

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

Bloom Family  
Collection

1999.113

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.  
August, 1999

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## Collection Information

Abstract: The Bloom Family collection provides a comprehensive view of the economic and social aspects, as well as the standards of living, of a Swedish-American family employed in local industry through three generations between late 19<sup>th</sup> through mid 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The collection also provides information on industrial pay practices, and retail billing practices during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Finding Aids: Finding Aid in print form available in the Repository. Folder level control.

Preferred Citation: Archives of the Worcester Historical Museum, 30 Elm Street, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance: Donated by Randolph Bloom, Worcester, July 1999.

Access: The Finding Aid is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcs, gm, etc.)

Bloom, Bror R.  
Bloom, Arvid, ca. 1884-1933.  
Bloom, Christine.  
Bloom, Rudolph.  
Bloom, Raymond R.  
Bloom, William A.  
Bloom family.  
Skogsberg, Charles.

American Steel and Wire Company.

Swedish Americans – Massachusetts – Worcester.  
Swedish Americans – Massachusetts – Worcester – Social life and customs.  
Swedish Americans – Massachusetts – Worcester – Economic conditions.

Receipts.  
Pay envelopes.  
Pay stubs.

### Biographical Information

Members of the Bloom family, one of the Swedish-American families that immigrated to Worcester in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, lived on Thenius Street in the city through the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The bulk of the collection consists of various financial records of Bror Bloom, with additional records of other members of the Bloom family, especially those of his sons Raymond and William Bloom.

Bror Bloom was employed at American Steel and Wire Company from before the early 1930s to the 1955, when he presumably retired. During his later years he was a foreman in the South Works. His two sons, Raymond and William, were students in the late 1930s, employees at the South Works around 1940-1941. Both enlisted in the Navy during World War II, and after the war, both resumed employment at the South Works for a few years. By the late 1940s no further mention of Raymond or William Bloom is found.

Records of other members of the Bloom family date from before 1900, along with records of other Swedish-American families.

## Scope and Content

The Bloom Family Collection provides insight into the financial aspects and the standard of living through three generations of a Swedish-American blue-collar family employed in local industry, through a comprehensive collection of payroll records – pay envelopes and pay stubs – and receipts for all household and living expenses. The records of income and expenses are virtually complete between the early 1930s and middle 1950s, and partial from the 1890s to the 1930s. These records portray a detailed view of the life, economics, and lifestyles of this family.

In addition, the records provide detailed information on industrial wages and wage paying procedures, from the pay envelope with cash wages, to payment by check. The records also provide information on retail credit and billing procedures, and other business matters.

A number of membership cards, meeting schedules, by-laws, etc. indicate interests of family members, as well as providing insight into leisure time activities of family members.

American Steel and Wire Company series includes personal notes and memoranda of Bror Bloom in his capacity as Foreman at the South Works, along with requisition and parts order forms, work schedules of employees, personnel cost evaluations, along with other records indicating the job duties and responsibilities of a Foreman in the South Works during the period ca. 1945-1955.

## Series Description

Series 1: Pay envelopes, etc. Includes weekly pay envelopes from (primarily) American Steel and Wire for cash payment of wages, with gross pay, deductions, net pay, hours worked inscribed on the envelope, or on payment stubs inserted in the envelope. Subdivided into four subseries by employee as follows:

- Subseries 1. Bror R. Bloom
- Subseries 2. Raymond R. Bloom
- Subseries 3. William A. Bloom
- Subseries 4. Other Bloom family.

Series 2: Receipts. Family and household expenses, subdivided into 9 subseries as follows:

- Subseries 1. Utilities, including water, electric, gas, telephone.
- Subseries 2. Taxes, including property tax, poll tax, motor vehicle excise tax, income tax preparation bills.
- Subseries 3. Home furnishings, clothing, etc.
- Subseries 4. Dairy receipts for milk delivery.
- Subseries 5. Medical and related expenses.
- Subseries 6. Fuel.
- Subseries 7. Insurance.
- Subseries 8. Garage rent receipts.
- Subseries 9. Miscellaneous receipts.

Series 3: Miscellaneous financial records. Includes promissory notes, stock information and subscription records, insurance policies and related documents.

Series 4: Letters. Includes cards, various announcements, solicitations and advertisements, personal letters, some in Swedish.

Series 5: Memberships. Includes various organizational by-laws and schedules of meetings, membership cards, etc.

Series 6: Miscellaneous. Includes various unrelated documents, such as a building permit, Civil Service exam results, college catalogs, student's notes, etc.

Series 7: Photographs, including portrait photographs and snapshots.

Series 8: Artifacts. Includes pin and ball bag.

Series 9: American Steel and Wire Company. Includes memoranda, requisitions, schedules, etc. relating to Bror Bloom's position as foreman.

Bloom Family Collection  
 1999.113  
 Series 1, Pay envelopes, etc.  
 Subseries 1, Bror R. Bloom

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1999.113.1.1.1	Pay envelopes, 1933-1937, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay. 5 items.
1	1	1999.113.1.1.2	Pay envelopes, 1938, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay. 46 items.
1	1A	1999.113.1.1.2A	Pay stubs, 1939-1940, showing only deductions. 47 items.
1	2	1999.113.1.1.3	Pay envelopes, 1941, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay. 49 items.
1	3	1999.113.1.1.4	Pay envelopes, 1942, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay. 53 items.
1	4	1999.113.1.1.5	Pay envelopes, 1943, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay; with additional pay stubs. 49 items.
1	5	1999.113.1.1.6	Pay envelopes, 1944, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay; with additional pay stubs. 52 items.
1	5A	1999.113.1.1.6A	Pay envelopes, 1945, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay; with additional pay stubs. 50 items.
2	6	1999.113.1.1.7	Pay envelopes, 1946, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay; with additional pay stubs. 47 items.
2	7	1999.113.1.1.8	Pay envelopes, 1947, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay; with additional pay stubs. 51 items.

Series 1

Subseries 1, continued

2	8	1999.113.1.1.9	Pay envelopes, 1948, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay; with additional pay stubs. 51 items.
2	9	1999.113.1.1.10	Pay envelopes, 1949, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay; with additional pay stubs. 46 items.
2	10	1999.133.1.1.11	Pay envelopes, 1950, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay; with additional pay stubs. 52 items.
2	11	1999.113.1.1.12	Pay envelopes, 1951, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay; with additional pay stubs. 53 items.
3	12	1999.113.1.1.13	Pay stubs, 1952, showing gross pay, itemized deductions, net pay. 52 items.
3	12	1999.133.1.1.14	Pay stubs, 1953, showing gross pay, itemized deductions, net pay. 52 items.
3	13	1999.133.1.1.15	Pay stubs, 1954, showing gross pay, itemized deductions, net pay. 52 items.
3	13	1999.133.1.1.16	Pay stubs, 1955, showing gross pay, itemized deductions, net pay. 16 items.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 1, Pay envelopes, etc.  
Subseries 2, Raymond R. Bloom

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	14	1999.113.1.2.1	Pay envelopes, 1941, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay. 30 items.
3	15	1999.113.1.2.2	Pay envelopes, 1945-1946, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay. 47 items.
3	16	1999.113.1.2.3	Pay envelopes, 1947, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay. 16 items.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 1, Pay envelopes, etc.  
Subseries 3, William A. Bloom

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	17	1999.113.1.3.1	Pay envelopes, 1941, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay. 16 items.
3	17	1999.113.1.3.2	Pay envelopes, 1942, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay. 29 items.
3	18	1999.113.1.3.3	Pay envelopes, 1946, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay. 36 items.
3	19	1999.133.1.3.4	Pay envelopes, 1947, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay. 54 items.
3	20	1999.113.1.3.5	Pay envelopes, 1948, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay. 49 items.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 1, Pay envelopes, etc.  
Subseries 4, Other Bloom family members

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	21	1999.113.1.4.1	Pay envelope, Christine Bloom, November 14, 1947, from Bell Company, showing gross pay, deductions, net pay. 1 item.
3	21	1999.113.1.4.2	Pay envelope, Arvid Bloom, August 23, 1941, from Rice Barton Corp., showing gross pay, deductions, net pay.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 2, Receipts  
Subseries 1, Utilities

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4	22	1999.113.2.1.1	Receipted bills, New England Telephone and Telegraph Company, 1948-1959.
4	23	1999.113.2.1.2	Receipted bills, Worcester Gas Light Company, 1923-1925, 1948-1959.
4	24	1999.113.2.1.3	Receipted bills, Worcester Electric Light Company, 1923-1925.
4	25	1999.113.2.1.4	Receipted bills, Worcester County Electric Co., 1947-1960.
4	26	1999.113.2.1.5	Receipted bills, Worcester Suburban Electric Company, 1921-1949.
4	27	1999.113.2.1.6	Receipted bills, from City of Worcester, for water, 1910-1953 (5 items)

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 2, Receipts  
Subseries 2, Taxes

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4	28	1999.113.2.2.1	Poll tax bills. 1894 and 1902 to Charles Skogberg; 1946 to William A. Bloom. 3 items.
4	29	1999.113.2.2.2	Motor vehicle excise tax bills, receipted, to Raymond R. Bloom, 1942, 1944-1945. 3 items.
4	30	1999.113.2.2.3	Property tax bills and documents, 1903, 1907-1908 to Charles Skogberg, 8 Thenius St. 3 items.
4	30A	1999.113.2.2.4	Receipts for federal and state income tax preparation, with notes and copies of forms.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 2, Receipts  
Subseries 3, Personal and household expenses

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4	31	1999.113.2.3.1	Receipts. To various members of Bloom Family from Worcester businesses, for household furnishings, home maintenance and repair, clothing, personal items. 1920s-1950s.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 2, Receipts  
Subseries 4, Milk and dairy receipts

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4	32	1999.113.2.4.1	Receipts for milk and dairy products to Mrs. Bloom and other family members from various Worcester and regional dairies. 1910s-1950s.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 2, Receipts  
Subseries 5, Medical and related expenses

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4	33	1999.113.2.5.1	Receipts for dental and optometry services, 1917, 1940s. 5 items.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 2, Receipts  
Subseries 6, Fuel

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4	34	1999.113.2.6.1	Receipts for coal bills, 1914-1922, to C. Skagsberg and R. Bloom. 8 items.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 2, Receipts  
Subseries 7, Insurance

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4	35	1999.113.2.7.1	Receipts. Insurance bills for property at 20 Thenius Street, Worcester; insurance policies on furniture. 1897-1922, 1944. 22 items.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 2, Receipts  
Subseries 8, Garage rental

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4	36	1999.113.2.8.1	Receipts, rental of garage on Thenius Street, Worcester, by Mr. Bloom, 1944-1949.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 2, Receipts  
Subseries 9, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
4	37	1999.113.2.9.1	Receipts, miscellaneous, including money order stubs, unidentified family members, etc.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 3, Miscellaneous Financial Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	38	1999.113.3.1	Promissory notes, payment books, etc., 1916, 1930s-1940s. 4 items.
5	39	1999.113.3.2	Stock information, stock subscription records, 1909-1914, 1942.
5	40	1999.113.3.3	Insurance policies and related documents, 1893-1933.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 4, Letters

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	41	1999.113.4.1	Wedding announcements, at-home cards, etc. 1891-1906. 13 items.
5	42	1999.113.4.2	Solicitations, advertisements, etc. (some Swedish language). 9 items.
5	43	1999.113.4.3	Personal letters. Includes letters signed "Ray" and "Bill" sent during World War II, and a letter of 1903 written in Swedish. 7 items.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 5, Memberships

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	44	1999.113.5.1	By-laws, schedules of meetings, notes on various organizations. 5 items.
5	45	1999.113.5.2	Membership cards, various organizations, 1941-1952. Includes Massachusetts Sporting License, Social Security card. 18 items.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 6, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	46	1999.113.6.1	Unemployment Compensation Commission document, to Bror Rudolph Bloom, re benefits, with envelope. April 15, 1938.
5	47	1999.113.6.2	Civil Service Examination for Examiner of Motor Vehicles, with notice of results, to William Arvid Bloom, February 10, 1948.
5	48	1999.113.6.3	Specifications for house to be built for Raymond Bloom. N.d. 7 p.
5	49	1999.113.6.4	Municipal documents, City of Worcester. Building Permit, April 17, 1923; Notices of Public Hearings, on extension of Perry Street (2 occurrences) May 22, 1905, March 1, 1909. 3 items
5	50	1999.113.6.5	Tire inspection record, October 11, 1943.
5	51	1999.113.6.6	Educational and inspirational memoranda, bible passages, hymns. 5 items
5	52	1999.113.6.7	Tags. Apparently used to record names, addresses, etc. on unprinted side.
5	53	1999.113.6.8	Receipt. American Consular Service, from Karl R.G. Bloom, \$1.00, for preparing Alien's Declaration and administering oath. With \$1.00 American Consular Service Fee Stamp affixed. February 26, 1929.
5	54	1999.113.6.9	Catalogs. Worcester State College, 1975; Worcester Junior College, 1972/73; Worcester State College Commencement Exercises, 1976. 3 items
5	55	1999.113.6.10	Notebook, Spiral bound. Includes class notes for college level economics and philosophy classes.

Bloom Family Collection

1999.113  
Series 7, Photographs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	56	1999.113.7.1	Portrait photograph. Unidentified young man, in oval mat, 2x4 in. Oliver Studio, Worcester, ca1897.
5	56	1999.113.7.2	Snapshot. Unidentified group on rustic bridge. 3x5 in., ca. 1920.
5	57	1999.113.7.3	Snapshot. Burning mill building. [S.l.; s.n., n.d.] 5x7 in.
OVS	OVS-1	1999.113.7.4	Portrait photograph. Mrs. Emil Arthur Emanuelson, 18 Thenius Street, Worcester, born in Sweden. 9x12 in., by Bachrach [Studio], 1914.

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 8, Artifacts

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	58	1999.113.8.1	Button. 30 year lapel button, American Steel and Wire Company.
5	58	1999.113.8.2	Bag. Plasticized ball bag, 10x20 in., imprinted "Olympic Sports Company".

Bloom Family Collection  
1999.113  
Series 9, American Steel & Wire Company

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
5	59	1999.113.9.1	Notebooks. Foreman's notes re production characteristics of output materials, 1930s-1940s. 3x5 in., 14 items
6	60	1999.113.9.2	Requisitions, Material Order Requests, Master Mechanic Requisitions. 1940s.
6	61	1999.113.9.3	Personnel documents, including schedules, personnel costs, vacation time, memoranda.
6	62	1999.113.9.4	Periodicals. U.S. Steel News, 1961, 1968, 1973; Annual Report for 1968. 4 items.
6	63	1999.113.9.5	Miscellaneous. Includes tags for material trials, descriptive/technical information, memoranda re 1949 steelworkers strike, etc.