

WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts

ARCHIVES

Worcester Police Department
Photograph Collection

2000.45

Processed by William F. Carroll, C.A.
August 2000

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Collection Information

Abstract : Worcester Police Department Photographic Collection highlights the men and their uniform and equipment from ca. 1865 to ca. 1930, and provides insight into the internal structure of the department as it was around 1870.

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

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Gift of Dorothy Friedgen, North Grafton, Mass., August 2000.

MARC Access : Collection is cataloged in MARC under the following subject headings (lcsh, aat, tgm, gmgcp)

Worcester (Mass.). Police Department.
Police – Massachusetts – Worcester – Photographs.
Mounted police – Massachusetts – Worcester – Photographs.
Photographs. (lcsh)
Albumen prints. (aat)
Collodion prints. (aat)
Gelatin silver prints. (aat)

Historical/Biographical Notes

Worcester has had a police presence since the earliest days of its settlement. Prior to becoming a city in 1848, the city's police force was comprised of a large number of constables who served primarily as a night watch, but who also were empowered to enforce the law in a fashion similar to police activities of today. The City of Worcester Police Department was headed by a City Marshal and large force of "day police" and "night police". Later the City Marshal's title was changed to Chief of Police and the force reorganized.

The photograph collection highlights members of the police for the period 1870 to the 1920s. Change in uniform and badge styles and equipment are apparent throughout the period.

Scope and Content

The collection is comprised of group portraits of members of Worcester Police Department, ca. 1870-ca. 1930; and individual portraits of police officers, ca. 1910s. Included with the collection are police uniform brass buttons and an aluminum cut-out "WP". One photograph may be of a military group (Spanish-American War) and may not be in Worcester.

The 1870 photograph provides insight into the hierarchy of the police department at that particular time in its history.

Series Description

Series 1: Photographs. Includes 7 photographic prints, ca. 1865-ca. 1930.

Series 2: Artifacts. Includes police department buttons and "WP" aluminum stencil.

Worcester Police Department Photograph Collection
2000.45
Series 1, Photographs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
	OVS-1 2000.45.1.1		Group of mounted men in uniform (Spanish-American War unit?), location unknown : collodion print, 7 x 36 in. / ca. 1898. One end torn off.
	OVS-1 2000.45.1.2		Members of the Police Department, Worcester, Massachusetts, 1870 : 33 3 ½ x 2 ½ in. oval albumen prints on 22 x 28 in. mount / “Photographed by Lawrence”, (Worcester, Mass.), ca. 1870. Mount is damaged.
	OVS-1 2000.45.1.3		Group of policemen in front of unidentified building : collodion print, 8 x 10 in. on 11 x 13 in. mat / S.l., s.n., n.d. Damaged.
	OVS-1 2000.45.1.4		Police officer with horse and boy : photographic print, 11 x 14 in. / ca. 1910s. Photograph is torn.
	OVS-1 2000.45.1.5		Mounted police officer : photographic print, 7 x 9 in. / ca. 1910s.
	OVS-1 2000.45.1.6		Police officer : portrait photograph, 5 x 7 in. / J. Carroll Brown, Worcester, Mass., 1929.
	OVS-1 2000.45.1.7		Police officer : portrait photograph, 4 x 6 in., gelatin silver print / ca. 1890.

Worcester Police Department Photograph Collection
2000.45
Series 2, Artifacts

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
Collections		2000.45.2.	Uniform buttons (21 large, 6 small) Aluminum "WP" badge (may have been attached to horse blanket)