

## Special Collections and University Archives

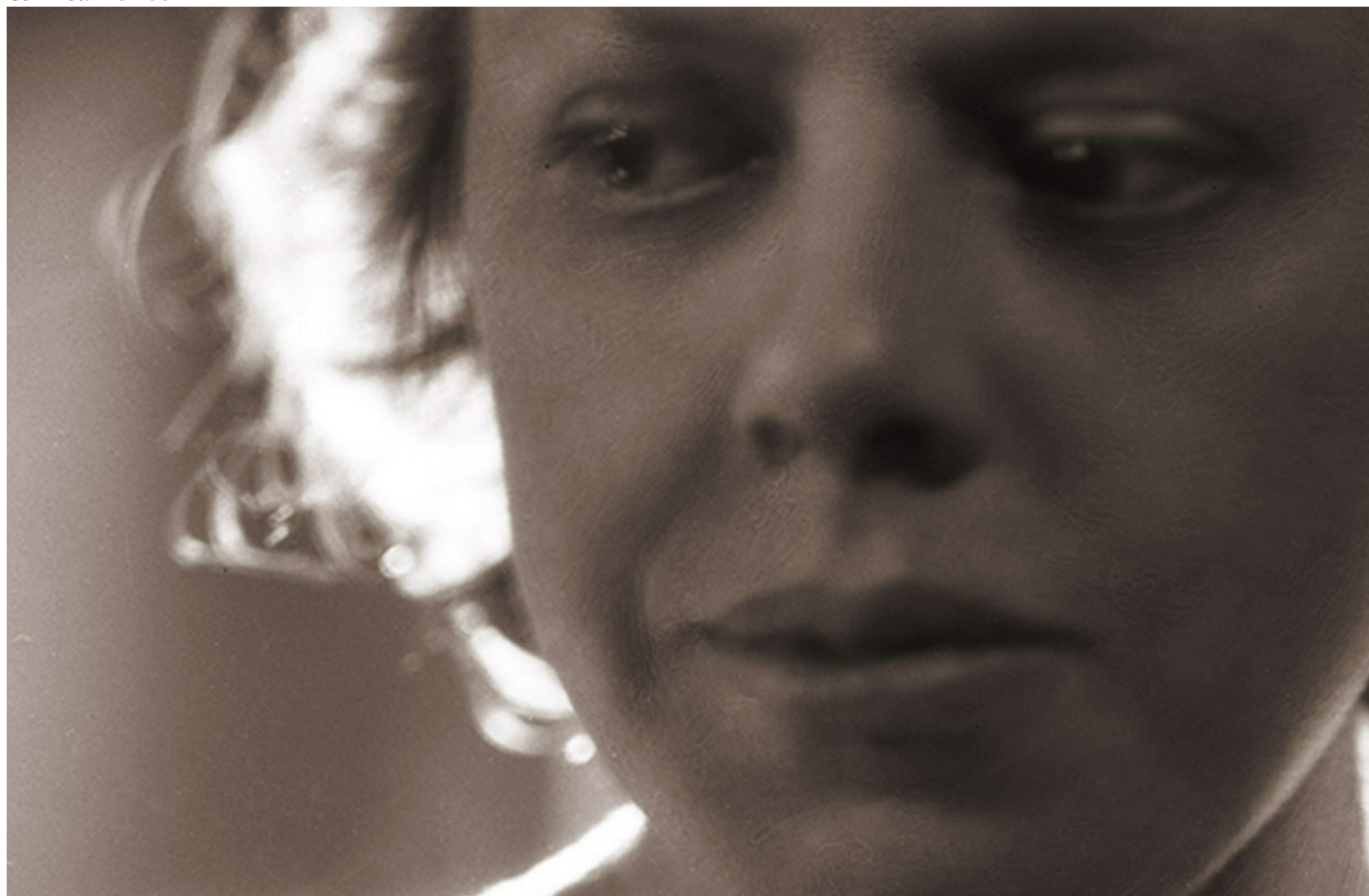
UMass Amherst Libraries 

### Westhampton (Mass.) Town Records

1779-1901

10 boxes (5 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 799



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[Series 1. Administrative records](#)

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[Read collection overview](#)

Originally settled by Europeans in 1762, the town of Westhampton, Massachusetts, was separated from adjacent Northampton and incorporated in September 1778. Situated in the western reaches of Hampshire County, it was principally an agricultural town, producing apples, other fruit, and maple sugar, with only minor industry. The town still retains its rural character: a century after incorporation, the population had grown to just over 500, and nearly 1,500 a century later.

The Westhampton collection provides an extensive record of public life and local governance in a typical small Hampshire County town. Spanning from 1779, just after the date of incorporation, through the turn of the twentieth century, the collection includes extensive records of town meetings, including warrants, agendas, and summaries; records of the Overseers of Poor, the schools, militia service, and the Congregational parish; materials on roads and highways; and a large quantity of financial records.

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Massachusetts (West)

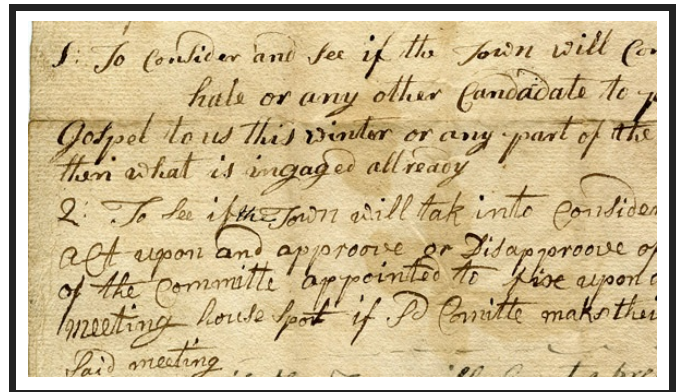
Politics and governance

Religion

## Background on Westhampton

Beginning as the so-called Long (or West) Division of Northampton, Mass., the town of Westhampton was first settled by Europeans in about 1762, growing gradually until it separated and was officially incorporated in September 1778. A year later, a Congregational Church was established in Westhampton with the ordination of Enoch Hale, a young graduate of Yale and brother of the patriot Nathan Hale. Overcoming some initial tension in the settlement over the location of the church, Hale remained in the pulpit for fifty years, ministering to the rural population of about 300.

An agricultural town throughout most of its history, Westhampton has been a small center for the production of beef and lamb, dairy products and wool, apples, berries, and maple sugar. The branches of the Manhan River that flow through town provided a source for water power that spurred the development of minor industry in the mid-nineteenth century, however the town has maintained its rural character. The town's population has risen slowly from about 500 in the middle of the nineteenth century to just over 1,500 in 2000.



Detail of town meeting records, Jan. 2, 1779

## Scope of collection

The Westhampton collection provides a detailed record of public life and local governance in a typical small Hampshire County town. Spanning from 1779, just after its incorporation, through the turn of the twentieth century, the collection includes extensive records of town meetings, including warrants, agendas, and summaries; records of the Overseers of Poor, the schools, militia service, and the Congregational parish; materials on roads and highways; and a large quantity of financial records.

## Series descriptions

### Series 1. Administrative records

1779-1901

6 boxes (3 linear feet)

The administrative records offer a long perspective on the early history and development of a small town in the Berkshire hills. At the heart of the series is a dense set of records documenting town meetings from 1779 (the second official town meeting) through the late nineteenth century, including copies of warrants to call meetings, agendas and instructions, and in some cases the results of votes. Other key functions of local government in Massachusetts are more or less well represented, including the church, schools, militia, and road maintenance, and there are particularly valuable records for the Overseers of the Poor. Dating mostly between 1825 and 1855, the Overseers' records offer insight into antebellum approaches to public relief for the poor and elderly in a rural town, both through documenting the forms of relief offered and the contracts forged with persons charged with their care.

### Series 2. Financial records

1779-1801

4 boxes (2 linear feet)

The records in Series 2 document the town's finances from the time of its incorporation until the end of the nineteenth century, including a thick series of bills and receipts for services rendered to the town, warrants from both Hampshire County and the state authorizing tax collection, highway tax assessments, and detailed records of taxes assessed and valuations of property.

# Inventory

Series 1. Administrative records

1779-1901

6 boxes (3 linear feet)

Bond, D. W. and H. H.

1872-1873

Box 1: 1

Burt, Levi and H.W. Montague: Appraisal of yearling heifer

1900

Box 1: 2

Church: Deed

1828

Box 1: 3

Church: Parish Records

1853-1873

Box 1: 4

Church: Parish Records

1874-1880

Box 1: 5

Church: Parish Reports

1852

Box 1: 6

Church: Parish Reports

1855-1856

Box 1: 7

Church: Parish Reports

1857-1859

Box 1: 8

Church: Parish Reports

1860-1862

Box 1: 9

Church: Parish Reports

1863-1864

Box 1: 10

Church: Parish Reports

1865

Box 1: 11

Church: Parish Reports

1866-1865

Box 1: 12

Church: Parish Reports

1870-1871

Box 1: 13

Church: Parish Reports

1872-1874

Box 1: 14

Church: Parish Reports

1875-1876

Box 1: 15

Church: Parish Reports

1878

Box 1: 16

Church: Parish Reports

1897

Box 1: 17

Church: Settlement with Enoch Hale

1828

Box 1: 18

Clapp, Charles C. Appraisal of sheep attacked by dog

1865  
Box 1: 19  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts in Senate... [Broadside]  
1788 Nov. 19  
Box 1: 20  
Correspondence (miscellaneous)  
Box 1: 21  
Death Certificates  
1876  
Box 1: 22  
Death Certificates  
1879  
Box 1: 23  
Death Certificates  
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Death Certificates  
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Death Certificates  
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Fencing Contract (for Cemetery)  
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1897, undated  
Box 2: 2  
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Marriages  
Box 2: 4  
Liquor Licenses  
1865  
Box 2: 5  
Lunatic Asylum  
1829  
Box 2: 6  
Massachusetts Acts and Resolves  
1828-1837  
Box 2: 7  
Massachusetts Acts and Resolves  
1845-1848  
Box 2: 8  
Massachusetts Acts and Resolves  
1862-1872  
Box 2: 9  
Massachusetts Circular Letter  
1833-1858  
Box 2: 10  
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Box 2: 12  
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1862 Oct - Dec  
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Box 2: 17  
Military Aid

1879-1880  
Box 2: 18  
Military: Civil War  
ca.1862-1865  
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Military: Draft Quota  
1862  
Box 2: 20  
Military: Receipt for Town Bounty  
1862  
Box 2: 21  
Military: State aid  
1880  
Box 2: 22  
Miscellaneous documents  
1831-1872  
Box 2: 23  
Mitchell, Volney v. Norman Morton writ to attach goods  
1847  
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New York and Boston Railroad  
1847  
Box 2: 25  
Notice to all Those who are interested in protection game birds  
1849  
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Overseers of the Poor  
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Overseers of the Poor  
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Overseers of the Poor  
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Overseers of the Poor  
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Overseers of the Poor. Accounts for support of Absalom Hathaway  
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Overseers of the Poor: Pauper agreements  
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Overseers of the Poor: Pauper agreements  
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Overseers of the Poor: Pauper agreements  
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Overseers of the Poor: Pauper agreements  
1852  
Box 2: 37

Overseers of the Poor: Pauper agreements  
1853

Box 2: 38

Overseers of the Poor: Pauper agreements  
1854-1855

Box 2: 39

Overseers of the Poor: Pauper agreements  
1856-1859

Box 2: 40

Overseers of the Poor: Pauper agreements  
1863-1873

Box 2: 41

Overseers of the Poor: Pauper Journal  
1825-1844

Vol. 1

Bound volume containing record of expenses and agreements for care of the poor.

Overseers of the Poor. State Forms

ca. 1835

Box 2: 42

Parson, Henry W. Contract to build bridge  
1852

Box 2: 43

Paternity Suit: Mary Slatten v. Cornelius F. Flynn  
1876-1877

Box 2: 44

Pound: Contract with Seveuo Lynnam to construct town pound  
1834

Box 2: 45

Roads and highways  
1779

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Roads and highways  
1786-1789

Box 3: 2

Roads and highways  
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Box 3: 3

Roads and highways  
1796-1800

Box 3: 4

Roads and highways  
1801-1805

Box 3: 5

Roads and highways  
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Roads and highways  
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Roads and highways  
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Box 3: 13  
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Box 3: 14  
School Committee  
1835-1838  
Box 3: 15  
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School Committee Annual Report  
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School Committee Annual Report  
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School Committee Annual Report  
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School Committee Annual Report  
1842  
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School Committee Annual Report  
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School Committee Annual Report  
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School Committee Annual Report

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School Committee District Registers

1840

Box 3: 34

School Committee District Registers

1841

Box 3: 35

Schools

1836-1853

Box 4: 1

Schools: Appraisal

1869

Box 4: 2

State forms (blank)

ca. 1845

Box 4: 3

Town boundary perambulation

1886

Box 4: 4

Town Clerk Oath of Office

ca. 1780

Box 4: 5

Town Meetings

1778

Box 4: 6

Town Meetings

1779

Box 4: 7

Town Meetings

1780

Box 4: 8

Town Meetings

1781

Box 4: 9

Town Meetings

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Box 4: 10

Town Meetings

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Town Meetings

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Box 4: 12

Town Meetings

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Town Meetings

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Town Meetings

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Town Meetings  
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Town Meetings  
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Box 4: 22  
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Box 4: 23  
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1797  
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Box 6: 33  
Warren Bridge (circular letter)  
1832  
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4 boxes (2 linear feet)  
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1860-1886  
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1847  
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Taxation: Country tax warrants

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Taxation: Country tax warrants

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Taxation: Country tax warrants

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Box 9: 17

Taxation: Country tax warrants

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Taxation: Delinquencies

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Taxation: Enrollment to avoid draft

ca. 1862

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Taxation: State tax warrants

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Taxation: State tax warrants

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Taxation: taxation scales

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Taxation: taxation scales

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Taxes and valuation

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Taxes and valuation

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Taxes and valuation

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Box 9: 30

Taxes and valuation

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Taxes and valuation

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Box 10: 8

Taxes and valuation

1793

Box 10: 9

Taxes and valuation



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Box 10: 26  
Warrants and Receipts  
1814  
Box 10: 27  
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Box 10: 28

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Gift of Westhampton Historical Society, Jan. 2014.

### Other formats available

Series 1 has been digitized and is available through SCUA's online digital repository, [Credo](#).

### Related Material

The Westhampton Town Records are intimately related to the records of the town's [First Congregational Church \(MS 806\)](#), which have also been digitized and made available online through [Credo](#).

### Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, Apr. 2014.

### Language:

English

### Copyright and Use (More information )

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## Search terms

### Subjects

Churches--Massachusetts--Westhampton  
Poor--Massachusetts--Westhampton  
Roads--Massachusetts--Westhampton  
Taxation--Massachusetts  
Town meetings--Massachusetts--Westhampton  
Westhampton (Mass.)--History

### Genres and formats

Receipts (financial records)  
Town meetings  
Warrants

### Link to similar SCUA collections

Massachusetts (West)  
Politics and governance  
Religion



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