

**American Antiquarian Society  
Manuscript Collections**

---

**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Forbes, Harriette Merrifield, Papers, 1887-1951  
“F”

**LOCATION(S):**

Mss. boxes

---

**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

five manuscript boxes

---

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

---

**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Several items, the gifts of Mr. and Mrs. Linwood M. Erskine, Jr., 1975, 1977, 1978

---

**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

Harriette Merrifield Forbes (1856-1951), Worcester author and historian, was the widow of Judge William Trowbridge Forbes (1850-1931) and the mother of novelist Esther Forbes (1891-1967). A capable researcher, she wrote New England Diaries, 1602-1800: A Descriptive Catalogue of Diaries, Orderly Books and Sea Journals (Topsfield, Mass.: The Perkins Press, 1923), and Gravestones of Early New England and the Men Who Made Them (Boston: The Riverside Press for Houghton Mifflin, 1927).

This collection reflects the work of Harriette Merrifield Forbes as an historian of early New England. It includes correspondence, 1887; 1901-1950, written to Forbes about early New England diaries, gravestones, gravestone cutters, and genealogies. There are historical notes on Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Vermont probate records, New England houses, gravestones and gravestone cutters John Stevens (1647-1736), Matthew Griswold ( - ), William Mumford ( - ), Joseph Lamson (1658-1722), Nathaniel Lamson (1693-1755), and others. There is an essay of Forbes', titled "Reminiscences of Worcester," and one concerning the Oread School for Girls. Finally, there are typed extracts of early manuscripts, maps, drawings, photographs, and newspaper clippings, all concerned with New England history.

16 October 1975  
revised 18 December 1978

**American Antiquarian Society  
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT**

HARRIETTE MERRIFIELD FORBES, PAPERS, 1887-1951  
CONTENTS LIST

Correspondence, n.d.; 1887; 1890; 1901-1950

- Box 1, Folder 1: 1887; 1890; 1901-  
1910  
2: 1911  
3: 1912 January-June  
4: 1912 July-December  
5: 1913  
Box 2, Folder 1: 1914 January-April  
2: 1914 May-August  
Box 2, Folder 3: 1914 September-  
December  
4: 1915 January-June  
5: 1915 July-December  
6: 1916  
Box 3, Folder 1: 1917  
2: 1918-1923  
3: 1924-1950  
4: undated

Miscellaneous Papers, n.d.; 1871-1951

- Box 3, Folder 5: Note re: death of Mrs. Prout(?), n.d.;  
Bankbook, 1871-1930  
Essay—"Reminiscences of Worcester," 1950 May 15  
Essay—re: Oread School for Girls, 1951 May

Undated Historical Notes on Gravestone Cutters and Gravestones

- Box 4, Folder 1: Notes on early gravestone cutters, including extracts from the ledger of John Stevens, a stonecutter; notes on Matthew Griswold, William Mumford, Joseph Lamson, and Nathaniel Lamson
- 2: Notes on early Probate Records with list of charges to estates by stonecutters—includes notes on probate records from Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Vermont, arranged by county
  - 3: Notes on early Probate Records with lists of charges to estates by stonecutters—arranged alphabetically by stonecutter
  - 4: Record book, with notes on the date and place of death of individuals taken from gravestone inscriptions
  - 5: Notes on gravestones, including stonecutter advertisements in the *Boston Newsletter*; notes on stone for gravestones; notes on portrait gravestones
  - 6: Miscellaneous historical notes on gravestones—transcribed by Rev. R. Tucker, et al.
  - 7: Suffolk County Probate Records

Undated Miscellaneous Notes

- Box 5, Folder 1: Notes on early New England houses
- 2: Typed extracts of early deeds, wills, letters, and diaries
  - 3: Maps of New England towns; drawings; and photographs of early houses
  - 4: Miscellaneous newspaper clippings