

**AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS**

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Worcester Academy, Records, 1832-1983

LOCATION(S):

Octavo vols. "W"
Folio vols. "W"
Mss. boxes "W"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

32 octavo volumes; 8 folio volumes; 1 manuscript box

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

Small, Cloyd E. *Achieving the Honorable: Worcester Academy 1834-1978* (Worcester: Worcester Academy, 1979);

Ward, George Otis. *The Worcester Academy: Its Locations and Its Principals 1834-1882* (Worcester: The Davis Press, 1918).

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Gift of Worcester Academy, 1988

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

The Worcester County Manual Labor High School, incorporated by an act of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on 28 February 1834, was established by "... a group of prominent Worcester citizens [who] felt the need for a boys' school that would give elementary instruction, '... of the first order, under the highest moral and religious influences, at low cost, and with emphasis on productive manual labor.' The group were almost all of the Baptist faith, prominent in business, in civic life, and 'in all good undertakings.'" The name of the school was changed to Worcester Academy by act of the General Court of Massachusetts on 24 February 1847.

A student organization called the Legomathenian (later changed to Legomanthenian) Society was established on 23 June 1834 during the first semester of Worcester Academy, with its objective being "... the improvement of its members in debating and public speaking." The members of the Society debated, gave improvised speeches, and held social gatherings and an annual exhibition. The Society also accumulated a library of several hundred volumes that served as the library for the Academy.

The collection contains record books, account books, registers, reports, letter books, minutes, a ledger, a scrapbook, a checkbook, and miscellaneous papers of Worcester Academy, and some of its departments,

for the years ca. 1832 to ca. 1967. The majority of the collection falls within the tenure of the Academy's seventeenth principal Daniel Webster Abercrombie (1853-1932), principal from 1882 to 1918, and includes his personal letter book for the year 1907 and a scrapbook kept by him for the years 1889 to 1892.

Also included in the collection are volumes one through nineteen (1911-1931) of the Worcester Academy Bulletin, as well as a copy of Cloyd E. Small's *Supplement to Achieving the Honorable Worcester Academy 1834-1978 the Years 1978-1983* (Worcester, Mass.: Worcester Academy, c1984).

See Contents List.

American Antiquarian Society
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT

WORCESTER ACADEMY, RECORDS, 1832-1983
CONTENTS LIST

Octavo Volume

Account Books, 1883 - 1910

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | 1883-1888
--includes student term bill receipts, as well as other sundry receipts and academic department and boarding department expenses |
| 2 | 1908-1910
--includes the term deposits for the 1908 fall term to the 1910 spring term, as well as the debits and credits of various accounts (e.g., book, sundry, gymnasium, laundry, and some student) and funds (e.g., contingent, new field, and new gate) |
| | Student Account Books, 1902-1910 |
| | --includes the various expenses of the individual students (e.g., express, magazines, mail delivery, Athletic Association, laundry, gym good, infirmary, books, telephone, rug cleaning, church sittings, and diplomas), as well as each student's weekly allowance |
| 3 | 1902-1904 |
| 4 | 1909-1910 |
| 5 | Bills Approved by Principal, 1903-1927
--includes a monthly listing, beginning October 1903 and ending June 1927, of the salaries paid, as well as accounts of specific expenses (e.g., the endowment, the library account, lectures, securing students, architecture fees, and summer work) |
| 6 | Ledger, 1909-1933
--includes various accounts, endowments, and funds for the years 1909 to 1933, including the academy's cash account, notes receivable and payable, furniture and fixtures, buildings and land, mortgage notes receivable and payable, bonds, general endowment, scholarship endowment, library fund, salaries, income, maintenance, fuel and lights, interest, expenses, investment income, annuities, life insurance policies, accounts receivable and payable, and loss and gain |

Octavo Volume

Letter Books, 1901 - 1908

- | | |
|---|---|
| | --contains copies of letters from D. W. Abercrombie pertaining to the business of the Academy (e.g., letters to parents of students, parents of potential students, officers of colleges, and various others) |
| 7 | 1901 |

- 8 1904-1905
- 9 1907-1908
- 10 Personal Letter Book of Daniel Webster Abercrombie, 1907
--contains copies of personal letters from D. W. Abercrombie to several individuals, many pertaining to the Board of Trustees of the Academy
- 11 Executive Committee Minutes, 1882-1899
--the minutes begin with a vote "... to call Mr. Abercrombie for the balance of the year ..." and concern the running of the Academy; this would include the appointment and dismissal of teachers and staff, the setting of salaries, scholarships, and the purchase of any apparatus, among other decisions
- 12 Faculty Meetings Minutes, 1929-1934
--the minutes concern reports of "special cases of boys," the grading committee, and the dormitories, as well as requests for diplomas and discussions on various topics including smoking, Thanksgiving recess, and helping the students study better
- Record Books, 1885 - 1905
- 13 Certificates (Preliminary and Final), 1901-1905
--consists of lists of the students, the type of certificate received, and the college entered, along with remarks
- 14 College Exams (Preliminary and Final), 1893-1894
--includes names of students and their grades for either their preliminary or final examinations, along with the name of the college entered
- 15 Entertainments, 1892-1896
--contains a monthly listing of orations, lectures, and sermons given and by whom, debates, sports, etc.
- 16 Worcester Academy Athletic Association, 1885-1899
--" ... originated and partly completed by W. A. Cassils '99 Scorer of the W.A.A.A. from 1897 to 1899 ..." contains the results of athletic events for the years 1885 to 1899
- 17 Alumni Register, 1873-1933
--contains the names and addresses of alumni who visited the school (usually for alumni day)

Octavo Volume

- School Registers, 1893 - [1896]
- contain information about students (e.g., name, age, parent or guardian's name, address, course, year, entered, left, subjects, room)
- [see also folio volumes 5 and 6]
- 18 1893
- 19 1894
- 20 1895
- 21 [1896]

Headmaster Reports, 1883 - 1915

--includes an incomplete set of the annual reports of D. W. Abercrombie to the President and Board of Trustees of

- Worcester Academy that begins with the acting principal finding that "... at the outset of this term the Faculty met with that spirit of insubordination among the pupils ...," while in one of the last reports the principal finds spirit and harmony in scholarship and sports activities.
- 22 1883-1894
- 23 1897-1915
- 24 Small, Cloyd E. *Supplement to Achieving the Honorable Worcester Academy 1834-1978 the Years 1978-1983* (Worcester, Mass.: Worcester Academy, c1984)

Folio Volume

- 1 Account Book, 1907-1909
--chronological listing of the receipts and expenditures
- 2 Record Book, 1832-1915
--the records of the trustees, for the years 1832 to 1915, consist of minutes of meetings and concern such matters as elections of officers, appointments of committees, resignations, elections of new members, and appointments of principals
- Legomathenian Society Record Books, 1837 - 1867
--consist of minutes of meetings and concern such matters as elections of officers, appointments of committees, elections of members, and revision to their constitution, as well as topics debated
- 3 1837-1842
- 4 1853-1867

Folio Volume

- School Registers, 1876 - 1909
--contain information about students (e.g., name, age, parent or guardian's name, address, course, year, entered, left, subjects, room)
[see also octavo volumes 18-21]
- 5 1876-1886
- 6 1902-1909
- 7 Personal Scrapbook kept by Daniel Webster Abercrombie, 1880-1891
--embossed on the front cover "Worcester Academy News & Notes D.W.A.," and contains broadsides, pamphlets, newspaper articles, letters, and invitations pertaining to Worcester Academy
- 8 125th Anniversary Celebration Scrapbook, 1959-1962
--contains a collection of newspaper articles pertaining to the Academy's 125th anniversary in 1959

Folder

Miscellaneous Materials, n.d.; 1859 - 1967

- includes handwritten, typewritten, and printed materials, such as a letters, an invitation, notes, bills, a poem, parts of reports, a blotter from a letter book, a proposal, programs, an essay, treasurer reports, a speech delivered at the dedication of Bancroft School, report of the principal, a memo, and a list of salaries
- 1 n.d.
- 2 n.d.
- 3 n.d.
- 4 n.d.
- 5 1859-1893
- 6 1895-1899
- 7 1900-1906
- 8 1915-1967
- 9 Legomathenian Society, n.d.; 1852; 1939
 --includes a handwritten and a typewritten copy of its constitution, and a miscellaneous notebook, as well as a printed *Catalogue of the Legomathenian Society of the Worcester Academy, Organized June 5, 1834*. Worcester: Henry J. Howland, [1852], which contains a list of the officers of the present term, the constitution, the by-laws, a list of the original members, a list of the acting members, a list of honorary members, and a list of books in the library
- 10 Checkbook, 1965
 --checkbook for Worcester Academy for an account held at the Worcester County National Bank (Worcester, Mass.)