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## Quabbin Clippings Collection

1888-1983 (*Bulk:* 1936-1938)

1 box (0.5 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 040



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To meet the growing needs for potable water in the Boston metropolitan region, the Massachusetts state legislature ordered the evacuation of the relatively sparsely populated towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott, as well as portions of other adjoining towns such as New Salem, to make way for the construction of a massive reservoir. Over the course of almost two decades, the population of the towns was systematically relocated, the houses moved or razed, and bed of the future reservoir was stripped of trees and brush. The last remaining residents of the region were removed in 1938 and the four primary towns were officially disincorporated as the dam was completed and the waters began to rise.

A collection of newspaper clippings documenting the Swift River Valley towns that were evacuated to make way for the Quabbin Reservoir, including Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, Millington (New Salem), and Prescott. The clippings are concentrated on the towns' final days and include an incomplete run of the *The Springfield Union* series, "Letters from Quabbin," series, which recorded the history of the Quabbin Reservoir from site selection to the relocation of houses and people and the disbanding of local organizations and communities.

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Quabbin

## Background

The evacuation of four towns in the Swift River Valley during the 1920s and 1930s was a traumatic event in the history of western Massachusetts. To meet the growing needs for potable water in the Boston metropolitan region, the state legislature ordered that the relatively sparsely populated towns of Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott, as well as portions of other adjoining towns such as New Salem, were to be removed to make way for the construction of a massive reservoir. Over the course of almost two decades, the towns' residents were systematically relocated, the houses moved or razed, and the bed of the future reservoir was stripped of trees and brush. The last remaining residents of the region were removed in 1938 and the four primary towns were officially disincorporated as the dam was completed and the waters began to rise.

## Scope of collection

A collection of newspaper clippings documenting the Swift River Valley towns that were evacuated to make way for the Quabbin Reservoir, including Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, Millington (New Salem), and Prescott. The clippings are concentrated on the towns' final days and include an incomplete run of the *The Springfield Union* series, "Letters from Quabbin," series, which recorded the history of the Quabbin Reservoir from site selection to the relocation of houses and people and the disbanding of local organizations and communities.

## Inventory

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Dana (including North Dana)

1897-1964

Box 1: 1

Enfield

1888-1947

Box 1: 2

Greenwich

1904-1938

Box 1: 3

Letters from Quabbin

1938

Box 1: 4

Early history of reservoir

1938

Folder No. 1

Extent of the reservoir

1938

Folder No. 2

Reservoir named for Indian

1938

Folder No. 3

The exodus

1938

Folder No. 4

The industries

1938

Folder No. 5

Spring in Quabbin

1938

Folder No. 6

The last town meeting

1938

Folder No. 7

The Quabbin Club  
1938  
Folder No. 10  
The nurseries  
1938  
Folder No. 11  
The churches of Dana  
1938  
Folder No. 13  
Quabbin Park Cemetery  
1938  
Folder No. 15  
Old houses, new homes  
1938  
Folder No. 16  
Hillside School  
1938  
Folder No. 17  
Greenwich and Enfield churches  
1938  
Folder No. 18  
The granges  
1938  
Folder No. 19  
The wild flowers  
1938  
Folder No. 22  
The camps  
1938  
Folder No. 23  
Distinguished people  
1938  
Folder No. 24  
The last graduation  
1938  
Folder No. 25  
The postmaster  
1938  
Folder No. 26  
The doctor: Willard B. Segur  
1938  
Folder No. 27  
The old families  
1938  
Folder No. 28  
The great dam  
1938  
Folder No. 29  
Millington  
1938  
Box 1: 5  
Packardville  
1949  
Box 1: 5a  
Prescott  
1922  
Box 1: 6  
Quabbin reservoir  
1920-1983

Box 1: 7  
Quabbin towns (general)  
1908-1982  
Box 1: 8  
Ware  
1926-1941  
Box 1: 9

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift of Donald Howe, 1960.

### Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, July 2015.

### Language:

English

### Copyright and Use (More information )

*Cite as:* Quabbin Clippings Collection (MS 874). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

## Search terms

### Subjects

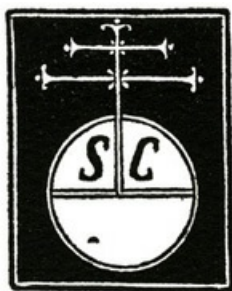
Dana (Mass.)--History  
Enfield (Mass.)--History  
Greenwich (Mass.)--History  
New Salem (Mass.)--History  
Prescott (Mass.)--History  
Quabbin Reservoir Region (Mass.)--History  
Ware (Mass.)--History

### Genres and formats

Clippings (Information artifacts)

### Link to similar SCUA collections

Quabbin



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