

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

Charles H. Sawyer  
Papers

1998.115

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

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### Collection Information

Abstract: The collection consists of correspondence between Esther Forbes, Worcester resident and author, and Charles H. Sawyer, former Director of Worcester Art Museum, with other papers, concerning the Salisbury Mansion and the activities of the Salisbury Mansion Associates, Inc.

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

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

Provenance: Given by Charles H. Sawyer to American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, subsequently given to Worcester Historical Museum with Mr. Sawyer's approval.

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

Sawyer, Charles H. (Charles Henry), 1906-  
Forbes, Esther, 1891-1967  
Sawyer, Charles H. (Charles Henry), 1906- – Letters  
Forbes, Esther, 1891-1967 – Letters  
Worcester Art Museum (Worcester, Mass.)  
Salisbury Mansion Associates, Inc. (Worcester, Mass.)

Letters (gmgpc)

### Historical/Biographical Information

Esther Forbes, 1891-1967, born in Westborough, Massachusetts, was a long-time Worcester resident, author of best-selling historical novels, and active in the cultural life of the City. She was a Trustee of the Worcester Art Museum, and, in the mid 1950s, was involved in the formation of the Salisbury Mansion Associates, Inc.

Charles Henry Sawyer, 1906-, was Director of the Worcester Art Museum from 1940-1947. The Worcester Art Museum owned the Salisbury Mansion and used it as an art school during the 1930s and 1940s. The mansion was sold to a non-profit organization in 1950, which had intentions of using the building as a crafts center.

The proposed plans for converting the mansion to a usable crafts school and center were developed which would make alterations to the building that would destroy the historic integrity of the structure, or, in the worst case, require demolition of the structure and replacement with a more suitable building. To preserve the mansion, a group was established, incorporating themselves as the Salisbury Mansion Associates, Inc., with the purpose of raising funds to acquire and preserve the mansion.

The collection consists of letters between Miss Forbes and Mr. Sawyer concerning the initial fund raising activities of the Associates, and a transcript of a talk given by Mr. Sawyer including the steps being taken to preserve the Salisbury Mansion.

[Reference: Salisbury Mansion Associates, Inc. Records, 1996.111]

### Scope and Content

The collection consists of three letters written in early 1956 – two from Esther Forbes to Charles Sawyer, and one from Mr. Sawyer to Miss Forbes, all dealing with funding-raising and publicity efforts being made by the Salisbury Mansion Associates, which provide insight into the difficulties encountered during the formative years of the Salisbury Mansion Associates, Inc. The collection also includes a transcript of remarks made by Mr. Sawyer in 1990, on the occasion of the Memorial Observance for Louisa Dresser Campbell at the Worcester Art Museum, in which he refers to the Salisbury Mansion Associates, Inc., and its ultimate success in protecting the mansion.

## Series Description

The collection is divided into a single series:

Series 1: Letters, etc. Includes two letters sent to Charles H. Sawyer, former Director of the Worcester Art Museum, from Esther Forbes, Worcester novelist, and one letter from Mr. Sawyer to Miss Forbes, all referring to activities of the newly formed Salisbury Mansion Associates, Inc., written in 1956. Also included are transcripts of Mr. Sawyer's remarks (1990), in which he refers to the successful activities of the Associates.

Charles H. Sawyer Papers  
1998.115  
Series 1, Letters, etc.

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1998.115.1.1	Letter. Charlie (Charles H. Sawyer) from Esther Forbes, January 9, 1956, re donation and publicity for Salisbury Mansion Associates. Manuscript.
		1aAqp	
1	1	1998.115.1.2	Letter. To Charlie (Charles H. Sawyer) from Esther Forbes, [January 1956], re Salisbury Mansion. Typescript with manuscript notations on reverse.
		2aAqp	
1	1	1998.115.1.3	Letter. Esther Forbes from Charles Sawyer, January 3, 1956, re preservation of Salisbury Mansion. Carbon copy.
		3aAqp	
1	2	1998.115.1.4	Transcript. Charles H. Sawyer's remarks at the Memorial Observance for Louisa Dresser Campbell at the Worcester Art Museum, March 25, 1990. Typescript. 5 p.
		4aAqp	