

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES 2013.FIA.01

General Rufus Putnam Collection

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Series		Page	Box
	Collection Information	3	
	Historical/Biographical Notes	3	
	Scope and Content		
	Series Description		
1	Rufus Putnam Papers, Map & Correspondence		1
2	Rufus Putnam Memorial Association		1
3	Deeds of the Peat Company		1
4	Rufus Putnam Association Record Book 1901-1950		2
5	Rufus Putnam House Visitor Logs 1897-1950		2, 3 & B.V

Collection Information

Abstract : Collection contains some correspondence from General Rufus. There are papers on the start of the Rufus Putnam Homestead in Rutland as well as upkeep, furnishings and maintenance. There are also papers from the members of the Rufus Putnam Memorial Association.

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

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Unknown

MARC Access : ?

Historical/Biographical Notes

General Rufus Putnam (GRP) was born in Sutton, Massachusetts on April 9, 1738 and Died in Marietta, Ohio on May 4, 1824. In April 1761 Putnam married Elizabeth Ayers, the daughter of William Ayers. Elizabeth died in 1762, possibly in childbirth. On January 10, 1765 Putnam married again, to Persis Rice, the daughter of Zebulon Rice of Westborough, Massachusetts. GRP was an engineer for General Washington. He served three enlistments in the French and Indian War in which he designed and built defenses. GRP Established the Ohio Company of Associates on March 2, 1786 in Boston for the advocacy of land grants and settling the Northwest Territory. The company bought about 1,000,000 acres of land on the Ohio River and settled the first township in the Northwest Territory of Marietta.

Scope and Content

This collection contains the General Rufus Putnam papers. The collection mostly contains papers having to do with the creation and carry through of the Putnam Memorial Association (PMA). Contained within are petitions to create an association for the memorial and purchase of the General Rufus Putnam Homestead (RPH), in Rutland Massachusetts. There are papers from GPR himself, correspondence to and from the members of the (PMA), deeds for the property of the RPH including the Rutner and Gardner property deeds. There is a list of furnishings and belongings that were in the house at the time the PMA was dissolved. There is also an extensive account of maintenance and upkeep on the RPH. There are a small number of items from the house and the association. Lastly there is a PMA record book of the minutes, and volumes that list the visitors to the RPH in the 50 years it was open. It is unknown who donated the collection. It did not have an accession attached to it and so an accession of 2013.FIA.01 has been assigned to this collection. The collection consists of five series. The collection spans from 1759 to 1958

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Rufus Putnam Papers, Map and Correspondence

Series 2: Rufus Putnam Memorial Association

Sub-Series 1: Rutland and Gardner Massachusetts Property Deeds

Sub-Series 2: Putnam Memorial Association Correspondence

Sub-Series 3: Rufus Putnam Home

Series 3: Deeds of the Peat Company

Series 4: Rufus Putnam Memorial Association Record Book

Series 5: Rufus Putnam Home Visitor Registrations

General Rufus Putnam Collection
 2013.FIA.01.01.
 Series 1, Rufus Putnam Papers, Map and Correspondence

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Subseries#</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1		2013.FIA.01.01.01-06	Correspondence from GRP and a hand drawn map.

General Rufus Putnam Collection
 2013.FIA.01.02
 Series 2, Rufus Putnam Memorial Association

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Subseries#</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1	2013.FIA.01.02.01.01-29	Property Deeds from the Rutland & Gardner, Massachusetts 1852-1859
1	2	2	2013.FIA.01.02.02.01-52	Correspondence from the PMA 1888-1902
1	1	3	2013.FIA.01.02.03.01-13	Petitions, donations, receipts & news articles about preserving RPH.
1	2	3	2013.FIA.01.02.03.14-23	List of furnishings and belongings that were at RPH.
1	3	3	2013.FIA.01.02.03.24-131	RPH maintenance and upkeep 1900-1951
1	4	3	2013.FIA.01.02.03.132-142,144	Items: tickets, stickers, painting of sign.
O.V.S		3	2013.FIA.01.02.03.143	Betsy Ross certificate

General Rufus Putnam Collection
 2013.FIA.01.03
 Series 3, Deeds of the Peet Company

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Subseries#</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1		2013.FIA.01.03.05-06,08,10-11	Deeds of the Peet Company
O.V.S			2013.FIA.01.03.01-04,07,09,12-14	

General Rufus Putnam Collection
2013.FIA.01.04
Series 4 – PMA Record Book 1901-1950

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Sub-Series#</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	B.V		2013.FIA.01.04.01	The minutes recorded for the PMA meetings. 1901-1950

General Rufus Putnam Collection
2013.FIA.01.05
Series 5 – Visitor Registrations to the Rufus Putnam Home

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Sub-Series#</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
B.V	V1		2013.FIA.01.05.01	Visitor list for 1897-1898
2	V2		2013.FIA.01.05.02	Visitor list for 1899-1913
3	V3		2013.FIA.01.05.03	Visitor list for 1914-1948
3	V4		2013.FIA.01.05.04	Visitor list for 1915-1951
B.V	V5		2013.FIA.01.05.05	Visitor list for 1952-1958