

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Quabbin Towns, Records, 1771-1919

LOCATION:

Mss. boxes "Q"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

3 manuscripts boxes

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

Pelham Second Parish and Prescott Congregational Church records are printed in Florence T. Allen, comp., *Records of the Presbyterian and Congregational Church, Prescott, Mass. 1786-1919* (n.p., s.n., 1951). For a history of the Quabbin towns see, Evelina Gustafson, *Ghost Towns 'Neath Quabbin Reservoir* (Boston: Amity Press, 1940); see also, Donald W. Howe, *Quabbin The Lost Valley* (Ware, Mass.: Quabbin Book House, 1951).

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Volumes acquired from various towns with the assistance of Rev. Herbert Edwin Lombard, 1939. Miscellaneous Greenwich, Mass., papers (box 2) and postal registry receipt, gift of Agnes Vaughan Latham, 1957. Local records of Prescott, Mass., 1845-1868 (box 3), gift of Arthur W. Knight, 1975.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Quabbin Reservoir, located in the west-central part of Massachusetts about seventeen miles northeast of Springfield, was created by an act of the Massachusetts Legislature, dated 26 April 1927, which instructed the Metropolitan Water Supply Commission to develop a new water supply system for the future needs of Greater Boston, and other communities, from the waters of Swift River. The project, completed in 1939, inundated the five towns that made up the Swift River Valley: Dana, **Enfield**, **Greenwich**, North Dana, and **Prescott**. The project also caused the relocation of the boundaries of several towns (Barre, **Belchertown**, Hardwick, **New Salem**, **Pelham**, Petersham, and Ware) and counties (Franklin, Hampshire, and Worcester).

Belchertown, Hampshire County, Massachusetts is located fifteen miles northeast of Springfield, Mass. It was incorporated as a town in 1761.

Enfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, originally part of Greenwich, Mass., was located in the eastern part of the county. It was separated from Greenwich in 1787, and incorporated as Enfield, a separate township, in 1816. A last census of Enfield was taken on 28 April 1938.

Greenwich, Hampshire County, Massachusetts was located in the northeast corner of the county. It was set out by the Massachusetts General Court as Quabbin (meaning "many water" in the Nipmuck language) in 1739, officially incorporated as Quabbin Parish in June 1749, and incorporated as the town of Greenwich in 1754. Greenwich ended its existence as a community on 14 February 1938.

(cont.)

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Quabbin Towns, Records, 1771-1919

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION (cont.):

New Salem, Franklin County, Massachusetts is located nineteen miles northeast of Northampton, Mass. It was incorporated as a town in 1753.

Pelham, Hampshire County, Massachusetts is located twelve miles east-northeast of Northampton, Mass. It was incorporated as a town in 1743.

Prescott, Hampshire County, Massachusetts was located in the extreme northeast corner of the county, being made up of part of Pelham and part of New Salem, Mass. It was incorporated in 1822, ceased town government in 1928, and went out of existence in 1938.

Births, deaths, and marriages, as well as minutes of the Enfield Church meetings are included in the first and third volumes of the Enfield Church records. In addition, the second volume contains copies of religious society membership certificates for Belchertown and Enfield residents, records of the Justice of the Peace and the selectmen, and chattel mortgage copies, often concerning the sale and/or exchange of church pews.

Two volumes containing the minutes of the New Salem Baptist Church meetings from 1771 to 1873 are included in the collection. There is also a volume concerning the construction and administration of a new Baptist Sabbath School.

Greenwich's South Parish records contain copies of warrants issued by the Commonwealth to call meetings of the parish residents and the minutes of those meetings. An 1812 tax list is also included.

Local records for the town of Prescott include lists of militia soldiers, legal documents, and school committee reports. Other records of meetings include the New Salem-Prescott Baptist Society, 1826-1871, the First Congregational Church of Prescott and the Second Parish of Pelham, 1786-1919.

See Contents List.

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

Quabbin Towns, Records, 1771-1919

Contents List

Manuscript Box

1 (three volumes; one folder)

- Volume 1 Enfield Church Records, 1828-1844
- Volume 2 Enfield and Belchertown Religious Society Records, 1816-1820; Justice of the Peace and Selectmen's Records and Chattel Mortgages, 1816-1837
- Volume 3 Enfield Congregational Church Records, 1887-1906
- Folder Enfield Parish Members Lists, 1885-1891; Correspondence, 1883-1894; Miscellaneous Notes and Newspaper Articles

2 (four volumes; one folder)

- Volume 1 New Salem Baptist Church Records, 1771-1819
- Volume 2 New Salem Baptist Church Records, 1819-1873
- Volume 3 New Salem Records (re: Baptist Meeting House), 1833-1834
- Volume 4 Greenwich South Parish Records, 1799-1816
- Folder Miscellaneous Papers (re: Greenwich 1812-1888, including parish tax list, 1812)

3 (four volumes; one folder)

- Volume 1 New Salem-Prescott Baptist Society Records, 1826-1871
- Volume 2 Prescott Congregational Church Records, 1823-1854; Pelham East Church Records, 1786-1798 (2nd Parish)
- Volume 3 Second Parish-Pelham and Prescott Congregational Church Records, 1786-1851
- Volume 4 Prescott First Congregational Church Records, 1858-1919
- Folder Prescott Local Records, 1845-1898