

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Helen Evangeline Greenwood Collection

1955.69

Processed by Michelle Farias
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Series		Page	Box
	Collection Information	3	
	Historical/Biographical Notes	4	
	Scope and Content	5	
	Series Description	5	
1	Genealogy	6	1, OVS
2	Accounts & Land Records	7	1
3	Education & Teaching Certificates	8	1, OVS
4	School Books	9	1
5	Miscellaneous	10	1

Collection Information

Abstract : Collection includes information relating to the Greenwood family of Holden and Worcester Massachusetts as collected by Helen Evangeline Greenwood (1872-1953). Materials include: family genealogical accounts, land deeds and surveys related to the Greenwood family, educational and teaching certificates from places including Wellesley College and the Massachusetts Department of Education, school books, and additional papers relating to the life of Helen Evangeline Greenwood and her family.

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

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Donated 1955 by unknown individual.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcs, aat, tgm, gmgcp)

Historical/Biographical Notes

Helen Evangeline Greenwood was born in Holden, Massachusetts on July 1, 1872 to Abner Perry Greenwood (1835-1872/3) and Hannah Maria (Stratton) Greenwood (1836-1915). In 1892 she graduated from Classical High School in Worcester and advanced to Wellesley College where she

earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1896 and a Master's Degree in botany shortly after. For two years after her graduation from college, she taught in Oxford public schools before leaving for the Worcester public school system in 1901. Greenwood began by teaching physiology, but was assigned to her preferred English classes when physiology was dropped as a requirement. She taught English in Worcester, at English High School, which was later renamed High School of Commerce, until her retirement in 1942. During her time as a teacher, she established her own library in her classroom, which consisted of three closets and more than 500 titles at the time of her retirement. Greenwood died in her home in Worcester on January 25, 1953.

Helen E. Greenwood continued to be actively interested in the natural sciences after her graduation with a degree in botany, even as she spent her professional life teaching English. She was the curator of botany at the Worcester Natural History Society and involved in many local natural science organizations. Along with these, she belonged to the Capt. George Webb Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and a number of other local clubs. Greenwood was also a member of the Chestnut Street Congregational Church.

Greenwood's father, Abner Perry Greenwood, was a farmer in Holden, Mass. According to a letter in the collection, he was killed by a bull on October 31, 1873, leaving his wife a widow. His date of death is given as 1872 in some accounts. Abner and Hannah had two children, Helen Evangeline and Frederick Clare Greenwood (1858-1885). The letter, written by a member of the Greenwood family, traces the Greenwood family in America back to Thomas Greenwood, the ancestor who emigrated to America, and claims that there are records that trace the beginning of the Greenwood surname to 1154. Helen's great-great-grandfather was Joseph Greenwood, a farmer in Holden who was given the land by his father Thomas Greenwood, son of John Greenwood of Newton, Mass. Her great-grandfather, Asa Greenwood (1762-1823) was likewise a farmer in Holden who served as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. He was first married in 1797 to Naomi Winch (1763-1798). After her death, he married Betsy Davis (1774-1849) in 1800. Their son Samuel Davis Greenwood (1801-1855) was born a year later and was also a farmer. He married Patty Perry (1802-1882) in 1825 and their son Abner Perry Greenwood was born ten years later. Abner married Hannah Stratton in 1837.

Hannah Maria Stratton was also a member of the Capt. George Webb Chapter, D.A.R. Her grandfather Samuel Stratton (1763-1838) of Princeton, Mass. was in the 4th Company in the Third Mass. Regiment of the Revolutionary War. He was married to Martha Davis (1764-1858) in 1782 and was the father of Samuel Stratton (1796-1881), Hannah's father. Her father married Hannah Hubbard (1796-1868) in 1822 and they had Hannah Maria in 1836. She passed in 1915, the last entry in the Greenwood family Bible at the time when it was typed up and added to this collection.

Scope and Content

Collection includes information relating to the Greenwood family of Holden and Worcester Massachusetts as collected by Helen Evangeline Greenwood (1872-1953). Materials include: family genealogical accounts, land deeds and surveys related to the Greenwood family, educational and teaching certificates from places including Wellesley College and the Massachusetts Department of Education, school books, and additional papers relating to the life of Helen Evangeline Greenwood

and her family.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Genealogy: Papers relating to the Greenwood family history including D.A.R. forms, a written family history, and transcribed names and dates from a family Bible.

Series 2: Accounts & Land Records: Accounts, deeds, and plans relating to the Greenwood family and land they have held.

Series 3: Education & Teaching Certificates: Certificates of education for Helen and her brother Frederick as well as teaching certifications for Helen.

Series 4: School Books: Two books, one belonging to Helen in college that records the courses taken and another undated book belonging to her brother.

Series 5: Miscellaneous: Includes a set of ribbons and handwritten "Topics in English."

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1955.69

Series 1, Genealogy

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1955.69.1.1	D.A.R. Application, 1913 For Hannah Maria Stratton Greenwood

1	1	1955.69.1.2	D.A.R. Payment Receipt, 1913 Life Membership for Helen E. Greenwood
OVS Folder		1955.69.1.3	D.A.R. Membership Certificate, 1913 Life Membership for Helen E. Greenwood
1	1	1955.69.1.4	Letter to Helen E. Greenwood, 1915 Details genealogy of Greenwood family
1	1	1955.69.1.5	Record of Greenwood family names & dates Taken from family Bible, last record in 1915

Helen Evangeline Greenwood Collection
1955.69
Series 2, Accounts & Land Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	1955.69.2.1A	Sergeant Plan of land in Holden, MA Owned by Joseph Sergeant, surveyed 1773 One corner of plan is detached, but present
1	2	1955.69.2.1B	Sergeant Plan fragment, corner of plan A

1	2	1955.69.2.2	Davis Plan of land in Holden, MA, 1827 Land of Samuel Davis, Abner Perry, & James Winch, bought of Ethan Davis
1	2	1955.69.2.3	Deed of sale of land, 1839 Cyrus & Almira Perry to Sophronia Perry
1	2	1955.69.2.4	Accounts of will of Samuel Stratton, 1843 John Brooks account of execution of the will
1	2	1955.69.2.5	AD Greenwood Plan Fragment, plan corner

Helen Evangeline Greenwood Collection
1955.69
Series 3, Education & Teaching Certificates

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
OVS Folder 1878		1955.69.3.1	Worcester Cnty Free Institute Diploma, Frederick C. Greenwood, BS Chemistry
1	3	1955.69.3.2	Ninth Grade Grammar School, 1888 Helen E. Greenwood, advanced to HS Possibly connected to 1955.69.3.3

1	3	1955.69.3.3	Envelope to Helen E. Greenwood, 1888 Possibly connected to 1955.69.3.2
OVS Folder		1955.69.3.4	Worcester High School Diploma, 1892 Helen E. Greenwood
OVS Folder		1955.69.3.5	Wellesley College Diploma, 1896 Helen E. Greenwood, BA
1	3	1955.69.3.6	Massachusetts Teaching Certification, 1900 Helen E. Greenwood
1	3	1955.69.3.7	Massachusetts Class Certification, 1923 Helen E. Greenwood, Gasoline Automobiles

Helen Evangeline Greenwood Collection
1955.69
Series 4, School Books

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	4, BV	1955.69.4.1	Helen E. Greenwood, 1892-1896 Wellesley College Course Completion Book Each page displays a course for BA degree
1	4, BV	1955.69.4.2A	Frederick C. Greenwood, undated Sanford & Co. Stationers school book "Lecture on English" notes, Prof. EP Smith

1	4, Inside BV	1955.69.4.2B	“Topics in English,” numbered topics Loose paper kept inside back cover of book Similar to 1955.69.5.2
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 1955.69
 Series 5, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	1955.69.5.1A	Blue ribbon, “W.T.I. ‘78” Wrapped in paper with 1955.69.5.1B
1	5	1955.69.5.1B	Connected blue & gray ribbons, “‘78” Wrapped in paper with 1955.69.5.1A
1	5	1955.69.5.2	“Topics in English,” numbered topics Similar to 1955.69.4.2B

