

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Worcester Base Ball Club
Letters

1997.109

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.
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Collection Information

Abstract: Collection includes letters relative to the request of the Worcester Base Ball Club to become associated with the National League.

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

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

Provenance: Letters purchased by Worcester Historical Museum from Kenneth Feldman, Marlboro, Mass., in 1997.

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

Worcester Base Ball Club
Worcester Brown-stockings (Baseball team)
National League (Baseball)
Baseball – Massachusetts – Worcester.
Baseball – Massachusetts – Worcester – History.

Historical Background

The game of baseball, created by Abner Doubleday in the late 1840s, rapidly increased in popularity during the years following the Civil War. In Worcester, local teams became affiliated with minor leagues in the 1870s, and by 1879 attracted sufficient interest and backing to support a major league team. The Worcester Base Ball Club, with its team the "Worcesters" or "Brown-stockings", applied for admission to the recently (1876) formed National League, and in 1880 became a National League team. The "Brown-stockings" played in the National League through 1882, then resigned from the league, with its team reverting to minor league status.

Scope and Content

The collection consists of three letters written in 1879 and 1880 – request for admission of the Worcester Base Ball Club to the National League from the Club Secretary to the League Secretary, a financial status report from the Club Directors to the League Investigating Committee, and a recommendation for admission from the Investigating Committee to the League Secretary.

Series Description

Series 1: Letters. Includes letters written between 1879-1880 re admission of Worcester Base Ball Club into the National League. 3 items.

Worcester Base Ball Club
1997.109
Series 1, Letters

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	1997.109.1.1	Letter. N.E. Young, Secretary of National League, from F.L. Bancroft, Secretary Worcester Base Ball Club, requesting admission of Worcester BBC to National League, December 4, 1879.
	2	1aAqp	
1	1	1997.109.1.2	Letter. N.E. Young, Secretary of National League, from A.H. Soden [et al.], League Investigating Committee, recommending admission of Worcester base Ball Club. January 30, 1880.
	2	2aAqp	
1	1	1997.109.1.3	Letter. A.H. Soden, Chairman League Investigating Committee, from Charles Pratt [et al.], Directors, Worcester Base Ball Club, reporting financial status of club. January 27, 1880.
	2	3aAqp	

Bibliography

Goslow, Charles Brian. Fairground days: when Worcester was a National League city, in, Historical Journal of Massachusetts, v. XIX, no. 2, Summer 1991. p.133-154.

Nutt, Charles. History of Worcester and its people. New York, Lewis, 1919. II, p. 1119-1124.