

WORCESTER HISTORICAL  
MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Benjamin W. Childs Collection  
1987.19

Processed by Robyn Christensen  
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Series		Page	Box
	Collection Information	3	
	Historical/Biographical Notes	4	
	Scope and Content	4	
	Series Description	5	
1	Account Books	6	1

### **Collection Information**

Abstract : The collection contains four account books that belonged to Benjamin W. Childs ( - 1910). The account books date from 1858 – 1906. The earliest ones deal with his early business in Oxford, MA. He moved to Worcester in 1870.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository.

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Donor Mrs. Benjamin W. Childs, 95 Madison Avenue, Holyoke, four account books of Benjamin Childs, 1858-1906.

MARC Access :

### **Historical/Biographical Notes**

Benjamin W. Childs was born in 1839 in Massachusetts. The 1870 census indicates that he lived in Oxford, Massachusetts with his wife Olive and children Thomas (3) and Fannie (2). His occupation was listed as a boot and shoe dealer. By 1871, Benjamin had moved to Worcester, Massachusetts and opened B.W. Childs and Manning Brothers Boot and Shoe Manufacturing at 18 Pleasant Street. In 1874 the name had changed to B.W. Childs and Irving W. Tourtellote Boot and Shoe Manufacturing at 17 Mechanic Street. By 1877, the name changed again to Childs, Smith and Co. at 17 Mechanic. The company remained in business until Benjamin's death on May 21, 1910 at the age of 71.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection contains four account books that belonged to Benjamin W. Childs ( - 1910). The account books date from 1858 – 1906. The earliest ones deal with his early business in Oxford, MA. He moved to Worcester in 1870.

## **Series Descriptions**

Series 1: Account Books

Benjamin W. Childs Collection  
Series 1, Account Books  
1987.19

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1		1987.19.1	Account Book (1858 – 1860) – includes name index in front of volume. Entries are ongoing account records for customers.
	BV	1987.19.2	Account Book (1858 – 1859) – appears to be Childs' personal account book by date. Entries include purchases and deposits.
1		1987.19.3	Account Book (1874 – 1886) – appears to be a business account book by date. Entries include mortgage payments, inventory records, payments made and received.
1		1987.19.4	Account Book (1874 - 1906) - includes name index in front of volume. Entries are ongoing account records for customers.