

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Norcross Family
Collection

1989.51

Processed by Robyn Christensen
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Collection Information

Abstract: The Norcross Family Collection includes the family's genealogical information, as well as two letter books between James A. Norcross and Orlando W. Norcross from 1872-1874 and 1874-1879. The collection also includes other miscellaneous items from the Norcross family.

Finding Aids: Written Finding Aid available in the Repository. Item level control.

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

Provenance: Donated by Charles Cross in 1989

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

Biographical Information

The first generation of the Norcross Family consists of Thomas Norcross of London, England. Thomas married Marry Chappell and had three children: John in 1590, Jeremiah about 1595, and Thomas. Jeremiah Norcross settled in Watertown Massachusetts in 1624, where he married and had three children. The most prominent members of the Norcross Family were James Atkinson and Orlando Whitney Norcross. The brothers were the sons of Jesse Springer Norcross of Winslow Me, and Margaret Ann Whitney of Westborough Ma. They had eight children together from 1828 to 1844. James and Orlando were skilled carpenters and opened their own construction company in 1868. The brothers were granted contracts in Worcester County, and quickly became the foremost builders in the area. Some of their work includes Worcester City Hall, Old Classical High School, Worcester Art Museum, and the Burnside Building. The Company grew outside of Worcester. Contracts were granted to the Norcross Brothers from cities and companies all over the country. They were well established in New York, Boston, Providence, Cleveland and Worcester. The main office for the company remained in the city of Worcester while throughout its expansion. James Norcross died at the age of 73 in his Worcester home on August 4, 1903. Orlando Norcross died at the age of 81 on February 27, 1920 unexpectedly en route to his business from his home in Worcester.

Scope and Content

The Collection consists of a book containing the Norcross Family genealogical and historical information from about 1590 to the late 17th century. There are two letter books from the Norcross Brothers Co. from 1872 to 1879. There are also two miscellaneous folders containing a marriage license for Orlando Norcross and Ellen Sibley, Civil War discharge papers for Orlando Norcross, a handwritten will for Orlando Norcross, and various business letters for the Norcross Brothers Co. The second folder contains four letters to Charles H. Norton.

Series Description

Series 1: Family history/genealogy. The series consists of a single item, a book containing the Norcross family genealogy and history.

Series 2: Letter Books. Norcross Brothers Co. 2 books with letters between the 1872-1874 and 1874-1879

Series 3: Miscellaneous

Norcross Family Collection
1989.51
Series 1, History/Genealogy

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1		1989.51.1.1	Norcross family genealogy record book compiled by Joel W. Norcross for Julia Ann Norcross Smith.

Norcross Family Collection
1989.51
Series 2, Letter Books

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1		1989.51.2.1	Letter book of Norcross Bros. 1872-1874 (Illegible)
1		1989.51.2.2	Letter book of Norcross Bros. 1874-1879

Series 3, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1989.51.3.1	Marriage license Orlando Norcross to Ellen Sibley (1870)
1	1	1989.51.3.2	Civil War Discharge papers Orlando Norcross
1	1	1989.51.3.3	Letter to mother from Orlando (May 1864)
1	1	1989.51.3.4a-c	Empty envelopes
1	1	1989.51.3.5	Letter from Norcross Brothers to Mr. Tabor (2-11-1919)
1	1	1989.51.3.6	Cash Expenditure Slip – Norcross Brothers
1	1	1989.51.3.7	Four letters between Norcross Brothers and Charles B. Norton (1932)