

**American Antiquarian Society  
Manuscript Collections**

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**NAME OF COLLECTION:**

Powell, Lois Fay, Papers, 1915-1958

**LOCATION(S):**

Mss. boxes "P"

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**SIZE OF COLLECTION:**

two manuscript boxes

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**SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:**

For biographical information, see *AAS Newsclipping File*.

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**SOURCE OF COLLECTION:**

Gift of Lois Fay Powell, 1958

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**COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:**

Lois Fay Powell (1883-1960) of Princeton, Mass., was the daughter of Annah C. Harthan Fay (1853-1938), owner of the Hitchcock Press. Their home was adjacent to Little Wachusett Mountain, owned by Susan Minns (1840-1938) of Boston, Mass., and given to the state in 1927 as a wildlife sanctuary subject to a life interest by Lois Fay Powell, its custodian. Mrs. Powell spent thirty-three years supervising the Minns Reservation, and developed a deep interest in botany, ornithology, and soil conservation, frequently writing for newspapers and journals on those subjects.

This collection contains materials gathered by Lois Fay Powell, for the period 1915 to 1958, pertaining to the Minns Wildlife Reservation. Included is correspondence with conservation officials, scientists, and Susan Minns, newsclippings on Little Wachusett and related subjects, printed materials and maps of the area, writings on the early history of Princeton and Mt. Wachusett, photographs of the area, and three scrapbooks entitled "Little Wachusett Annals" for the period 1927 to 1958. They contains Mrs. Powell's diary entries concerning life as a caretaker and conservationist, with newsclippings and additional correspondence attached to the pages.

**American Antiquarian Society  
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT**

LOIS FAY POWELL, PAPERS, 1915-1958  
CONTENTS LIST

Manuscript Box One

- Folder 1: Correspondence, 1925-1948
- a. Orrin C. Bourne ( - ), Chief Warden, re: sanctuary matters
  - b. Letters re: elk damage, "last bear hunt," anti-cigarette
- Folder 2: Correspondence with Susan Minns, 1915-1935
- a. Concerning Lois Fay Powell's rights to life interest in Little Wachusett
  - b. Tenants' rents, caretaker's business
  - c. Certified copy of 1927 lease to Lois Fay Powell
- Folder 3: Newsclippings, 1919-1957
- a. Articles on Lois Fay Powell's work on Little Wachusett
  - b. Newspaper articles and letters to editor
  - c. Controversy over WPA plans for Mt. Wachusett
  - d. Hurricanes, wildlife, ornithology
  - e. Articles on ornithologist Herbert Parker (1856-1939)
- Folder 4: Printed Material, 1929-1953
- a. Maps: topographical map of section of Worcester County, survey plan of Little Wachusett, Princeton map
  - b. "Last Bear Hunt in Princeton"
  - c. Mass. Forest Fires Laws
- Folder 5: Scrapbook (early deeds, etc.)
- a. Copies of Mirick Family land deeds in Princeton, 1834
  - b. List of owners of Princeton lots in 1734
  - c. Original deed of Sarah Mirick (1834- ), 1872
  - d. "History of Little Wachusett," written by Lois Fay Powell, 1938
- Folder 6: Photographs, Miscellaneous Items
- a. Photographs of the building of a new Princeton road, 1953-1954
  - b. Photographs of Minns Wildlife Reservation, 1958
  - c. Views of Little Wachusett

Manuscript Box Two

- Folder 1: First Book of Little Wachusett Annals, 1927-1936 (Diary/Scrapbook)

- a. Daily duties of caretaker Powell on Little Wachusett
- b. Correspondence from conservation officials
- c. Extensive records of persons fined for trespassing on Reservation
- d. Insect infestation in forest, ornithology, botany (plantings and lists of flowers, trees)
- e. History of legislation re: Mt. Wachusett
- f. Quotations, verses, many newsclippings re: conservation and Little Wachusett

Folder 2: Second Book of Little Wachusett Annals, 1937-1952

- a. Continuation of Lois Fay Powell's diary accounts of life as caretaker
- b. Historical study of Princeton, Mass.
- c. Many letters, newsclippings (e.g., Susan Minn's obituary)
- d. Occasional references to "New Deal" workers

Folder 3: Third Book of Little Wachusett Annals, 1952-1958

- a. Continuation of diary
- b. Central Mass. water supply study, 1957
- c. Booklet containing state laws re: conservation