

# WORCESTER HISTORICAL MUSEUM

30 Elm Street  
Worcester, Massachusetts

## ARCHIVES

Wright Wire Company  
Collection

2000.41

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

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### Collection Information

Abstract : Wright Wire Company established in Palmer in 1883 as Palmer Wire Cloth Company, moved to Worcester in 1889, name change in 1902 to Wright Wire Co. Manufacturers of wire cloth, fencing, related products. Known today as George F. Wright Steel & Wire Co.

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

Preferred Citation : Worcester Historical Museum, Worcester, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Purchased (in part) from Kenneth E. Schneringer, Woodstock, Ga., June 2000; other purchases and donors.

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

- Palmer Wire Cloth Company (Palmer, Mass.)
- Wright Wire Cloth Co. (Worcester, Mass.)
- Wright Wire Co. (Worcester, Mass.)
- George F. Wright Steel & Wire Co, (Worcester, Mass.) – History.
- Wright Wire Co. (Worcester, Mass.) – Catalogs.
- Wright Wire Co. (Worcester, Mass.) – Yearbooks.
- Wire netting – Massachusetts – Worcester.
- Wire netting industry – Massachusetts – Worcester.
- Wire products – Massachusetts – Worcester.
- Wire products industry – Massachusetts – Worcester.
- Wire industry – Massachusetts – Worcester.
- Industries – Massachusetts – Worcester.
- Worcester (Mass.) – Manufactures.
- Catalogs. lcsh
- Yearbooks. lcsh
- Wright, George F., 1831-1903.

## **Historical/Biographical Notes**

George F. Wright Steel & Wire Co. was established in 1883 in Palmer, Mass. as the Palmer Wire Cloth Co. The company moved to Worcester in 1889, with a facility on Hammond Street, and produced wire cloth and related products under the name Wright Wire Cloth Co. Samuel Colton was admitted as partner in 1892, and the company name changed to Wright & Colton Wire Co. Following Colton's retirement in 1902, the name changed to Wright Wire Co. The name was changed a final time in the early 1920s to George F. Wright Steel & Wire Co. Throughout its history the company has been in the forefront in the development and manufacture of wire cloth, wire netting, wire fencing, and related products of woven wire.

## **Scope and Content**

The Wright Wire Company Collection is comprised of a company history, written in 1980s; 1917 yearbook of the company; and catalogs of company products, ca. 1890-1920; stock certificate books, 1896 and 1903; correspondence, 1914-1919; other business records, 1885-1909.

The collection provides a comprehensive picture of the company during its first three decades, and provides insight into the activities of the company officials during the formative years.

## **Series Description**

Series 1: Business records. Includes stock certificate books, contracts, financial records. (31 items)

Series 2: Correspondence. Business and charitable correspondence of Herbert N. Wright, 1914-1919. (19 items)

Series 3: Histories. "A 100 year Odyssey", by Walter E. Knapp, ca. 1990. (1 item)

Series 4: Catalogs. Company products, ca. 1900-1920.

Series 5: Yearbooks.

Wright Wire Company Collection  
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Series 1, Business records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2000.41.1.1a .1b	Protest for non-payment, June 4, 1889. Check payable to Wright Wire Cloth Co., 60 days after April 2, 1889.
1	1	2000.41.1.2a .2b	Protest for non-payment, August 21, 1889. Check payable to Wright Wire Cloth Co., 90 days after May 20, 1889.
1	1	2000.41.1.3a .3b	Protest for non-payment, August 21, 1889. Check payable to Wright Wire Cloth Co., 90 days after May 21, 1889.
1	1	2000.41.1.4a .4b	Protest for non-payment, May 13, 1889. Check payable to Wright Wire Cloth Co., 60 days after March 11, 1889.
1	1	2000.41.1.5-.6	Check payable to Wright Wire Cloth Co., 60 days after ..., 1889. 2 items.
1	1	2000.41.1.7	List : manuscript list "Loss & Gain", ca. 1889. 3 p.
1	1	2000.41.1.8	List : manuscript list with initials and sums of money, n.d.
1	1	2000.41.1.9a-b	Stock certificates : 20 shares .. De Witt Wire Cloth Company, issued to Francis J. Bartlett, Jr., March 18, 1904. 2 items.
1	1	2000.41.1.10a-d	Power of Attorney granted to Wright Wire Co., by F.J. Bartlett with typed copy; correspondence relating to De Witt Wire Co. stock. 4 items.
1	1	2000.41.1.11	Declaration of Trust, by George M. Wright, relating to De Witt Wire Co. stock.

Series 1, continued

1	2	2000.41.1.12	Warranty Deed : George F. Wright to Wright Wire Cloth Co., land and buildings in Palmer, Mass., January 25, 1888.
1	2	2000.41.1.13	Bill of Sale of Personal Property : George F. Wright and Herbert N. Wright to Wright Wire Cloth Co., January 25, 1888.
1	2	2000.41.1.14	Receipt : Wright Wire Cloth Co., \$10.00 filing fees, January 21, 1888.
1	2	2000.41.1.15	Copy of Bill of Sale of 1000 bales of netting, November 21, 1887. Manuscript.
1	2	2000.41.1.16	Property appraisal of factory with machinery and property in Palmer, Mass., January 10, 1888. Manuscript.
1	2	2000.41.1.17	Warranty Deed : George F. Wright to Wright Wire Cloth Co., land and buildings in Palmer, Mass., November 10, 1887.
1	2	2000.41.1.18	Agreement of Association, for formation of corporation to be named Wright Wire Cloth Co., November 1, 1887.
1	2	2000.41.1.19	Certificate of Payment of Capital, Wright Wire Cloth Co., November 10, 1887.
1	2	2000.41.1.20a	First meeting of stockholders of Palmer Wire Manufacturing Co., May 17, 1887.
		.20b	Envelope, postmarked October 15, 1887, stamp missing.
1	2	2000.41.1.21	Contract : Wright Wire Cloth Co., and Knapp & Hague, New Haven, Conn., June 28, 1886.
1	2	2000.41.1.22	Contract : Wright Wire Cloth Co., and Knapp & Hague, New Haven, Conn., August 1887.

Series 1, continued

1	2	2000.41.1.23	Contract : Wright Wire Cloth Co., and Knapp &
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Hague, New Haven, Conn., August 24, 1887.

1	3	2000.41.1.24a-d	Receipt, cover letter, list of assets, envelope : relating to filing fees with Office of Commissioner of Corporations, January 1888. 4 items.
1	3	2000.41.1.25	Letters, lists, relating to formation of a corporation, contracts, industrial processes, related topics; with empty envelopes. 16 items.
1	3	2000.41.1.26	Stock Certificate : Wright & Colton Wire Cloth Co., 8 shares, Mary O. Patten, July 3, 1903.
1	3	2000.41.1.27	Certificate of Incorporation, Wright Wire Cloth Co., January 21, 1888, signed Henry B. Peirce, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
1	4	2000.41.1.28	Bankbook, First National Bank of Worcester, in account with Geo. F. Wright, 1885-1886.
1	4	2000.41.1.29	Notebook : Account and memoranda, Wright Wire Cloth Co., 1896-1899.
1	BV	2000.41.1.30	Stock certificate book, 1896.
BV		2000.41.1.31	Stock certificate book, 1903-1908.

Wright Wire Company Collection  
2000.41  
Series 2, Correspondence

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	2000.41.2.1-.19	Correspondence, Herbert N. Wright, relating to business and charitable affairs, 1914-1919. 19 items.



Wright Wire Company Collection  
2000.41  
Series 3, Histories

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	6	2000.41.3.1	“A 100 year Odyssey” : photocopy of typescript, 30 p. / by Walter E. Knapp, ca. 1990.
1	6	2000.41.3.2	Manuscript collection form, Wright Wire Company Records, with biographical information relating to George F. Wright and George M. Wright.

Wright Wire Company Collection  
2000.41  
Series 4, Catalogs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	7	2000.41.4.1	<u>Excelsior</u> brand rust proof wire fences : catalog, 16 p. / Wright Wire Co., ca. 1920.
1	7	2000.41.4.2	Excelsior rust proof wire fences : catalog, 12 p. / Wright Wire Co., ca. 1920.
1	7	2000.41.4.3	Wright's folding steel fire escape ladder : pamphlet with illustrations, 10 p. / Wright Wire Cloth Co., Palmer, Mass., ca. 1890.
1	7	2000.41.4.4	Price list of Wright Wire Cloth Co. : 18 p. / ca. 1890.
1	7	2000.41.4.5	<u>Excelsior</u> brand chain link fence : handbill / Wright Wire Co., ca. 1910.
1	7	2000.41.4.6	<u>Excelsior</u> brand rust proof wire fences : 16 p. / Wright Wire Co., ca. 1920.
1	7	2000.41.4.7	<u>Excelsior</u> brand rust proof wire fences : 16 p. / Wright Wire Co., ca. 1910.
1	BV	2000.41.4.8	Wright Wire Company catalog : 224 p. / 1912.

Wright Wire Company Collection  
2000.41  
Series 5, Yearbooks

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Accession #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	8	2000.41.5.1	Wright Wire Company, Worcester, Massachusetts, 1917. Largely pictorial, with facilities and company officials; includes history. 20 l.