

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

1977.40

Coes Family Papers

Processed by Robyn Christensen  
July 2012

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

| Series |                               | Page | Box    |
|--------|-------------------------------|------|--------|
|        | Collection Information        | 4    |        |
|        | Historical/Biographical Notes | 5    |        |
|        | Scope and Content             | 5    |        |
|        | Series Description            | 6    |        |
| 1      | Diaries                       | 7    | 1      |
| 2      | Correspondences               | 8    | 1      |
| 3      | Business Records              | 9    | 1      |
| 4      | Patents                       | 10   | 1 +ovs |

## Collection Information

Abstract : Collection contains two diaries written by Mrs Loring (Harriet) Coes from 1889 and 1895. Diaries are detailed talking about daily chores and activities surrounding her, her husband, their children and grand children.

The second series are correspondences (1911 – 1925) related to the Frank Loring and Cora Coes Family. Frank was the great grandson of Loring (1812 – 1912) and Harriet. They had two children Loring and Russell.

The third series are business records from Loring Coes and Company dated 1849 – 1901. They are associated with the accession number 1978.84.47, which was donated by Stephanie Klein in memory of Helen Rosoff Juster.

The fourth series are a number of patents related to the invention and improvement of wrenches (1859 – 1909)

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

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Most items part of 1977.40 donated by Helen Juster. Other numbers associated with the collection are 1982.93 (no info), 1979.9.12 (donor Samuel Coes) and 1978.84.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings

### Historical/Biographical Notes

Loring Coes was born at Webster Square (New Worcester) April 22, 1812. In 1836, with his brother Aury, they bought a company making machinery for the manufacture of woollens. This shop burned down and they moved to Springfield, MA where they developed a screw adjustable wrench now known as the Monkey Wrench. In 1841, they came back to Worcester where Loring applied for a received a patent for his invention and they formed the L. and A.G. Coes Company. In 1853, along with Levi Hardy, they bought the shop, machinery and business of Moses Clement whose shop was at the corner of Main and Mill Street. The partnership lasted until 1864 when the Coes Brothers bought Hardy out. In 1865, along with Mr. Hardy, they bought 100 acres of the Lyon Farm, where Coes Pond is today and put up a dam and shop to manufacture knives. In 1867, they built the lower dam at Coes Square. In 1869, the two brothers dissolved their partnership and divided the businesses. Loring kept the knife business and in 1871, built a four story factory at Coes Square to make wrenches.

Aury kept the wrench shop at Main and Mill Street and died in 1875. In 1902, Loring consolidated the knife and wrench business into the Coes Wrench Company. Loring was the consummate inventor and the Coes family was a constant and welcomed presence in the Webster Square area. He was married to Harriet Coes and they had two children Chester and Jennie. Jennie had a son Frank who is mentioned in Mrs. Coes's diary. Loring died July 13, 1906.

### Scope and Content

Collection contains two diaries written by Mrs Loring (Harriet) Coes from 1889 and 1895. Diaries are detailed talking about daily chores and activities surrounding her, her husband, their children and grand children.

The second series are correspondences (1911 – 1925) related to the Frank Loring and Cora Coes Family. Frank was the great grandson of Loring (1812 – 1912) and Harriet. They had two children Loring and Russell.

The third series are business records from Loring Coes and Company dated 1849 – 1901. They are associated with the accession number 1978.84.47, which was donated by Stephanie Klein in memory of Helen Rosoff Juster.

The fourth series are a number of patents related to the invention and improvement of wrenches (1858 – 1909)

## Series Descriptions

Series 1: Diaries

Series 2: Correspondences

Series 3: Business Records

Series 4: Patents

Coes Family Papers  
1977.40  
Series 1, Diaries

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u>  |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|---|
| 1            |                 | 1977.40.1.1        | Diary of Mrs. (Harriet) Loring Coes<br>(January 3, 1889 – December 31, 1889) Old<br>Accession Number (1977.40.40). Mentions<br>daily activities. Very detailed. |
| 1            |                 | 1977.40.1.2        | Diary of Mrs. (Harriet) Loring Coes<br>(January 17, 1895 – January 10, 1896) Old<br>Accession Number (1977.40.9)  |

Coes Family Papers  
1977.40  
Series 2, Correspondences

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u>   |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| 1            | 1               | 1977.40.2.1        | Letter to Mother from Russell Coes (January 31 <sup>st</sup> ) |
| 1            | 1               | 1977.40.2.2        | Letter to Mother from Loring Coes (no date)                    |
| 1            | 1               | 1977.40.2.3        | Letter to Mother from Russell Coes (no date)                   |
| 1            | 1               | 1977.40.2.4        | Letter to Mother from Russell Coes (no date)                   |
| 1            | 1               | 1977.40.2.5        | Letter to Dad from Russell Coes (Feb 2)                        |
| 1            | 1               | 1977.40.2.6        | Letter to Mother from Russell Coes                             |
| 1            | 1               | 1977.40.2.7        | Letter to Dad from Russell Coes                                |
| 1            | 1               | 1977.40.2.8        | Letter to Mother from Russell Coes                             |
| 1            | 1               | 1977.40.2.9        | Letter to Mother from Beanie                                   |
| 1            | 1               | 1977.40.2.10       | Letter to Mother from Cheese Machiner                          |
| 1            | 2               | 1977.40.2.11       | Letter to Mother from Russell Coes                             |
| 1            | 2               | 1977.40.2.12       | Letter to Mother from Russell Coes                             |
| 1            | 2               | 1977.40.2.13       | Letter to Dad from Loring Coes                                 |
| 1            | 2               | 1977.40.2.14-.15   | Miscellaneous letters  |

Coes Family Papers  
1977.40  
Series 3, Business Records

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u>                                 |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| 1            | 3               | 1977.40.3.1 - .20  | Various business records from Coes Wrench Company. |
| 1            | 4               | 1977.40.3.21 - .48 | Various business records from Coes Wrench Company. |



Coes Family Papers  
1977.40  
Series 4, Patents

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u>                                     |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| 1            | 5               | 1977.40.4.1        | Aury Gates Coes – Knife Handles                        |
| 1            | 5               | 1977.40.4.2        | Loring Coes – Wrenches (1901)                          |
| 1            | 5               | 1977.40.4.3        | Loring Coes – Screw Wrenches (1899)                    |
| 1            | 5               | 1977.40.4.4        | Loring Coes – Construction Wrench<br>Handles (1901)    |
| 1            | 5               | 1977.40.4.5        | Frederick Searle – Screw Wrenches (1901)               |
| 1            | 6               | 1977.40.4.6        | John Coes – Wrenches (1909)                            |
| 1            | 7               | 1977.40.4.7        | Frederick Searle (1901)                                |
| 1            | 7               | 1977.40.4.8        | Aury Gates (1870)                                      |
| 1            | 7               | 1977.40.4.9        | Thomas Rice  |
| 1            | 7               | 1977.40.4.10       | Loring Coes – Mechanics Screw Wrench                   |
| 1            | 7               | 1977.40.4.11       | George Taft  |
| 1            | 7               | 1977.40.4.12       | George Taft (1858)                                     |
| 1            | 7               | 1977.40.4.13       | George Taft  |
| 1            | 7               | 1977.40.4.14       | Frederick Searle – Wrench Member (1901)                |
| 1            | 8               | 1977.40.4.15       | Loring Coes - Wrench Heads (September<br>16, 1873)     |
| 1            | 8               | 1977.40.4.16       | Frederick L. Coes – Screw Wrenches<br>(August 2, 1898) |
| 1            | 8               | 1977.40.4.17       | Loring Coes – Wrench Handle (May 15,<br>1909)          |
| 1            | 8               | 1977.40.4.18       | Loring Coes – Wrenches (June 1, 1869)                  |

Coes Family Papers  
1977.40  
Series 4, Patents

| <u>Box #</u> | <u>Folder #</u> | <u>Accession #</u> | <u>Description</u>                                     |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------------|--|
| 1            | 8               | 1977.40.4.19       | Loring Coes – Wrench Bar (June 22, 1869)               |
| 1            | 8               | 1977.40.4.20       | Loring Coes – Monkey – Wrench (August 10, 1869)        |
| 1            | 8               | 1977.40.4.21       | Loring Coes – Wrenches (October 26, 1899)              |
| 1            | 8               | 1977.40.4.22       | George Taft – Wrenches (January 4, 1870)               |
| 1            | 8               | 1977.40.4.23       | Loring Coes – Automatic Friction (May 17, 1870)        |
| 1            | 8               | 1977.40.4.24       | Frederick Searle – 1901                                |
| 1            | 8               | 1977.40.4.25       | Loring Coes (April 10, 1888)                           |
| 1            | 8               | 1977.40.4.26       | Loring Coes (October 1901)                             |
| 1            | 8               | 1977.40.4.27       | Frederick Coes – Wrenches (1897)                       |
| OVS 1        |                 |                    | Patent for Screw Wrenches (1841)                       |
| OVS 1        |                 |                    | Loring Coes – Resolution on his 19 <sup>th</sup> B-day |
| OVS 2        |                 |                    | George Taft – Wrenches (1866)                          |
| OVS 2        |                 |                    | George Taft – Wrenches (1860)                          |
| OVS 2        |                 |                    | George Taft – Wrenches (1864)                          |
| OVS 3        |                 |                    | Charles W. Morgan – Wrenches (1866)                    |