

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

Manuscript Collections

<p>Name of collection:</p> <p>Worcester County, Mass. Papers, 1665-c. 1954</p>	<p>Location:</p> <p>Octavo volumes "W" Folio volumes "W" Mss. boxes "W" Oversize volumes "W" Oversize mss. boxes "W"</p>
<p>Size of collection:</p> <p>11 mss. boxes; 12 octavo vols.; 19 folio vols.; 3 oversize vols.; 6 oversize folders, 8 items</p>	<p>N.U.C.M.C. number:</p> <p>N.A.</p>
<p>Finding aids:</p> <p>For biographical information on William Lincoln, see Waldo Lincoln, <u>History of the Lincoln Family</u> (Worcester: Commonwealth Press, 1923), pp. 389-91. For biographical information on Dexter F. Parker, see Abijah P. Marvin, <u>History of Worcester in the War of the Rebellion</u> (Worcester: Abijah P. Marvin, 1870), pp. 489-94</p>	
<p>Source of collection:</p> <p>See accompanying summary of sources</p>	
<p>Collection description:</p> <p>The Worcester County, Mass. Papers were assembled originally by William Lincoln (1801-1843) but also include later additions. They record the history of the county and include documents, records, maps, charts, historical notes, questionnaires, record books, and miscellaneous other documents.</p> <p>William Lincoln, a son of Levi Lincoln (1749-1829) was born in Worcester, Mass., in 1801. He graduated from Harvard in 1820 and was admitted to the Worcester bar in 1825. He was elected to the state legislature in 1835, and in 1838 was appointed a trustee of the State Lunatic Hospital in Worcester. His accomplishments include the writing of a <u>History of Worcester</u> (Worcester: Moses Phillips and Co., 1837), editing the <u>National Aegis</u>, and serving as corresponding secretary of the American Antiquarian Society.</p> <p>Dexter Franklin Parker (1828-1864) was born in Boston, Mass., and was orphaned before the age of ten. An uncle raised him and taught him the trade of bootfitter. At the age of fourteen, he returned to school, where he pursued a strong interest in history. In 1856 he was elected state representative and later served in the Mass. Senate. Upon the outbreak of the Civil War, he joined the Worcester Light Infantry and was later commissioned a lieutenant. Parker was promoted to the rank of major and was mortally wounded at the Battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse.</p> <p>The collection includes judicial records, 1731-1853, such as warrants, complaints, summonses, court petitions and orders, writs of attachment, debtor records, transcripts of court cases, probate records, legal notes, possibly by Joseph Allen (1749-1827), and other judicial records. There are court record books kept by Barth Brown () and Isaac Goodwin (1786-1832), Samuel Eastman (1783-1864), Nathaniel Paine (1759-1840), Edward Bangs (1756-1818), Aaron Tufts (1770-1843), and others. There are jail records, 1748-1836, including lists of prisoners, jail construction records, prisoners' bonds and petitions.</p>	

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Collection description (cont'd.) Worcester County, Mass. Papers

The collection also includes license records and record books, 1732-1801, for distillers, inholders, retailers, and auctioneers, as well as a petition from New Sherburn (Dudley), Mass., for a retailer. There are highway survey and construction records and record books, 1733-1836; postal records, 1799-1839; and patent records, c. 1873. There are miscellaneous county records, such as a list of towns lacking schools, c. 1750; an account book of the Webb Family, with accounts of George Webb's (-1825) militia regiment, 1762-1779; a naturalization list, 1812-1813; a report on the County Lunatic Hospital; oaths of allegiance of civil officers; and other records.

The collection contains tax assessment lists and records, 1779-1815, and tax record books, 1781-1840, for Worcester County, Worcester and Auburn, Mass. There are miscellaneous demographic records, 1765-1837; census record books, 1790 and 1830; a record book, c. 1860, of Worcester County men; and a record book of Civil War veterans, 1905, kept by Jonathan H. Sampson (-). There are also voting records, 1840-1857, with results of the 1840 election; an 1857 voter list, and questionnaires from the Whig County Committee with voting information and voter lists for Harvard and Northborough, Mass. There is also a box of Worcester County land records, 1665-1864, arranged alphabetically by town and including deeds, land maps, and petitions.

The collection includes a box of organization records, such as a record book, 1817-1822, of a law library known as the Boarding House Library; records of a Bar Festival, 1856, and other legal records. There is a folder of Worcester County Lyceum records, 1827-1843, 1867-1874, including correspondence by Henry Dana Ward (1797-1884), account books, and other records. There is also a membership list, 1893-1896, of the William S. Lincoln Post of the Union Veterans' Union.

Also included in the collection is a box of historical notes, c. 1830, written by William Lincoln concerning Worcester County and prominent individuals. There are two boxes of historical notes by Dexter Franklin Parker on the American Revolution and Worcester County. There is a folder of notes, 1900, by Francis Hill (-) concerning Worcester County congregational churches. Finally, there are two boxes of notes by Albert Goodnow Waite (1882-1971) on the Worcester County Trust Company and the Worcester Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

WORCESTER COUNTY, MASS. PAPERS

Contents List

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1		<u>Judicial Records, 1731-1853</u>
	1	Warrants issued to call various town meetings, 1731-1776
		Declarations of indebtedness and examinations of the poor, listing the debtor's name, to whom indebted, and the amount owed
	2	1731-1782
	3	1784-1807
	4	1828-1829
	5	1830-1832
	6	Indictments against individuals for committing crimes, 1731-1765
	7	Indictments against individuals for committing crimes, 1772-1788
	8	Indictments against individuals for committing crimes, 1790-1828
	9	Summonses for individuals to appear in court, 1731-1758
	10	Summonses for individuals to appear in court, 1759-1797
	11	Summonses for individuals to appear in court, 1812-1844
	12	Court Petitions, 1732-1819, including a petition to relocate the courthouse, 1732; a petition for jurors, 1774; petitions for tax abatements, 1817
	13	Probate records, 1762-1815, including appointments of guardians and executors of estates, and records of administration of estates
	14	Probate records--Estate valuations, 1815
	15	Probate records, 1820-1845, including appointments of guardians and executors of estates, and records of administration of estates
	16	Writs of Attachment, 1781-1789
	17	Writs of Attachment, 1794-1811
	18	Writs of Attachment, 1815-1839

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
1	19	Court Orders to attach goods for indebtedness, 1786-1809
	20	Court Orders to attach goods for indebtedness, 1810-1853
	21	Miscellaneous court records, undated and 1732, including transcripts of court testimony; lists of jurors
	22	Miscellaneous court records, 1733-1785, including transcripts of court testimony
	23	Miscellaneous court records, 1787-1801, including transcripts of court testimony
	24	Miscellaneous court records, 1803-1811, including transcripts of court testimony
	25	Miscellaneous court records, 1812-1828, including transcripts of court testimony; lists of jurors, 1825; receipts for court expenses
	27-28	Miscellaneous court records, legal notes, c.1803, possibly by Joseph Allen (1749-1827)
2		<u>Worcester County Jail Records, 1748-1836</u>
	1	Lists of prisoners and their crimes, 1748-1749, 1757, 1779-1780, 1784
	2	Lists of prisoners and their crimes, 1785, 1789-1790, 1834, 1836
	3	Miscellaneous jail records, c.1770-1780, including a petition to sell liquor in the jail, c.1770; list of guards, 1778; notices to discharge prisoners, 1779
	4	Miscellaneous jail records, 1784-1789, including committee reports and receipts in the construction of a new jail, 1784-1789; prisoners' petition against harsh treatment, 1785
	5	Miscellaneous jail records, 1788-1790, including committee reports and receipts in the construction of a new jail, 1788-1790
	6	Miscellaneous jail records, 1791, including committee reports and receipts in the construction of a new jail
		Prisoners' Bonds, listing the person bonded and the amount of the bond
	7	March-July 1783
	8	August 1783-June 1784

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
2	9	July 1784-June 1785
	10	August-September 1785
	11	October-December 1785
	12	January-March 1786
	13	April-June 1786
	14	July 1786-April 1787
	15	July 1787-November 1788
	16	January-July 1789
	17	August-October 1789
	18	November 1789-April 1790
	19	May-July 1790
	20	August-December 1790
	21	January-June 1791
	22	July 1791-April 1792
	23	October-May 1792
	24	June-September 1792
	25	June-September 1793
	26	October 1793-October 1794
	27	February 1795-March 1795
	28	June-November 1795
	29	January-December 1796
	30	February-October 1797
	31	January-June 1798
	32	August-December 1798

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
3	15	Miscellaneous county government records, Webb family account book with expenses of George Webb's (-1825) militia regiment, 1762-1779
	16	Miscellaneous county government records, 1812-1813, including appointments of justices of the peace, 1812; list of naturalizations, 1812-1813
	17	Miscellaneous county government records, 1827-1832, including committee report on the lunatic hospital, 1827; a notice for the county to borrow money, 1832
4		<u>Tax, Voting, and Demographic Records, 1765-1857</u>
	1	Tax records, undated and 1751-1819, including tax lists for 1751, 1779, 1786, 1792, 1793, 1800, 1819, and undated; a warrant to collect a county tax in Worcester, 1798
	2	Tax records, 1798, for Worcester and Ward (Auburn), Mass., property holdings, listing dwellings and their assessments
	3-6	Tax records, 1798, for Worcester and Ward (Auburn), Mass., property holdings, listing structures and their assessments
	7	Tax records, undated and 1815, containing a list of real property in Worcester County and its assessments; a table and calculations for charges of non-payment taxes
		Tax record books, arranged by town, listing all structures and property to be taxed, as well as their valuations
	8	1781
	9	1785
	10	1831-1840
	11-12	Demographic records, 1765-1837, including a record book, 1790, listing the populations of Worcester County towns, subdivided by household and sex; a population list, 1837, comparing the the populations of towns for the years 1765, 1776, 1790, 1800, 1810, 1820, 1830, & 1837
	13	Voting records, 1840-1857, including results of elections of 1840; a list of the number of voters in Worcester County, 1857
5		<u>Worcester County Land Papers, 1665-1864</u>
		Deeds and maps of land in towns in Worcester County (except Worcester), 1748-1838
	1	Auburn (Ward)-Grafton

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
5	2	Lancaster-Spencer
	3	Sutton-Upton
		Deeds, leases, maps, and petitions concerning land in Worcester, Mass.
	4	1665-1668
	5	1674-1685
	6	1686-1714
	7	1718-1721
	8	1725-1750
	9	1774
	10	1779
	11	1784-1805
	12	1807-1817
	13	1818-1827
	14	1828-1833
	15	1834-1835
	16	1836
	17	1837
	18	1838-1839
	19	1842-1844
	20	1847-1854
	21	1855-1864
6		<u>Worcester County Organization Records, 1815-1896</u>
	1	Worcester County lawyers' records, a petition to form a law library, 1815
	2	Worcester County lawyers' records, a record book of the Boarding House library with a list of members and a treasurer's report, 1817-1822

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
6	3	Worcester County lawyers' records, a notebook with a list of Worcester County lawyers and rules of conduct for lawyers, 1828-1833
	4	Bar Festival records, including minutes, a bill of fare, and invitations, 1856
	5-7	Bar Festival records, including correspondence and replies to dinner invitation, 1856
	8	Worcester County Lyceum records, undated and 1827-1835, including correspondence of Henry Dana Ward (1797-1884) concerning library books, 1828-1831
	9	Worcester County Lyceum records, minutes of meetings, 1827-1831 Worcester County Lyceum records, account books listing expenditures 1837-1844
10		
11		1869-1871
12		1872-1888
		Whig County Committee questionnaires, 1840, sent to towns in Worcester County requesting information on political preferences, with lists of Harvard and Northborough voters and their parties
13		Ashburnham-Brookfield
14		Douglas-Harvard
15		Holden-Milford
16		Millbury-Oakham
17		Oxford-Southborough
18		Southbridge-Templeton
19		Upton-Worcester
20		Membership list of the William S. Lincoln Post of the Union Veterans' Union, 1893-1846, including members' occupations and military service records
7		<u>Historical Notes, c. 1830s, written by William Lincoln</u>
	1	Draft of the introduction to William Lincoln's <u>History of Worcester</u> , c. 1830s

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
7	2-9	Historical notes by William Lincoln concerning Worcester County, especially organizations, land transactions, events, and other historical data, c.1830s
	10-20	Historical notes by William Lincoln concerning Worcester County, especially government officials, physicians, and prominent individuals, c.1830s
	21-26	Newspaper clippings and historical notes on prominent individuals, undated
	27-34	Historical notes by William Lincoln, c.1830s
8		<u>Historical Notes, c.1855, by Dexter Franklin Parker</u>
	1-24	Historical notes by Dexter Franklin Parker concerning, for the most part, the American Revolution, local government, and industry
	25-28	Dexter Franklin Parker's notebooks containing historical information, c.1850s
9		<u>Historical Notes, c.1855, by Dexter Franklin Parker</u>
	1-44	Historical notes by Dexter Franklin Parker concerning, for the most part, local government, industry, and people, with some statistical information about Worcester County.
10		<u>Historical Notes by Francis Hill, 1900, and Albert Goodnow Waite, c.1954</u>
	1-3	Historical notes by Francis Hill concerning Worcester County Congregational churches, 1900
	4-25	Historical notes by Albert Goodnow Waite on the Worcester County Trust Co., other Worcester County banks, and notes on Main Street in Worcester for a mural for the Worcester County Trust Company, c.1954
	26-30	Notes, sketches, and pamphlets for a mural for the Worcester County Trust Company, c.1954
11		<u>Historical Notes, c.1950s, by Albert Goodnow Waite</u>
	1	Historical notes concerning the Worcester Mutual Fire Insurance Company Notes on and biographies of the founders of the Worcester Mutual Fire Insurance Company
	2	Adams, Benjamin

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
11	3	Ammidown, Calvin
	4	Bigelow, Abijah
	5	Bullock, Rufus
	6	Burnside, Samuel
	7	Chase, Anthony
	8	Delano, Gideon
	9	Denny, Nathaniel Paine
10		Fay, Dexter
11		Fayerweather, John Appleton
12		Fisher, Jacob
13		Gilbert, Lewis N.
14		Hobart, John
15		Humphrey, James
16		Jones, Nathaniel
17		Lee, Seth
18		Lincoln, Abraham
19		Lincoln, Levi
20		Miles, Charles M.
21		Newcomb, Henry K.
22		Newton, Rejoice
23		Paine, Frederick William
24		Parkman, Charles
25		Partridge, Stephen
26		Sibley, Jonas
27		Sibley, Willis E.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
11	28	Taft, Bazaleel, Sr. and Jr.
	29	Torrey, Ebenezer
	30	Town, Salem
	31	Tufts, Aaron
	32	Upham, Roger
	33	Waldo, Daniel, Sr. and Jr.
	34	Wheeler, William Duncan
	35-37	Newspaper clippings concerning the Worcester Mutual Fire Insurance Company

Oversize Manuscript Box

Folder

1	Account book, 1796, of vehicles taxed in Worcester County, listing the owner, kind of vehicle, and the amount taxed; and lists of licenses issued to sell liquor in Worcester County, 1797-1801
2	Records of land use, 1831 and 1840, comparing the amount of land in use for industries and agriculture
3	Records, 1840, of Worcester County buildings, factories, animals, and other property, and their tax valuations; list of annual imports and exports of towns in Worcester County, c.1816-1832
4	List of civil officers, 1845-1872, with their dates of commission and their oaths of allegiance
5	Deeds of land in Worcester, Mass., 1686 and 1752
6	Election returns, 1844-1858, for County Commissioners in Worcester County

Octavo Volumes:

Judicial Record Books

- #1 Record book, 1778-1779, with testimony of cases brought before the Worcester Superior Court
- #2 Court docket, 1808-1823, of Barth Brown and Isaac Goodwin, listing the parties, dates, officers, and the judgments. With an index
- #3 Court docket, 1811-1829, for the Supreme Judicial Court
- #4-5 Court dockets, 1807-1813, the authors of which are unknown, listing the parties involved, and the judgments
- #6-7 Record books of writs, 1813-1817, for the Supreme Judicial Court and the Court of Common Pleas
- #8 Record book of debt settlements, 1813-1815, the author of which is unknown, listing the amounts owed and the settlements
- #9 Record book, 1814-1823, of Justice of the Peace Samuel Eastman (1783-1864), with dates of hearings, the parties involved, and the judgments rendered
- #10 Record book, undated and unidentified, listing names of people appearing in court

Miscellaneous Record Books

- #11 Record book, c.1860s, of Worcester County men, listing residence and year of birth
- #12 Record book, 1915-1916, of Jonathan H. Sampson, listing Civil War enlistment records for the surviving veterans in 1905 (G.A.R.)

Folio Volumes:

Judicial Record Books

- #1-2 Court dockets, 1781 and 1788, possibly of Nathaniel Paine, listing court cases, the parties involved, and the judgments
- #3-8 Court dockets, 1788, 1790, 1811-1812, of Nathaniel Paine, listing court cases, the parties involved, and the verdicts
- #9 Record book, 1795-1803, of Justice of the Peace Edward Bangs, with dates of hearings, and judgments of cases. With loose items
- #10 Record book, 1801-1817, of Justice of the Peace Aaron Tufts, with descriptions and judgments of cases
- #11-13 Court dockets, 1782-1784, 1820, 1860-1868, the authors of which are unknown, listing the parties involved, and the verdicts

Folio Volumes (cont'd.):

Tax Records

- #14-19 United States tax record books, 1815, for Worcester County, arranged by town, and listing property owners' names, valuation of property, and assessment

Oversize Volumes:

- #1 Census record book, 1830, for towns in northern Worcester County, listing heads of households, with numbers and ages of other family members, and listings for white and black persons
- #2 Valuation record book, c.1830s, with comparisons of population, agricultural and industrial resources for Worcester County for the years 1801, 1811, 1821, and 1831
- #3 Record book, 1874-1899, with a list of civil officers, including their dates of commission, and their oaths of allegiance