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Quabbin Town Annual Reports Collection

1864-1938
4 boxes (2 linear feet)
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Read collection overview

During the 1920s and 1930s, the populations of four towns in the Swift River Valley, Mass., were relocated to make way for completion of the Quabbin Reservoir. Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott were formally disincorporated in 1938, marking an end to nearly a century of small town government in the region.

The annual reports of the four towns of the Quabbin region provide important documentation of the activities of the local officials and the lives of residents in Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott. Issued under various titles and with variable content, these reports include information on the activities of town officials, including the Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor, School Committee, and Library. In most years, the reports also include town expenditures and a list of residents with a valuation of property and taxes paid. Although substantial, this collection is not complete, particularly prior to 1880.

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Background

In 1895, the General Court of Massachusetts established a Metropolitan Water District to provide ample water supplies for the growing metropolis of Boston by constructing two large reservoirs, the first along the Nashua River northeast of Worcester (the Wachusett Reservoir) and the second along the Swift River Valley.

Met with local resistance from the outset, the damming of the Swift River Valley required the disincorporation of four towns, Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott, and the alienation of land in several others. The greatest impact of the Quabbin Reservoir was borne by the residents of these relatively small, isolated, and predominantly rural towns, all of whom were forced to relocate. Construction of the Quabbin Reservoir began in 1926 and was completed ten years later, with formal dissolution of the towns following in 1938.

Scope of collection

The annual reports of the four towns of the Quabbin region provide important documentation of the lives of the residents of the former towns Dana, Enfield, Greenwich, and Prescott. Issued under various titles and with somewhat variable content, the annual reports include more or less detailed information of the activities of town officials and offices, including the Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor, the School Committee, and Town Library. In most years, the reports also document town expenditures and include a list of the residents with a valuation of property and taxes paid.

Published annual Reports for the Quabbin towns did not appear until 1857, when Enfield, the largest town, printed its first, followed by Prescott (1862), Dana (1869), and Greenwich (1873). Titles varied, sometimes dramatically, depending on which committees were reporting, and some committees occasionally issued separate reports (e.g., the School Committee for Enfield). While extensive, the SCUA collection is not complete and is much sparser in the early years of issuance of town reports.

Inventory

[Dana \(Mass.\).](#)

1890-1937

39 items

Annual Report of the Selectmen of the Expenses of the Town of Dana

1890

1 item

Annual Report of the Selectmen of the Expenses of the Town of Dana

1897

1 item

Annual Report of the Selectmen of the Expenses of the Town of Dana

1898-1900

3 items

Annual Report of the Selectmen of the Expenses of the Town of Dana

1902-1912

11 items

Annual Report of the Selectmen of the Expenses of the Town of Dana

1914-1925

12 items

Annual Report of the Selectmen of the Expenses of the Town of Dana

1927-1937

11 items

[Enfield \(Mass.\).](#)

1864-1938

58 items

Report of the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Enfield

1864

1 item

Report of the School Committee of the Town of Enfield

1879-1880

2 items

Report of the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Enfield

1880

1 item

Report of the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Enfield

1882-1886

5 items

Report of the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Enfield

1889-1898

10 items

Report of the Selectmen and Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Enfield

1900-1938

39 items

[Greenwich \(Mass.\).](#)

1876-1938

41 items

Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor, and Treasurer of the Town of Greenwich

1876

1 item

Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor, and Treasurer of the Town of Greenwich

1878

1 item

Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor, and Treasurer of the Town of Greenwich

1886

1 item

Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor, and Treasurer of the Town of Greenwich

1896-1900

5 items

Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor, and Treasurer of the Town of Greenwich

1903-1904

2 items

Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor, and Treasurer of the Town of Greenwich

1906-1908

3 items

Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor, and Treasurer of the Town of Greenwich

1910-1920
11 items
Annual Reports of the Selectmen, Overseers of the Poor, and Treasurer of the Town of Greenwich
1922-1938
17 items
[Prescott \(Mass.\)](#).
1882-1937
44 items
Reports of the Selectmen and School Committee of the Town of Prescott
1882
1 item
Reports of the Selectmen and School Committee of the Town of Prescott
1884-1885
2 items
Reports of the Selectmen and School Committee of the Town of Prescott
1888-1891
4 items
Reports of the Selectmen and School Committee of the Town of Prescott
1897
1 item
Reports of the Selectmen and School Committee of the Town of Prescott
1900-1919
20 items
Reports of the Selectmen and School Committee of the Town of Prescott
1922-1937
16 items

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Provenance varied.

Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, July 2013.

Other formats available

Nearly all of the annual reports for Quabbin towns have been digitized and made available online through the [Internet Archive](#).

Language:

English

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

Cite as: Quabbin Towns Annual Reports Collection (MS 368). Special Collections and University Archives, 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

- Annual reports.

Link to similar SCUA collections

- [Massachusetts \(West\)](#)

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