood, Dr. Oliver Hunter
Folder 15	Boynton, John
Folder 16	Brown, George L.
Folder 17	Bullock, Alexander H.
Folder 18	Burbank, Lieut. John G.
Folder 19	Burnside, Samuel M.; Burnside, Mrs. Samuel M.
Folder 20	Butman, Benjamin
Folder 21	Caldwell, William
Folder 22	Chamberlain, Dolly
Folder 23	Chandler, Dr. George
Folder 24	Chapin, Henry
Folder 25	Chase, Anthony
Folder 26	Clark, William Chapman
Folder 27	Crompton, George, Estate of
Folder 28	Cross, William
Folder 29	Davis, Bancroft
Folder 30	Davis, Isaac; Davis, Mrs. Isaac
Folder 31	Dean, Catherine (Mrs. Henry Sargent)
Folder 32	Dennis, Joseph
Folder 33	Dewey, Francis Henshaw
Folder 34	Dix, Elijah, House of
Folder 35	Dorr, Enos
Folder 36	Earle, Edward
Folder 37	Earle, John Milton
Folder 38	Estabrook, Col. James
Folder 39	Foster, Alfred Dwight; Foster Lydia Stiles
Folder 40	Frost, Samuel; Frost Samuel J. (their executions in 1793 and 1876, respectively)
Folder 41	Goddard, Delano Alexander
Folder 42	Gough, John B.
Folder 43	Green, Dr. John (2)
Folder 44	Green, Dr. John (3)
Folder 45	Hadwen, Charles
Folder 46	Harrington, William H.
Folder 47	Harrison, William Henry (presidential campaign)
Folder 48	Haven, Samuel Foster
Folder 49	Henshaw, David
Folder 50	Heywood, Benjamin F.; Heywood, Elizabeth R. Green
Folder 51	Hill, Rev. Alonzo
Folder 52	Hovey, William

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Worcester Newspaper Clippings
(mostly concerning Worcester personalities)

Folder 1	Jacques, George
Folder 2	Jennison, Samuel, House of
Folder 3	Kendall, Joseph G.
Folder 4	Kettell, John P.
Folder 5	Kinnicutt, Francis H.
Folder 6	Kinnicutt, Thomas
Folder 7	Knowlton, John S. C.
Folder 8	Lapham, Mowry A.
Folder 9	Lincoln, Daniel Waldo

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 Worcester Newspaper Clippings (cont.)
 (mostly concerning Worcester personalities)
- Folder 10 Lincoln, Edward W.
 Folder 11 Lincoln, Enoch
 Folder 12 Lincoln, Capt. George
 Folder 13 Lincoln, John Waldo
 Folder 14 Maccarty, Nathaniel (sale of property)
 Folder 15 Manning, William
 Folder 16 Mason, Sarah Rebecca Parker (Mrs. Joseph)
 Folder 17 Merrick, Pliny
 Folder 18 Merrifield, William T.
 Folder 19 Newton, Levi Lincoln
 Folder 20 Nourse, Joel
 Folder 21 Paine, Ann Cushing Sturgis (Mrs. Frederick William)
 Folder 22 Paine, Henry M. (re: invention)
 Folder 23 Paine, Nathaniel (his library)
 Folder 24 Pease, Levi
 Folder 25 Pratt, Charles B.
 Folder 26 Pratt, Elnathan (advertisements)
 Folder 27 Prentiss, Charles G.
 Folder 28 Rice, Edward B.
 Folder 29 Rice, George Tilly; Rice Elizabeth Chandler Blake (Mrs. George Tilly)
 Folder 30 Rice, W. W.
 Folder 31 Russell, Benjamin (a Boston printer)
 Folder 32 Salisbury, Samuel; Salisbury, Mrs. E. (auction of her furniture)
 Folder 33 Salisbury, Stephen (2)
 Folder 34 Sargent, Dr. Joseph
 Folder 35 Spurr, Mary Augusta
 Folder 36 Stiles-Wood, Mrs. Sarah B.
 Folder 37 Thayer, Eli
 Folder 38 Thomas, Benjamin F.
 Folder 39 Thomas, Isaiah
 Folder 40 Thomas, Isaiah, Jr. (advertisements of books published; biographical references)
 Folder 41 Twichell, Ginery
 Folder 42 Waldo, Daniel
 Folder 43 Waldo, Sarah; Waldo, Elizabeth
 Folder 44 Weiss, John
 Folder 45 Wheeler, Theophilus (mansion of)
 Folder 46 White, William Charles
 Folder 47 Whitney, Eli
 Folder 48 Wilder, Alexander H.
 Folder 49 Woodward, Samuel B.
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 Worcester Newspaper Clippings
 (mostly concerning Worcester institutions)
- Folder 1 Association of Mutual Aid in Detecting Thieves
 Folder 2 B.L. Hardon & Co.
 Folder 3 Brinley Hall
 Folder 4 Business history
 Folder 5 Cattle shows
 Folder 6 Central Exchange
 Folder 7 Churches—Church of the Unity
 Folder 8 Churches—First Baptist
 Folder 9 Churches—First Unitarian (2nd Parish)
 Folder 10 Churches—St. John's Episcopal
 Folder 11 Churches—St. Paul's
 Folder 12 City Hall
 Folder 13 Court houses
 Folder 14 Exchange Coffee House
 Folder 15 Fire Society
 Folder 16 Fires
 Folder 17 Green store, Salem Square, Scott's block
 Folder 18 Growth of

- 4 Worcester Newspaper Clippings (cont.)
(mostly concerning Worcester institutions)
- Folder 19 Hotels—American Temperance House
Folder 20 Hotels—Central Hotel
Folder 21 Hotels—Eagle Hotel
Folder 22 Hotels—Exchange Hotel
Folder 23 Hotels—Lincoln Square (Nashua) Hotel
Folder 24 Hotels—Miscellaneous
Folder 25 Hotels—The United States Hotel
Folder 26 Hotels—Worcester House
Folder 27 Jail
Folder 28 Lyceum
Folder 29 Manufactures
Folder 30 Medical College
Folder 31 Militia
Folder 32 Millstone Hill
Folder 33 Oread Institute
Folder 34 Regattas
Folder 35 Stages
Folder 36 Suburban letters by "Stella"
Folder 37 Visits, presidential; Visitors of note
Folder 38 Western Railroad
Folder 39 Worcester Academy
Folder 40 Worcester County, Division of
Folder 41 Worcester County, Spotted Fever Epidemic, 1810
- 5 Miscellaneous
- Folder 1 Information re: Timothy Bigelow House; Isaac Goodwin House;
Edward D. Bangs House; Isaiah Thomas House; Theophilus
Wheeler House
Folder 2 Miscellaneous illustrations, a book cover, and proofs of
Hill's bookplate
Folder 3 Proofs re: Salisbury family papers
Folder 4 Information re: Isaiah Thomas diary
Folder 5 Manuscript newspaper article, "The Cattle Fair . . .," *Aegis*,
Oct. 19, 1842
Folder 6 Tracings (Iliad & Odyssey) for designs in B.T. Hill's house
or that of his brother on Cedar Street, Worcester
- Oversize Folder Newspaper headings, ads, various documents and manuscripts
from B. T. Hill's scrapbook (or one in the making?)

Octavo Volume

- 1-3 Lafayette's Tour in the U.S., 1824-1825
- 4 Diary of Christopher Columbus Baldwin, 1829-1831
- 5 "Ancient Peru—Its People and Its Monuments," *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, 7 (June to November 1853), 7-38.
- 6 E. George Squier, *Peru: Incidents of Travel and Exploration in the Land of the Incas* (New York: Harper & Brothers, 1877)
- 7 Stephen Salisbury, Jr., "Terra Cotta Figures From Isla Mujeres, North-East Coast of Yucatan," *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, 71 (April 1878), [71]-89.
- 8 Philipp J. J. Valentini, Ph.D., "Appendix. The Mexican Calendar Stone," *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society*, 71 (April 1878), [91]-110.
- 9 Justin Winsor, ed., *Narrative and Critical History of America*, 8 vols. (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1889)

Octavo Volume (cont.)

- 10 Miscellaneous illustrations

Folio Volume

- 1-2 Clippings of "Carl's Tour"
3 Thomas Family
4 *Christopher Columbus* by Justin Winsor (1831-1897)
5 *Prehistoric Remains in Ohio*

Oversize Volume

- 1 Early Theatre in Worcester, 1787-1854
2 Photographs of Hill's house and grounds on Boynton Street