

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES 1976.65

Washburn Family Papers Collection

Processed by Allison Bjorndahl
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Collection Information

Abstract: Correspondences, Business Records, Will Documents, and Patents

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

Preferred Citation: Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance: Donated to Worcester Historical Museum in 1976 by Nathan Wheeler.

Historical/Biographical Notes

Ichabod Washburn was born in Kingston, MA on August 11, 1798. He had a twin brother, Charles who passed in 1798. Ichabod was a blacksmith's apprentice in Leicester as a youth, and went on to establish the Washburn and Moen (Philip Moen was his son-in-law) Manufacturing company, manufacturers of wire. The factory first solely made 'card wire', but later went on to manufacture many types of wire including: piano wire, hoops for women's skirts, and crinoline. In addition, to his work at the factory, Washburn was heavily involved in charity work in Worcester, including assisting in the creation of the Mission Chapel Industrial School. This school was created to assist young women of struggling families in Worcester to develop sewing and clothing making skills. Washburn and John Boynton's monetary contributions helped to establish a vocational school for mechanics, Worcester County Free Institute of Industrial Science, which later became Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Washburn also made a large donation to the then Lincoln College, which became Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas. "It was because of Washburn's generosity, his membership in the Congregational Church and his interest in education that Horatio Q. Butterfield, fundraiser for Lincoln College, approached him in October 1868. Washburn agreed to give the struggling college, which admitted both blacks and women, in addition to men, the sum of \$25,000. In gratitude for his generous donation, the Lincoln College Board of Trustees changed the name of the school to Washburn College the next month" (Imparato, Martha) Washburn died in February of 1868 after suffering a stroke in December of 1867.

Imparato, Martha. *Washburn Alumni Magazine*. Summer 1998. p. 31.

Scope and Content

The collection is comprised of the personal papers of Ichabod Washburn and his family. This collection includes both personal documents: correspondences, newspaper clippings, pamphlets collected, as well as business documents: stockholder information, receipts, tax forms, correspondences, etc.

Series Descriptions

Series 1: Washburn Will

Series description: "Ichabod Washburn wrote two wills. The second was drafted shortly before his death and was never signed. This second will was created because his company changed names from I. Washburn & Moen Wire Works to the I. Washburn & Moen Manufacturing company after they extended their business. In addition to the businesses name change Mr. Washburn wished to add several more charitable donations to his will. It took years to reconcile these issues; eventually the case went to a court of arbitration to be decided by three people" (Worcester Gazette, April 5 1871).

Series 2: Correspondences

This series contains correspondence regarding: the death of Ichabod Washburn, condolences, letters to Mrs. Washburn, letters to the Washburn lawyer regarding the will controversy and the Bible society, and letters from the administrator of the will, Mr. P.C. Bacon.

Series 3: Business Records

This series consists primarily of business memorandums of agreement, but also contains receipts, balance sheets, stock certificates, and lists of stock holders.

Series 4: Mission Chapel Industrial School

The Industrial School at Mission Chapel was developed "for the children of poor parents in the city of Worcester". The Industrial School provided an opportunity for the young ladies of Worcester to develop sewing and clothing making skills. This school was made possible by wealthy benefactors in the Worcester community.

Series 5: Original Order Materials

This series contains an assortment of materials including deeds, receipts, stock certificates, income figures, tax documents and letters that were kept in the original order that they were found.

Series 6: Patents and Oversized Materials

This series contains large copies and drafts of patents. Folder two contains oversized materials.

Series 7: Miscellaneous

This series contains assorted ephemera, including: newspaper clippings, assorted pamphlets and leaflets, and event programs.

Series 1, Washburn Will

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1976.65.1.1-3	Copies of Washburn Will
1	2	1976.65.1.4-.27	Newspaper articles pertaining to the Washburn Will Case
1	3	1976.65.1.28-40	Pamphlets and petitions pertaining to the Washburn Will Case
1	4	1976.65.1.41-.64	Documents pertaining to the Washburn will case, including: receipts, petition drafts, and probate court records

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Series 2, Correspondences

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1976.65.2.1-20	Correspondence spanning from 1843-1861
1	2	1976.65.2.21-21	Correspondence spanning from 1864- 1870
1	3	1976.65.2.46- 117	Correspondence spanning from 1871-1891

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Series 3, Business Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1976.65.3.1-42	Receipts
1	2	1976.65.3.43-78	Folder contains balance sheets, stock certificates, and lists of stockholders
1	3	1976.65.3.78-88	Contains memorandums of agreement

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Series 4, Mission Chapel Industrial School

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	1	1976.65.4.1-19	Folder contains newspaper clippings, rules for the Mission Chapel Industrial School, and a letter regarding the school's opening.

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Series 5, Original Order Materials

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	1	1976.65.5.1-28	Folder contains 28 deeds
2	2	1976.65.5.29-44	Folder contains receipts, stock certificate, income figures, tax documents, and letters

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Series 6, Patents and Oversized Materials

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	1	1976.65.6.1-9	Folder contains copies and drafts for patents
Oversize Folders:			
	2	1976.65.6.10-11	Folder contains Worcester Fire Department membership certificate and patent for an improvement in hardening and tempering wire
	3	1976.65.6.12-13	Folder contains patent for rolling iron and a Patent assignment by Henry B. Comer to Washburn and others
	4	1976.65.6.14-19	Folder contains patents for: improvements in brick machines, an improved condenser, an improved thermal motor and improvements in steam engines.

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Series 7, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	1	1976.65.7.1-37	Folder contains assorted ephemera, including: newspaper clippings, assorted pamphlets and leaflets, and event programs.