

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTION

<p><i>Name of collection:</i></p> <p>William S. B. Hopkins Jr. collection 1899-1934</p>	<p><i>Accession #:</i> 1975.35</p> <p><i>Location:</i></p>
<p><i>Collection size:</i></p> <p>1 manuscript box containing 7 leather volumes and 1 string-bound volume</p>	<p><i>NUCMC #:</i></p>
<p><i>Finding Aids:</i></p> <p>No Finding Aid</p>	
<p><i>Provenance:</i></p> <p>Unknown</p>	
<p><i>Description:</i></p> <p>William Swinton Barton Hopkins (1871-1952) was born in Greenfield, MA to William Hopkins Sr., notable attorney in Worcester, and his wife Elizabeth Sarah Peek. He attended Williams College, class of 1894, and Harvard Law School, class of 1897. He was a junior partner from 1897 to 1902 at the law firm of Hopkins, Smith &amp; Hopkins, of which his father was a senior partner. After his father's death in 1902, he partnered with Edward T. Esty and opened the firm Hopkins &amp; Esty, open till 1907. He was the clerk of Worcester Superior Court from 1904 to 1941. He retired from his position when he reached the mandatory retirement age of seventy, in 1941. He remained unmarried throughout his life, living with both his elderly mother (d.1915) and elder sister (d.1928) until their deaths.</p> <p>The collection contains seven volumes of his personal diaries, spanning from 1899 to 1932. The diaries are in five year increments, spanning Williams's life from the age of twenty eight to the age of sixty one. His day to day accounts spoke of the day's schedule, people he visited or had correspondence with, and the daily weather. There is very little in the way of emotional insight, but accounts of activities including death, weddings, and illness.</p> <p>Notable entries include: Father's Death, volume one, January 14, 1900. Mother's Death, volume four, September 24, 1915. Sister's Death, volume six, March 30, 1928. Bombing of Judge Webster Thayer's house, volume seven, September 27, 1932.</p> <p>In addition to the diary volumes, there is a bound book of poetry written by William Hopkins. It includes both typed and handwritten poems on a variety of topics. One page includes a Library of Congress Copyright card, dated October 23, 1931. There is also a handwritten note dated 1943, thanking William for the book of poetry, signed by Constance Thayer Cory.</p>	