

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

<p>Name of collection:</p> <p>Leicester Academy. Records, 1784-1963</p>	<p>Location:</p> <p>Octavo vols. "L" Folio vols. "L" Mss. boxes "L"</p>
<p>Size of collection:</p> <p>3 octavo vols.; 3 folio vols.; 2 mss. boxes</p>	<p>N.U.C.M.C. number:</p> <p>N.A.</p>
<p>Finding aids:</p> <p>See William W. Rice, <u>The Centenary of Leicester Academy</u> (Worcester: Charles Hamilton, 1884); and clipping file.</p>	
<p>Source of collection:</p> <p>Octavo Vol. III gift of Leicester Academy Corporation, 1934; Folio Vols. II & III deposited by Paul R. Swan, 1956; 1934 Historical Sketch gift of Zelotes W. Coombs; Alumni Records gift of Zelotes W. Coombs, 1947.</p>	<p>Copies available:</p> <p>Electrostatic <u> X </u> Microfilm <u> X </u> No copies <u> </u></p>

Collection description:

Leicester Academy was established in Leicester, Massachusetts in 1784 by Ebenezer Crafts (1740-1810) and Jacob Davis of Charlton, Massachusetts. Around 1921 it ceased to function as a private*institution and was leased to the town to be used as a public high school, with the Trustees functioning primarily as business managers. In 1940 it became the Leicester Academy School of Business Administration, changing its name in 1941 to Leicester Junior College.

This collection of trustee records covers the period 1784 to 1963, spanning the school's history as a private academy, public high school, and junior college. A contents list describing these records in detail follows.

*coeducational

Leicester Academy Records

Contents List

Octavo Volumes

I. Trustee Records, 1784-1824

This volume includes a copy of the Academy's Act of Incorporation, the rules and regulations agreed upon by the first trustees, and records of trustee meetings.

II. Trustee Records, 1823-1848

This volume includes a copy of the will of Israel Waters of Charlton, Mass., (-1823) who left a large endowment to the Academy, records of trustee meetings, and accounts kept by Abijah Bigelow (1775-1860), treasurer.

III. Records of the Social Fraternity, 1798-1824

This volume includes the records of the Social Fraternity of Leicester Academy, a group of students devoted to promoting the "art of speaking." Included are records of meetings and a list of members.

Folio Volumes

I. Trustee Records, 1848-1900

This volume includes records of meetings, copies of correspondence, and treasurer's reports.

II. Trustee Records, 1900-1934

This volume includes treasurer's reports, records of meetings, copies of contracts with the town for lease of Academy buildings for use as a public high school, copies of correspondence, and a few newspaper clippings.

III. Trustee Records, 1935-1946

This volume includes financial reports, records of meetings, and newspaper clippings describing the 1937 fire at the Academy, and the change to junior college status.

Box 1 Folder 1. 1784 Charter

Folder 2. Miscellaneous Papers, 1789-1948

This folder contains early land deeds and receipts, a 1907 report on the origin of funds, a list of trustees and instructors from 1784 to 1927, a historical sketch of the Academy written by Zelotes Wood Coombs (1865-1946) in 1934, printed pamphlets describing the Academy and the Junior College, and miscellaneous correspondence and newspaper clippings.

Folder 3. Records of Leicester Academy Alumni Association, 1908-1918

This folder contains a copy of the association's constitution, records of meetings, and a list of alumni with some death dates.

Box 2

Folder 1. Trustee Records, Leicester Junior College, 1947-1954

This folder contains records of meetings, copies of correspondence, and financial reports.

Folder 2. Trustee Records, Leicester Junior College, 1953-1957

Same as above.

Folder 3. Trustee Records, Leicester Junior College, 1957-1960

Same as above.

Folder 4. Trustee Records, Leicester Junior College, 1960-1963

Same as above.