

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

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<b>Name of collection:</b>	<b>Location:</b>
Rice, William W. (William Whitney), Speeches, ca. 1850-ca. 1865	Misc. mss. boxes "R" Octavo vols. "R"

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<b>Size of collection:</b>	<b>N.U.C.M.C. number:</b>
3 folders (15 items); 2 octavo volumes	RLIN id:

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**Sources of information on collection:**

See accompanying sheet(s) for additional information.

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**Source of collection:**

Gift of Guy A. Lee, 1986

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**Collection description:**

William Whitney Rice (1826-1896), son of Rev. Benjamin Rice (1784-1847) and Lucy (Whitney) Rice (1799-1893), was born at Deerfield, Mass. on 7 March 1826. He attended Gorham Academy, Me., graduated from Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Me., in 1846, and received from them the degree of LL.D. in 1886. He was a teacher at Leicester Academy, Mass., from 1847 to 1851. He studied law with the Hon. Emory Washburn (1800-1877), was admitted to the bar in 1854, and commenced practice in Worcester, Mass. He was appointed Judge of Insolvency for Worcester Co. in 1858, served as mayor of Worcester in 1860, was district attorney for the middle district of Massachusetts from 1869 to 1874, and was a Representative to the General Court of Massachusetts in 1875. He served from 4 March 1877 to 3 March 1887 in the U.S. House of Representatives as a Republican. He was elected a member of the American Antiquarian Society in 1885, was trustee of both Worcester Polytechnic Institute and of Clark University at Worcester, and was a director, for many years, in the City National Bank. He married, 21 November 1855, Cornelia Ann Moen (1832-1862), of Stamford, Conn. and, 28 September 1875, Alice M. Miller (1840- ), of Worcester. He died at Worcester on 1 March 1896.

This collection contains speeches, both in manuscript and printed, given by Rice during the years ca. 1850 to ca. 1865. Most of the speeches were anti-slavery in nature, especially concerning the question of slavery in the territories of the United States, and many were in opposition to the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850.

Many of the other speeches concern municipal elections and the nominations of candidates for mayor, including George Washington Richardson (1808-1886) in 1856, Phinehas Ball (1824-1894) in 1864, and Goldsmith Fox Bailey (1823-1862) in 1860. There is a broadside containing Rice's speech concerning his nomination, by the Republican party, for mayor in 1860, as well as the

manuscript copy of his inaugural speech. There is, also, a speech given ca. 1860 concerning free bibles.

The collection also contains two notebooks kept by Rice. The first notebook inscribed "Political Scrap Book Sept 1851", contains nine speeches given during the period ca. 1851 to ca. 1853 concerning such topics as slavery, the Free Soil Party, the death of Hon. Robert Rantoul (1805-1852), and the poor. The second notebook, which is arranged by subject, is a collection of newspaper clippings and manuscript quotes concerning such topics as slavery, polygamy, Indian wars, honesty and consistency, New Mexico, squatter sovereignty, and fealty to party.

March 4, 2010

