

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

<p>Name of collection:</p> <p>Westborough, Massachusetts, Papers, 1724-1879</p>	<p>Location:</p> <p>Misc. mss. boxes "W" Octavo volumes "W" Folio volumes "W"</p>
<p>Size of collection:</p> <p>1 folder , 18 items; 2 octavo volumes; 2 folio volumes SEE ALSO MICROFILM FILE</p>	<p>N.U.C.M.C. number:</p> <p>N.A.</p>
<p>Finding aids:</p> <p>For records of individuals, see <u>Westborough, Mass. Vital Records to 1850</u>. For a history of the Westborough Church, see Heman Packard DeForest, <u>History of Westborough, Mass.</u> (Westborough: published by the town, 1891), pp. 72-130</p>	
<p>Source of collection:</p> <p>Volume of gravestone inscriptions the gift of Mrs. William T. Forbes, 1935; photocopies of Westborough First Church records the gift of Ross W. Beales, Jr., 1980, 1981 (from the original at Westborough Public Library)</p>	
<p>Collection Description:</p> <p>The Westborough, Massachusetts, Papers, 1745-1879, include land deeds of James Whitcomb ( - ) in 1745 and Jason Chamberlain (1781-1849) in 1838, marriage banns, a petition concerning the widening of a road in 1849, and papers of the Westborough Mechanics Association (e.g., a list of subscribers for an Association library), a catalog of books presented to the Westborough Mechanics Library, and signatures of new Association members. There are also accounts of mail received at the Westborough post office in 1820, a list of subscribers for providing food to returning soldiers in 1815, morning reports by Captain Pierpont Brigham (1780-1836) of the light infantry company from Westborough in 1814. Papers pertaining to the American Revolution include a town resolution containing grievances against the crown, c.1774, an agreement to organize a town committee of "Referees" to oversee the peace during the "anarchy" that preceded the war, and a letter of John Wood ( - ) with references to a meeting of the Sons of Liberty in Boston, 1770.</p> <p>The collection also contains a copy of the decision of the Supreme Judicial Court concerning a suit which the Westborough Milk Producers Association had brought against its shareholders in 1879; a volume of Westborough Church Records, 1789-1803, with brief reports on the business conducted by church committee meetings and congregational meetings held after Sunday worship service.</p> <p>The folio volumes contain copies of the Records of the Church of Christ in Westborough, 1724-1818. The original volume is in the possession of the Westborough Public Library. The records were kept primarily by the Rev. Ebenezer Parkman (1703-1782), first minister of Westborough from 1724 to 1782. The pages are interspersed with membership, baptismal, marriage, and dismissal records, minutes of church meetings, a list of private church societies for young men and women,</p>	

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Collection description (cont'd.)

Westborough, Mass. Papers, 1724-1879

a list of books given to the church in 1748, and a list of utensils given to the church, 1725-1739. There are also extracts from the town records concerning the first inhabitants of Westborough, the Church Covenant, 1724, and, at the end of the volume, "Directories and Forms, of diverse Administrations." This contains the baptismal, marriage, and eucharist ceremonies used by Parkman. There is also a typescript of this section prepared by Ross W. Beales, Jr.

From 1789 to 1807, the records were kept by the second minister, John Robinson ( - ), and from 1808 to 1818, they were kept by the Rev. Elisha Rockwood (1778-1858).

See Contents List

5 October 1977

rev. 13 June 1980

rev. 31 March 1981

Contents List Added 14 February 1991

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Contents List

Octavo Volumes

Vol 1: Westborough Church Records, 1789-1803.

Vol 2: Inscriptions on the Gravestones in Memorial Cementary (about 1896).

Folio Volumes

Vol 1: Copies of Records of the Church of Christ in Westborough, 1724-1818.

Vol 2: Copies of Records of the Church of Christ in Westborough, 1724-1818  
(2nd Copy).

Folder

Folder 1: Misc. Papers, including land deeds, marriage banns, petitions,  
accounts and reports, 1724-1879.