

WORCESTER HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Larson, Swan,
Collection

1999.104

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

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Collection Information

Abstract: The Swan Larson Collection includes photographs of company housing built on Indian Hill, Worcester, for Norton Co. employees by contractor Swan Larson around 1915. It also includes publications of Norton Co., particularly the company newsletter Norton Spirit from its inception in 1914 to the 1980s. Larson became an employee of Norton Company about 1920, and was foreman and later superintendent until his retirement about 1949.

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

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

Provenance: Donated by Evans W. Larson, son, of Worcester, June 17, 1999.

Access: The Finding Aid is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcsh, gmGPC, tgm, etc.)

Larson, Swan.
Norton Company (Worcester, Mass.)
Norton Spirit (Serial, Norton Company)
Persons Mfg. Co. (Worcester, Mass.)
Indian Hill (Worcester, Mass.) – Photographs.
Hoosac Tunnel (Mass.) – Photographs,
Wachusett Mountain (Mass.) – Photographs.
Newsletters – Massachusetts – Worcester – Norton Company.
Parades – Vermont – Rutland – Photographs.
Brass forgings – Persons Mfg. Co.

Summit houses (690) – Massachusetts – Mt. Wachusett – Photographs.

Biographical/Historical Information

In May 1915 Norton Co. of Worcester unveiled plans for development of Indian Hill for employees' housing. Street plans and housing plans were drawn by New York architect Grosvenor Atterbury and construction soon started. General Contractor Swan Larson of Worcester was the builder. Around 1920 Larson began employment with Norton Co., and over the next thirty years held a variety of positions. He was a foreman in the 1930, and later became Superintendent of Factory Services. He retired from this position at Norton Co. around 1949.

Scope and Content

The collection is comprised of Norton Co. publications, particularly a substantial number of the company monthly newsletter, Norton Spirit, from its inception in August 1914 until the 1980s. There are also an employees' handbook, including the history of the company, and a monograph Norton Hall. The collection also includes photographs of Swan Larson and his crew during construction of company housing on Indian Hill, some employee group photographs, and miscellaneous photographs. The collection also includes a letterhead of Swan Larson, General Contractor, and a brass casting with inscription "Persons Mfg. Co., Worcester, Mass., USA" (manufacturer of bicycle saddles, ca. 1900). The collection provides insight into the life and career of Swan Larson, as well as the activities – both industrial and social – of the Norton Co.

The miscellaneous photographs are of a parade at Rutland, Vt. (?) ca. 1915, a portal of Hoosac Tunnel showing the double track electrified railroad line and the portal doors, and the Summit House on Mt. Wachusett.

Series Description

Series 1: Publications. Includes monthly newsletter Norton Spirit and other publications of Norton Co.

Series 2: Photographs. Includes photographs of Swan Larson and the development of Indian Hill, group employee photographs, and miscellaneous/unidentified photographs.

Series 3: Miscellaneous. Includes a letterhead from Swan Larson, General Contractor, Worcester, Mass.

Series 4: Artifacts. Includes brass casting with inscription "Persons Mfg. Co., Worcester, Mass."

Swan Larson Collection
1999.104
Series 1, Publications

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1999.104.1.1-.89	Newsletter <u>The Norton Spirit</u> , August 1914 (Vol. 1, no. 1) - May, 1943, monthly newsletter of Norton Company, with articles about personnel, company activities including sports teams and social activities, manufacturing news, etc.
1	2	1999.104.1.90	Publication: <u>The Norton Spirit, Norton fiftieth year anniversary number, 1935</u> . 57 p., ill., spiral bound.
1	2	1999.104.1.91	Newsletter <u>The Norton Spirit</u> , September 1981.
1	3	1999.104.1.92	Newsletter <u>Keeping the Spirit alive</u> , Norton Alumni (retirees) newsletter, 1995.
1	3	1999.104.1.93	Publication: <u>Your job at Norton</u> , employees' manual, 64 p., ca. 1950, spiral bound.
1	4	1999.104.1.94	Publication: <u>Norton Hall</u> , commemorative volume concerning the importance of the industry and its people to Worcester and to the nation. 1 v.

Swan Larson Collection
 1999.104
 Series 2, Photographs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	1999.104.2.1	“Workers who built Indian Hill, crew of Swan Larson – he is near truck”: 5 x 7 in. on 8 x 10 in. mounting board, ca. 1915.
1	5	1999.104.2.2	“A group of foremen at Mr. Allen’s lodge, Petersham, Mass., about 1930, with Swan Larson, back row, 5 from left”: 8 x 10 in., ca. 1930.
1	5	1999.104.2.3	“Contractor Larson – builder of Indian Hill houses”: photocopy, 8 ½ x 11 in. / from Indian Village Album (Norton Archives)
1	5	1999.104.2.4	Rustic footbridge, location unknown, “Ericson Class B” on reverse: Snapshot, 3 x 5 in.
1	5	1999.104.2.5	“Mt. Wachusett summit house with Evans Larson, child”: snapshot, 3 x 4 in.
1	5	1999.104.2.6	Unidentified group at portal of Hoosac Tunnel showing double track electrified railroad and portal doors: snapshot, 3 x 4 in., ca. 1915.
1	5	1999.104.2.7-.10	Parade, Rutland Vt. (?): snapshot, 3 x 4 in., ca. 1915. 4 items.

Swan Larson Collection
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Series 3, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	6	1999.104.3.1	Letterhead: Swan J. Larson - General Contractor and Builder - Worcester, Mass. ca. 1915.

Swan Larson Collection
1999.104
Series 4, Artifacts

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1		1999.104.4.1	Brass forging, 2 x 5 in., in shape of bicycle seat, with decorative trim and inscription "Persons Mfg. Co. - Worcester, Mass. USA" (Persons Manufacturing Company manufactured bicycle saddles) ca. 1900.