

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

Rice, Barton and Fales, Inc.  
Records

1997.102

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.  
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

series		Page	Box
	Collection Information	3	
	Historical Information	4	
	Scope and Content	5	
	Series Description	6	
1	Day books/Journals	7	BV
2	Financial Records	8	BV
3	Miscellaneous Records	10	BV
4	Order Books	11	BV
5	Letters	12	BV
6	Household and Personal Bills, C. S. Barton	13	1
7	Miscellaneous	14	2
	Bibliography	15	

### Collection Information

Abstract: Company records including daybooks, ledgers, letter books, order books, etc. illustrate the activities and growth of Rice, Barton & Fales, Inc. and its predecessors between ca. 1845 and 1932. Personal and household bills of Company President Charles S. Barton between 1896 and 1901 illustrate his and his family's life and activities.

Finding Aids: Written Finding Aid is available at Worcester Historical Museum Library. Item/Folder-level description.

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

Provenance: Donated by Bill Perkins, Rice Barton Corp., August 26, 1997.

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

Barton, George Sumner, d. 1891.  
Barton, Charles Sumner, d. 1914.  
Barton, George Sumner, II.  
Rice, Barton & Fales Machine and Iron Co.  
Rice, Barton & Fales, Inc.  
Rice, Barton & Co.  
Goddard, Rice & Co.  
Howe & Goddard.  
Papermaking machinery – Massachusetts – Worcester.  
Textile machinery – Massachusetts – Worcester.  
Textile machinery industry – Massachusetts – Worcester.  
Machinery industry – Massachusetts – Worcester.  
Barton, Charles Sumner, d. 1914 – Finance, Personal.  
Barton family – Finance, Personal.  
Cone Mills (Greensboro, N.C.) – History.  
Account books – Ledgers – Massachusetts – Worcester – 19<sup>th</sup> century. (rbgenr)  
Daybooks – Massachusetts – Worcester – 19<sup>th</sup> century. (rbgenr)  
Record keeping works – Massachusetts – Worcester – 19<sup>th</sup> century. (rbgenr)

## Historical Information

Rice, Barton & Fales, Inc., established in 1867, was the successor to a series of companies engaged in the manufacture of paper and pulp mill and textile machinery:

Howe & Goddard, established in 1837, became

Goddard, Rice & Co., ca. 1847, became

Rice, Barton & Co., 1862, became

Rice, Barton & Fales Machine and Iron Co., 1867, changed name to

Rice, Barton & Fales, Inc., 1922-

George S. Barton was President of the corporation from 1862 until his death in 1891. He was succeeded by his son, Charles S. Barton, who served as President until his death in 1914. He was succeeded by his son, George S. Barton who assumed the offices of President and Treasurer in 1914. Throughout its history, the company has specialized in building paper-making and textile printing machinery, although at various times in its history it has built a number of different types of machinery, including steam boilers, hydraulic presses, and other lines.

The location of the original 1837 plant was in downtown Worcester. This facility remained in use through the several reorganizations until 1892, when a new facility was opened on a site in the – at that time – undeveloped southern part of the city. This facility on Southgate Street, enlarged and modernized, remains in use today.

## Scope and Content

The Rice, Barton and Fales records illustrate the development and growth of the company, including its predecessors, from the mid-1840s to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, with scattered records as late as the 1930s. The collection includes some 30 ledgers, daybooks, letter books, order books, and other record keeping books, which provide a history of the growth and development of the company, as well as providing insight into the record keeping practices of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. In particular the letter books provide examples of the copying of manuscript letters by letterpress, a process for manuscript copying devised around 1840. Record keeping works also include plans, specifications, and costs of much of the machinery developed and built by the company.

The collection also includes personal and household accounts of Charles S. Barton and his family between 1896 and 1901. Charles S. Barton was company president from 1891 until his death in 1914. This aspect of the collection provides insight into the social life and customs of the well-to-do families of Worcester at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The collection is arranged topically, and is described to folder level (item level for bound volumes.)

### Series Description

Series 1. Day Books/Journals, 1846-1860 (except 1856). Bound volumes of daily cash flow information. Includes notes and memoranda on daily business activities, etc. 7 volumes.

Series 2. Financial Records, 1845-1932. Includes ledgers, some with indexes, loose indexes; cash books, account books, expense books. 17 bound volumes. (No records 1850-1855, 1859-1860, 1902-1929). Also includes 3 bound volumes of employees' time and pay records.

Series 3. Miscellaneous records, ca. 1860-ca. 1880. Includes records of processes and specifications, equipment lists, and records of costs. 3 bound volumes.

Series 4. Order Books, 1856-1886. Includes records of orders taken, some with plans and specifications. 4 bound volumes.

Series 5. Letters, 1844-1868 (except 1852-1858). Bound volumes of copies of manuscript business letters. 6 volumes.

Series 6. Household and personal bills, Charles S. Barton, President of Rice, Barton & Fales, and family, 1896-1901. (ca. 0.5 lin. ft.)

Series 7. Miscellaneous. Includes published works, framed letter.

Rice, Barton & Fales  
1997.102  
Series 1, Day Books, Journals, etc.

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
	BV	1997.102.1.1	Daybook/Journal, Goddard, Rice & Co., June 1, 1846-May 22, 1848. 28 cm.
	BV	1997.102.1.2	Daybook/Journal, Goddard, Rice & Co., May 1, 1849-May 31, 1851. 28 cm.
	BV	1997.102.1.3	Daybook/Journal, Goddard, Rice & Co., June 2, 1851-June 3, 1853. 28 cm.
	BV	1997.102.1.4	Daybook/Journal, Goddard, Rice & Co., June 9, 1853-December 9, 1855. 28 cm.
	BV	1997.102.1.5	Daybook/Journal, Goddard, Rice & Co., July 10, 1856-October 13, 1858. 28 cm.
	BV	1997.105.1.6	Daybook/Journal, Goddard, Rice & Co., January 22, 1857-April 19, 1859. 28 cm.
	BV	1997.102.1.7	Daybook/Journal, Goddard, Rice & Co., April 21, 1859-December 31, 1860. 28 cm.

Rice, Barton & Fales  
1997.102  
Series 2, Financial Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
	BV	1997.102.2.1	Account Book, 1845-1847. 40 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.2	Ledger, 1846-1849. 40 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.3	Ledger, 1861-1862. 38 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.4	Ledger, 1862-1867. 36 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.5	Ledger, 1867-1870. 38 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.6	Ledger, 1872-1877. 38 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.7	Ledger, 1877-1882. 40 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.8	Ledger, 1883-1889. 40 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.9	Ledger, 1889-1894. 40 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.10	Ledger, 1895-1901. 40 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.11	Account Book, petty cash, 1930-1932. 32 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.12	Record Book, employees' time and wages, 1889-1894. 36 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.13	Record Book, employees' time and wages, 1894-1899. 46 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.14	Record Book, employees' time and wages, 1899-1903. 52 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.15	Index to ledger, n.d. 40 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.16	Index to ledger, n.d. 36 cm.
	BV	1997.102.2.17	Index to ledger, n.d. 36 cm.

Series 2, continued



BV	1997.102.2.18	Index to ledger, n.d. 36 cm.
BV	1997.102.2.19	Index to ledger, n.d. 36 cm.
BV	1997.102.2.20	Index to ledger, n.d. 36 cm.

Rice, Barton & Fales  
1997.102  
Series 3, Miscellaneous records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
	BV	1997.102.3.1	Record Book. Specifications for machinery built by Rice, Barton & Fales, ca. 1889-1897. 38 cm.
	BV	1997.102.3.2	Record Book. Cost and procedures for machine construction, with inserts and photographs, ca. 1871-ca. 1879. 27 cm.
	BV	1997.102.3.3	Record Book. Leinster Paper Company, list of machinery, equipment, and supplies, with weights of individual pieces. n.d. 35 cm.

Rice, Barton & Fales  
1997.102  
Series 4, Order Books

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
	BV	1997.102.4.1	Order Book, 1856-1861. Includes specifications and sketches of machines ordered. 28 cm.
	BV	1997.102.4.2	Order Book, 1862-1871. Includes specifications and sketches of machines ordered. 28 cm.
	BV	1997.102.4.3	Order Book, 1871-1884. Includes specifications and sketches of machines ordered. 28 cm.
	BV	1997.102.4.4	Order Book, 1880-1886. Includes specifications and sketches of machines ordered. 28 cm.

Rice, Barton & Fales  
1997.102  
Series 5, Letters

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
	BV	1997.102.5.1	Letters, 1844-1846. Bound volume of copies of business letters sent. 28 cm.
	BV	1997.102.5.2	Letters, 1846-1849. Bound volume of copies of business letters sent. 28 cm.
	BV	1997.102.5.3	Letters, 1849-1851. Bound volume of copies of business letters sent. 28 cm.
	BV	1997.102.5.4	Letters, 1859-1862. Bound volume of copies of business letters sent. 31 cm.
	BV	1997.102.5.5	Letters, 1862-1865. Bound volume of copies of business letters sent. 31 cm.
	BV	1997.102.5.6	Letters, 1865-1868. Bound volume of copies of business letters sent. 31 cm.

Rice, Barton & Fales  
1997.102  
Series 6, Personal bills, C.S. Barton

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1997.102.6.1	Personal and household bills of Charles S. Barton and family, 1896-1898.
1	2	1997.102.6.2	Personal and household bills of Charles S. Barton and family, 1899.
1	3	1997.102.6.3	Personal and household bills of Charles S. Barton and family, 1900.
1	4	1997.102.6.4	Personal and household bills of Charles S. Barton and family, 1901.

Rice, Barton & Fales  
1997.102  
Series 7, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	5	1997.102.7.1	Framed letter. T. Smith & Co., from George Barton and Charles S. Barton, Rice, Barton & Fales, ordering supplies. September 24, 1890. 24x30 cm.
2	6	1997.102.7.2	Manual for operation of Marchant Deci-Magic calculator. n.d. 23x29 cm.
2	7	1997.102.7.3	Publication: World leadership in denims; through thirty years of progress, dedicated to the founders of Cone Mills at Greensboro, North Carolina. 1925.

### Bibliography

Stone, Orra. History of Massachusetts industries: their inception, growth and success. Boston, Mass. : S.J. Clarke, 1930. Vol. 2, p. 1687-1689.

Washburn, Charles G. Industrial Worcester. Worcester, Mass.: Davis press, 1917.