

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES 1985.31

Ethel (Edwards) Turner School Papers
Collection

Processd by Robert Iafolla
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Collection Information

Abstract : School Papers of Ethel R. (Turner) Edwards. 1908-1919

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

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance: Donated by Ethel Edwards

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

Historical/Biographical Notes

Ethel Turner was born on February 8, 1901 in Worcester. She was the daughter of William T. Turner, a carpet weaver, and his wife Ellen who had both immigrated to the United States from England in the 1890's. In 1903, the Turner family moved to Denver, Colorado because they believed the climate would be milder on Mr. Turner's asthma, but a lack of work caused the family to return to Worcester in 1907. They moved into a house at 1 New York St., near the Whittall Mills where Mr. Turner had found a job, and where Ethel, her parents and Sister Rosa lived for the remainder of her school days. Although she had begun first grade in Denver, the family's departure meant she only spent a few months enrolled there, so Turner began her time in the Worcester Public School system in the spring of 1908 at Webster Square School. After competing fourth grade in 1911, she moved on to the Freeland Street School for the fifth and sixth grade. After scoring high marks there, she was able to attend the New Woodland Street Preparatory School for seventh and eight grades, graduating in 1915. After this, Turner attended South High School for two years, before transferring to the High School of Commerce, where she could learn the skills needed to work in an office. After graduating in 1919, she found employment in the office of the Superintendent of Schools. She left in 1925 to marry George Bates Edwards.

Scope and Content

The collection includes numerous examples of class notes, schoolwork and some essays completed by Turner from the first grade in 1908 through her senior year in high school in 1919, pertaining to subjects such as English, mathematics, social studies, foreign languages, sciences, art and music as well as bookkeeping, stenography, economics and commercial law from her time at the High School of Commerce. Also included are report cards showing classes offered in Worcester's high school curriculum at the time, as well as short personal narratives by Edwards, her Turner, about her early life and education.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Typed descriptions by Edwards of her schooling and her report cards

Series 2: Papers from Webster Square School, Grades 1-4, March 1908 – February 1911

Series 3: Papers from Freeland Street School, Grades 5-6, February 1911 – February 1913

Series 4: Papers from New Woodland Street Preparatory School, Grades 7-8, February 1913 – February 1915

Series 5: Papers from South High School, Grades 9-10, February 1915 – February 1917

Series 6: Papers from High School of Commerce, Grades 11-12, February 1917 - February 1919

Ethel (Turner) Edwards School Papers Collection
 1985.31
 Series 1, Edwards' Stories and Report Cards

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1985.31	This folder contains 4 short typewritten accounts of Edwards' early family life and her experiences in school, as well as her career aspirations and work experience until her marriage.
1	2	1985.31	This folder contains Edwards' report cards and transcripts from her brief time in Denver until her graduation from the High School of Commerce in 1919. In addition to her personal academic performance, the report cards from high school show the range of courses offered to students at the time.

Ethel (Turner) Edwards School Papers Collection
 1985.31
 Series 2, Webster Square School Papers

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	3	1985.31	This folder contains a small number of examples of first grade work from Webster Square School, including handwriting practice exercises and miscellaneous drawings.
1	4	1985.31	This folder contains examples of second grade work from Webster Square School, including handwriting practice work, dictation exercises, arithmetic practice work, and drawings.
1	5	1985.31	This folder contains third grade work from Webster Square School, including handwriting practice work, dictation exercises, grammar exercises, arithmetic practice work, and art projects.
1	6	1985.31	This folder contains fourth grade work from Webster Square School, including spelling

practice, dictation exercises and short writing composition exercises. Also inside are examples of arithmetic practice work, U.S. history and geography work, and art projects.

1	7	1985.31	This folder contains miscellaneous drawings and artwork from Webster Square School.
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Ethel (Turner) Edwards School Papers Collection
1985.31
Series 3, Freeland Street School Papers

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	8	1985.31	This folder contains fifth grade work from the Freeland Street School, including an apron made in order to practice sewing, geometric and nature drawings, and a project showing the growth of a seed into a leaf. In addition, it holds examples of arithmetic and geometry exercises, grammar exercises, letter writing practice, spelling exercises and a reading list with brief book reviews.
1	9	1985.31	This folder contains sixth grade work from Freeland Street School, including arithmetic practice work, spelling exercises, grammar practice work, short writing composition exercises, letter writing practice examples and a brief book review.
1	10	1985.31	This folder contains sixth grade work from Freeland Street School, including exercises on political, economic and physical geography in the western hemisphere , US and European history work, as well as a short personal history by Ethel.
1	11	1985.31	This folder contains sixth grade work from Freeland Street School, including miscellaneous drawings, music notation exercises, and a scrapbook of magazine or catalog cutouts called "Furnishing the Home."

Ethel (Turner) Edwards School Papers Collection
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Series 4, New Woodland Street Preparatory School Papers

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	12	1985.31	This folder contains seventh grade work from New Woodland Prep, including spelling practice work, letter writing practice exercises, dictation practice exercises, short writing compositions, arithmetic practice work and personal account keeping practice exercises. Also included are European and US history work, European and US geography exercises, and notes on civics.
2	13	1985.31	This folder contains seventh grade work from New Woodland Prep, including Latin language practice work, German language practice work, geometric drawings and an imaginative and memory test.
2	14	1985.31	This folder contains eighth grade work from New Woodland Prep, including grammar practice work, letter writing practice exercises, spelling exercises work, dictation exercises and short writing compositions. Also inside are arithmetic and algebra practice work.
2	15	1985.31	This folder contains eighth grade work from New Woodland prep, including US geography and civics work, Latin language practice exercises and German language work. Also included are physiology notes and music notes. Lastly there is a typed letter describing the students of the New Woodland Prep class of 1915.
2	16	1985.31	This folder contains sketches of plants made while at New Woodland Prep

Ethel (Turner) Edwards School Papers Collection
1985.31
Series 5, South High School Papers

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	17	1985.31	This folder contains work from freshman year at South High, including algebra practice work, book reports, letter writing practice exercises and grammar exercises. Also included are German language work and physiology notes.
2	18	1985.31	This folder contains two notebooks from sophomore year at South High. The first contains English language work, including grammar notes, book or article reviews, spelling exercises, short writing compositions and letter writing practice exercises. The second notebook contains botany notes, along with a large number of pressed leaves.
2	19	1985.31	This folder contains work from sophomore year at South High, including geometry notes, a US history notebook containing material through the Civil War, Spanish language notes and verb conjugation practice exercises, and an advance lessons planning notebook.

Ethel (Turner) Edwards School Papers Collection
1985.31
Series 6, High School of Commerce Papers

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
3	20	1985.31	This folder contains work from junior year at the High School of Commerce, including grammar and spelling exercises, a practice letter of application for employment and an essay on the benefits an education at the High School of Commerce could provide.
3	21	1985.31	This folder contains work from junior year at the High School of Commerce, including 3 written reports, one on the life of Robert Burns, one on how a food company deals with waste and another on wireless communication with Japan. Also included

are a series of lecture or reading notes on Robert Burns, notes on Washington's Farewell Address, military training in schools, the life of Lowell, the life of Luther Burbank and education in South America.

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| 3 | 22 | 1985.31 | This folder contains work from junior year at the High School of Commerce in the subject of bookkeeping. It includes notes, practice ledgers and notebooks, and miscellaneous practice order forms, shipping forms and banking documents. |
| 3 | 23 | 1985.31 | This folder contains work from junior year at the High School of Commerce in the subject of stenography. It includes practice typing exercises, notes on shorthand, and examples of shorthand practice. |
| 3 | 24 | 1985.31 | This folder contains two notebooks from the High School of Commerce. The smaller one contains Physiology notes, while the larger contains notes on U.S. history, commercial law, economics, typing and stenography. |
| 3 | 25 | 1985.31 | This folder contains work from senior year at the High School of Commerce. It includes US history notes, an Ivanhoe Historical Notebooks Series map book on US historical geography, economics notes economics exercises, and a banking assignment. Also included is a practice job application letter and an essay on what civilians can do to help during World War One. |