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Quabbin Towns Local History Collection

1927-1986
5 boxes (8 linear feet)
Call no.: MS 1244

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Read collection overview

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.

The Quabbin Towns Local History Collection contains an assortment of materials that document the history of 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 collection includes newspaper scrapbooks and photographs.

Background

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Scope of collection

The Quabbin Towns Local History Collection contains an assortment of materials that document the history of 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 collection includes newspaper scrapbooks and photographs.

Inventory

Newspaper pages, full sheets
various dates
OS
Newspaper scrapbooks
ca. 1920s-1938
Box 3-4

Two oversize scrapbooks and folders of loose clippings; local history mostly dating from the 1920s-1940s Quabbin construction period, with some pre-1920s; 1 scrapbook mostly spans 1929-1938 (donated to Friends of Quabbin, Inc. in 1991); another scrapbook spans 1930s-1940s, and possibly compiled by Charles A. Fitts, Enfield

Newspaper scrapbook
ca. 1980s
Box 1

Compiled by Friends of clippings, mostly photocopies.

Print: Enfield
undated
OS
Photographs
Box 2

Includes: local history and family history photo snapshots (about 114 photo snapshots); 7 mounted photo prints by Springfield professional photographer E.J. Lazelle (Edward J. Lazelle; 1840/41-1908); about 4 other professionally taken mounted photo prints; original negatives (5) and print (1) of photo panoramas (rolled) by Ware professional photographer Walter C. Gardner (1881-1951)

Photograph: Enfield panorama
1927
OS

By Walter Gardner.

Photograph: Enfield, looking north panorama
ca. 1927
OS

No. 2-H, by Walter Gardner. Inscribed on back: Gift to Les Campbell from Gertrude Ward Terry, 1986.

Photograph: portrait, unidentified man
undated
OS
Newspaper clippings
ca. 1980s
Box 5

Clippings (original/photocopies) mounted onto oversize paper intended for a newspaper scrapbook

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Gift of Friends of the Quabbin, Inc., 2024.

Materials in this collection were given to the Friends of the Quabbin, Inc., but are not related to that organization.

Processing Information

Processed by SCUA staff, November, 2024.

Language:

English

Copyright and Use ([More information](#))

Cite as: Quabbin Towns Local History Collection (MS 1244). Robert S. Cox Special Collections and University Archives Research Center, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

Search terms

Subjects

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

Genres and formats

- Newspaper clippings
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks

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