

AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY
MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Worcester (Mass.), Records, 1686-1941

LOCATION(S):

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

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

six manuscript boxes; two oversize folders (4 items); ten folio volumes; seven octavo volumes

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

For biographical information on William Lincoln, see Waldo Lincoln, *History of the Lincoln Family* (Worcester: Commonwealth Press, 1923), p. 389-391.

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Various items in the collection the gifts of George Hurlburt, 1930; Mrs. Bradley Gilman; Jeanette Ramsey, 1925; Waldo Lincoln, 1931; Edmund F. Coffin, 1947; R. W. Lull, 1948; Samuel Foster Haven, 1867; J. Evarts Greene, 1899; Paul G. Macy, 1937; William J. Swan, 1956; Robert C. Rockwell, 1955; William Sumner Barton, 1884; Lucius P. Goddard; Samuel E. Winslow; Andrew Patterson; Mrs. Mortimer K. Gosline; Henry E. Dean, 1906. Bullock Prize examinations were transferred from the Salisbury Family, Papers, 1774-1916. Majority of records were collected by William Lincoln.

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Worcester, Worcester County, Massachusetts is located on the Blackstone River forty-four miles southwest of Boston, Mass., and forty-three miles northwest of Providence, R.I. Originally known as Quonsigamog or Quinsigamond, it was first settled in 1675, but was afterwards abandoned due to Indian attacks. Worcester was permanently settled in 1713, incorporated as a town in 1684, and as a city in 1848.

This collection was formed originally from papers collected principally by William Lincoln (1801-1843). The son of Levi Lincoln (1749-1829), William Lincoln attended Harvard 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 writing a History of Worcester (Worcester: Moses D. Phillips and Company, 1837), editing the National Aegis, and serving as corresponding secretary, 1826-1841, of the American Antiquarian Society.

The collection contains legal documents, correspondence, institutional records, maps, and receipts. There are tax records, 1754-1847, including valuation lists, school and highway tax lists, tax collection notices, tax abatement records, and tax record books, including one kept by Samuel Jennison (1788-1860). There are school records, 1738; 1785-1905, including school committee lists and reports, school construction records, school register, 1830-1845, essays and questions for the Bullock Prize examinations, a petition of Thomas Payson (1764-1844) for a monthly salary, and record books of the Thomas Street School kept by Caleb B. Metcalf (1814-1891), and of the Worcester Boys' English School.

The collection also contains municipal records, 1686-1857, including petitions and ordinances, minutes of town meetings, 1731-1741, a list of the poor receiving public support, 1733-1767, and road and bridge construction records. There are license records, 1729-1789, census records, 1784-1826, voter lists, 1775-c.1850s, lists of marriages, 1770-1795, three record books with lists of deaths, 1807-1849, and a record book, with a list of women attending an inaugural ball for Zachary Taylor in 1849.

The collection contains fire company records, including record books of Engine Company No. 2, and a record book for the purchase of a fire bell. There are militia records, 1762-1865, including records of Crafts' Cavalry Regiment, the Worcester Lancers, the Worcester City Guards, and records and record books of the Worcester Artillery Company. There is a box of Civil War documents, 1861-1865, containing records of the Second Massachusetts Artillery Regiment, the Third Battalion of Riflemen, and Worcester men in other regiments. The box also contains enrollment records and subscriptions to raise enlistment bounties.

The collection contains business and institutional records, including records of the following Worcester banks: Worcester County Institution for Savings, Citizens Bank, and State Bank. There is also a speech by Henry Chapin (1811-1878) to the board of directors of the City National Bank. There are miscellaneous business records, 1792-1809, for Thomas's Coffee House, as well as for the Rural Cemetery, the Manufacturers Mutual Fire Insurance Company, the Holden Reservoir, the Worcester Turnpike Company, and a company proposing to build a canal from the Connecticut River to Boston. There are records, 1821-1900, from the following Worcester churches: First Baptist Church, Central Congregational Church, Union Congregational Church, Plymouth Congregational Church, Grace Episcopal Church, and the Worcester Free Church. There are records, 1793-1840, of Worcester libraries, including the Associate Library Company, Worcester Library Society, Social Library, and Military Library Society. There are also records of antislavery societies, temperance societies, the Worcester Music Hall Association, the Liberal Republican Club, and other Worcester organizations and clubs. There are records of events and celebrations, and a record book, 1941, for a mural by Leon Kroll (1884-1975) in the Worcester War Memorial Auditorium. There is an index of Worcester views by Benjamin Thomas Hill (1863-1927), an index to the Worcester Common Burial Ground, and records of land transactions involving the American Antiquarian Society.

See Contents List.

American Antiquarian Society
MANUSCRIPTS DEPARTMENT

WORCESTER (MASS.), COLLECTION, 1686-1941
CONTENTS LIST

Manuscript Boxes

Box 1: Worcester Tax Records, 1754-1847

- Folder 1: Tax Records, 1754-1771
including notices to Jonathan Lynde (-) to levy taxes, 1754 and 1760; highway tax lists, 1759 and 1760; notice to levy poll tax, 1760; province tax list, 1770; tax receipts, 1761 and 1763
- Folder 2: Tax Records, 1775-1801
including notices to levy taxes, 1779 and 1781; highway tax lists, 1784, 1792, 1793, and 1801; school district tax lists, 1787 and 1801; valuation lists with typed transcripts, 1778 and 1783
- Folder 3: Tax Records, 1803-1847
including school district tax lists, 1803 and 1806; highway tax list, 1824; warrants for school taxes, 1823 and 1840; valuation and assessment list, 1834; tax receipt for the Worcester Aqueduct Company, 1846; undated tax lists
- Folder 4: Tax Abatement Records, 1772-1808; 1822-1830
listing the amount and reason for abatements and lists of uncollected taxes
- Folder 5: Tax Abatement Records, 1831-1846
- Folder 6: Tax Record Book, 1783
listing residents and amount of taxes
- Folder 7: Tax Record Book, 1830
of town, state, and county taxes, arranged alphabetically with the amount paid
- Folder 8: Tax Record Book, 1830
of the town treasurer's accounts of taxes, including the date paid, and arranged by district
- Folder 9: Tax Record Book, 1831
of town, state, and county taxes, arranged alphabetically and including the district where received

Box 2: Worcester School Records and Register Books, 1738; 1785-1866; 1905

- Folder 1: School Records, 1738; 1785-1829
including an appointment of a committee to select a schoolmaster, 1738; petition from schoolmaster Thomas Payson (1764-1844) requesting to be paid monthly; reports and accounts of the construction and maintenance of a schoolhouse, 1795-1800; proposal for an evening school, 1802; lists of school committee members, 1818-1824; school committee reports, 1826-1829
- Folder 2: School Records, 1833-1848; 1905
including school committee reports arranged by school district, 1833-1848; reports on the number of students, 1836 and 1840; accounts for maintenance

of the schools, 1834; historical notes on the first schoolhouse in Worcester by Jeanette Ramsey (-), 1905

Folder 3: Bullock Prize Examination Records, 1862
including printed questionnaires and essays written by Worcester public school students on various subjects

Folder 4: Bullock Prize Examination Records, 1863-1866

Folder 5: School Register Books, 1830-1833
with printed instructions and listing the pupils' names, class ranks, and attendance records (6 volumes)

Folder 6: School Register Books, 1836-1837 (10 volumes)

Folder 7: School Register Books, 1836-1837 (10 volumes)

Box 3: Worcester School Register Books and Registers, 1836-1845

Folder 1: School Register Books, 1836-1838
with printed instructions and listing pupils' names, class ranks, and attendance records (9 volumes)

Folder 2: School Register Books, 1836-1838 (10 volumes)

Folder 3: School Registers, 1838 February to June
listing students, their parents' names, and their attendance records

Folder 4: School Registers, 1838 July to August

Folder 5: School Registers, 1838 September to October

Folder 6: School Registers, 1838 November to December

Folder 7: School Registers, 1839

Folder 8: School Registers, 1844-1845
for summer (school) session

Folder 9: School Registers, 1844-1845, for winter (school) session

Box 4: Worcester Government Records, 1686-1865

Folder 1: Municipal Records, 1716-1805
including a petition for land, 1716; a petition for protection from Indians, 1725; ordinances banning rams and cows from public lands, 1734 and 1753; minutes of town meetings, 1733-1761; petitions for town meetings, 1731-1741; plan of a new graveyard, 1798; ordinance protecting trees, 1801; list of poor receiving public support, 1733-1767

Folder 2: Municipal Records, 1809-1857
including bridge construction records, 1811-1816; a report on Millstone Hill lands, 1819; subscriptions for lamps on Main Street, 1830-1831; fir company records, 1825, 1836, and 1857; a report on road damages, 1842

Folder 3: License Records, 1729-1789
including lists of persons granted liquor, retailer, and innholder licenses, 1729-1789; petitions for licenses, 1787 and 1789

Folder 4: Militia Records, 1762-1866

including a list of militia companies, 1762; records of Crafts' Cavalry Regiment, 1786-1789; Constitution of the Worcester Lancers, 1837; Constitution of the Worcester City Guards, 1854-1865; orders to militia; Norr's Riot, 1854; subscription for a rifle company, 1861

Folder 5: Vital Records, 1686-1831
with lists of marriages, 1770-1795; two record books, 1807-1831, listing deaths in Worcester and containing the ages of the deceased, dates and causes of death

Folder 6: Voter Lists for 1775, 1804, 1807, 1819, c. 1820s

Folder 7: Census Records, 1784-1826
including a typescript of a 1784 census; an 1801 census book listing white males, white females, and slaves; census records for 1826, listing males and their professions, females, Negroes, and buildings

Box 5: Worcester Civil War Records, 1861-1865

Folder 1: Miscellaneous Civil War Documents, 1861-1863
including papers relating to the Second Massachusetts Artillery, the Third Battalion of Riflemen, and various Worcester soldiers. Records include rosters, general orders, and discharges

Folder 2: Miscellaneous Civil War Documents, 1864-1865
including a list of Worcester men who served in the Union Army, and a record book describing regiments which passed through Worcester

Folder 3: Civil War Record Books, 1861-1865
including a list of Worcester men who served in the Union Army; diary by an unknown Worcester citizen, 1861-1865, containing accounts of the Worcester regiments, including action seen, deaths, and general reactions in the city to the important events of the war

Folder 4: Subscriptions, 1863-1865
to raise bounties to fill enlistment quotas for Worcester

Folder 5: Enrollment Lists, 1862
of Worcester men who served in the Union Army, arranged by ward and listing the soldier's age, occupation, and regiment

Folder 6: Enrollment Lists, 1864
arranged by ward and regiment

Folder 7: Enrollment Lists, 1864
arranged by ward and regiment

Box 6: Business and Institutional Records, 1792-1941

Folder 1: Records of the Worcester County Institution for Savings, 1828-1882
including notices for trustee meetings, a record book, 1830-1834, with descriptions of land for which the bank held mortgages; copies of ordinances regulating banks, 1834-1852; two depositors' bank books, 1830-1858 and 1880-1882

Folder 2: Worcester Bank Records, 1812-1868
including a receipt, certificates of deposit, 1866-1868, and an undated speech by Henry Chapin (1811-1878) to the board of directors of the City National Bank; receipts of the Citizens Bank, 1851-1856; land deeds, 1812-1830, of the State Bank; notice regarding counterfeit bills, 1857;

and a letter from the Massachusetts State Treasurer concerning a loan, 1861

Folder 3: Miscellaneous Business Records, 1792-1909
including four shares, 1807-1818, in the Worcester Turnpike Company; receipts, 1821-1822, of Thomas's Coffee House; accounts, 1834-1836, of the Manufacturers Mutual Fire Insurance Company; receipts for the Rural Cemetery, 1841, 1856, 1909; subscription, 1865, to construct the Holden Reservoir; act of incorporation, 1792, to build a canal from the Connecticut River to Boston

Folder 4: Records of the First Baptist Church (Worcester, Mass.), 1830-1840
including an account book, 1830-1831, of the parish treasurer; resolutions and accounts concerning a new meeting house, 1836-1840

Folder 5: Records of Worcester Churches, 1821-1900
including pew deeds, financial records, and correspondence, 1821-1900, from the Central Congregational Church; undated report on membership of the Union Congregational Church; report on construction of the Grace Episcopal Church, c.1870; account of ceremonies for the laying of the cornerstone of the Plymouth Congregational Church, 1873; subscription to aid the Worcester Free Church, 1852; miscellaneous pew deeds

Box Folder CONTENTS

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6 Worcester Library Records, 1793-1840

--including an account book of fines for the Library Company, 1793-1797; a committee report on books of the Associate Library Company, 1797; a committee report on books of the Worcester Library Society, 1806; records and constitution of the Military Library Society, 1811; constitution and receipts of the Social Library, 1799-1830; subscriptions for establishing a Worcester Tract Depository, 1827, and a Worcester Reading Room, 1840

7 Worcester Music Hall Association Records, 1868-1877

--including a subscription to purchase shares, 1868; business correspondence and receipts, 1869-1877

8 Miscellaneous Organization Records, 1824-1878

--including an invitation to attend a Friends of Temperance meeting, 1838; a list of the property of the Sons of Temperance, 1846; an undated constitution and list of members of the Worcester Antislavery Society; an undated list of committees of the Bunker Hill Monument Association; constitution and list of members of the Liberal Republican Club, 1872

9 Records of Events and Celebrations, 1819-1823

--including a subscription for a cattle show, 1826; subscriptions for a Washington's Birthday Ball, 1832; subscription to aid the fire victims in Fall River, Mass. in 1843; petition against annexing Texas, 1844; petition to recover the body of Col. Charles Longley (-), 1852; correspondence concerning the Pilgrim Memorial

Jubilee, 1870; subscription to aid France, 1871; accounts of the dedication of Lincoln Square; historical sketch of Tatnuck, 1923

10 Record Book, 1941

--containing explanation and list of models for the mural in the Worcester War Memorial Auditorium by Leon Kroll (1884-1975)

Oversize

Box Folder

1 Tax Records

--including a tax record book, 1800, listing the assessment of state taxes on dwellings and property; tax lists, c.1811, assessing real and personal property

2 Land and Militia Records, 1803-1824; 1828-1833

--containing a record book with copies of land transactions, 1828-1833, with plans of land and records of land transactions by the American Antiquarian Society, and a copy of the will of Isaiah Thomas (1749-1831); roster, 1803-1824, of the Worcester Artillery Company

Folio

VOLUME

1 Account Book, 1829-1831

--of taxes collected by Samuel Jennison (1768-1860)

2 Record Book, 1846-1855

--of the Boys' English School, listing the students' names, ages, and dates of admission and departure from school

3 Record Book, 1846-1856

--of the Thomas School, kept by Caleb B. Metcalf (1814-1891), listing the students' names, classes, ranks

4 Subscription Book, 1815-1816

--to rebuild Worcester following the fire of 1815, including accounts of material and labor

5-6 Record Books, 1846-1868

--of Rapid Engine Company Number 2, with bylaws, minutes of meetings, fire alarm records, and company rosters

7 Record Book, 1842-1849

--of deaths in Worcester, listing ages, sex, and occupations of deceased, as well as causes of deaths

8 Record Book, 1849

--of women invited to the Inaugural Ball of Zachary Taylor (1784-1850)

9 Index, n.d.

--to the Worcester Common Burial Ground

10 Record Book, 1861-1866
--of the Thomas Street School, listing students' attendance, class, and rank

OCTAVO

VOLUME

- 1** Selectmen's Record Book, 1843
--containing notices of meetings and a corrected list of voters
- 2** Fire Engine Company Number 2 Record Book, 1820-1837
--including company bylaws, minutes of meetings, report of absentees, and fines
- 3** New Worcester Bell Record Book, 1869
--including a resolution to purchase a fire bell, subscriptions, and a notice that the bell is satisfactory
- 4** History of the Worcester Light Infantry, 1804-1868
--including company rosters and records of activities.; there are also newspaper clippings and an 1814 roster interfiled in the volume
- 5-6** Worcester Artillery Company, Record Book, 1826-1838
--including company rosters, orders, and reports on activities
- 7** Notebook, n.d.
--on views of Worcester by Benjamin Thomas Hill (1863-1927) listing engravings of Worcester, the engraver's name, and size of the engraving