

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES 2013.FIA.02

Sawyer, William H. (1843-1926)
Papers

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Collection Information

Abstract : William H. Sawyer (1843-1926) was a prominent Worcester businessman who founded the W. H. Sawyer Lumber Co., and involved member of the community including serving as Alderman and as the chairman of the three person building committee that oversaw the design and construction of the New City Hall dedicated in 1896. The collection contains documents relating to the construction of the New City Hall as well as deeds relating to several Worcester properties.

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

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Gift of William H. Sawyer, III, in 1974 and August 3, 1990.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings

Historical/Biographical Notes

William H. Sawyer (1843-1926) was the founder of the W. H. Sawyer Lumber Company and an active in civic affairs, serving as Alderman and as chairman of the building committee responsible for the design and construction of the New City Hall (dedicated in 1896). Born August 8, 1843 in Durham, NH, William H. Sawyer (WHS) was the son of Hiram D. and Joannah (Johnson) Sawyer. WHS attended Newbury Seminary in Vermont and afterwards worked at his father's lumber business. In 1869, WHS moved to Worcester and established his own lumber company first on Grove Street, moving the business to Lincoln Street in 1871. His primary residence was 107 Lincoln Street in Worcester. In addition to his time served as an Alderman and on the New City Hall building committee, WHS was an active member of the Worcester Historical Society, founder of the Hancock Club and a member of the Commonwealth and Economic Clubs, the Worcester Club, Tatnuck Country Club, Althelson Lodge, A.F. & A.M (Masons) and the Lawrence Chapter of the Rose Croix. WHS also served as the director of the Lumber Mutual Fire Insurance, Co., in Boston, the Worcester Chamber of Commerce, the First National Bank of Worcester and the City Missionary Society. He was an active member of Plymouth Church.

William H. Sawyer was married two times. He married, in 1870, Silvina T. Child (1841 – 1872) of Bath, NH by whom one daughter, Gertrude May Sawyer (1871-1872). His second marriage in 1874 was to Fanny a. Weld and from this marriage had four daughters and one son: Alice L. (wife of Ralph L. Morgan); Anna W. Sawyer; Gertrude M. (wife of Charles L. Morse); Helen J. (wife of F. D. Lisle) and son William H. Sawyer. He died at the age of 82 at his summer home in Grafton, MA.

Scope and Content

The William H. Sawyer Papers is a combined collection of two donations (1974.3 and 1990.35.1-15) made by the subject's grandson, William H. Sawyer, III. The collection is comprised of two series made up of documents relating to the construction and dedication of the New City Hall (dedicated in 1896) and a group of legal documents (deeds, mortgages, quitclaims, etc.) spanning the years 1844 to 1895. The sale and ownership of the properties include the Blake Estate on Main Street, the H. W. Eddy Estate on Norwich Street, the Shannon Estate on Shannon Street, the Mary A. Gage Estate on Main Street and the Stockwell Estate on Mechanic Street.

The collection is arranged in two series that relate both to the original donations and to their topics. The items relating to the construction and dedication of the New City Hall, which include four photographic images that are stored in the photographic collection and can be viewed in PastPerfect (two of which cannot be located) are from the 1990.35 donation. The legal documents surrounding properties in Worcester are from an earlier donation 1974.3. Within the folders, the items are sorted by date.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: New City Hall Building

Series 2: Deeds: Worcester Properties

William H. Sawyer (1843-1926) Papers
1974.3 and 1990.35

Series 1, New City Hall Building

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2013.FIA.02.01-05	Account book and documents relating to the building of New City Hall
1	2	2013.FIA.02.06-12	Proclamation of WHS's appointment as Alderman; Program and speeches from laying of cornerstone & dedication of building

William H. Sawyer (1843-1926) Papers
1974.3 and 1990.35

Series 2, Deeds Worcester Properties

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	3	2013.FIA.02.13-26	Documents relating to the property located at Mechanic and Main Streets. Individuals mentioned: Daniel Denny, Charles A. Whiting, Dexter Rice, William C. Whiting, Maurice W. Shannon and William H. Sawyer.
1	4	2013.FIA.02.27-32	Documents relating to Louisa S. B. Blake property Main Street, Individuals mentioned: Harriet N. Bowen, Charles S. Hale and William H. Sawyer.
1	5	2013.FIA.02.33-38	Documents relating to the Bowen Estate located on Main Street. Individuals mentioned: George Bowen, Harriet N. Bowen, Calvin Foster and William H. Sawyer
1	6	2013.FIA.02.39-40	Documents relating to the Eddy Estate located on Norwich Street. Individuals mentioned: Henry W. Eddy and William H. Sawyer.
1	7	2013.FIA.02.41-44	Documents relating to the Stockwell Estate on Mechanic Street. Individuals mentioned: Daniel Denny, Emerson M. Stockwell, and Harriet E. Stockwell.

Series 2, Deeds Worcester Properties

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| 1 | 8 | 2013.FIA.02.45-53 | Documents relating to the Taft Estate on Main St. Individuals mentioned include Lyman J. Taft, Frank W. Harrington and William H. Sawyer. |
| 1 | 9 | 2013.FIA.02.54-58 | Mortgages relating to assorted individuals or institutions: Grace Denholm, Thomas H. Sage, Francis A. Gaskill, Alice L. Morgan, and the American Antiquarian Society |