

Record Groups in HSCC Archives (RG)

03/21/2017

UPPER(ARCHIVES.OBJECTID)=[RG] AND !EMPTY(ARCHIVES.OBJECTID)

Object ID	RG#1
Date	<1788-1980>
Collection	Alstead.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Alstead, New Hampshire. The items are from the years 1788 to 1980 with bulk dates of 1820-1903 and with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>Alstead was first granted by New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth in 1752 and was given the name of Newton. However the original grantees did not comply with the charter and lost their title. The title was regranted to Samuel Chase and seventy others in 1763 and incorporated in the same year. Governor Wentworth gave the town its name after German philosopher and author Johann Heinrich Alsted whose "encyclopedia" was widely used when Wentworth attended Harvard. Alstead is noted for having the first working paper mill in New Hampshire. For many years the main part of the town was known as "Paper Mill Village."</p> <p>The collection contains a number of newspaper clippings and other articles related to Alstead's history, events, and homes. It also contains such items as church bulletins, certificates, and the class list for Vilas High School in 1940.</p> <p>An important part of the collection is a set of official records including deeds, title searches, wills and appointments.</p>
Object ID	RG#2
Date	<1797-1975>
Collection	Chesterfield.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Chesterfield, New Hampshire. The items are from the years 1797-1975 with bulk dates of 1797-1849 and with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>Chesterfield's history began in 1735 with the establishment of Fort #1 which was part of a series of outposts in the Connecticut River Valley as far north as modern-day Charlestown. A charter for the town was granted in 1752 by Governor Benning Wentworth and it was incorporated in 1760. He gave the town the name of Chesterfield after the fourth Earl of Chesterfield. Lord Chesterfield had been one of America's defenders during the various efforts by the British Parliament to impose taxes and duties without the consent of the colonies. The town is the birthplace of Harlan F. Stone who was a Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Chesterfield is also the home of Spofford Lake which has been a major resort and recreation area for many years.</p> <p>The collection consists of documents, pamphlets, clippings, reminiscences, and other publications. This includes post cards and letterheads from various hotels on Spofford Lake. It also includes calendars published by the Chesterfield Historical Society containing photographs from their collection. The "people" part of the collection contain the papers of Van Watts who served in the U.S. Navy during World War II.</p>
Object ID	RG#3
Date	<1814-1970>
Collection	Dublin.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Dublin, New Hampshire. The items are from the years 1814-1970 with additional items added to the present.</p>

The territory that became Dublin was originally part of the 8 townships organized by the Masonian Proprietors in the western portion of their grant in 1749. The "#3" grant was made to Matthew Thornton and 39 other settlers. Monadnock #3 became Dublin and was Incorporated in 1771. Governor John Wentworth named the township Dublin after the capital of Ireland. This may have been because one of his ancestors had been Lord Lieutenant of Ireland or because many of the first settlers were of Scotch-Irish descent. In any event, the first settler of the town was William Thornton who arrived in 1752 followed by John Alexander, Henry Strongman and William Scott. The town has the distinction of having one of the highest villages in New Hampshire. The elevation combined with Dublin Lake and a commanding view of Mount Monadnock made the town a major tourist attraction and soon a "summer colony" was created that attracted Mark Twain, Ralph Waldo Emerson and members of the James family. In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the place became famous as the summer residences of number of artists loosely referred to as the "Dublin Colony." This included, among others, George de Forest Brush, Abbott Handerson Thayer, and Joseph Linden Smith. Dublin is also the home of Yankee Magazine and Yankee Publishing.

The collection contains documents, clippings, pamphlets from various Dublin businesses, town newsletters, and information from Yankee Publishing Company. Important pieces include a pamphlet describing various building lots for sale in the "charming summer resort of Dublin." There is also a transcript of the address given at Dublin's bicentennial in 1952. Two important documents are a biography of Rev. Levi W. Leonard and a handwritten history of common schools by Rev. Leonard.

Object ID	RG#4
Date	<1771-1978>
Collection	Fitzwilliam.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire. The items are from the years 1771-1978 with bulk dates of 1820-1890 and with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>The territory that became Fitzwilliam was originally part of the 8 townships organized by the Masonian Proprietors in the western portion of their grant in 1749. The "#4" grant was created in 1752 although the first settlers did not arrive until 1760. Monadnock #4 was surveyed by Samson Stoddard and was called Stoddardstown until 1773 when it was incorporated as Fitzwilliam. Governor John Wentworth named the township after the fourth Earl Fitzwilliam who was a cousin. Earl Fitzwilliam was one of several lords who argued against taxation for the colonies in the years leading up to the Revolution. Early settlers included James Reid, John Fassett, and Benjamin Bigelow. The town is noted as the location of Rhododendron State Park which has a very large stand of the plants. During its history, the town was the site of a number of quarries including one of the first granite quarries in New Hampshire. Fitzwilliam was also the location of a number of taverns and inns.</p> <p>The collection contains documents (especially of Levi Chamberlain), clippings, memoirs (hotels, fire companies, etc.), programs (for musicals, balls, etc.), pamphlets from various Fitzwilliam businesses, and copies of the town newsletter.</p> <p>Levi Chamberlain was a lawyer who was born in Worcester, MA, and moved to Keene where he read the law. He moved to Fitzwilliam in 1819 and quickly built a practice. He represented the town in the state legislature and later the State Senate. He moved back to Keene in 1832 where he continued his career in politics. The small collection of papers include a letter, commissions, and documents.</p> <p>In addition to the papers of Mr. Chamberlain, significant items include a handwritten "newspaper" produced by the students of the District #3 School in 1847.</p>
Object ID	RG#5
Date	<1775-1975>
Collection	Gilsum.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Gilsum, New Hampshire. The items are from the years 1775-1975 with bulk dates of 1826-1864 and with additional items added to the present.</p>

The territory that became Gilsum was originally granted by Benning Wentworth to Joseph Osgood and others in 1752. The Governor chose the name of Boyle after Richard Boyle who was the Earl of Burlington and a famous architect of the day. The community, however, was not settled and the grant was forfeited. In 1763, the grant was made to Samuel Gilbert and Thomas Sumner. Within a year, the Gilbert and Sumner families began settling the town along with Josiah Kilburn, Peltiah Pease, Obadiah Wilcox, Ebenezer Dewey, Jonathan Adams and other families who were mostly from Connecticut.. The town was renamed Gilsum by taking the first three letters of Gilbert and Sumner. The town was a typical hill town with agriculture as the basis of its economy. The village that grew up around the Ashuelot River also had various small water powered industries as well as a cotton mill. Other activities included mining deposits of mica and felspar.

The collection contains documents, clippings, pamphlets from various Gilsum businesses and organizations. Among the documents is the charter of the Gilsum Universalist Church, the rules and regulations of the Gilsum Firewardens, and a voter registration list from 1840. The collection also contains a set of correspondence to the Hammond family between 1846 and 1864. These were written mostly by men serving in the military and include letters from a soldier during the Civil War. There is also some information on the glacial pot holes in the Bear Den Mountain section of town.

Researchers may also be interested in the plans and specification of the Gilsum Town Hall contained in the oversized Box 1.

Object ID	RG#6
Date	<1898-1977>
Collection	Harrisville.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Harrisville, New Hampshire. The items are from the years 1898, 1919, and 1977 with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>Harrisville was created in 1870 from portions of Hancock, Dublin, Roxbury, Nelson, and Marlborough. The settlers of the area took advantage of the abundant water power and built a number of small mills. The village was known as Twitchellville after Abel Twitchell. His daughter married Bethuel Harris whose family had established a blacksmith shop. The Harris family went on to build a large textile mill which eventually became the Cheshire Mills. When the application for incorporation was made, it was suggested that the name Harrisville be used to honor the family. In addition to the Cheshire Mills and smaller industries, the town also attracted some summer residents around its many lakes and ponds. Residents included many prominent families from Keene as well as artist William Preston Phelps (1848-1923). Harrisville also includes the village of Chesham.</p> <p>The Cheshire Mills eventually went the way of all textiles mills in New England and closed down in 1970. The mill complex was then operated for a number of years by the Filtrine Corporation which manufactured water purification machinery and industrial filtration systems. When they moved to Keene, a group of citizens formed Historic Harrisville to preserve the mills and their water power systems.</p> <p>The collection contains clippings as well as pamphlets from various Harrisville businesses and organizations. A second folder includes a number of clippings and articles on the efforts of Historic Harrisville. The collection also includes historical information on the town and its mills.</p>

Object ID	RG#7
Date	<1803-1964>
Collection	Hinsdale.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Hinsdale, New Hampshire. The items are from the years 1803-1964 with additional items added to the present.</p>

The settlement of Hinsdale was part of the effort by Massachusetts to settle the upper Connecticut River Valley and provide a series of forts to

detect the movements of hostile Indians. The proprietors of Northfield, Massachusetts, purchased the territory that is now Harrisville from the local Squakeag Indians in 1687, but the first settlers did not arrive until 1737. These people included Daniel Shattuck, Peter Evens, Robert Cooper, John Evans and Colonel Ebenezer Hinsdale. Hinsdale built a fort and trading post. He was a graduate of Harvard and began life as a minister and missionary to the Indians. He abandoned that career to serve in the military. Fort Hinsdale soon became the center of the community, however, the place was often attacked by Indians which forced many of the settlers to flee. Many residents were killed or captured during this period.

When the boundary between New Hampshire and Massachusetts was established in 1740, Hinsdale's territory was broken away from Northfield. A new grant was issued in 1749 and called Middle Monadnock Number 2. The town was finally incorporated in 1753 and given the name Hinsdale in honor of Colonel Hinsdale.

After 1800, the town began developing a paper industry which continues to a degree to the present. Other manufacturing included textiles, machinery, and gauges. Machinery enterprises included lawn mowers, sewing machines, agricultural machinery, and even some early automobiles. George A. Long of Hinsdale manufactured steam powered "tricycles" and "carriages" in the 1870s and 1880s. Hinsdale was also a recreational destination--particularly in the early 20th century. This included the Hinsdale Raceway which had horse racing and later dog racing.

The collection contains documents, clippings, articles, memoirs, pamphlets and cards from various Hinsdale businesses and organizations. The collection contains a memoir of "The Island" in the Connecticut River opposite Brattleboro, Vermont, which was a major recreational area at the beginning of the 20th century. Although the place is associated with Brattleboro, it is located in Hinsdale. There are also articles on George Long and his steam-powered autos and the construction of the Connecticut River dam between Hinsdale and Vernon, Vermont.

Object ID	RG#8
Date	<1927-1982>
Collection	Jaffrey.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Jaffrey, New Hampshire. The items are from the years 1927-1982 with bulk dates of 1974-1982 and with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>The settlement of Jaffrey dates back to 1736 when Massachusetts granted the territory to veterans of a military expedition to Canada. Since most of them were from Rowley, Massachusetts, the place was named Rowley Canada. The grant was remade in 1749 as Monadnock Number 2 when the Masonian Proprietors reasserted their claim to the territory. The early settlers included John Grant and John Davidson. The town was incorporated by Governor John Wentworth in 1773. He gave it the name Jaffrey after George Jaffrey of Portsmouth. The Jaffrey family had a long history of service to the province both during its administration by Massachusetts and after it separated. George was secretary to the Masonian Proprietors and later served in a number of positions in both the provincial government and in the post-revolutionary period.</p> <p>The town of Jaffrey includes Mount Monadnock. The original center of town grew up around its classic meeting house built in 1775. The population later shifted toward the Contoocook River where a number of manufacturing concerns were built including the D.D. Bean Match Company. Other manufactures included the Hannah Davis Band-Box Company. The town is also noted as the home of Amos Fortune--an African American who purchased his freedom, settled in town and established a tannery. The annual Amos Fortune Forum is named for him. The town cemetery is also the resting place of the famous author Willa Cather who was a summer resident for many years.</p> <p>The collection contains documents, clippings, articles, memoirs, pamphlets and cards from various Jaffrey businesses and organizations. There are articles about the Hannah Davis Band Box Company, the design and construction of the Jaffrey Meeting House, the Amos Fortune Forum, The D.D. Bean Company, and Willa Cather.</p>

Object ID	RG#9
Date	<1736-1983>
Collection	Keene.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Keene, New Hampshire. The items are from the years 1736-1983 with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>The territory that became Keene was first granted by Massachusetts in 1733 and 1735. The purpose of the grant was to reward veterans of the various wars against the Indians and the French in Canada. The secondary purpose was to add to the string of forts and settlements in the Connecticut Valley Region that could provide an early warning of Indian attacks. This settlement was on the Ashuelot Valley which was one of the main tributaries of the Connecticut. The settlement was called Upper Ashuelot and families began arriving by 1744. The renewal of the French and Indian Wars ended the settlement and the town was sacked in 1747. However, the settlers returned in 1749 and applied to incorporate in 1753. Governor Benning Wentworth named the town Keene after Sir Benjamin Keene. Benjamin Keene held various positions with the South Sea Company and Wentworth had known him through his efforts to trade New Hampshire lumber with the Spanish. Keene would later become the British ambassador to Spain.</p> <p>The new town grew rapidly and became a shire town in 1771 and eventually the seat for Cheshire County. In 1874, the town officially became the City of Keene. Its status as the county center was secured in 1848 with the opening of the Cheshire Railroad which provided shipping connections to Boston, Canada, and the west. This encouraged a combination of small industries and distribution services which led to prosperity for the community. Keene was never a "one industry town" as it supported a number of manufacturers. Over the years, shoes, glass, woolens, wooden ware, and furniture were made in Keene. In the 20th century, insurance, machinery, precision bearings, machine tools, medical equipment and food distribution became dominant employers. In addition, the city is also home to Keene State College which began as a teacher's college in 1909 and has grown into a liberal arts college with a national reputation.</p> <p>This is the largest and most comprehensive of the "town collections." The collection is divided into several series. Each series contains clippings, memoirs, and other items related to the series title.</p> <p>The business series contains documents, advertisements and letter head materials from various Keene businesses, banks, and manufacturers. It also includes services such as restaurants, retail stores, and utility providers. Highlights include samples of bank notes issued by various Cheshire County banks, documents, annual reports, machinery patents for Luther Felt</p> <p>The churches series provides information on most of the churches and religious organizations in Keene. In many cases, these files include histories of the church as well as documents such as bulletins, calendars, and commentaries.</p> <p>The clubs and organizations series lists clubs, fraternal organizations, and musical groups. The Keene Music Club's collection is large enough to warrant its own series. Others are designated by their name with smaller clubs listed under "other." In a few cases, the files contain minutes and rosters. The majority include information on activities. A specific series is set aside for the papers of the Music Club of Keene which flourished in the late 19th and early 20th century. The papers include secretaries minutes and records, programs, and music.</p> <p>The schools series includes both public and private schools with small files on Keene State College, Miss Fiske's Young Ladies Seminary, and business schools. The section on Keene High School contains class lists of students and their addresses from 1915 to 1940.</p> <p>The last series is a subject file that includes documents, correspondence, and other small collections. It also contains some unpublished narratives on the subjects.</p>

Object ID	RG#10
Date	<1770-1989>
Collection	Marlborough.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Marlborough, New Hampshire. The items are from the years 1770-1989 with bulk dates of 1836-1974 and with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>The settlement of Marlborough dates back to 1752 when the Masonian Proprietors created a township called Monadnock Number 5. The first settler was William Barker who arrived in 1764. The original name for the town was Oxford, but it was soon changed to New Marlborough after Marlborough, Massachusetts. The town was incorporated in 1776 as Marlborough. Like most towns with the "boro" ending, Marlborough has also been spelled as Marlboro. Both spellings were used over the years with "borough" finally winning out as the official spelling.</p> <p>The town grew rapidly over the years and was noted for its quarries and textile manufacturing.</p> <p>The collection contains documents, clippings, articles, memoirs, pamphlets and cards from various Marlborough businesses and organizations. A some items are from the Monadnock Blanket Mills. There is a monograph by Roger Hunt describing the electric power industry in Marlborough including the Minnewawa hydro-electric station. Several clippings describe historic homes in Marlborough.</p> <p>The Oversize Box 2 contains two posters from the Marlboro Thief Detecting Society.</p>
Object ID	RG#11
Date	<1783-1961>
Collection	Marlow.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Marlow, New Hampshire. The items are from the years 1783-1961 with bulk dates of 1800-1941 and with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>The settlement of Marlow dates back to 1753 when a grant was made to several families who called the town Addison. It was reincorporated in 1761 and given the name Marlow. Sources vary on the name origin as it could have been a town in England or the playwright Christopher Marlowe. Part of the town was annexed to Stoddard in 1797.</p> <p>Marlow was primarily a farming community with some industry on the Ashuelot River. It is also noted as the birth place for early 20th century concert pianist Calista Huntley and the famous "fat lady" Rosina Delight Richardson who worked for many years with the Barnum and Bailey Circus. For many years, Marlow was the home of PC Connections which pioneered the concept of mail order computer sales. The company still has a presence in the community although the business moved to Keene.</p> <p>The collection contains documents, clippings, brochures from local businesses, and articles. The largest portion is devoted the collection of deeds for dozens of town residents. These are arranged alphabetically by family name in series I. Marlow also contained a few tourist destinations that are documented in the collection. The subject file contains several references to the Marlow-Stoddard forest fire of 1941 including a telephone log kept during the fire. There is also a collection of materials from the Marlow Academy. Finally, series IV contains minutes of various town meetings from 1781-1786.</p>
Object ID	RG#12
Date	<1763-1983>
Collection	Nelson.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Nelson, New Hampshire. The items are from the years 1763-1983 with additional items added to the present.</p>

The settlement of Nelson dates back to 1752 when the Masonian Proprietors granted the territory as Monadnock Number 6. The first settler was Breed Batcheller. The town grew to the point where it filed for incorporation as Packersfield in 1767. It was named for one of the Proprietors--Thomas Packer-- who was also the sheriff of New Hampshire. Several portions of the town were broken off to form other towns and Packersfield was incorporated again as Nelson in 1814. This was in honor of British Admiral Horatio Nelson who crushed the French fleet at the Battle of Trafalgar. The reasons for this choice of name is obscure, but may have had something to do with the opposition of the New England States to the War of 1812.

The town was mostly a farming community with a few small grist and saw mills. One exception was the cotton mill built by Alvin Munson at the outlet of Granite Lake. This was later sold to the Colony Family of Keene who converted the plant to manufacture chairs. The small village that grew around it was called Munsonville. Nelson also had a few "lead" mines which produced graphite. During the 20th century, Nelson became the location of numerous summer residences around its ponds, lakes, and old farms. This included many writers and artists such as May Sarton, Newton Tolman, and Helen Milbank. It is also the home of Ralph Page who helped revive the New England tradition of square dancing. Lastly, it is the home of the Apple Hill Chamber Players.

The collection contains documents, clippings, and brochures from local businesses, and articles. Many of the activities of the Apple Hill Chamber Players are documented in the collection. There is also a monograph on the operations of Nelson's "lead" mines. Series III is devoted to the papers of the Nelson Elementary School's Environmental Education Program (1971).

Object ID	RG#13
Date	<1857-1981>
Collection	Richmond.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Richmond, New Hampshire. The items are scattered from about 1857 to 1981 with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>Richmond was one of four townships granted by Massachusetts to veterans of the expedition against Canada during the early French and Indian Wars at the time when New Hampshire's territory was being administered by the Commonwealth. The township was granted in 1735 and took the name of Sylvester Canada after the settlement leader Captain John Sylvester. When New Hampshire became a separate province, the township was regranted in 1752. Royal Governor Benning Wentworth renamed the town Richmond after the Duke of Richmond who was one of the main advocates for colonial rights in the British Parliament.</p> <p>The town's history has followed that of other New England Hill towns with farming and small mill operations being the main sources of the economy. In the 20th century it has gradually become a "bedroom" town for people working in Keene, Winchester, or Massachusetts towns to the south.</p> <p>The collection consists of only two folders organized by subjects. There are a few pamphlets from Camp Takodah (Cheshire County YMCA) which has been located in Richmond since the 1920s. The collection also contains clippings describing various homes of historical significance and articles and monographs on aspects of Richmond's history.</p>

Object ID	RG#14
Date	<1876-1968>
Collection	Rindge.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Rindge, New Hampshire. The items are scattered from about 1876 to 1968 with additional items added to the present.</p>

Rindge was one of four townships granted by Massachusetts to veterans of the expedition against Canada during the early French and Indian

Wars at the time when New Hampshire's territory was being administered by the Commonwealth. The township was granted to proprietors from Rowley and named Rowley Canada. When the Masonian Proprietors asserted their claim to the territory, the town became Monadnock Number 1. In 1768, it was incorporated as Rindge. The Rindge family of Portsmouth were related to the family of Governor Benning Wentworth and had relatives originally from Rowley, Massachusetts, who were granted land in Rowley Canada. Among them was Captain Daniel Rindge to whom the new town was dedicated.

The town's history has followed that of other New England Hill towns with farming and small mill operations being the main sources of the economy. In the 20th century it has gradually become a "bedroom" town for people working in Keene, Peterborough, or Massachusetts towns to the south. The town is home to the Cathedral of the Pines which is a memorial to those who died in the nation's wars as well as an institution that seeks world peace through the understanding and recognition of the world's religions. Rindge is also the home of Franklin Pierce University.

The collection consists of only two folders organized by subjects. There are several clippings on historic homes and sites in Rindge. There is a small amount of information on the Cathedral of the Pines.

Object ID	RG#15
Date	<1787-1912>
Collection	Roxbury.
Scope & Content	This record group contains various items related to Roxbury, New Hampshire. The items are from 1787 to 1912 with bulk dates of 1787-1858 and additional items added to the present.

Roxbury was incorporated in 1812 and its territory was taken from Keene, Marlborough and Nelson. With only 6,000 acres, it is one of the smallest towns in New Hampshire. It was named for Roxbury, Massachusetts, where many of the families that settled the town were from.

The town's history has followed that of other New England Hill towns with farming and small mill operations and a quarry being the main sources of the economy. Its many ponds and streams were organized in the late 19th century into the water supply system for the City of Keene. In 1868, a movement began to annex Roxbury to Keene, but failed when only a minority of voters supported the measure. A similar effort almost a century later also failed. The town is home to the Otter Brook Dam and recreation area.

The collection consists of only two folders organized by subjects. There are several clippings on historic homes and sites in Roxbury. There are several monographs detailing the history of the community. There are also documents such wills, deeds, and correspondence.

Object ID	RG#16
Date	<1803-1984>
Collection	Stoddard.
Scope & Content	This record group contains various items related to Stoddard, New Hampshire. The items are from 1803 to 1984 with additional items added to the present.

Stoddard's territory was part of the cluster of townships belonging to the Masonian Proprietors and was set out in 1752 as Monadnock Number 7. A large piece of the township was granted to Colonel Samson Stoddard and the name was changed to Limerick. The town was incorporated in 1774 and the name was changed to Stoddard to honor the colonel. Stoddard was a surveyor who laid out several townships in what is now Cheshire County. In addition to land in Stoddard, he also received several grants in other townships as payment for his services. Portions of the town of Stoddard became parts of Sullivan and Nelson.

The town's history has followed that of other New England Hill towns with farming and small mill operations being the main sources of the economy. The settlement of South Stoddard became involved in the glass making industry in the early to middle parts of the 19th century.

Today Stoddard glass is prized among collectors. Stoddard has also supported a large "summer colony" particularly on Highland Lake, Granite Lake, and Island Pond.

The collection consists of four series. Series I is a large collection of property deeds organized by grantee. Series II is a subject file. Series III contains information on the Stoddard glass industry. Series IV is a single folder containing information related to Dr. Charles Eastman who operated Camp Oahe on the Stoddard side of Granite Lake. There are numerous clippings on Stoddard's history, historic homes and sites as well as short articles on the famous Scotch-Highland cattle at the Pitcher Mountain Farm.

Object ID	RG#17
Date	<1814-1973>
Collection	Sullivan.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Sullivan, New Hampshire. The items are from 1814 to 1973 with bulk dates of 1814-1901 and with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>Sullivan's territory was taken from Keene, Stoddard, Packersfield, and Gilsum. The town's creation was desired by residents in the corners of those towns to form their own congregation and not have to travel to meeting houses in distant communities. The town was incorporated in 1787 and named for General John Sullivan of Durham. Sullivan had been a general during the Revolution and returned to New Hampshire to take an active part in the state government as well as the effort to ratify the U.S. Constitution.</p> <p>The town's history has followed that of other New England Hill towns with farming and small mill operations being the main sources of the economy. The settlement of East Sullivan was a small industrial center in the later part of the 19th century with wood working mills and a tannery. In the 20th century the community gradually became a "bedroom" town with most residents working elsewhere.</p> <p>The collection consists of two series. Series I is a subject file and series II is a collect of the Sullivan Community Newsletter. The subject file contains a few narrative histories of the town done at different times. There are copies of the patent documents for the "monitor" folding table which was manufactured in East Sullivan. There are also clippings describing various Sullivan homes and historic sites, pamphlets from clubs and organizations</p>

Object ID	RG#18
Date	<1763-1983>
Collection	Surry.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Surry, New Hampshire. The items are from 1763 to 1983 with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>Surry was chartered by Governor John Wentworth in 1769 and land taken from Westmoreland and Gilsum. The name was taken from the Earl of Surrey in England although the exact relationship with the Wentworth family is not known.</p> <p>The town's history has followed that of other New England Hill towns with farming and small mill operations being the main sources of the economy. The large land mass known as Surry Mountain has been mined since the early days of the town. Its large deposits of quartzite were found to contain copper, lead and even gold. Although various companies have been formed over the years to extract the minerals, none have been profitable. Surry is also home for the Surry Mountain Dam and recreation area.</p> <p>The collection consists of four series. Series I is a subject file. Included in this series is a collection of licenses issued by the town to sell liquor and articles on the Surry Canal and the gold mining operations. It also contains census records from 1850, information on the Surry Mountain Dam, and clippings on historic homes and sites. Series II contains a set of correspondence and narratives related to the life of Dr. Amos Pollard who was born in Surry and died at the Alamo during the War for Texas Independence. Series III is a two folder set of research notes on Surry</p>

soldiers who served during the Revolution. Series IV is a large collection of town financial records. Series V is a collection of town records.

Object ID	RG#19
Date	<1724-1980>
Collection	Swanzey.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Swanzey, New Hampshire. The items are from 1724 to 1980 with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>Swanzey's territory was originally granted by Massachusetts as part of a string of forts and settlements constructed in the Connecticut Valley to provide an early warning of Indian attacks and movements. The Ashuelot River tributary was first settled in 1733 with two settlements. What became Swanzey took the name Lower Ashuelot to distinguish it from the settlement of Upper Ashuelot to the north. Like its fellow settlement, Lower Ashuelot suffered from several attacks and was finally abandoned in the mid 1740s. It was resettled around 1750 and incorporated in 1753 as Swanzey. The name was taken from the town of Swansea, Massachusetts, which, in turn, was taken from Swansea, Wales. The change in spelling was probably due to the lack of standard spelling in those days. Over the years various portions of the original township became parts of Keene, Marlborough and Troy.</p> <p>Swanzey consists of five distinct communities--Swanzey Center, West Swanzey, East Swanzey, North Swanzey, and Westport. The area was gifted with good soil and several prosperous farms grew up as a result especially around Swanzey Center and Westport. The other Swanzeys saw some industrial development with wood working mills and woolen mills being the primary feature. Today the town has a blend of residential developments and commercial enterprises. Swanzey is also noted as the birthplace of Denman Thompson whose play "The Old Homestead" was one of the most popular plays in America at the time.</p> <p>The collection consists of three series. Series I contains information about the Mount Caesar Seminary and Swanzey Academy including the construction of the institution. The collection also contains some "report cards" which shows the grading system as well subjects taught. Series II contains a set of probate records from 1777-1838 including the wills of a few of the early settlers of the town. These records give an excellent insight into the kinds of household goods used in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Series III is a subject file on various topics in Swanzey history. These include business forms, boarding house advertisements, clippings, the Cheshire Fair pamphlets, and deeds.</p>

Object ID	RG#20
Date	<1815-1969>
Collection	Troy.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Troy, New Hampshire. The items are from 1815-1969 with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>The residents of what is now Troy began petitioning to establish a township as early as 1781, but they were not successful until 1815. Territory was ceded from Marlborough, Fitzwilliam, Swanzey, and Richmond. The year 1815 also marked the beginnings of the "Greek revival" in America and that may have inspired the name. However, evidence also suggests a number of connections of local families to Troy, New York, and that may have been the actual origin of the name.</p> <p>The town took advantage of its water power and railroad connections to establish several industries especially granite quarries and the Troy Blanket Mills. Today, the town is mostly residential with some commercial enterprises.</p> <p>The collection consists of three series. Series I is a small subject file containing various items including clippings and information of organizations, churches, and businesses. Series II and III were donated to the Historical Society of Cheshire County by the Gay-Kimball Library in Troy and consist of a number of items related to Troy history as well as a collection of public records from the town. Series II includes several articles on life in the area by "Uncle Jim" and some reminiscences. Series III contains the public records including town</p>

meeting warrants, writs, and licenses from the 19th century.

Object ID	RG#21
Date	<1731-1970>
Collection	Walpole.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Walpole, New Hampshire. The items are from 1731 to 1970 with bulk dates of 1775-1844 and with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>Walpole's original grant was the third of a set of townships in the Connecticut Valley granted by Massachusetts. These were to serve as part of a string of forts and settlements to provide an early warning of Indian attacks and movements. At times the place was called Great Falls or Lunenburg. Although granted in 1736, it was not settled until 1749 when John Kilburn and others arrived. Number 3 was subjected to periodic attacks and abandonment. In 1752, the town was resettled by Col. Benjamin Bellows and others. It was chartered in the same year as Bellowstown. It was reincorporated in 1761 as Walpole. The name was given to the town by Governor Benning Wentworth to honor Sir Robert Walpole whom Wentworth had known through his various dealings with the Royal Navy. Walpole held a number of positions in the British government including prime minister. A portion of the town was set out to Langdon in 1787.</p> <p>Walpole grew rapidly and its many prosperous farms supported a vigorous intellectual and political life. For many years Walpole was the home of the weekly newspaper "The Farmer's Museum" which circulated nationally. Throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, the town often led the state in agricultural production. The town also contains two villages--Drewsville and North Walpole.</p> <p>The collection consists of a subject file series. This includes the proprietor's records for the years 1736-1751, a handwritten booklet on the administration of St. Peter's Church in Drewsville for the years 1844-1851, and various business records. The series also contains an assortment of clippings and other historical information including some of Walpole's homes.</p>

Object ID	RG#22
Date	<1811-1983>
Collection	Westmoreland.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Westmoreland, New Hampshire. The items are from 1811 to 1983 with bulk dates of 1811-1941 and with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>Westmoreland's original grant was the second of a set of townships in the Connecticut Valley granted by Massachusetts. These were to serve as part of a string of forts and settlements to provide an early warning of Indian attacks and movements. The original grant was made in 1735, but the first settlers did not arrive until 1741. The town was known as Great Meadows until 1752 when it was reincorporated as Westmoreland. The name comes from the Earl of Westmoreland who was a relative of New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth. A portion of the town was set off to Surry in 1769.</p> <p>Westmoreland contains a portion of good farmland in the Connecticut River Valley, but also has portions that are more along the lines of a New England hill town. Today it is mostly residential with some agricultural enterprises. Westmoreland has the Park Hill Meeting House which is a classic meeting house built in 1762 and has a bell cast by Paul Revere.</p> <p>The collection consists of four subject file series. Series I contains information on businesses and is organized topically. Of special note is a collection of papers from the Cobb Family. Series II deals with the administration and history of the town's glebe lands. Series III is a general subject file. This contains clippings, reminiscences, and some brief histories. Of special note is the churches section which contains information on Rev. Jehiel Claflin, the Union Church of East Westmoreland, and the Park Hill Meetinghouse. The section on schools contains information on the Westmoreland Valley Seminary (1858-1860). Series IV contains a copy of the "Westmoreland Meteor."</p>

Object ID	RG#23
Date	<1756-1978>
Collection	Winchester.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Winchester, New Hampshire. The items are from 1756 to 1978 with bulk dates of 1830-1978 and with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>Winchester's original grant was made by Massachusetts in 1732 and the settlement was named Arlington (also spelled Earlington and Arlinton). The place was burned out by the Indians in 1746 and settlers did not returned until about 1752. It was incorporated in 1753 and given the name Winchester by Royal Governor Benning Wentworth. The name came from the Marquess of Winchester who held many positions in the British government including Constable of the Tower of London. A portion of Winchester was taken to form Hinsdale in 1753. Winchester also includes the village of Ashuelot.</p> <p>Winchester's economy has been a mixture of industry and agriculture for most of its history. Industries include paper and leather manufacturing. It is the birthplace of General Leonard Wood (although he never lived in town after he was born) and Francis P. Murphy who was governor of New Hampshire from 1937 until 1941.</p> <p>The collection consists of one subject file series. This includes clippings on Winchester's churches, history, businesses, and homes.</p>

Object ID	RG#24
Date	<1747-1983>
Collection	Cheshire County.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various items related to Cheshire County, New Hampshire. The items are from 1747 to 1983 with bulk dates of 1793-1983 and with additional items added to the present.</p> <p>Cheshire County was incorporated when the Province of New Hampshire created 5 counties in 1771. At the time, the territory included what is now Sullivan County which was created in 1827. Cheshire County consists of 22 townships and 1 city and is located in the southwest corner of New Hampshire. The county seat is Keene.</p> <p>The collection is organized in a fashion similar to the "town" collections (Records Groups 1-23) and consists of a series on politics and a series on specific subjects. Series I contains a large number of political party tickets and names of local and state politicians from the 19th century. Series II contains collections of clippings, pamphlets, articles, and other information. Of special note are the items related to tourism including many of the booklets published by the Monadnock Region Association and copies of the "Monadnock Regionaire" from 1959-1983. There is also a small collection of court records and deeds. Box 2, Folder 19 contains several pieces of research by David Proper on various astronomical observations in 18th century Keene as well as a paper on Halley's Comet. Box 3, Folders 36 and 37 contain a collection newsletters from Harrisville and Nelson during the 1980s. Box 3, Folder 44a contains a number of articles of ski areas in the Monadnock Region from the 1930s to the 1980s.</p>

Object ID	RG#25
Date	<1927- >
Collection	Historical Society of Cheshire County, Inc., records, part 1.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records and papers of the Historical Society of Cheshire County, Inc. from its founding in 1927 to the present with bulk dates of 1927-1983. These records are continued in Records Group 156.</p> <p>The Historical Society of Cheshire County was organized during the summer of 1927 by Clifford C. Wilber, Frank B. Kingsbury, and Ella Allen. Samuel Wadsworth was the society's first president. The society took over many of the collections of Keene Natural History Society and</p>

housed its collections at the Keene Public Library. In 1967, the society began negotiations to take over the management of the Wyman Tavern. After assuming ownership, the society operated the building as a period museum illustrating its role as a tavern in the 18th century and as the 19th century home of Rev. Zedekiah Barstow. The next major project was the acquisition of the Colony House at the corner of West and School Streets in 1970. This building was used to house the society's collection of locally made glass and Hampshire Pottery. In 1983, the archives collection was formalized and housed at Keene State College. In 1986, the society established its first formal archives when it received some space Keene State College in Rhodes Hall (the former Ball Mansion at 246 Main Street). The society purchased and renovated the building in 1995. The building provided a large exhibit hall, room for permanent exhibits, an archival storage area, and room for the newly acquired Wright collection of books on local history and genealogy.

The collection is organized into five series which document the society's activities, the Wyman Tavern, the Colony House Museum and a subject file. Series I contains documents such as bank records, treasurer's reports, and other information on the operation of the organization. Of special interest is a scattered collection of minutes of meetings from 1928-1984. Box 1, Folder 12, contains receipts for membership dues for 1927 which indicates some of the original members of the organization. Series II is a correspondence file from 1927-1985. This includes both correspondence from the society as well as correspondence received beginning in 1927. This includes correspondence about several of the significant gifts received by the society over the years. Series III concerns the Wyman Tavern including correspondence, clippings, and promotional materials. Series IV concerns the operation of the Colony House Museum. Of special interest are the inventory lists of the various glass collections contained in Box 3, Folders 2 and 2a. Series V is a subject file containing general information on the society including by-laws, genealogies of some of the members (1930-1945), membership lists, and programs offered by the society. Of special note is the agreement between the society and Keene State College for the use of Rhodes Hall as a society library.

Object ID	RG#26
Date	<1845-1983>
Collection	Cheshire Railroad Company and successors.
Scope & Content	This record group contains the records and papers of the Cheshire Railroad and its subsequent operations as the Cheshire Branch by the Fitchburg Railroad and the Boston & Maine Railroad. The dates of the collection are from 1845 to 1983 with bulk dates of 1845-1963.

The Cheshire Railroad was chartered on December 17, 1844, and held its first meeting on January 10, 1845. Thomas Edwards was active in promoting the railroad and it was mainly through his efforts that it was completed to Keene.

The original plan was to build the railroad from Winchendon to Keene. From Winchendon the line connected through Fitchburg to Boston. Later the line was extended to Bellows Falls which provided a connection from Boston to the Connecticut River Valley via Keene. The line was laid out from Winchendon to Troy in 1847 and reached Keene on May 16, 1848. Two trains per day left Keene for Boston at that time. The line to North Walpole and Bellows Falls was completed in January 1849.

From the beginning, Keene was the center of the operation which included a car and locomotive shop as well as service to Keene's growing industrial and retail economies. By the end of the 19th century, the Cheshire Railroad was Keene's largest employer. The line depended on the Fitchburg Railroad for its connection to Boston and developed a close relationship which eventually led to merger in October 1890. The Fitchburg's main line to New York State through the Hoosic Tunnel made it a prime candidate for take over and it was absorbed by the Boston & Maine Railroad in 1900.

The merger with the B&M did not effect the Cheshire Branch at first, but as freight and passenger service declined throughout the 20th century, the line became redundant and unprofitable. The last passenger train operated on May 31, 1958, and the Cheshire line was abandoned in 1972. Freight service continued into Keene from Northfield, MA, over the Ashuelot Branch until 1982.

In addition to the corporate history materials, the collection also contains the papers of Marium E. Foster. Ms. Foster was employed by the Boston & Maine from 1917 to 1958 in various jobs including ticket agent, tariff adjustment, and freight forwarding. Most of her years were spent in Keene and Winchendon. She was also a correspondent for the B&M Employee's Magazine and spent a great deal of time traveling the

system and taking photographs of employees and their work. That collection is now housed at the Historical Society of Cheshire County's photograph collection.

The collection is divided into 5 series. Series I contains papers of the Cheshire Railroad from 1845 to about 1900. These include some annual reports, rules and payrolls. Series II contains papers from the Fitchburg Railroad, Cheshire Branch era. Series III contains papers from the Boston & Maine Railroad, Cheshire Branch era. Both of these series contain timetables and business correspondence. Box 1, Series II, Folder 4, includes a brief history of the Hoosic Tunnel. The files of B&M rosters in Box 2 includes a number of obituaries of local B&M employees. Series IV contains histories, clippings, and other materials of a general nature. The first folder contains short monographs and research notes on the Cheshire and some of the other railroads in Keene. Folder 3 contains first person accounts of several wrecks on the Cheshire Branch. Series V contains the papers of Marium E. Foster. These include pay statements, correspondence, and other records. Box 5, Folder 30 contains a series of research notes and other writings regarding Boston & Maine history. Folder 31 contains information of B&M employees serving during World War II.

Object ID	RG#27
Date	<1868-1945>
Collection	G.A.R., John Sedgwick Post #4.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records and papers of the Grand Army of the Republic, John Sedgwick Post #4 of Keene, New Hampshire. The dates of the collection are from 1868-1945.</p> <p>The Grand Army of the Republic was organized by Union Army Veterans after the Civil War. It had "posts" or chapters throughout the northern states. It was also one of the first examples of a well organized lobby which persuaded Congress to enact many benefits for veterans as well as for war widows and orphans. It was also instrumental in the construction of Civil War memorials as well as meeting halls that were also used for civic purposes. Unlike future veterans organizations, the G.A.R. was a "one war" group since only Civil War veterans could join. Thus, as time went on and the veterans died the various posts closed down.</p> <p>Keene's G.A.R. was organized in 1868 and the 4th post to be recognized in the Department of New Hampshire. They met at the Keene Light Infantry Armory and elected John W. Babbitt as their first commander. However the group seems to have disbanded around 1872 because of a lack of members. The post was reorganized in 1880 and did much better after that. By 1890 it had 200 members. The group obtained the two naval guns in Central Square in 1899. The post rented various locations around the city until they build the G.A.R. Hall on Mechanic Street in 1929. At that point there were only 9 members. The last member, Frank E. Amadon, died in 1945 at the age of 99.</p> <p>The collection is organized into 6 series. Series I consists of membership records including membership applications, rosters and dues records. Box 2 Folder 22 contains death dates of members from 1891 to 1937. Series II contains financial records from 1868 to 1916. Series III contains meeting minutes from 1868 to 1945. Series IV contains "orders" from the national and state G.A.R. Series V is a subject file including photographs, rules, correspondence and clippings about the organization a few specific members. This includes several biographies of General Simon G. Griffin. One of the photographs (folder 6) is of the 25th reunion of the 14th NH Volunteers in Keene. Series VI contains the records of the G.A.R. Memorial Building Association which details the uses of the building on Mechanic Street from 1929 to 1937.</p>

Object ID	RG#28
Date	<1810-1848>
Collection	Revolutionary War Pension Claim Certificates.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of Revolutionary War pension claim certificates dating from the years 1810 to 1848 with bulk dates from 1818-1848.</p> <p>There is only 1 series in this group and the pension certificates are arranged alphabetically by individual. The individuals are listed in "People" in the section on subject classifications.</p>

Most of the people in the file are from Cheshire County and the documents include both soldiers and widows. Most of the payments were made in Portsmouth and the documents are signed by the U.S. Secretary of War. The documents include the name, dates of service, rank and amount of pension granted.

Object ID	RG#29
Date	<1740-1937>
Collection	Marlow Hand Written History.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains several manuscripts and research notes concerning the history of Marlow, New Hampshire. The collection was assembled and written by Elgin A. Jones. The collection covers the years 1740 to 1937 with the bulk dates of 1800-1920. The collection is arranged by "chapter" and follows Jones's original order.</p> <p>Elgin A. Jones was born in 1852 and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1874. He settled in Marlow where he bought and sold real estate. His business enabled him to gain a unique understanding of Marlow's land history and genealogy. He was a very active member of the Historical Society of Cheshire County and presented a number of lectures and papers over the years.</p> <p>He would also write a number of different unpublished manuscripts and papers about the history and genealogy of his community. The papers in this collection form a rough draft of what would become "Notes on the History of Marlow, N.H." which was published after his death. A copy of the book is located in Wright Room Collection (Wright 974.742b.M375 1941). The Historical Society of Cheshire County also owns a copy of Jones's final draft "Marlow" (HSCC 974.742b.M375 1934). Additional manuscripts are located elsewhere in the collection--"Water Power on the Ashuelot River" (MG#128) and "The Evolution of a New Hampshire Town" (MG#129).</p>
Object ID	RG#30
Date	<1736-1882>
Collection	Chesterfield Hand Written History.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a manuscript of the history of Chesterfield, New Hampshire. The collection was assembled and written by Oran E. Randall. The collection covers the years 1736-1882. The collection is arranged by "chapter" and follows Randall's original order.</p> <p>Randall was born in Manchester in 1847. He began work on the history of Chesterfield in the 1870s and completed it in 1882. This collection is his manuscript and contains most of what was subsequently published except for minor corrections in syntax and spelling. The organization follows the organization in the published form.</p>
Object ID	RG#31
Date	<1865-1870>
Collection	Troy Blanket Mills, Letter Books, 1865-1870.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of correspondence sent to the Troy Blanket Mills between November 1865 and April 1870. These letters were organized into "letter books." In organizing this collection, the items were removed from the books which were deteriorating. In an effort to preserve the "look and feel" of a letter book, a portion of one of the books was retained in Box 4, Folder 56. The letters were filed in chronological rather than original order.</p> <p>In the days before the invention of file folders and vertical files, correspondence was often preserved in letter books. The bound books contained blank pages with gummed strips. Correspondence would be affixed to the strips as it arrived. In the case of Troy Blanket Mills, letters were filed from the back of the book to the front. The filing was probably done in batches because the letters were often clustered in groups regardless of the chronology of the letters. Each book contained an index to aid in retrieval of specific letters. The letters contain numbers indicating a page. However, each page contained two letters.</p>

The donation also included some trade circulars and other pieces of non-correspondence. These are located in Box 4, Folder 54. There are also indices from the letter books in Box 4, Folder 55, but it will of limited use since the original order was changed to reflect the actual chronological order of the correspondence.

Troy Blanket Mills had its beginnings in 1808 when a carding mill was added to an existing gristmill and sawmill near the center of Troy. After several owners, Thomas Goodall gained control of the property. In November 1865, Goodall conveyed the business to J.H. Elliot, R.H. Porter and Barrett Ripley (great-grandfather of the donor). The principal business under the new owners was the manufacturing of "shoddy" which is woolen cloth made from wool rags. This was used to make horse blankets which became the company's principal business.

Elliot and Porter were connected with the Cheshire National Bank and represented the investment side of the business. Ripley became the superintendent and eventual owner of the Mill. Most of the correspondence in the collection is addressed to him.

Object ID	RG#32
Date	<1815-1992>
Collection	Ladies Charitable Society.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records of the Ladies Charitable Society of Keene, New Hampshire. Its dates are 1815-1992. The collection document's the society's history and activities. The collection is rich not only in social and economic history, but also in the history of many important Keene families.</p> <p>Researchers may also wish to consult RG#167 which contains financial records from 1951-2006 (b.d. 1990-2006). For analysis of their work and history, see Nanette Reckart Wilson's paper which is located in the library's collection (HSCC 367.97429.W55 1988) and Susan Peery's history of the society (HSCC 361.2.P44 2003)</p> <p>The Ladies Charitable Society was formed as the Reading Society on July 1, 1815, by the women of the First Congregational Church. The members met weekly to read the Bible and other religious works. They also planned to aid the suffering and the needy.</p> <p>The rules of the society read as follows, "With full belief that societies for reading the scared scriptures, and pious works of human composition, are calculated to enrich the mind with useful knowledge, to impress the heart with divine truth, and draw more closely the bonds of union between friends and neighbors; believing it also to be our duty to relieve as far as lies in our power the wants of the poor and distressed...."</p> <p>The name of the society was changed to the Charitable and Reading Society in 1817. The first president of the group was Eunice Appleton. The early work of the society included starting a Sabbath school, a charity school, making pillows and sheets for the poor, working for Indian missions, and sending money to aid the Greeks during their rebellion against the Turks in the 1820s.</p> <p>Mrs. Zedekiah Barstow became president in 1820 and remained in that post until her death in 1869. The society was incorporated as the Ladies Charitable Society of Keene, New Hampshire, in 1885. All local religious denominations were represented in the society by that time. The group served to "render assistance to the aged and poor of the city."</p> <p>The society continues to this day and aids the community through "relief of the needy...provision of health service... (and) assistance...in educational and recreational opportunities," according to the revised by-laws of 1951.</p> <p>The collection is organized into 3 series. Series I contains the secretary's records from 1815 to 1994. After that date, the society recorded its minutes electronically. Series II contains the treasurer's records from 1832 to 1991. In addition to having no records for 1815-1831, there are two books missing (1851-1862 and 1897-1913). Series III is a subject file including clippings, society history, membership lists, information of the society's scholarship, and its investments. This includes copies of some of the organizations by-laws and constitutions through the 1990s.</p>

Object ID	RG#33
Date	<1855-1916>
Collection	Sunday School Attendance Books (Marlborough).
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the attendance records for the Sunday school conducted at the Universalist Church in Marlborough, New Hampshire, from 1855-1916. Since the records are scattered, no effort was made to folder the items.</p> <p>The books provide a register of those attending the school.</p>
Object ID	RG#34
Date	<ca. 1600-1935>
Collection	Ella Patten Abbott Papers.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains papers of Ella Patten Abbott of Westmoreland, New Hampshire. The collection includes genealogies of her family and its many related branches as well as families that resided in Westmoreland. It also includes Ms. Abbott's notes for a history of Westmoreland and correspondence.</p> <p>Ella Elizabeth (Patten) Abbott was born in Westmoreland on 3 August 1847 and was the daughter of Daniel Warren and Elizabeth Howe (Heustis) Patten. After school she found employment as a dress maker and gave organ lessons. She married Albourne Fulton Abbott on 21 January 1875. They resided for many years in Somerville, Massachusetts, where he was employed as a ticket agent for the Boston & Maine Railroad.</p> <p>Beginning around 1895, Ella started working on genealogy at the research library of the New England Historic and Genealogical Society in Boston. The town of Westmoreland soon contacted her and asked that she research the early settlers of the town and prepare a town history and genealogy. They even appropriated \$100 to assist her. She spent several years researching the various lines and began compiling the information into the files which form this collection. The research intensified after Albourne's retirement and the couple returned to Westmoreland.</p> <p>The history, however, was never published although Ms. Abbott continued her work. In 1915 she moved to Keene and soon became involved in the historical organizations in the city. She was a charter member of the Historical Society of Cheshire County. She died on 15 October 1935. Her papers subsequently became for the basis for the history of Westmoreland that was published in 1976.</p> <p>She began her genealogical research on the Abbott, Howe and Heustis families and then branched out to other lines. A complete list of the families mentioned is located within the subject headings portion of the collection.</p> <p>The collection is divided into three series. Series I contains the research notes that form the basis for the Westmoreland genealogies. These are arranged in alphabetical order by family name. Series II contains the notes for the Westmoreland history organized in alphabetical order by topic. Series III contains Ella Abbott's personal papers including correspondence and more history notes. The series also includes genealogies of the Baxter and Willard families as well as notes on families not found in Westmoreland.</p>
Object ID	RG#35
Date	<1918-1920>
Collection	Keene War Chest Association Papers
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records of the Keene War Chest Association.</p> <p>The association was founded in April, 1918, to consolidate fund raising for war charity appeals such as the Red Cross, the YMCA and other relief agencies. Thus, it was a fore-runner of today's United Way. The organization apparently disbanded in 1920.</p>

The collection is organized into a single series containing the records of the association. This includes correspondence, minutes, and accounts of the association's disbursing committee. Folder 5 contains a number of brochures from organizations seeking aid including the many relief agencies that were seek help for France, Belgium, and Armenia to recover from World War I. There is hardly any information on how funds were raised, but ample documentation on how funds were expended.

Object ID	RG#36
Date	<1764-1944>
Collection	Westmoreland Congregational Society Records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records of the Westmoreland Congregational Society from 1764 to 1944. The collection is contained within three bound volumes.</p> <p>Volume 1 begins with the ordination of Rev. Allen Pratt in 1790, however, several pages of earlier records have been taped into the front. The book includes vital statistics, records of meetings, membership rolls, and the church covenant.</p> <p>Volume 2 contains much of the same information for the years 1841-1871. There is a list of church membership from 1860 located in the back of the volume.</p> <p>Volume 3 includes by-laws adopted in 1855, membership lists, as well as notices for meetings, minutes and financial reports. Photographs of the ministers are pasted in the front and back end papers. The book also includes information of the installation of Rev. Gooch in 1914.</p>

Object ID	RG#37
Date	<1888-1949>
Collection	Sons of Veterans, Gen. S.G. Griffin #10 Records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records of the Gen. Simon G. Griffin Camp #10 of the Sons of Veterans (Keene, NH). The dates are 1888-1949 with bulk dates of 1900-1929.</p> <p>The Grand Army of the Republic was founded as an organization for Union Veterans of the Civil War. It was intended to be a "one war" group that would gradually fade away as the veterans died. However, a number of "auxiliaries" for wives, daughters and sons of veterans were established to parallel local chapters of the G.A.R.</p> <p>One of these groups was the Sons of Veterans which was renamed the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in 1925. It was established as a fraternal and patriotic organization open to sons and grandsons of Union Veterans. As the years went by it was opened to any male who could prove descent from any Union soldier or sailor. Like the G.A.R. it was organized using a military structure with the local chapters called camps instead of posts.</p> <p>The Keene Camp appears to have started around 1888 when the G.A.R. post was revived. However it doesn't seemed to have done much until around 1900 when the collection's membership rolls begin. This was also the time period with the national organization's membership peaked. The organization seems to have thrived through the 1920s, but began a decline after that. Its bank account was closed out in 1942 and it stops being represented in Memorial Day observances after 1945. Although the national S.U.V.C.W. still exists, its Keene chapter is long gone.</p> <p>The collection is organized into 2 series. Series I contains membership files and records. These are far from complete, but they show the names of the membership and from whom they are descended. Folder 7, contains "camp rosters" contained within the annual G.A.R. directories. Series II is a subject file that includes correspondence, reports, and news from the national and state organizations.</p>

Object ID	RG#38
Date	<1800-1983>
Collection	Westmoreland Manuscript Materials.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records and collections of the Westmoreland historical Society. It covers the years 1800-1983 with bulk dates of 1800-1900 and additional materials added since the donation was made circa 1984. Other Westmoreland records may be found in RG#50, RG#86, and RG#116.</p> <p>The collection is divided into 11 series. Series I is a collection of records from various Westmoreland businesses. The bulk of the series is located in Box 1 with oversized items in Box 7. Series II contains cemetery records. Series III is devoted to clubs and organizations in Westmoreland. These include the history committee which wrote the 1976 history of Westmoreland, the Old Home Day Association, the parent teachers association, and the Female Charitable Society. Series IV contains various school records including the Westmoreland Valley Seminary. Series V contains various town records including the proprietor and town records of vital statistics and assessment books. Series VI contains records of the Westmoreland Light Infantry. Series VII is a subject file which includes family correspondence and some probate records. Of special interest is the collection of correspondence with the Briggs and Waters families. Series VIII is a collection of photo albums. Series IX contains records from the Westmoreland Public Library. Series X contains genealogies of the Albee, Burt, Chamberlain and Warren families as well as diaries. Series XI contains a photograph collection primarily from the Warren family.</p>
Object ID	RG#39
Date	<1768-1974>
Collection	History of Stoddard Editorial Drafts and Records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the various drafts compiled for the "The History of the Town of Stoddard, New Hampshire, formerly known as Monadnock No. 7 and Limerick from its incorporation on Nov. 4, 1774 to 1974." The work was done by the history committee of the Stoddard Historical Society and coordinated by Ralph W. "Doc" Newell who served as editor. The history was published in conjunction with the town's bicentennial year celebration in 1974.</p> <p>The collection is organized into a single series that follows the organization of the book. A committee of seventeen people compiled information on different subjects with each person writing a section or chapter of the history. Editor Newell then edited and organized these sections and compiled them into the final published history. This record group includes all of the materials submitted to Newell by the various writers as well as the numerous rewrites, final copy, and the actual printed history.</p> <p>The end result of the project was a well illustrated 351 page hard-cover history of the town from the first settlement in 1768 up to 1974. This was the first new history of the town since Nathan Gould's history was written in 1854.</p> <p>A complete table of contents is contained in folder 1. Each of the chapters has a final copy with most having a folder for research notes and rough drafts.</p>
Object ID	RG#40
Date	<1793-1841>
Collection	Justice of the Peace Records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains 4 record books by 4 different Justices of the Peace--Samuel Slade, Jr. of Alstead, Francis Smith of Plainfield, Sylvester Smith of Surry, and Peleg Sprague of Keene. The collection is from the years 1793-1841.</p> <p>In New Hampshire a justice of the peace acts as a local magistrate empowered to decide minor cases, perform marriages, swear oaths of office, and other administrative duties. These duties include deciding civil cases and hearing any prosecution of certain criminal cases as long as they do not exceed certain dollar amount fines or certain time limit imprisonments. More serious cases would be referred by the justice to a higher</p>

court.

Object ID	RG#41
Date	<1902-1931>
Collection	Keene Chorus Club, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains programs, photographs, clippings, and ephemera that document the history of the Keene Chorus Club. The dates are 1902-1931. Researchers may also wish to consult MG#27 which contains information on the first director of the chorus Nelson P. Coffin.</p> <p>The Keene Chorus Club was major institution for almost thirty years in Keene, New Hampshire. It was founded in 1902 and officially disbanded in 1931 except for one performance of "The Messiah" in 1932. The group could gather as many as 300 voices and often performed with major artists of the day. From 1902 until 1923, the group was led by Nelson P. Coffin. His papers are locate in Manuscript Group #27 and his photograph is located in P-3454.</p> <p>The second director and conductor was George S. Dunham who worked from 1923 until 1931. His photos may be found in Folder 16 as P-3455 (oversize) and P-3456.</p> <p>The papers are arranged chronologically. They include programs, clippings, reviews of performances, and photographs of soloists.</p>
Object ID	RG#42
Date	<1767-1818>
Collection	West Association of Ministers in the Province of New Hampshire, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the record book and related materials documenting the West Association of Ministers in the Province of New Hampshire. The years are 1767 to 1818. The collection includes the original record book which records minutes of meetings, a typed transcript of the book, a bibliographical cross reference of people mentioned in the book, and a card file bibliography of related readings.</p> <p>The association was formed in Walpole on June 10, 1767. The purpose of the association seems to have been to provide a forum for discussion of religious ideas and issues. Religious questions were posed and answered and public lectures were given at each meeting. The group also raised funds to build a library for use by its members. They also examined candidates for ordination for churches in the region. Their meetings were quarterly until 1813 and then twice a year until 1818 when the group disbanded.</p>
Object ID	RG#43
Date	<1774-1820>
Collection	Roger W. Hunt Papers.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the papers of Roger W. Hunt. The collection consists of his notes and correspondence related to his research on Revolutionary War Soldiers from Richmond, New Hampshire.</p> <p>Roger W. Hunt was born in Keene in 1912 and graduated from Keene High School and the University of New Hampshire. He worked for many years for the Public Service Company of New Hampshire retiring as the vice-president in charge of employee relations. Mr. Hunt had an interest in the American Revolution and was a member of the Sons of the American Revolution and the Society of Colonial Wars. He developed an interest in the soldiers from Richmond and the research seems to be leading toward a book on the subject which was not completed before his death.</p> <p>The closest thing we have to a completion is the essay contained in Box 1, Folder 15. In the essay, Mr. Hunt writes about trying to find information on two ancestors--Oliver Perry and Aquila Ramsdell. This led to research on other soldiers either from Richmond or who lived at one time in Richmond. The project grew from 2 to 138 individuals. The research identifies their units, their lineage back to an immigrant settler, where they are buried and any inscriptions on their grave stones. Not all of the research is complete.</p>

The collection is organized into 6 series. The bulk of the collection is contained within series I. This is the research on the soldiers that would have been contained in Mr. Hunt's proposed book. The first section contains correspondence with other researchers. This includes many references to specific soldiers. Much of the information collected by Mr. Hunt comes from these letters and some other information not found in the rest of the series. After a section on service records and specific battles where Richmond men participated, we come to files on individuals which are arranged in alphabetical order. Box 1, Folder 16 contains a list the soldiers that were research and may be used as an index.

Series II contains information on Richmond cemeteries and Series III contains information on Richmond history.

Series IV contains research Mr. Hunt did on genealogies of the Putnam and Winter families of Croydon, New Hampshire. This almost exclusively devoted to land title searches done at the Cheshire County Registry of Deeds before Croydon became part of the Sullivan County.

Series V is collection of genealogical notes not related to the Richmond or Croydon projects. It contains genealogies on a number of families related to the Hunts. Series VI contains personal papers.

Object ID	RG#44
Date	<1984-1985>
Collection	Business History Project, papers.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the papers and correspondence related to the business histories project at the Historical Society of Cheshire County.</p> <p>In 1984, the society conducted a fund drive to create an endowment. Each of the businesses and organizations that contributed were asked to provide a brief history. The plan was to put each history into a book that would be displayed at the society.</p> <p>Some companies complied with briefs, but many provided full histories or at least outlines. The collection soon grew beyond its original intent, however, participation fell short of the goal. and the book was never put together.</p> <p>While a records group was created, it was never arranged and described. The collection contains histories, correspondence, and some photographs, but has only a rudimentary organization.</p>
Object ID	RG#45
Date	<1941-1953>
Collection	Nurse's Aide Volunteer Corps, Keene Chapter, papers.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the papers of Keene Chapter of the Nurse's Aide Volunteer Corps. The dates of the collection are 1941-1953 which cover the years that the group was active.</p> <p>The corps was formed during World War II as a division of the American Red Cross. Its purpose was "...engaged in taking precautionary measures against air raids or other forms of attack and minimizing losses to persons and property resulting therefrom." (from the Manual on Administration which is contained in Folder 8.)</p> <p>To become a nurse's aide one had to complete eighty hours of American Red Cross nurse's aide training, complete a twenty hour first aid course and take the oath of the United States Citizen's Defense Corps. Upon completing the training, nurse's aides had to agree to serve at least 150 hours annually without pay and to serve in emergencies in local hospitals and casualty stations.</p> <p>The Elliot Community Hospital on Main Street (now Elliot Hall of Keene State College) was the headquarters of the Nurse's Aide Corps in Keene. William A. Newton was the chairman of the Keene Chapter.</p>

The collection is organized into a single series which is a subject file. The collection includes applications which list details on each of the volunteers.

Object ID	RG#46
Date	<1792-1803>
Collection	Jerusalem Lodge, No. 4, Westmoreland (NH), records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains photostatic copies of the record book kept by the Jerusalem Lodge No. 4 of Westmoreland, New Hampshire between 1792-1803.</p> <p>The lodge was chartered on 3 August 1792. Charter members were George Aldrich, Amos Babcock, Samuel Works, Joseph Burt, Alpheus Moore, Jonas Butterfield, David Brown, William Estey, Jason Wait, Isaac Estey, Phinehas Daggett, John Wheeler, and Nathaniel Blanchard.</p> <p>From 1797 to 1807, the lodge was empowered by the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire to meet alternately at Westmoreland and Walpole. After 1828 the Jerusalem Lodge made no annual return to the Grand Lodge. On 9 June 1840 it was one of 26 lodges in New Hampshire to have its charter declared forfeited. On 8 June 1841, the Jerusalem Lodge was restored to its former standing and rank. However 11 years later on 8 June 1852 the lodge was again removed from the rolls apparently for inactivity. It was never reestablished.</p> <p>The collection is organized into a single series. Folder 1 contains a history of the lodge. The balance of the collection consists of photocopies of each page of the record book including minutes and membership lists. Each folder follows the chronological entries in the record book.</p>

Object ID	RG#47
Date	<1784-1805>
Collection	Rising Sun Lodge of Keene (NH), records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains photostatic copies of the record book kept by the Rising Sun Lodge of Keene, New Hampshire between 1784-1805.</p> <p>The lodge was chartered by the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts on 4 March 1784. The charter members of the Rising Sun Lodge were Asa Dunbar, Daniel Jones, Alexander Ralston, Samuel Smith, Prentice Willard, Luther Eames and Jonas Prescott.</p> <p>During its brief life the lodge made two important contributions to freemasonry. First it was one of the two lodges which participated in the organization of the Grand Lodge of New Hampshire. Secondly, lodge member Thomas Smith Webb became a master mason on 27 December 1790. Webb as a bookbinder and stationer in Keene who went on to become one of the greatest masons in history. He was founder of the system of work practiced in the American York Rite Degree and the New Hampshire Blue Lodge Ritual. He left Keene in 1792 and subsequently wrote "The Freemason's Monitor." and organized the General Grand Chapter of the United States.</p> <p>The Rising Sun Lodge built its temple in 1797 at the corner of Main and Dunbar Streets. The building was later moved to 110 Court Street where its is used as a residence today.</p> <p>In 1805, the New Hampshire Grand Lodge began inspecting the records of every lodge in the state. Their review of the records of the Keene lodge found, "...glaring, flagrant and insufferable offenses, errors and irregularities were discovered, not only against their own by-laws, but in direct violation of the established laws of the Grand Lodge and the Constitution of Masonry." The committee found that funds had been squandered and misappropriated. The lodge was compelled to surrender its charter on 23 October 1805.</p> <p>The collection consists of a single series. Folder 1 contains a history of the lodge. The rest of the folders contain photostatic copies of the record book arranged chronologically. The records contain minutes and membership lists.</p>

Object ID	RG#48
Date	<1922-1942>
Collection	Grower's Shoe Store of Keene, NH, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records kept by Grower's Shoe Store which was located on Central Square in Keene, New Hampshire. The years are 1922-1942.</p> <p>On 21 July 1922 Harry E. and Florence H. Grower purchased the Leon C. Ellsworth, Inc., shoe store of Keene. They paid \$4500 for the store--\$2000 in cash plus a \$2500 note to Mr. Ellsworth.</p> <p>On 6 March 1923, the Growers opened a new shoe store at 18 Central Square in the Bank Building. During the first year the Growers made sales totalling \$11,632.41. They paid \$4351.63 for overhead and wages; about \$9000 was paid for new stock. The store was successful and the Growers continued the business on Central Square until 1942 when they sold the store to Harold C. Ladam. He changed the name to Footwear Center.</p> <p>The collection contains a series of record books detailing many aspects of the business. Series I consists of 9 volumes of cash books which record the daily income and expenditures from 1922 until 1944. Series II is a 6 volume set that records inventory, invoices and accounts. Series III contains papers. Of note are the records concerning the note from Mr. Ellsworth.</p>
Object ID	RG#49
Date	<1966-1993>
Collection	Friends of the Thorne Art Gallery, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records kept by the Friends of the Thorne Art Gallery. The bulk dates are 1966-1969 with other materials added up to 1993.</p> <p>The bulk of the collection documents the first 3 years of the organization. In 1965, the Thorne Art Gallery was donated to Keene State College by Beatrix Sagendorph of Dublin in memory of her mother Louise Thorne of Chicago. An additional endowment was later provided in memory of Mrs. Sagendorph's husband. After that it was known as the Thorne-Sagendorph Gallery. The gallery was located within several buildings on the campus until funds were raised to construct a separate building. The Friends of the Thorne was established on 9 July 1966 and continues to promote the arts within the Monadnock Region.</p> <p>The collection is organized into a single series. The folders contain membership lists, correspondence, newsletters, and exhibit information.</p>
Object ID	RG#50
Date	<1762-1822>
Collection	Westmoreland (NH), records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains photostatic copies of the first record book of the town of Westmoreland, New Hampshire. The dates are 1762-1822. The copies were made in an effort to preserve the information as the original book was in a state of deterioration. Other Westmoreland records may be found in RG#38, RG#86, and RG#116.</p> <p>The first record book contains important information on the operations of the town government during its earliest years. It also contains 200 pages of vital statistics--mostly births and marriages with some deaths. Other items of interest include town meeting minutes from 1775-1813, a list of tavern licenses, and a list brand marks used on livestock by Westmoreland residents.</p> <p>The collection is organized using the page numbers in the original. An index was created for quick reference to vital statistics and there is also a subject index.</p>

Object ID	RG#51
Date	<1972-1985>
Collection	Route 101 Relocation Project, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of published documents related to the Route 101 Relocation Project. The dates are 1972-1985. Copies of some of the final reports are located within the Lower Level Archives Room Collection.</p> <p>New Hampshire Route 101 begins at Hampton and goes across the southern part of the state as far as Keene. As early as the 1950s, the state realized the importance of a well engineered east-west highway to connect the seacoast with Manchester and the centers of Hillsborough and Cheshire counties. The improvements were incremental and identified specific problems over relatively short distances. One of the major bottlenecks along the route was where it passed through the center of Dublin and then proceeded along Dublin Lake in a series of very sharp curves.</p> <p>On 1 April 1972, the state announced that it was beginning studies to solve the problems in Dublin. For the next ten years the state conducted an in depth engineering study and proposed several alternate routes to bypass Dublin by going through less populated sections of Dublin and Harrisville. These studies included comprehensive cultural, natural and physical resources impact studies as well as community wide assessments of land in both communities.</p> <p>By the late 1970s, the state began holding public meetings and hearings. The reaction from the local communities was one of concern over environmental issues and impact on the community's character. Several years of research, controversy and active resistance followed.</p> <p>By 1985, when this collection is concluded, the state had chosen a final route. However the controversy continued with numerous appeals to the highway department and legal actions. Eventually, as costs for the project rose and opposition grew more solid, the state abandoned the project.</p> <p>The collection consists of 1 series and includes environmental impact statements, maps, and some clippings and handouts.</p>
Object ID	RG#52
Date	<1956-1984>
Collection	Walpole Home Extension, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of records of the Walpole Home Extension. The years are 1956-1984 with bulk dates of 1976-1984.</p> <p>Home extension was a branch of the Cheshire County Extension Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The organization established local groups of homemakers in order to promote healthy cooking, teach crafts, and child care techniques. Often local groups would have both day and evening meetings to accommodate as many women as possible.</p> <p>The collection consists of one series. In addition to meeting minutes, the collection also contains program topics (Folder 6), membership lists (Folder 7) and New Hampshire Cooperative Extension Service newsletters which contain program suggestions for local groups.</p>
Object ID	RG#53
Date	<1825-1898>
Collection	Roxbury Town, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains 2 volumes of public records from the Town of Roxbury, New Hampshire. The Historical Society of Cheshire County also has a collection of Roxbury records in Records Group #73. Volume 1 covers the years 1825 to 1853. Volume 2 is for 1854 to 1898.</p> <p>Roxbury was incorporated in 1812 and was made up of parts of Keene, Marlborough and Nelson. Both books contain tax records, records of</p>

disbursements, and official notices.

Object ID	RG#54
Date	<1879-1986>
Collection	The Old Homestead, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records documenting the play "The Old Homestead." It covers the years 1879-1986.</p> <p>Denman Thompson (born Henry Denman Thompson) was descended from families in Swanzey, New Hampshire, but was born in Pennsylvania where his parents had moved. They later returned to Swanzey where Denman finished his education. After an unsuccessful career as a clerk, he began working in theaters in the United States and Canada. He began playing roles, but was dissatisfied with traditional drama. He was touring with a vaudeville troupe when he came up with a sketch as part of the act. The sketch featured a character from Swanzey named Uncle Josh Whitcomb who was played by Thompson. It was first performed in Pittsburgh in 1875 and received a good response.</p> <p>Thompson continued his role for a number of years before he expanded it into a 4 act play with the help of George Ryer and J.M. Hill. The result was "The Old Homestead" which premiered in Boston in 1886. It was an immediate success and moved to New York where it was even more successful. It ran for 800 performances which was the record for its day. Thompson continued playing Uncle Josh for the next 25 years. Although he would write other plays singularly and in collaboration with others, nothing was ever as well received as "The Old Homestead." The play continued to enjoy performances after Thompson gave up the role. It was even made into a silent movie. The play made Thompson a rich man and he retired to West Swanzey. The public taste in theatre changed after Thompson's death and the play's popularity declined.</p> <p>In 1933, the play was revived by the people of Swanzey as part of their bicentennial celebration. In 1939, it was performed again and became an annual event in Swanzey.</p> <p>The collection consists of s single series including a collection of programs from the play's early days through the Swanzey revival. There is also a collection of clippings.</p>

Object ID	RG#55
Date	<1762-1942>
Collection	Keene Vital Statistics
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains 4 separate collections of vital statistics for the town and city of Keene, New Hampshire.</p> <p>While vital statistics for Keene from 1888 to the present are fairly easy to find, there has never been a detailed list of vital information prior to that date. One of the efforts to close that gap was assembled by long-time city clerk Frank H. Whitcomb. He launched a project to gather records from town records, church records, family records and newspapers. Whitcomb also used the record books of former town clerk Ichabod Fisher and his son Thomas. In the end, Whitcomb conceived of the project as a multi-volume set and published the first volume (Box 1, Folder 1) in 1905. Unfortunately the series was not continued. The quality of the binding on the published volume was poor and the books often fell apart with use. A copy of the work with pages encapsulated in individual sleeves is located in the archives book collection. A reprinted version with a better binding is available in the Wright Collection.</p> <p>The second source for this collection (Box 1, Folder 2) is a list of deaths for the years 1778-1887 (with some gaps) compiled by Joshua D. Colony. Mr. Colony does not state the sources of his information, but he probably had access to the same records that Whitcomb used.</p> <p>The third source is a collection of vital statistics published annually by the city of Keene from 1888-1942.</p> <p>The final part of the collection is a list of marriages and deaths (1799-1889) compiled as part of a genealogical research effort by genealogist Merton T. Goodrich..</p>

Object ID	RG#56
Date	<1900-1990>
Collection	Hampshire Pottery, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records of the Hampshire Pottery Company of Keene, New Hampshire. The dates are 1900-1990. The collection is primarily from the papers of L.G. Bullis who was a salesman for the company in the early 20th century with additional items collected by the Historical Society of Cheshire County.</p> <p>The Hampshire Pottery Company was founded in Keene in 1871 by James Scollay Taft. The firm stood for many years at 526 Main Street which was just south of the modern intersection of Routes 101 and 12.</p> <p>The earliest products of the company included utilitarian stoneware items and crockery such as flowerpots, jugs, crocks and milk pans. As the firm progressed, new lines were added that were more artistic in nature. By the 1880s the company was producing vases, pitchers, chocolate and souvenir pieces.</p> <p>Mr. Taft operated the company until 1916 when it was sold to George Morton of Boston. The company continued in business until it closed in 1923.</p> <p>The records are divided into two series. Series I contains records and correspondence of the company. This is primarily the Bullis collection and includes correspondence from Mr. Taft, a list of hotels where Mr. Bullis stayed when he was on the road selling pottery, and other records. Of special note is a listing of transfer illustrations used for souvenir pieces. Series II contains a collection of company histories published in magazines and newspapers. Many of these articles are written by A. Harold Kendall who was a local authority on the Hampshire products. The series also contains a number of unpublished articles by various authors.</p>

Object ID	RG#57
Date	<1961-1979>
Collection	Howard E. Wheelock Oral History Collection.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of audio cassette tapes collected between 1961 and 1979 by Howard E. Wheelock. The bulk dates are 1976 to 1979.</p> <p>Mr. Wheelock was born in Keene and taught high school for several years before joining radio station WKNE. He rose in the company and was general manager when he accepted a position as history instructor at Keene Teachers College (Keene State College) in 1963. Eventually he became head of the history department. As a history teacher, Professor Wheelock emphasized the importance of oral history as a part of research. Thus, many of his students produced the tapes in the collection as part of their studies. In addition there are some tapes of individuals as was Robert Frost. Also, some of the tapes are fictionalized accounts of various historical events based on research by the narrators. Professor Wheelock donated the tapes to the Historical Society of Cheshire County after his retirement for the college in 1985. A set of written comments on the tapes by Professor Wheelock are located in the finding aid folder.</p> <p>The tapes are divided into seven series. In most cases the tapes are labeled with the interviewee listed first and the historian listed second. Series I is devoted to World War II. Series II contains reminiscences of small town life in various New Hampshire C communities. Series III concentrates on America during the Revolutionary War Period. Series IV is focused on the Civil War. Most of these records are narrators reading from diaries and letters of giving fictionalized accounts. Series V is similar to Series II except that it presents Vermont history. Series VI continues Series II but emphasizes the early 20th century. Series VII is a collection of oral histories on various topics. Series VIII represents an independent graduate project in oral history by James Powers for one of Professor Wheelock's courses. The collection includes remembrances of World War II, muralist Barry Faulkner and orchestra conductor Pierre Monteux.</p>

Object ID	RG#58
Date	<1973-1977>
Collection	Keene American Revolution Bicentennial Committee, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records of the Keene American Revolution Bicentennial Committee (KARBC) that were kept by three members of the committee and combined into one collection. The years covered are 1973-1977.</p> <p>The KARBC was one of many committees formed in New Hampshire to celebrate the bicentennial of the United States on July 4, 1976. Many towns formed commissions or committees to oversee and plan for the celebration.</p> <p>The KARBC was appointed on 15 March 1973. The members were Mrs. Bernard Streeter, Patricia Green, Kay Fox, Ralph Page, Howard Wheelock, John C. Perry, and David R. Proper. Patricia Green served for about a year and then left the committee. She was replaced by F. Marion Wood. Howard Wheelock served as chair of the committee and Marion Wood served as the secretary.</p> <p>The KARBC planned and carried out activities for several years. The largest event was the parade in Keene on 4 July 1976. It was the largest parade ever held in the city. The commission continued its work until the end of 1977.</p> <p>The collection consists of a single series containing minutes, correspondence and a few financial records. One of the committee's major projects was the book "Backtracking" published in 1976. Information on the project and the drafts of many chapters are contained in Folder 1. Copies of the book may be found in the library collections.</p>

Object ID	RG#59
Date	<1952-1985>
Collection	Monadnock United Way, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records of the Monadnock United Way and its predecessor the Keene Community Chest. The dates are 1952 to 1985 although the series often cover smaller time frames.</p> <p>On 18 August 1952, twelve charitable organizations in Keene, New Hampshire, consolidated their fund raising efforts into one organization that was called the Keene Community Chest. The groups were; the Salvation Army, Daniel Webster Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Keene Girl Scout Council, Keene YMCA, Cheshire County YMCA, the Bureau of Public Service, Elliot Community Hospital Aid Society, Keene Children's Theatre Association, Keene Visiting Nurses Association, New Hampshire Children's Aid Society, Rotary Crippled Children's Fund and the Lion Eyesight Conservation Fund. They elected Ellis Robertson to chair the organization and Robert F. Babcock was the chair of the first campaign.</p> <p>The purpose of the organization was to raise and distribute funds with one annual fund drive instead of 12 separate fund raising efforts. The first drive began in 1952 with a goal of \$38,935.07. By 1957, the group was reaching 100% of its goals and the number of organizations grew as well.</p> <p>By the late 1960s, the organization was serving agencies throughout the entire county and the name was changed to the Monadnock United Way to reflect its new mission. By 1986, the Monadnock United Way was raising \$1,000,000 for 45 participating agencies with around 1000 volunteers.</p> <p>The record are divided into 7 series. Series I contains minutes of meetings including the director's meetings and the annual membership meetings. The years covered are 1952 to 1978 with some gaps. Series II contains financial statements between 1952 and 1979 as well as bank deposits from 1961 to 1963, with gaps. Series III presents information on the annual fund drives between 1960 to 1985. Series IV is a collection of scrapbooks kept by the United Way office from 1979 to 1982. Series V is a collection of annual reports for the years 1956 through 1964. Series VI contains information on member agencies as well as applications from agencies who wished to join the United Way. Series VII is a</p>

subject file. This includes bylaws, lists of officers and directors, and a history of the organization written in 1986.

Object ID	RG#60
Date	<1840-1987>
Collection	Keene Sentinel, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a set of records from the Keene Sentinel for the years 1840-1987. The collection also contains documents related to the Sentinel's efforts to pass the New Hampshire Right to Know Law and review of the Keene City Charter. Please note that Box 5 of this collection holds oversized materials and is kept on top of the archives shelves. The box also contains a record box that is part of the collection in Records Group 64.</p> <p>The Keene Sentinel is the only daily newspaper in southwestern, New Hampshire and has been published continuously since 1799. In March of that year a young printer named John Prentiss published the first edition. Today it is the oldest business in Keene, one of the oldest in Cheshire County, and one of the oldest newspapers in the United States.</p> <p>It began publishing as a weekly called the New Hampshire Sentinel. In 1890, the publishers launched a daily paper called the Keene Evening Sentinel. The weekly edition was published until it was discontinued in 1957. Several years later, the Saturday edition was changed to a morning paper and the name was changed to the Keene Sentinel.</p> <p>When John Prentiss started the business he only a single assistant and 70 subscribers. By the fall of 1985, the Sentinel had 72 full time employees, 26 part-time employees, and 21 motor route drivers. The paid circulation was 15,000 which was mostly delivered by some 162 carrier boys and girls as well as the motor route drivers. The motor routes covered 8,868 miles per week.</p> <p>In June 1977, the Sentinel began publishing a Saturday supplement called the Monadnock Observer which was a weekly review of arts and events as well as television listings and in-depth stories on specific topics.</p> <p>Virtually the entire history of American Printing technology has been reflected at the Sentinel. Prentiss began with type which consisted of individual letters arranged into words by hand. The paper was laboriously produced on a hand-operated press which could only print two pages at a time on one side of a single sheet. The sheet was then turned over to produce the other two pages. When the ink was dry, the paper was then folded in half to become a 4 page paper.</p> <p>From that simple beginning, the paper continuously introduced improved methods and machinery as they became available. By 1985 it was being produced almost entirely by computer controlled photo-typesetting equipment and a web offset press that could turn out a 32 page paper at a speed of 20,000 per hour.</p> <p>The collection is divided into four series. Series I is a collection of materials related to printing equipment. This includes correspondence and contracts with the Duplex Printing Press Company and the Mergenthaler Linotype Company as well as newsprint companies. Series II is a subject file that includes histories of the company. It also includes articles on foreign affairs by James D. Ewing who was a publisher of the Sentinel. Series III contains information on the Sentinel's efforts to pass the right to know law in New Hampshire. Series IV contains information on the Sentinel's role in the Keene City Charter Review. Oversize box #5 contains oversized blueprints related to printing presses, Sentinel buildings, and Sentinel history.</p>

Object ID	RG#61
Date	<1933-1974>
Collection	Cheshire County Forest Fire Warden's Association, records.
Scope & Content	This record group contains a set of records--mostly minutes--from the Cheshire County Forest Fire Warden's Association (CCFFWA) from 1933 to 1974.

The CCFFWA was established on 10 October 1933 with 13 charter members. The group grew rapidly and soon included most of the forest fire wardens, deputies, and fire chiefs throughout Cheshire County.

The object of the association is to "provide a more efficient forest protection system for Cheshire County and to assist and cooperate with the New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development/ Division of Forests and Lands in the protection, development and improvement of the woodlands and forests in the state, and promote programs which will be instructive and educational regarding forest fire suppression," as outlined in the CCFFWA constitution. The group has met on a monthly basis since the first meeting.

The collection consists of a single folder and 5 volumes of secretary's records.

Object ID	RG#62
Date	<1871-1930>
Collection	Keene Natural History Society, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a set of records of the Keene Natural History Society. The dates are 1871-1930 with numerous gaps.</p> <p>The Keene Natural History Society was formed on 23 October 1871 at the Keene High School Building (formerly the Keene Academy). The society was organized and officers were chosen. However, the society was not incorporated until 31 May 1880. According to the constitution of the society its objects were to "...discover, procure, and preserve whatever may relate to the natural, civil, literary, and ecclesiastical history of the United States in general and the State of New Hampshire in particular. To encourage the study of the above subjects as well as the useful and fine arts by discussions and popular lectures."</p> <p>The society met regularly and sponsored a variety of natural history lectures and exhibits including an exhibit of a "monster living alligator" in the basement of the Keene City Hall in the mid-1880s. There is nothing in the record between 1885 and 1898, however, lectures were held during that time period. The society held a reorganization meeting in 1898, but there are no records listed until 1930. In that year all of the society's records, collections, and property were transferred to the newly formed Historical Society of Cheshire County.</p> <p>The collection consists of a single series organized into 3 folders.</p>

Object ID	RG#63
Date	<1908-1944>
Collection	Cheshire County Sunday School Association, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a set of records of the Cheshire County Sunday School Association. The dates are 1908-1944.</p> <p>The association was an organization of local Sunday schools from throughout Cheshire County. The association held an annual convention at which addresses were presented to the ministers and teachers of the member Sunday schools. The conventions lasted for an entire day and included reports, hymn singing, scripture reading as well as dinner and supper. The motto of the association was, "To help and enthuse every Sunday School Worker within the bounds of Cheshire County to accomplish all that is possible for Christ and the children."</p> <p>The organization was formed circa 1883, however the earliest record contained in the collection was the 25th annual meeting held in 1908. The organization lasted at least until 1944 when a convention was held at the Grace Methodist Church in Keene.</p> <p>The collection consists of a single series containing information on their annual conventions, various records, and a collection of minutes from 1908 to 1943.</p>

Object ID	RG#64
Date	<1958-1984>
Collection	Keene Community Concert Association, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a set of records of the Keene Community Concert Association. The dates are 1958 to 1964.</p> <p>The Keene Community Concert Association, Inc., held its first concerts in the 1937-1938 season. The association brought many fine cultural programs to Keene such as Bizet's opera "Carmen" in the 1968-1969 season and numerous solo performers. Many of the foremost artists of the day appeared before sold-out houses. The Keene Community Concert Association (the organization had several names over the years) filled the void left by the demise of the Keene Chorus Club (Record Group 41).</p> <p>The collection is organized into 3 series. Since the donor of the records was the long-time treasurer of the association, they are mostly concerned with financial transactions. Series I contains bank records. Please note that an oversized account book is located within the oversized collection of Records Group 60, Box 5. Series II contains bills and invoices. Box 2, Folder 9, contains bills from the Keene School District for rental of the Junior High School Auditorium. Many of the bills contain the names of the concerts and their performers. Series III is a subject file that contains by-laws and correspondence. It also includes a collection of secretary's records that document the association's activities from 1971-1980. This includes minutes, clippings and programs.</p>

Object ID	RG#65
Date	<1721-1977>
Collection	City Records of Keene, NH.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a set of permanent records for the town and city of Keene, New Hampshire. The years covered are 1721-1977.</p> <p>They are divided into two groups. The first group consists of some 241 bound volumes that record various acts of civil administration. These are located in the Lower Level Archives Room. The second group is a group of loose records that located in 15 archival boxes. These are found in the Archives Room with the rest of the Records Groups.</p> <p>The collection is divided into 22 series. Series I is a 33 volume collection of chattel mortgages recorded by the town and city clerks from 1841 to 1959. Chattel mortgages record loans against personal property rather than real estate.</p> <p>Series II is called military and consists of 3 volumes addressing the militia, residents mustered into the armed forces during the Civil War, and aid given to the families of soldiers during the war.</p> <p>Series III is 9 volumes of oaths taken by public officials including police and the surveyors of highways.</p> <p>Series IV is a 6 volume set of liens or promissory notes recorded between 1878 and 1931.</p> <p>Series V is a 35 volume set of various financial records dating from 1867 to 1961. These include reports, ledgers, and appropriations.</p> <p>Series VI contains the records of the officers of division of fences ("fence viewers") for the years 1831 to 1911. The records show the resolution of property disputes.</p> <p>Series VII is a 5 volume set of records of the city's poor. These date from 1860 to 1891 and record claims and disbursements.</p> <p>Series VIII contains the auditor's records from 1889 to 1942 in 8 volumes.</p> <p>Series IX is an 11 volume set of treasurer's records from 1889-1942.</p>

Series X contains election records from Ward 4 of the years 1874 to 1973. All loose papers were removed from the volumes and arranged chronologically in folders in box 1.

Series XI is a collection of permits and licenses issued between 1874 and 1970. They are arranged by alphabetically by permit type.

Series XII contains school records from various school districts in Keene. These include lists of teachers and meeting minutes. Items range from 1807 to 1905.

Series XIII contains reports of perambulations of the city's boundaries.

Series XIV contains photographs that were found in various places in the original donation. They are arranged in alphabetical order by topic.

Series XV is a 5 volume set that record appointments and commissions for officers of the city. The largest group is for the police department and range from 1850 to 1905.

Series XVI is devoted to taxes and consists of 4 volumes dating from 1834 to 1936. This series only concerns taxes collected, abatements and the selectmen's cash book.

Series XVII is a 26 volume set of disbursements paid out by the city from 1874 to 1959.

Series XVIII is organized alphabetically by topic and contains various 18th century records concerning Thomas Baker and Ephraim Dorman. These include deeds, taxes, roads and so forth.

Series XIX is a set of records detailing efforts to construct elderly housing in the mid-1970s. It specifically details to land acquisition for what eventually be the Cleveland Building.

Series XX is liquor sales records for the years 1893 to 1917 in 5 volumes.

Series XXI is a collection financial journals for the years 1935 to 1942.

Series XXII is a subject file. Part of this collection is in boxes and there are also 9 volumes.

Object ID	RG#66
Date	<1893-1984>
Collection	Aldrich/Clark Insurance Company, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records of the Aldrich Insurance Company and its successor the Clark Insurance Company of Keene, New Hampshire. The dates are 1893-1984 with bulk dates of 1920-1950.</p> <p>The Aldrich Insurance Company was founded in 1877 by George H. Aldrich and his son Herbert. The business grew to become one of the largest insurance companies in Keene and the family continued to hold the controlling interest. In 1927, a nephew, Robert M. Clark, purchased the company. In 1950, he changed the name to Clark Insurance. The company operated for many years at 30 Main Street before moving to 171 West Street.</p> <p>The collection contains business records such tax records, cash journals, and information on policies. It is divided into 11 series.</p>

Series I is a group of cash journals from 1921 to 1950. Series II contains the firm's income tax records from 1936 to 1956. Series III contains information on losses. Series IV is regarding insurance sales techniques. Series V and VI is a customer file. Series VII contains policy registers.

Series VIII is for general business accounts and IX is customer ledgers. Series X contains insurance company accounts. Series XI is a subject file.

Object ID	RG#67
Date	<1948-1970>
Collection	Keene Children's Theatre, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records the Keene Children's Theatre. The dates are 1948 to 1970 with bulk dates of 1948 to 1958.</p> <p>The Recreation Department of the City of Keene, New Hampshire, established a children's theatre on 11 January 1949. Leora Houghton was chosen as the first chairman. Ms. Houghton developed the theatre to include play acting and puppet and marionette shows. She also helped establish the Keene Children's Theatre Association. Many others made the group work especially Susan Ott Faulkner who served as artistic director from 1949-1954. In addition to city resources, the group was also sponsored by the Keene Community Chest and the Monadnock United Way. Additional funding was gained through ticket sales and membership contributions.</p> <p>The organization was a partnership between children and adults and included a board of directors, executive board, and a junior board. The group produced such plays as "Peter Pan," "A Christmas Carol," "The Princess and the Swineherd," and "Buffalo Bill." In addition, they sponsored travelling plays and puppet shows.</p> <p>By 1958, interest in the group had begun to wane and funding sources were reduced. There were a few productions and revivals after that, but the group gradually dissolved.</p> <p>The collection is divided into 4 series. Series I contains notes and minutes of the board of directors as well as a number of other committees. Series II deals with the finances. Series III contains information regarding the performances. This includes correspondence, photographs and programs from performances. Series IV is a subject file.</p>

Object ID	RG#68
Date	<1887-1892>
Collection	K.H.S. Athletics, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records the Keene High School Athletics Association (K.H.S. Athletics) for the years 1887 to 1892.</p> <p>During the 1800s high school athletics programs were not supported by school systems. Consequently the K.H.S. Athletics Association was organized to schedule games and raise funds for uniforms, travel, and other expenses. The association members appear to have been students and alumni of the school. The records deal with the purchase of football uniforms and the scheduling of football games as well games played by the baseball team and fund raising activities. These include a prize speaking contest held at the Keene City Hall in 1892 which is contained in Folder 3. Folder 1 contains a record book for the association.</p>

Object ID	RG#69
Date	<1902-1968>
Collection	Keene Academy Fund, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records that document the issues surrounding the Keene Academy Fund. They span the years 1902 to 1968.</p> <p>Some time prior to 1836 money was raised by subscription and an academy building was erected on land owned by Abijah Wilder in Keene.</p>

The Keene Academy was opened to students in 1837. In 1839, Wilder conveyed the tract of land to certain local people as trustees. The deed provided that, "The land and buildings shall forever hereafter be used and occupied as and for a public academy...."

In 1867 an arbitrator ruled that the Union School District of Keene was entitled to the property and ordered the Keene Academy to turn it over to the district. The academy held the money from the purchase in trust to, "...establish an academy in the Town of Keene in the County of Cheshire for the education of youth of both sexes...." This money became known as the Keene Academy Fund.

The fund and the interest which it earned was held in trust for many years with none of the money being expended. Several times the question arose as to whether the trustees could expend any of the money to assist public education in Keene. Each time it was decided that this could not be done because of the terms of Abijah Wilder's will.

Finally, in 1939 the trustees received a legal opinion that the money could be used for educational instruction or educational facilities which the local schools did not or could not normally offer. Consequently, the Keene Academy Fund appropriated money in 1940 to furnish and equip a library and librarian for the Keene High School. The fund has been used to assist local education ever since.

The collection is organized into a single series that deals primarily with the history of the fund and concentrating on the studies and opinions given in the 1930s.

Object ID	RG#70
Date	<1888-1988>
Collection	Cheshire Grange #131, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records the Cheshire Grange #131 for the years 1888-1988. The information in this collection is summarized by Randolph Gregory in his history of the Grange that is located within the Archives Room Collection (HSCC 366.7429.G74 1988).</p> <p>The Patrons of Husbandry, Cheshire Grange #131 was established in 1888 by over 100 interested people. Like other Grange associations, the Cheshire Grange was established to promote educational, social, and agricultural issues for its membership as well as a political group to advocate for farmers. This was accomplished with lectures, field trips, and other presentations.</p> <p>The core of the collection are the volumes of secretary's minutes that document membership, officers, and activities. In addition there is a small subject file in Box 6 which highlight the group's activities. There is also a small file (Folder 14) on activities by the Pomona Grange #6 as well as a file of secretaries' minutes for the group (1911-1914). Pomona Granges were county or region wide and served as an umbrella for the local Granges as well as to coordinate with the state Granger organization..</p>

Object ID	RG#71
Date	<1860-1988>
Collection	Keene School District, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various records collected over the years by the Keene School District. There is no particular focus to the collection and the dates run from 1860 to 1988.</p> <p>The records are divided into three series. Each series is a subject file. Series I is for records related to the Keene School District. Series II is the elementary and junior high schools. Series III is for the high school. Each series contains official documents, clippings, class lists, graduation exercises, newsletters and a scrapbook of articles and other information regarding the high school dating between 1868-1912.</p>

Object ID	RG#72
Date	<1924-1950>
Collection	Glenroy W. Scott, papers.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a set of papers and a scrapbook kept by Glenroy W. Scott. Most of the papers are concentrated in the years 1924 to 1936 with a few others.</p> <p>Glenroy Willard Scott was the son of Edgar and Lilla (Willard) Scott and was born in Winchester, New Hampshire, on 19 September 1876. On 30 October 1901, he married Lucy Maria Smith of Hinsdale. His occupation is listed in the records the Beverage Collection (Cheshire Provident Institution) as a carpenter and builder. After living for several years in the southern part of Cheshire County he moved to Keene around 1924. He established a business as a building contractor at 56 Court Street. He later lived at 24 Washington Street.</p> <p>His company went on to build a number of buildings around the county including the Colonial Theatre, the Sentinel Building (West and St. James Streets), Vilas High School, Winchester High School and the Howe and Bennett Blocks. His company also built a number of additions and renovations.</p> <p>He had interests in fishing and boating. He owned a tract of land on the Indian Stream River in Pittsburg, NH, and had a fishing camp there. The file contains several logs of trips to Pittsburg via motor car in the 1920s. His interest in motor boats led to his owning several speed boats that he raced competitively on Lake Winnepesaukee.</p> <p>Mr. Scott retired in 1950 and died on 1 January 1962.</p> <p>The collection is organized into 3 series. Series I is devoted to contracts and specifications for a number of projects. The projects are listed on the folder information.</p> <p>Series II is a collection of personal papers and clippings. Series III is a collection of photographs of several projects as well as a portraits of Mr. Scott.</p>

Object ID	RG#73
Date	<1821-1938>
Collection	Roxbury Town Records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a set of records from the Town of Roxbury, New Hampshire. The Historical Society of Cheshire County also has a collection of Roxbury records in Record Group #53.</p> <p>Roxbury was incorporated in 1812 and was made up of parts of Keene, Marlborough and Nelson.</p> <p>The collection is organized into 3 series. Series I is a collection of tax records. Series II is collection of treasurer's receipts. Series III is a collection of diverse records organized as a subject file.</p>

Object ID	RG#74
Date	<1885-1987>
Collection	Keene Family YMCA, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a set of records from the Keene Family YMCA. The years are 1885-1987 with some material added up to 1994.</p> <p>The Young Mens Christian Association was founded by a group of men in London in 1844. They were led by George Williams who had moved to London to become a draper. He was appalled that the only activities for young men were to be found in taverns and brothels. The</p>

organization was established to provide healthy outlets such as exercise, reading, and lectures guided by basic Christian principles. The organization grew quickly across Europe and the first American YMCA was established in Boston in 1851. New Hampshire began seeing YMCAs in the 1860s and a statewide association was established in 1868. Keene's YMCA was not established until 8 December 1885.

In 1887, the group hired W.H. Symonds as its first professional director. In 1894, its first building was constructed on West Street. It had a ground floor for stores and the upper story contained a gymnasium and game rooms. In 1959, the Y moved to Roxbury Street. In 2012, the facility moved to Summit Road in West Keene.

Over the years, the Keene YMCA has grown from a mens organization into a family oriented group that still emphasizes strength in body, mind and spirit. Their activities include preschool and nursery programs, summer sports clinics, adult fitness programs, and Camp Wakonda which is a day camp on Arch Street for grade-school children.

The collection is organized into 7 series. Series I contains minutes of director's meetings, annual reports, and other operational documents. Series II is a collection of materials related to activities. Series III is financial records. Series IV contains legal documents. Series V is a small subject file. Series VI and VII are papers of long-time secretary of the Keene YMCA, Andrew Turner. Mr. Turner served from 1946 to 1973 and collected slides and photographs as well as documents.

Object ID	RG#75
Date	<1802-1824>
Collection	Dr. Joseph Wheeler, record books.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a set of record books for Dr. Joseph Wheeler of Keene, New Hampshire. The years covered are 1802-1824 with gaps and additional information regarding the genealogy of the Wheeler and Wyman families.</p> <p>Joseph Wheeler was born in Duxbury, MA, on 18 June 1780. His family moved to Foxboro and later Petersham. It is assumed that Wheeler studied medicine with a local doctor and learned enough to begin his own practice in Westmoreland by 1799-1802. The record books begin in 1802. While living in Westmoreland, he married Harriett Wyman and they would have 5 children.</p> <p>Around 1810, the family moved to Keene. In 1813, Wheeler completed formal medical studies at Dartmouth and received his doctor's degree. He is remembered as a good physician and for some of his idiosyncrasies. He was one of the original members of the Medical Society of Cheshire County. He died on 24 April 1826.</p> <p>The books are organized into a single series and arranged in chronological order. Folder 1 contains biographical and genealogical information researched by the collection's compiler. It should be noted that most of the genealogy is based on information provided by the Kingsbury family and a number of incomplete records. Recent research on families associated with the Wyman Tavern have called some of the information into question.</p>

Object ID	RG#76
Date	<1947-1976>
Collection	Women of the Rotary, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a set of records of the Woman of the Rotary of Keene, New Hampshire. The years covered are 1947-1976.</p> <p>The organization was established in April 1974 as a branch of the Keene Rotary Club. In those days women were not allowed to join Rotary so they need their own club. The organization met several times a year. The meetings featured speakers who presented programs on a variety of subjects. In addition, the group supported scholarships and local charities--especially those with a medical focus.</p>

The group continued in existence until 20 October 1975 when it voted to disband owing to a lack of interest.

The collection is organized into a single series containing reports, financial records, by-laws, correspondence, and a scrapbook that documents activities.

Object ID	RG#77
Date	<1951-1989>
Collection	Keene Regional Industrial Foundation, Inc. (KRIF), records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a set of records of the Keene Regional Industrial Foundation (KRIF) and its successor the Keene Industrial Development Corporation (KIDC).</p> <p>After World War II, the State of New Hampshire began to investigate ways to improve the state's industrial capacity and employment. The Great Depression had devastated the state's industrial base--especially for shoes and textile manufacturers. In 1949, the state created the New Hampshire Industrial Finance Corporation to encourage localities to develop new industries. These groups would receive state funds to establish local corporations whose stock would be held within the community.</p> <p>On 10 October 1951, the Keene Regional Industrial Foundation, Inc. (KRIF) received its charter. It had a goal of raising \$100,000 of capital by selling 10,000 shares at \$10.00 a piece. Examples of stocks are located in Box 1 of the collection. The stock sale was successful enough to enable the group to hire its first director, Edward Ellingwood, in 1951.</p> <p>Keene had had economic improvement organizations in the past such as the Keene Board of Trade and the Keene Commercial Club which sought to improve existing industries and infrastructure. KRIF was somewhat different in that its focus was on attracting new industries. They were also in the business of recruiting industries to move to Keene at a time when industrial capacity was shrinking throughout New England.</p> <p>This was accomplished with promotional literature and active recruiting. KRIF was able to attract some businesses to fill unused factories. In addition, the group was instrumental in developing the area on lower Marlborough street that became Optical Avenue. Then the group acquired a number of acres on lower Winchester Street to build new industrial facilities. This became the KRIF Road development.</p> <p>By the mid-1970s, several other groups were involved in making Keene attractive including Keene Downtown Development, Inc. and the Keene Industrial Development and Park Authority. Interest in KRIF and its focus only on industrial development began to fade and its charter was allowed to expire. Its capital was turned over to a new group called the Keene Industrial Development Corporation. This included the land on Winchester Street. All of this transfer was completed by 1989.</p> <p>Keene Industrial Development Corporation reinvigorated industrial development and the KRIF area soon had 3 factories and other sites under development. In 1993, the group submitted its first economic development master plan.</p> <p>The collection is organized into 3 series. Series I concentrates on records of the KRIF. Of particular interest is KRIF's advocacy for improvements to Keene's airport. Series II concentrates on the KIDC. This includes a number of studies commissioned over the years on development and infrastructure improvements. Series 3 is collection of photographs of various projects by both organizations.</p>

Object ID	RG#78
Date	<1900-1993>
Collection	Monadnock Family Services, records.
Scope & Content	This record group contains a set of records of the Monadnock Family Services and its predecessor organizations. The years are 1900-1993 with bulk dates of 1959-1993.

The evolution of the organization can be traced back to the work of the Ladies Charitable Society whose records may be found in Records Group #32. Other groups included the Keene Charitable Society and the Colonial Club. The mission of these groups was to raise money from the community in order to provide services for the needy. This goal led to the creation of the Associated Charities of Keene in 1905. In 1919, the group changed its name to the Bureau of Public Service. The Bureau, often in combination with other charities, organized many successful fund drives especially during Great Depression. That sort of combined effort eventually led to the formation of the Keene Community Chest (see Records Group 59). Once the Community Chest was established in 1952, the Bureau of Public Service ceased its fund raising, but continued its work as a charitable organization.

On 23 October 1953, the Keene Mental Hygiene Society was established to promote mental health and to aid individuals and families in need of mental health services. The group changed its name to the Keene Mental Health Association and then merged with Bureau of Public Service in 1960. The new group was called the Monadnock Area Family Services and then simply Monadnock Family Services.

The new organization soon focused exclusively on mental health issues in the Monadnock Region and received most of its funding through the Monadnock United Way. This included a mental health clinic, the Wyman Way Cooperative, a children's mental health service, a developmental disabilities program, employee assistance programs, and RSVP, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

The collection is organized into 2 series. Series I contains records of the predecessor organizations especially the Bureau of Public Service. Series II concentrates on the Monadnock Family Services. Each folder is organized chronologically and contains reports from the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee, and the Mental Health Advisory Committee.

Object ID	RG#79
Date	<1833-1983>
Collection	Ashuelot National Bank, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a set of records from the Ashuelot National Bank (later the Ashuelot Citizen's National Bank). The dates are 1833-1983, but there are significant gaps.</p> <p>The Ashuelot National Bank began as the Ashuelot Bank and was chartered on 2 January 1833. Its first president was Samuel Dinsmoor. The bank succumbed during the panic of 1837 but was revived and rechartered as the Ashuelot National Bank in 1865. The bank was located for many years at 47-49 Central Square at the corner with West Street.</p> <p>In 1875, the Citizens National Bank was chartered. It was located at 20 Central Square. The two banks merged to form the Ashuelot Citizens National Bank on 6 August 1924. The new bank sold the Citizens Bank building and launched a major renovation of the Ashuelot National Bank Building from 1925 to 1926. The building was the bank's headquarters until 1962 when it moved to the building at 33 West Street. The Central Square building was sold to Keene Savings Bank.</p> <p>In 1974, Ashuelot National merged with Indian Head Bank and most of its property became surplus. The 33 West Street building was eventually sold to Cheshire County to become the new Registry of Deeds.</p> <p>The collection is divided into 2 series. Series I deals with various bank records. Of special interest are copies of old notes issued by the bank, official documents regarding the bank holiday of 1933, and photographs of various directors. The series also contains some information on other banks in Keene. Series II concerns various pieces of information regarding the buildings owned by the bank. The series contains an extensive collection of records related to the construction of the new bank building at 33 West Street.</p>

Object ID	RG#80
Date	<1765-1965>
Collection	Weather Records of Keene.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a set of weather observations recorded in Keene, New Hampshire. The dates are 1765, 1836-1840 and 1886-1965. Researchers may also wish to see RG#154 which contains observations for the years 1830-1840 by Joshua Colony.</p> <p>From 1886 until 1965 Keene had 6 official weather observers who made daily records of temperature, precipitation, and weather conditions. Often the records would contain monthly and annual summations. The six men and their years of tenure were:</p> <p>Henry Mackintosh (1886-1891) Samuel Wadsworth (1892-1930) Robert P. Hayward (1931-1940) Charles Robbins (1941-1944) Clifford Titcomb (1945-1948) Merton T. Goodrich (1949-1965)</p> <p>In addition the collection also contains observations of two other men. The first is a transcription of a diary kept by Rev. William Goddard of Westmoreland from 1765. The second is a series of observation kept by Rev. Zedekiah Barstow from 1836-1840. The collection also contains some newspaper articles on specific weather events from the 1880s.</p> <p>The collection is organized into 2 series. Series I contains the observations of Goddard and Barstow. Series II contains the official observers records except for Wadsworth. His observations have been made into Series III.</p>

Object ID	RG#81
Date	<1912-1994>
Collection	Dartmouth Association of Cheshire County, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records of the Dartmouth Association of Cheshire County and its successor the Southwest New Hampshire Dartmouth Alumni Club. The dates are 1912 to 1994 with addition information up to 2004.</p> <p>The Dartmouth Association of Cheshire County was founded on 27 December 1912. The object of the association was "...to promote the interests of Dartmouth College and foster the Dartmouth spirit."</p> <p>According to the by-laws, membership is open to Dartmouth students and graduates who live or have a place of business in Cheshire County. As time went on that included the Monadnock Region. Since 1912, the group has held an annual meeting on a Sunday during the last 10 days of December. Meetings usually included a guest speaker from Dartmouth. In 1975, the group voted to change their name to the Southwest New Hampshire Dartmouth Alumni Club.</p> <p>The group consists of a single series. The 1912-1972 book is first in the box. There is also a single folder containing records from 1973 to 1994 and additional minutes and records up to 2004.</p>

Object ID	RG#82
Date	<1838-1847>
Collection	Winchester (NH) Anti-Slavery Society, records.
Scope & Content	This record group contains the record book of the Winchester Anti-Slavery Society of Winchester, New Hampshire. The dates are 1838 to 1847.

Anti-Slavery Societies were fairly common in northern communities during the first third of the 19th Century. Often associated with a specific church or other group, they were formed to promote the cause of the abolition of slavery in the United States. New Hampshire had abolished slavery with its first true constitution in 1783 and the issue was largely ignored until the 1820s when it became a national political issue. By the 1830s there over 40 societies in the state. The groups served as forums for speakers and distributors of anti-slavery literature.

The group in Winchester was formed in 1838 and numbered 96 men and 75 women at its height--including a number of prominent citizens. The record book details its membership and officers. Most of their actions concerned electing delegates to County and State conventions. The last entry is for 15 April 1847 to elect officers and the entries stop at that point. It is unclear if the group disbanded, merged with another society, or kept going without recording its meetings. At that point in history, the anti-slavery movement was increasingly marginalized in American Politics and was becoming splintered over various issues and leaders.

Folder 1 contains the record book. It is intriguing to note that is missing a number of pages. However the removed pages do not seem to be connected with the society's entries. Almost as interesting as the book is its provenance. As explained in Folder 2, the item was rescued from the Winchester Town Dump by a woman named Sadie Huntoon. Folder 3 contains a written transcription of the record book.

Object ID	RG#83
Date	<1854-1908>
Collection	Cheshire County Commissioners, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records of Cheshire County Commissioners. The dates are from 1854 to 1908.</p> <p>The records are mostly court and related legal matters. Of interest are the notes taken during hearings on legal matters from 1891 to 1896. These are located in Folder 3. There is also a register of payments by the county to the caregivers of indigents from 1899-1905.</p>
Object ID	RG#84
Date	<1736-1976>
Collection	Winchester (NH) Congregational Church, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records of the Congregational Church in Winchester, New Hampshire. The years covered are 1736-1976.</p> <p>The collection consists of 4 volumes and include baptism records as well as meeting minutes. In addition to the books, the donor also included a roll of microfilm containing all 4 books. The film is located in the microfilm collection.</p>
Object ID	RG#85
Date	<1600-1997>
Collection	Westmoreland (NH) Genealogy.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains genealogical records of families from Westmoreland, New Hampshire. The genealogies cover years prior to the family's association with Westmoreland as well as after the publication of the Westmoreland Town History. The collection complements and updates other Westmoreland genealogy collections found in RG#34 (Ella Patten Abbott Papers), RG#36 (Westmoreland Congregational Society Records), RG#38 (Manuscript collection of the Westmoreland Historical Society), RG#50 (Westmoreland Town Records), and RG#86 (Westmoreland Town History).</p> <p>The basis of the collection is a set of file cards (Boxes 4-7) that were used to compose the genealogy section of the Westmoreland Town History. The balance of the collection are notes and correspondence with various researchers on specific families. Many of the files include clippings and obituaries.</p>

Object ID	RG#86
Date	<1720-2000>
Collection	Town of Westmoreland (NH) Town History Notes.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains historical items and notes from Westmoreland, New Hampshire. The collection is meant to update the History of Westmoreland that was published in 1976. The collection complements and updates other Westmoreland collections found in RG#34 (Ella Patten Abbott Papers), RG#36 (Westmoreland Congregational Society Records), RG#38 (Manuscript collection of the Westmoreland Historical Society), RG#50 (Westmoreland Town Records), and RG#85 (Westmoreland Genealogy). Other Westmoreland town records may be found in RG#38, RG#50, and RG#116.</p> <p>The collection is organized into 5 series. Series I is a general subject file containing clippings and notes. Series II contains various town records. Series III contains copies of deeds. Series IV is a collection of slides. Series V is a transcription of the notes of Ella Patten Abbott. These notes were part of project undertaken by Ms. Abbott to write a history of Westmoreland. More information on Ms. Abbott is contained in RG#34.</p>
Object ID	RG#87
Date	<1550-1979>
Collection	Goodrich Genealogy.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of genealogical notes and research on the Goodrich (Goodridge) family. The primary lines are from Joshua Goodrich of Bingham, Maine, Josiah Goodridge of Berwick, Maine and William Goodrich of Watertown, Massachusetts.</p> <p>Merton Taylor Goodrich (1887-1979) lived for many years in Keene. He was a professor of mathematics at Keene Teachers College (Keene State) for many years and retired as the head of the department. He was also Keene's official weather observer from 1948 to 1968. Over the years he collected a number of genealogical notes his family and its various branches.</p> <p>The collection is organized as Mr. Goodrich left it. His genealogy consists of a number of lines organized into a family tree. Researchers should probably consult the index in Box 1, Folder 1 to understand the principles of Mr. Goodrich's organization scheme. Some of the pages are loose and others were organized into a series of books number 2, 3, 4, and 6. No book 1 or book 6 has been found.</p>
Object ID	RG#88
Date	<1823-1831>
Collection	Otis Hutchins Diary.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a transcription of a diary kept by Otis Hutchinson from 1823-1831. Researchers may also wish to consult RG#148 which is a record book kept by Mr. Hutchins.</p> <p>Otis Hutchinson was born on 10 January 1781 and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1804. He was ordained as a Congregationalist Minister, but spent most of his life teaching. He was the principal of Chesterfield Academy from 1812 to 1814. He left there to help establish Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, New Hampshire, where he served as principal until 1819. He returned to Chesterfield as principal from 1820 to 1823.</p> <p>In 1823, he moved to Westmoreland where he kept a private school and farmed. The diary notes the weather, Sunday worship services, and the various tasks that he undertook for the Westmoreland schools. He died on 6 October 1866.</p>

Object ID	RG#89
Date	<1896-1997>
Collection	Ashuelot Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, papers.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various materials documenting the history of the Ashuelot Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution from its founding to circa 1997 with some additional materials to 2004.</p> <p>The national D.A.R. was established to serve others, promote good citizenship and continue the patriotic spirit of the soldiers and sailors of the American Revolution. Membership is restricted to women who can trace their legitimate lineage to someone who served during the Revolution. Because of their strict standards of proof, the D.A.R. is considered one of the key promoters of genealogical research standards in the county.</p> <p>The Ashuelot Chapter was established in 1895 and chartered on 20 May 1896. There were 12 founding women. Since then the organization has played a key role in historical preservation around Cheshire County and the greater Monadnock Region. Many of these activities such as the grave marking project are documented within the collection. The collection also contains a history of the chapter as well as several materials related to the activities of the state and national organizations.</p> <p>The core of the collection is a series of scrapbooks kept by the chapter. These are found in Boxes 2-8. Mostly newspaper clippings, the scrapbooks record local events as well as articles of historical interest. Most of the books were kept by the chapter historian. However, given the various dates of the entries, there are other books kept by different members. Thus, they do not follow a strict chronological order. They also contain duplicate articles.</p> <p>Box 11 contains a collection of yearbooks for the chapter as well as programs for state and national events. The yearbooks list officers, members, and activities. Box 14 contains a number of research papers written by members on topics in New England history.</p>

Object ID	RG#90
Date	<1871-1939>
Collection	Beaver Brook Lodge no. 36 and Friendship Rebekah Lodge no. 6, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various records for both the Beaver Brook Lodge no. 36 and the Friendship Rebekah Lodge no. 6 of the International Order of Odd Fellows. Both lodges were located in Keene, New Hampshire. The Beaver Brook records are from 1871-1937 and the Rebekah records are from 1880-1939.</p> <p>The Odd Fellows or Oddfellows have their origins in England during the late Medieval times. Small towns and villages often had too few craftsmen or fellows to form a guild. Thus the odd fellows would often join together in a loosely organized society. The groups came and went with the political turmoil in England in the 16th and 17th centuries. As the 18th century progressed, Odd Fellows began to reappear in secret societies similar to the Freemasons. Their members were usually skilled craftsmen who joined for the social activities and to form groups for life and injury insurance. Many of the groups would also serve the functions of trade unions as the Industrial Revolution started.</p> <p>In America, there were many instances of Odd Fellow organizations formed during the Colonial era. However, it was not until 1819 that the first recognized Odd Fellows Lodge was founded. The Keene Lodge was established in 1871.</p> <p>The Rebekahs are formally known as the International Association of Rebekah Assemblies or the Daughters of Rebekah. The Rebekahs were formed as an auxiliary to an Odd Fellows Lodge, but maintain an independent organization. The first lodge was established in 1851. The Keene lodge was established in 1880.</p> <p>The collection contains financial records for the organization. Other materials including by-laws may be found in the lower level library collection, Dewey number 366.3</p>

Object ID	RG#91
Date	<1967-1980>
Collection	Foundation for the Preservation of Historic Keene, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various records for Foundation for the Preservation of Historic Keene. The dates are 1967-1980.</p> <p>The Foundation was established in 1967 largely in response to the destruction of a number of historically significant buildings in Keene. The collection documents the group's activities--especially two major projects. The first was the acquisition of the Colony House at the corner of West and School Streets. The second was the Wyman Tavern. Both projects are amply documented with correspondence, photographs, and clippings. The collection also contains minutes of meetings and annual reports.</p>
Object ID	RG#92
Date	<1967-1983>
Collection	Monadnock Music, records
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various records Monadnock Music. The dates are 1967-1983.</p> <p>The organization was founded in 1965:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide music to rural villages and towns, To fill a need felt by professional musicians to escape the limitations of large city orchestras and discover new flexibility in the choice of material, informality of presentation and personal interaction with the audience, and To provide an example for other rural areas and other musical groups. <p>The group was sponsored and assisted by many residents in towns through out the Monadnock Region. They held concerts through out the region in venues such as churches and town halls. They also have conducted music out reach programs for schools in the region. James Bolle was the long time music director. The organization continues to this day.</p> <p>The collection is mostly minutes, financial reports and clippings.</p>
Object ID	RG#93
Date	<1765-2003>
Collection	Westmoreland Congregational Society of the Park Hill Church/Park Hill...
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains various records of the Westmoreland Congregational Society of the Park Hill Church and its successor the Park Hill Meeting House Society of Westmoreland. The range of dates is 1765-2002.</p> <p>The collection documents both the Park Hill Meeting House and the society which was formed to preserve the building as a historic site and as a house of worship. "The object of the society is to foster and advance Christian activities in Westmoreland and to care for and maintain the Park Hill Church/Meeting House in order that it remain for future generations, an historic shrine, and a dignified and appropriate edifice for the continuing worship of God."</p> <p>The first meeting house in Westmoreland was constructed around 1762. It was moved twice before finding its current location. It has been renovated and added on to many times over the years. Today is one of finest examples of 18th century meeting house architecture in New England.</p> <p>The collection documents the work of the societies over the years especially their successful application for National Historic Register designation. The collection includes minutes, fund raising activities, church records, clippings, and deeds. Series I is devoted primarily to the</p>

history of the Church. Of particular significance is the transcription of the church's vital statistics from 1764-1844. That is contained in Box 3, Folder 29. Series II contains the records of the Park Hill Meeting House Society. These include recordings of their meetings from 1977 to 1991.

Object ID	RG#94
Date	<1890-1969>
Collection	Fortnightly Club of Keene, records
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records of the Fortnightly Club of Keene, New Hampshire. The dates are 1890-1969.</p> <p>The club began as a reading circle founded by some 30 women in 1887. The group assembled, conducted readings, and then had a social hour. Such groups were common in the 19th and early 20th century and often evolved into public libraries. In Keene, however, the group quickly turned to in-depth studies on specific topics. One of their projects, "Italy and her Cities and their history" took some four years to complete.</p> <p>The club was formally organized in 1894 as the Fortnightly Club and was dedicated to "...the intellectual improvement of its members." The group joined the Federated Women's Clubs in 1895. The intellectual activities were expanded to include lectures especially from professional men. It was one of several clubs for women in the area including the Granite Club (RG#99) and the Keene Woman's Club (RG#105).</p> <p>By 1898, the activities expanded to include charity and community improvement work. Around 1908, the intellectual component was expanded to include music and art and the group sponsored a club quintet for many years.</p> <p>The group's work included support the Salvation Army, the Humane Society, the YMCA, and the hospital. In 1973, the group was active with other organizations in saving the Colony House at the corner of West and School Streets.</p> <p>The largest portion of the collection are the collection of secretary's minutes from 1890 to 1961. In addition to minutes, the books also contain newspaper articles on the group's activities. There is also a collection of scrapbooks containing clippings. Box 3, Folder 2 contains several histories of the club. Box 3, Folder 6 contains several research papers by club members. The collection has an oversized box located on the top shelf.</p>

Object ID	RG#95
Date	<1949-2001>
Collection	Granite Lake Association, records
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records of the Granite Lake Association. The years include 1949-2001.</p> <p>Granite Lake is located in the towns of Nelson and Stoddard, New Hampshire. It has a long history of industrial and recreational use. The Granite Lake Association was founded in 1949 to promote recreational activities and to preserve the lake and its watershed. This included purchasing the water rights and the outlet dam in Munsonville. Since then the association has maintained the dam and taken the lead in maintaining water quality. In 1958, the association purchased the only island in lake for use by its members "in common." In the 1990s, the group carefully monitored the progress and environmental impact of the Route 9 bypass project in Nelson and Stoddard.</p> <p>The records consist of minutes, correspondence, and clippings. The papers also include information on water quality and invasive weeds. Histories of the Lake and the Association may be found in Box 2, Folder 15.</p>

Object ID	RG#96
Date	<1990-2004>
Collection	Lions Club Productions.
Scope & Content	This record group contains materials documenting the Keene Lions Club annual musical productions from 1990 to 2004.

For many years the Lions Club has drawn on local talent to produce an annual musical in the late winter months. The collection consists of posters, programs, and video recordings of the such productions as "South Pacific," "Hello Dolly," and "Oklahoma."

Object ID	RG#97
Date	<1936-1960>
Collection	Keene Summer Theatre, papers.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains materials from the Keene Summer Theatre from the years 1936-1960.</p> <p>The Keene Summer Theatre was one of many theatrical producers in Keene. Around 1935, Alfred and Beatrice Colony purchased the old Bradford Inn in West Keene. They converted the barn into a theatre and persuaded the Repertory Playhouse Associates of New York to move its summer presentations from Putney to Keene.</p> <p>Alfred Colony was a stage actor of some note and also appeared in some early silent movies. Beatrice Booth Colony was an accomplished actress and director as well as a descendant of the theatrical Booth family (Junius Brutus Booth and John Wilkes Booth). The Colonys brought in a number of New York Actors for the many productions, but also included local talent such as Royal Beal. In addition to plays, the Colonys also presented musical concerts.</p> <p>The theatre suspended productions during World War II but resumed in 1946. Productions continued until 1960. Summer theatre continued in Keene under different leadership for many years after that, However the old barn was given up for the more formal theaters at Keene State College.</p> <p>The collection consists of two scrapbooks and numerous programs.</p>

Object ID	RG#98
Date	<1932-1950>
Collection	New England Box Company, papers.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains materials from the Keene Branch of the New England Box Company. The dates range from 1932-1950.</p> <p>The manufacture of wooden boxes and crates was a major employer throughout New England in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Wood was used for containers, shipping boxes, and display boxes until the general use of heavy duty cardboard and plastic.</p> <p>The New England Box Company was headquartered in Greenfield, Massachusetts, but had branch operations all over northern New England. In addition to manufacturing, the company also owned a number of large wood lots. The Keene branch was located on Island Street.</p> <p>The Keene branch produced "rough finished" products such as apple crates, hemlock panels, casket shims, and cheese boxes. The company also made parts for other products that were finished and assembled elsewhere. The Keene branch continued in operation until 1957 when the combination of foreign competition, advances in plastic container manufacture, and the late 1950s recession forced its closure.</p> <p>The collection consists of a number of documents related to operations such as sales, standards, land, products and a large collection of correspondence. Box 1, Folder 3 contains some sales brochures that display things manufactured by the parent company. Box 1, Folder 7 contains an inventory of the some 40,000 acres of timber land owned by the company. Box 1, Folder 9 contains drawings and plans for operations buildings at the Keene plant as well as come plans for products.</p>

Object ID	RG#99
Date	<1901-1994>
Collection	Granite Club, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains materials from the Granite Club of West Keene, New Hampshire. The dates are 1904-1994.</p> <p>The Granite Club was organized in 1897 to promote mutual intellectual, moral and social improvement as well as recreation for women living in the western part of Keene. There were 14 original members. Like other women's clubs the group quickly evolved into a charitable organization that donated labor and raised money for local, state, and national organizations. The group official disbanded in 1997.</p> <p>It was one of several clubs for women in the area including the Fortnightly Club (RG#94) and the Keene Woman's Club (RG#105).</p> <p>The collection includes minutes, photographs, clippings, and scrapbooks. Box 1 contains a collection of programs. These are small pamphlets published by the group detailing membership, activities, and leadership. The scrapbooks have clippings detailing activities, but also contain articles on gardening, recipes, and collections of cartoons and jokes.</p>
Object ID	RG#100
Date	<1941-2002>
Collection	Keene Branch, A.A.U.W., papers.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains materials from the Keene Branch of the American Association of University Women and its predecessor, the Ashuelot Branch. The range is 1941-2002.</p> <p>Not long after the founding of the New Hampshire Division of the A.A.U.W. in 1927, the first "branch" or chapter was established in this part of state. It was called the Monadnock Branch and had members from throughout the Monadnock Region. In 1941, the 39 members of the Monadnock Branch from Keene formed the Ashuelot Branch. The name was changed to the Keene Branch in 1959.</p> <p>The organization is best known for its charitable and scholarly work especially its scholarship program for young women pursuing higher education. However, its purpose is also to engage in intellectual activity for its membership, to include education, the arts, and politics.</p> <p>The collection is organized into 3 series. Series I is membership records. This includes lists as well as some of the "branch officer reports" (Box 1, Folder 3) which lists specific committee assignments. Series II contains most of the branch records including by-laws, minutes, and treasurer reports. Series III is for the activities of the branch. There is a collection of correspondence regarding the scholarship program, "branch leader reports" detailing the various discussion group activities, and a few reports on women's issues commission by the state organization.</p>
Object ID	RG#101
Date	<1916-1986>
Collection	Sprague & Carleton, papers.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains materials from the Sprague & Carleton Company of Keene, New Hampshire. The dates are 1916-1986.</p> <p>Sprague & Carleton manufactured furniture in Keene between 1899 and 1988. The company was founded by Frank Sprague and William Carleton. They began operations on the third floor of the Beaver Mills complex. From the beginning, they used maple wood. At first they brought out a line of porch furniture. Many of the components of the furniture were made by women and children working at home and then assembled at the factory. From the time of its founding until the 1920s, Sprague & Carleton and several other companies in Keene made rockers, rattan chairs, and porch swings. This made Keene the "porch chair capital of the world." At their height, companies were making some 1 million rocking chairs per year.</p>

Frank Sprague died in 1908 and the business was continued by Carleton and Sprague's grandson Harold A. Peart. Peart became president upon the death of William Carleton in 1919.

Around 1916, the company opened its plant on Avon Street and began expanding its output. The decline of porch furniture in the 1920s was offset with new lines of household furniture--still made from maple wood. During World War II, the company converted its operations to manufacture gun stocks. After the war, the company became associated with Patriot Industries of Winchendon, Massachusetts, who manufactured similar furniture except that it was made of pine.

The bulk of the collection consists of catalogs from 1916 to 1980. These detail product lines and price lists for Sprague & Carleton and Patriot Industries. There are a few other pieces of information including the union agreement of 1986 (Box 1, Folder 7) which was the last one before the plant closed. There is also a file on the company's efforts to comply with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements (Box 1, Folder 4).

Object ID	RG#102
Date	<1900-1910>
Collection	Ashuelot Valley Improvement Company, papers.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains materials from the Ashuelot Improvement Company. The company existed from ca. 1900 to ca. 1910.</p> <p>The company was incorporated under the laws of the State of Maine, but its principal officers lived in Marlow and Gilsum. The main goal of the company was to develop the Keene, Marlow and Newport Electric Railroad. The line would have connected Keene, Surry, Gilsum, and Marlow. It then would have followed much of modern day Route 10 to Newport. According to the line diagram in the file, the route would have started in Central Square, followed Court Street to the Surry Road. It then would have followed the Ashuelot River to Surrey, Gilsum and Marlow. Judging by the stock book in the collection (only 12 shares sold out of 100 offered) the company was not successful.</p> <p>The idea may seem foolish to modern day observers, but the late 19th and early 20th century saw many rural communities connected to cities by trolley lines known as interurbans. These lines thrived across the country for about 20 years--including a few lines in New Hampshire. Improved roads and the wide availability of the automobile ended most of the interurbans by 1930.</p>

Object ID	RG#103
Date	<1921-1943>
Collection	Wilson Recreation Park, papers.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains materials from the Wilson Recreation Park. The dates are 1921-1943.</p> <p>The center of the Wilson Recreation Park was its pavilion which was built in 1911. The area was owned and developed by the Keene Electric Railroad Company whose line terminated near the park. The plan was to obtain supplemental income for the line as well as to generate revenue for the trolley company. A ride from Cental Square to the pavilion took about 10 minutes. In addition to the activities at the pavilion, the park could be used for bathing and other recreation. The trolley company went out of business in the 1920s, but the park continued to operate until the 1940s.</p> <p>The pavilion was used during the months between Memorial Day and Labor Day. It was an open structure with wide verandas on three sides. It was greatly expanded during World War II and was the site of many dances. It was also the site for wrestling matches, roller skating and traveling shows. The building still stands today although it has been converted into a store.</p> <p>The collection contains details on the day to day operation of the pavilion. The daily journal contains information on payroll, concessions income, and other expenses.</p>

Object ID	RG#104
Date	<1767-1900>
Collection	Lempster Genealogy Collection.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of genealogies and research notes compiled by Jessica W. Stevens with the help of her husband Philip A. Stevens. The years covered are 1767-1900. PLEASE NOTE, this is an oversize collection and is stored on the upper shelves.</p> <p>The collection represents Ms. Steven's effort to compile genealogies of the all the families of Lempster, New Hampshire from its settlement to the 1850 census. She later expanded it to the 1900 census. She carefully researched all public records available. Her work was compiled and published in 1995. A copy of her book is housed within the Wright Room Collection (Wright 929.374275.S74 1995).</p> <p>The collection is arranged in alphabetical order by surname and includes genealogy sheets, copies of pertinent records, and notes.</p>
Object ID	RG#105
Date	<1910-1990>
Collection	Keene Woman's Club, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records of the Keene Woman's Club. The dates are 1910-1990. PLEASE NOTE, because of the number of large boxes in this collection, it is stored in the upstairs workroom closet.</p> <p>In 1910, several women's clubs in and around Keene agreed to form a women's club federation in order to "...promote united work among the club women of Keene and to encourage and foster public spirit in the community." The member clubs included the Fortnightly Club (RG#94) and the Granite Club (RG#99) as well as the Tourist, Current Events, and Froebel Clubs.</p> <p>Ten years later the name Keene Woman's Club was adopted. In 1946, they joined the Federated Women's Clubs of New Hampshire. At its high point, the Woman's Club claimed some 400 members. One of the groups major activities during the Depression and World War II, was called the Woman's Exchange and Rest Room. The group also sponsored theatrical productions, social occasions, and advocated for women's health issues. The group is still active, but their numbers have dwindled.</p> <p>The collection is organized into 3 series. Series I contains records for the organization. These include the history, constitution, by-laws, treasurer's records, and minutes. Of special note are the folders dealing with the group's major fund raiser of the 1960s to the 1980s, the Valentine Charity Ball. Series II contains information and records on the work of the Woman's Exchange and Rest Room. Series III is a scrapbook collection.</p>
Object ID	RG#106
Date	<1887-1933>
Collection	Monadnock Ministerial Assn. & Cheshire County Conference, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records of two associations of Congregational Churches in Cheshire County, New Hampshire. The dates are 1887-1933.</p> <p>The Monadnock Ministerial Association was an association of Congregational Ministers in the region around Keene. It had several predecessor organizations back to Colonial times such as the West Association of Ministers (RG#42). Like the other groups, the Ministerial Association was formed to provide a discussion forum for pastoral issues. The members met periodically to discuss theological questions, make plans for sermons, discuss Scripture as well "topics conducive to Christian edification and pastoral fidelity."</p> <p>The Cheshire County Conference of Congregational Churches was made up of some 25 churches in the county. They met once a year for a conference to discuss issues of mutual interest.</p>

Each organization has a separate record book. Book I is from the Monadnock Association and covers by-laws, records of meetings, accounts, lists of members and other records. The book also contains information on the Surry Church Property. The Cheshire County Conference book contains minutes and other records of their various meetings.

Object ID	RG#107
Date	<1886-1952>
Collection	Demeritt-Fisher Company, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records the Demeritt-Fisher Company. The dates are 1886-1952.</p> <p>Demeritt-Fisher Company was one of several chair manufacturers in Keene, New Hampshire. They specialized in rattan, slat back rockers and other porch furniture. Unlike its larger competitor Sprague & Carleton (RG#101), they never made the transition to other forms of furniture although they had a small line of maple tables and children's furniture. Fred A. Fisher acquired the assets of the L.J. Colony Chair Company in Munsonville which included the finishing plant that was located for many years at the corner of Emerald and Ralston Streets in Keene. At some point, the company moved all of its operations to Keene. It seems to have some success and survived the Great Depression, but not changes in fashion and taste after World War II. It closed its doors in 1955.</p> <p>The records are mostly financial in nature. Folder 2 contains prices and product information. Folder 6 contains a photograph of the Keene Plant which had several incarnations after the Demeritt-Fisher Years. The main building was torn down in 2008. A portion of the building still stands. The folder also contains a "Sanborn map" showing the footprint of the plant. The collection contains a number of payroll books which provide a roster of the company's employees from 1937-1952.</p>
Object ID	RG#108
Date	<1798-1833>
Collection	Stearns & Root General Store, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records of the Stearns & Root General Store which was located in Spofford, New Hampshire. The dates are 1798-1833 with bulk dates 1825-1833.</p> <p>Ebenezer Stearns was born in Milford, Massachusetts, and settled in Chesterfield around 1797. Shortly after that he opened a store in what was then called Chesterfield Factory--modern day Spofford. At some point, he took on George S. Root as a partner. The partnership was necessary because Stearns was also engaged in several other activities including the Chesterfield Manufacturing Company and representing the town in the state legislature. Mr. Stearns also ran a saw mill in Spofford. Although the location of the saw mill is documented, the store's location remains a mystery.</p> <p>Almost the entire collection is correspondence. It is organized into folders by topic.</p>
Object ID	RG#109
Date	<1857-1954>
Collection	Faulkner & Colony Manufacturing, Inc., records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records from the Faulkner & Colony Manufacturing Company. The dates covered are 1857-1954. PLEASE NOTE, several of the boxes in this collection are oversized and stored on top of the shelving.</p> <p>As early as 1775, the inhabitants of Keene, New Hampshire, were using the Ashuelot River as a source of water power. By itself, the river was slow and lacked sufficient force. However, a man name Elisha Briggs purchased a site away from the stream and organized a company to dig a canal from the river to his saw mill. The change in elevation was enough to raise the force of the water to drive his mill. Soon, another saw mill and a couple of grist mills were built on the site. In 1815, Francis Faulkner and Josiah Colony purchased the mills, the canal, and all of the</p>

water rights to the Ashuelot as far as its source. They added a carding mill and a few years later sold off or removed the other mills.

The 1820s marked the beginning of large scale wool processing and woolen manufacture in Cheshire County--driven in large part by the sudden availability of large quantities of wool during the "sheep craze." Faulkner & Colony kept expanding their operations until they were the largest such business in the area.

In 1825, a fire leveled the complex. It was rebuilt with solid brick to the latest design in mill construction. Not long afterward, the water power was replaced with the more reliable steam power. During the Civil War the company received large contracts to furnish the Union Army with uniform material and blankets--which insured its profitable future.

For most of the time period covered by this collection, Faulkner & Colony was the largest single employer in Keene and one of the largest manufacturer of woolens in New England. Thier products included virgin wool, broadcloth, Shetlands, dress goods, chincilla coverts, tweeds, white and dye flannel for men's clothes and fancy mixed suitings for women's wear. Other products included billiard table cloth and tennis ball cloth.

The Great Depression hurt the company, but the World War II boom turned it profitable again. However, after the war the markets changed drastically. Woolens were suddenly unfashionable and prices for cloth declined as inventories remained unsold. In 1953, the company attempted to save itself through receivership, but it proved to be only one more step to bankruptcy and liquidation. Its assets were auctioned off and the complex sold to Barker Reality in 1954. In 1983, the site was redeveloped into the Colony Mill Marketplace which does what it can to honor the building's heritage and origins.

The collection is divided into 6 series. Series I is devoted to the financial aspects of the company including statements, ledgers, and journals. Series II contains information on the production of the company. Series III is a book of accounts kept by John C. Faulkner. Series IV is a correspondence file. Most of the letters are to and from Members of Congress on tariffs and labor. Series V. is a collection of materials related to a law suit filed by Faulkner & Colony against the City of Keene over a tax dispute. Series VI contains information on engineer and capital improvements to the mill.

Object ID	RG#110
Date	<1947-1959>
Collection	New Hampshire Progressive Party, records.
Scope & Content	This record group contains records collected by Meg Barden Cline documenting the New Hampshire Progressive Party Campaign of 1948.

Meg Barden Cline was born in Kenosha, WI, on 21 March 1918 and moved several times around the county before settling in the New York City area. As young student, she worked as a camp counselor which sparked a life long interest in education --especially early childhood education. She was a life long teacher, educator, and one of the advocates that brought about the Head Start Program. She earned degrees from Cornell, Wells College as well as graduate work at Boston University. As a student at Cornell, she became active in social and political causes which led to her work with the New Hampshire Progressive Party. The Progressive Party was the essential movement that led to formation of the Progressive Citizens of America and the split in the Democratic Party in the 1948 election.

The great coalition created by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in the 1932 election consisted of a Democratic Party that stretched from very conservative Southern Democrats to Eastern Liberal Democrats. The coalition produced the New Deal and held together very well until World War II started to produce significant differences of opinion. The post-war economic recovery, the growing conflict with the Soviet Union, and the beginnings of the civil rights movement all led to increasing divisions. When the "mainstream" of the party renominated Harry Truman in 1948, the progressives (as well as the "dixiecrats") formed their own parties. The progressives nominated former Secretary of Agriculture and Vice-President Henry A. Wallace as their candidate. From the beginning the party was plagued with charges of Communist Influence and Utopian ideals. In the end, Truman was reelected in spite of challenges from the left and right and a strong Republican candidacy.

These papers document some of the positions of the Progressive Party in New Hampshire as collected by Meg Barden Cline. They contain party platforms, position papers, and articles.

The collection is divided into 3 series. Series I is devoted to the New Hampshire Progressive Party and includes Meg Barden Cline's membership card, meeting minutes, memberships in Cheshire County, position papers, newsletters, and include some of the party's post 1948 activities especially as the McCarthy-era investigations got under way. Series II contains information on the Wallace presidential campaign including clippings, articles, and position papers. Series III presents a small collection of materials on the "red scare" of the early to mid 1950s. It contains information on the activities of the New Hampshire party in regard to its opposition to the Hart and Mundt bills and the Joseph McCarthy committee's hearings on Harvey O'Connor.

Object ID	RG#111
Date	<1871-1997>
Collection	Holbrook Grocery, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records of the Holbrook Grocery Company of Keene, New Hampshire, and its successors Wetterau Foods, Inc. and Supervalu, Inc. The records were saved by two former employees and consist mostly of financial records.</p> <p>In 1871, George W. Holbrook formed a partnership with George E. Holbrook to operate a retail grocery business in Keene. George E. was George W.'s nephew and had served briefly with the public health service during the Civil War. His diary is located in MG #131.</p> <p>The Holbrooks formed a partnership with Pollard Grocery in 1875 and created the company Pollard and Holbrook. As the company grew, it gradually moved into wholesale as well as retail. In 1879, George E. Holbrook became the sole owner and changed the name to Holbrook Grocery.</p> <p>By the 1880s, the wholesale part of the business had become the largest grocery business in New Hampshire. In 1890, the wholesale operation became a separate company called Holbrook Grocery, Inc.</p> <p>In 1894, the company built a three story warehouse on St. James Street. The company sold staples, fancy good, flour and produce. They also became a distributor of coffee which was roasted on site. The plant capacity was 5,000 pounds per day.</p> <p>The company continued to grow and expand into a regional distributor. They also owned a number of retail stores. In 1959, they opened a new plant at 350 Marlborough Street. The old ware house was taken down and became a parking lot.</p> <p>The business remained locally controlled until 1969 when it was acquired by Wetterau Foods, Inc. In 1992, Wetterau was acquired by Supervalu, Inc. The Keene facility was one of 30 distribution points in Supervalu's nation-wide system. The Keene facility serviced about 75 retail outlets throughout the northeast. Supervalu operated the company until the late 1990s and then closed the facility. The buildings were eventually acquired by the City of Keene and used by the highway department and the police.</p> <p>The collection is organized into 3 series. Series I is collection of financial records. Box 1, Folder 1, contains a buyers book which details the products that the company acquired. It gives an insight into the types of products sold in grocery stores at that time. A similar document from 1920 is located in Box 1, Folder 7. Box 1, Folder 6, contains records of agreement with the Boston & Maine Railroad including a blueprint drawing of the Holbrook siding and exact location of one of their warehouses. Boxes 1 and 2 contain company stock information, and Box 2, Book 4 contains a list of stockholders for 1920-1936. Box 2, Folder 8 contains a list of trademarks for various Holbrook products. Boxes 3-4 contain financial information on Holbrook's subsidiaries (Burlington Grocery, Gerry's Cash Market, and Palmer-Simpson). Series II contains a small collection of photographs in an oversized box. Series III is a collection of materials related to the physical plant owned by Holbrook and financial information on the Wetterau Company. Books 1 and 2 contain detailed information of the St. James Street facility. Boxes 9 and 10 contain detailed construction documents on the 350 Marlborough Street facility.</p>

Object ID	RG#112
Date	<1931-1985>
Collection	Arthur Whitcomb, Inc., records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records of the Arthur Whitcomb company of Keene, New Hampshire. They cover the date 1931 to 1985.</p> <p>Arthur Whitcomb was the son of Frank A. and Lucy A. Whitcomb and was born in Greenfield, NH, on 5 November 1906. His father operated a sand and gravel business in Bellows Falls, VT. Arthur and his brother Frank joined the business. When the father retired, Frank assumed control of the company and Arthur left to finish a college degree. Frank would soon build the business into a large asphalt paving and general contractor company.</p> <p>Arthur graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1931 with a degree in electrical engineering. Then he moved to Keene to establish his own sand and gravel business. He borrowed \$1000 for the down payment on a power shovel and the company was launched. By the end of World War II, the company was involved in concrete construction as well as sand and gravel. Their projects included airports, various highways, and the Surry Mountain Dam.</p> <p>Arthur also had an interest in flying and obtained his first license in 1937. The NH Aviation Association named him airman of the year in 1970.</p> <p>Arthur retired in 1971. His son Robert and son-in-law Tom Bascetta assumed control. Arthur died on 6 June 1986.</p> <p>The collection is organized into three series. Series I is collection miscellaneous materials on Arthur Whitcomb and his family, company newsletters, and articles. Of interest are two proposals to build a new facility on lower Marlborough Street. The plans were never realized, but the photographs of the project taken from the air show the land that would eventually become the Optical Avenue industrial park. The company newsletters in Box 1, Folders 3-7, detail company changes, policies, news on employees. Series II contains a collection of clippings and magazine articles regarding the company. Series III contains articles written by or about the company.</p>

Object ID	RG#113
Date	<1888-2003>
Collection	Natural Disasters of Cheshire County
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of clippings regarding severe weather conditions in southwestern New Hampshire.</p> <p>The collection presents current reports and eye-witness accounts on blizzards and floods. Series I contains information on the great blizzard of 1888 as well as events in 1969, 1977, and 1978. Series II contains articles on the floods of 1927, 1936, 1984, 1987, and 2003. It also contains information of the great Hurricane of September 1938.</p>

Object ID	RG#114
Date	<1816-1967>
Collection	Baptist Society papers
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains papers from the Baptist Society of Keene, New Hampshire. The dates are 1816-1967 with bulk dates of 1860-1890.</p> <p>The Baptists have their origins with a fundamental disagreement within the Congregationalist Church over the issue of who should become a member of the church. The first generation Puritans believed in the notion of the "elect." Only they could become members of the Church. One became "elect" through a profession of faith as well as upright living. As time moved on, members had their children baptized at birth on the assumption that the offspring of the "elect" would share their parents' state of grace. The problem occurred when the children did not profess the faith or live an upright life later on. While the Congregationalists struggled with this with various theological debates and the so-called Halfway Covenant, certain members began to break away.</p>

About half way through the 18th century, certain congregations began embracing the notion that baptism should not occur until a person became able to fully accept the faith. Moreover there was increasing rebellion against the ecclesiastical hierarchy that was evolving in the Congregationalist organization. All of this led to beginnings of what was first called the Separates. Because of their belief in adult baptism, the name Baptist was soon in common use. In 1756, the first formal Baptist Church was established in Middleborough, Massachusetts.

The new church soon came to New Hampshire as young settlers moved into the Connecticut Valley from Massachusetts and Connecticut. Between the end of the Revolution and 1810, 10 Congregations were established in the Monadnock Region. The first Baptist Church in Keene was established in 1816 in West Keene and took the name Ash Swamp Church after the common name for West Keene in those days. Another Baptist congregation was established in Keene and the two churches merged in 1832 to form the Union Baptist Church. In 1839, it became the Keene Baptist Church. Their first church was on Winter Street in Keene.

The Baptist Society was formed in 1839 and remained part of the church until 1898. The society was composed of people who supported the church but were not baptized members. The society managed the business and financial affairs of the church and maintained its records.

In 1873, the church built a new building on Court Street near Central Square. This was the home of the church until 1966. While the building was large it could not be expanded owing to its location. So a new church was erected on Maple Avenue not far from the location of the Ash Swamp Church. The Court Street Church was eventually torn down. A small park is now located on the site.

The collection contains records of the society's activities--especially from the mid to late 19th century. This includes receipts, correspondence, meeting minutes, and histories of the church. The collection is organized into 5 series.

Series I is for the church history and organization including membership lists, minutes of meetings, various Baptist publications. There are occasional notes written by David R. Proper that illuminate various items in the series. Of special note is a history of the church from 1916 to 1945, and an autobiography of Rev. John Peacock who was the first minister of the Keene Baptist Church.

Series II is for church business and transactions. The series contains information on the move from Winter Street to Court Street as well as receipts and financial records.

Series III is for church services which details the work of various clubs and organizations sponsored by the church. There is a collection of correspondence around the celebration of the 75th anniversary of the Court Street Church (1945) and the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Baptists in Keene (1966). The series also includes programs for the ordination of several ministers.

Series IV is devoted to news clippings.

Series V contains a collection of photographs. These include portraits of various ministers, the interior and exterior of the Court Street Church, and various clubs that were part of the church.

Object ID	RG#115
Date	<1900-1993>
Collection	Cheshire County Humane Society, records.
Scope & Content	This record group contains records of the Cheshire County Humane Society and some records from its successor the Monadnock Humane Society. The dates are 1900-1993 with bulk dates of 1920-1952.

In 1875 a group of citizens concerned about the welfare of children and animals formed the Keene Humane Society. Its purpose was to provide aid to abused children and to help enforce animal cruelty laws as well as to lobby for strict laws in that field. In 1906, the organization changed its name to the Cheshire Humane Society which reflected its work throughout the county. As social service agencies began to look after abused children, the society moved exclusively to animals. In 1966, the organization was incorporated as the Monadnock Humane Society.

The collection consists of four series. Probably the most amount of information concerns the work of Jennie Powers who served as humane agent for the society in the early part of the 20th century. The collection is organized into 4 series.

Series I contains correspondence, newsletters, and information regarding the work of the society. This includes clippings and correspondence with other humane societies. Included in this series (Box 2) is a list of specific case files. PLEASE NOTE that these files are restricted until they conform with the H.S.C.C. restricted used policy.

Series II is a small collection of newsletters other humane societies.

Series III is a collection of photographs. Most of these concern cases from the early part of the 20th century.

Series IV is a collection of journals regarding the work of the society. Of special note is the secretary's book from 1914-1916. The series also contain logs kept by Jennie Powers.

Series V is a collection of 38 publications on humane society issues.

Object ID	RG#116
Date	<1752-1870>
Collection	Westmoreland Record Books.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains 4 record books from the Town of Westmoreland, New Hampshire. The dates range from 1752-1810. Other Westmoreland records may be found in RG#38, RG#50, and RG#86.</p> <p>These books are the oldest existing records of the Town of Westmoreland. Although they are public records, the Town Meeting of Westmoreland voted to have them stored at the Historical Society of Cheshire County. The vote took place on 8 March 2005 (Article 11 of the warrant).</p> <p>The first book is referred to as the charter book which contains records of the proprietors from 1752 to 1769. These include a copy of the town charter, apportionment of the lots and other records of meetings.</p> <p>The second book is referred to as Record Book B and contains town records from 1775 to 1831. These include road layouts, mortgages and liens as well as other records kept by the town clerk.</p> <p>The third book is the treasurer's records for 1807 to 1870.</p> <p>The fourth book is an index to some record book not in this record group.</p>
<hr/>	
Object ID	RG#117
Date	1820
Collection	Revolutionary War Pension Applications
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a set of photocopied records of individuals who applied for a military pension in Cheshire County, New Hampshire, in 1820. The records were copied as part of a project for the Ashuelot Valley Chapter of the D.A.R. The project took place in December 2004. The records include an index located in Folder 1.</p> <p>Different jurisdictions offered pensions to Revolutionary War Veterans during set periods of time. These offerings usually depended on</p>

available funding. In many cases, veterans would not apply unless they had need of the funds. The offering of 1820 was particularly significant because many of the veterans were over the age of 60 and in need of such support due to age or lack of family support for a retirement. There are 230 applications in this file listing the person's name, age, residence, and units they served with.

It should also be noted that this pension award took place before the separation of Sullivan County from Cheshire County. Thus some of the towns listed are now in Sullivan County.

Object ID	RG#118
Date	<1938-2005>
Collection	Keene High School, Class of 1939, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a set of records collected by the Keene High School Class of 1939. The dates are 1938-2005.</p> <p>On 16 June 1939, 161 members of the class of 1939 graduated from Keene High School. The ceremony was held at the City Hall Auditorium. The classmates went their separate ways, but remained close after graduation. They held regular reunions every five to ten years and then more often in the 1990s and early part of the 21st century.</p> <p>The collection consists of some records of the organization, but its main focus is a series of scrapbooks collected over the years. These document the reunions as well as the changing lives of the members.</p>

Object ID	RG#119
Date	<1939-1965>
Collection	Jonathan Daniels Event, records
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records of the committee established to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the death of Jonathan Daniels in 2005. The committee had several names until finally settling on the name of the concert celebration, "A Journey to Freedom, Honor and Glory."</p> <p>Jonathan M. Daniels was born in Keene in 1939. After graduating from Keene High School and Virginia Military Institute, he entered the graduate program at Harvard University intending to study English. He left Harvard and later enrolled in the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In March of 1965, he took a leave from his studies to go to the South to aid in the Civil Rights Movement. He landed in Alabama where he helped with voter registration, integrating the local Episcopal church, and leading demonstrations. He was arrested on 14 August 1965 during a demonstration against stores that would not serve African Americans. He was taken to the county seat of Hayneville and held for 5 days. Upon release, he was on his way to a local store where he came upon a man named Tom Coleman who was leveling a shot gun at a 16 year-old Black woman. Daniels pushed her out of the line of fire and was shot and killed in the process.</p> <p>In 2005, a committee was formed to celebrate the life of Jonathan Daniels. The committee developed a program called "A Journey to Freedom, Honor, and Glory : an American Hero, Jonathan Daniels." This was a multi-media presentation that included an original composition by Julius Williams, clips from the documentary film "Here am I, Send Me" by filmmakers Larry Benequist and William Sullivan, and a full orchestra and chorus conducted Carroll Lehman.</p> <p>The collection includes minutes of the committee's meetings, clippings, and press releases. The bulk of the collection contains the various musical score parts as well as the text of the chorus and soloists.</p>

Object ID	RG#120
Date	<1920-2000>
Collection	Surry Town History Book, papers
Scope & Content	This record group contains the records the Surry History Committee including a draft copy of their publication "Surry, New Hampshire : A Twentieth-Century History, 1920-2000."

In 1990, a group of Surry citizens led by Calvin Frink formed the Surry History Committee. The goal was to update the 1925 history of Surry by Frank Burnside Kingsbury. The work took some 15 years--primarily spent on updating the genealogical section. The committee also produced a pictorial history of the town before finally publishing its 20th century history in 2006.

This collection is organized into three series. Series I contains numerous notes organized as a subject file. Series II contains genealogical information. Series III contains the final proofs of each of the chapters.

Object ID	RG#121
Date	<1973-1994>
Collection	League of Women Voters of the Monadnock Region, papers.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records the League of Women Voters of the Monadnock Region. The dates are 1973-1994.</p> <p>Throughout the 19th century the women's suffrage movement campaigned to have women allowed to vote. The campaign reached its height with the passage of the 19th amendment to the Constitution of the United States. With the struggle to win the vote over, many suffrage leaders formed the League of Women Voters. Its purpose was to educate women on how to exercise their right to vote and to assist them in registering. Since then the League has remained a strictly non-partisan educational organization. It is present in all 50 states and many of the territories.</p> <p>Local chapters of the New Hampshire League of Women Voters tend to be regional rather than local. The League of Women Voters of the Monadnock Region was established in 1956. Its work was conducted throughout the region. Like other leagues, its goals were "...to promote political and community responsibility through informed and active participation of citizens in government and community affairs." Like the national organization, the Monadnock League was restricted to women until 1973 when men were allowed to join. It disbanded in 1994.</p> <p>This collection is divided into 2 series. Series I contains records of the organization including minutes, financials, and correspondence. Series II is a collection of brochures documenting league activities.</p>
Object ID	RG#122
Date	<1979-2004>
Collection	U.C.C. of Keene Sunday School, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records of the Keene, New Hampshire, United Church of Christ Church School for the years 1979-1994. Please note that this is a restricted file and MAY NOT be viewed by researchers until it complies with the restricted file policy of the Historical Society of Cheshire County.</p> <p>The collection contains a large collection of pupil's registration forms, and other information as well as the attendance books of the school.</p>
Object ID	RG#123
Date	<1940-1945>
Collection	Records of Jaffrey Servicemen and Women in W.W.II.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a list of men and women from Jaffrey, New Hampshire, who served during World War II.</p> <p>Felix O'Neil was born in Fitchburg, MA, and moved to Jaffrey in 1926. He established a Rexall Drug Store in town and operated the place until his death in 1952. During World War II he served as the chairman of the Jaffrey Selective Service Board beginning in October 1940. During that time, Mr. O'Neil kept several 3 ring binders in which noted the name of each person in Jaffrey who was drafted or volunteered. Each entry includes the branch of service, ranks attained and assignments. Many of the entries also include the person's parents. There are also notes indicating medical discharges, awards such as the Bronze and Silver Stars, and those individuals who were killed in action.</p>

The original order of the collection was retained after the papers were removed from the binders. There are no names beginning with the letters I, X, or Z.

Object ID	RG#124
Date	<2005-2007>
Collection	Operation Flood Relief, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records of Operation Flood Relief for the period 2005-2007.</p> <p>Operation Flood Relief was activated on 5 October 2005 as the Monadnock Region experienced flooding following an usual storm. The flooding was particularly severe in Alstead and Keene and to lesser degrees in many other communities. The organization was the collaborative effort of several community relief groups including the Monadnock United Way, Southwestern Community Services and volunteers from a number of local groups. Upon being declared a disaster area under FEMA case #1610, the group helped funnel aid by allocating resources and organizing community response. The group continued to work until it was deactivated on 23 March 2007.</p> <p>The collection is a subject file containing files on specific organizations as well as photographs and newspaper accounts.</p>

Object ID	RG#125
Date	<1952-1973>
Collection	Hall & Croteau Funeral Home, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records the Hall & Croteau Funeral Home in Marlborough, New Hampshire. The dates are 1952 to 1959 and 1969 to 1973.</p> <p>Hall & Croteau was established around 1913. Omer M. and Oscar F. Croteau operated the business for many years as well as an insurance business. The records were kept in loose leaf binders and were kept in funeral order. For example 1959-02 was the second funeral of 1959. There some 490 records in the collection.</p> <p>Each record contains basic information such as the death date, places of birth and burial. Many contain additional information such as an obituary, social security death documents, military service information, and occasional correspondence.</p> <p>Folder 1 contains an index organized by person. Researchers should use the index to locate specific individuals. Folders 14-19 contain records that were detached from their original records. These have been numbered to correspond to the number of the specific funeral.</p>

Object ID	RG#126
Date	<1761-2008>
Collection	Keene Cemetery Collection.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains the records the Hall & Croteau Funeral Home in Marlborough, New Hampshire. The dates are 1952 to 1959 and 1969 to 1973.</p> <p>Hall & Croteau was established around 1913. Omer M. and Oscar F. Croteau operated the business for many years as well as an insurance business. The records were kept in loose leaf binders and were kept in funeral order. For example 1959-02 was the second funeral of 1959. There some 490 records in the collection.</p> <p>Each record contains basic information such as the death date, places of birth and burial. Many contain additional information such as an obituary, social security death documents, military service information, and occasional correspondence.</p> <p>Folder 1 contains an index organized by person. Researchers should use the index to locate specific individuals. Folders 14-19 contain records</p>

that were detached from their original records. These have been numbered to correspond to the number of the specific funeral.

Object ID	RG#127
Date	1922
Collection	N.H. State Board of Health Venereal Diseases Collection
Scope & Content	<p>The collection is a set of posters and pamphlets produced by various government agencies aimed at the prevention of venereal disease. The items were collected by the New Hampshire State Board of Health and distributed to various towns and cities in the state. This collection was sent to the Mayor of Keene, William H. Watson, by Charles Duncan who was secretary to the board at the time.</p> <p>The contents are pasted in a scrapbook and arranged according to a table of contents that outlines the steps communities may take to combat gonorrhea and syphilis. In addition to the pamphlets there are reading lists of available books, posters, and motion pictures on the subject. There is also a section of model laws that communities can enact to control prostitution.</p> <p>At the end of the First World War general hygiene was recognized as a national problem and education was viewed as the solution. This was caused largely by the number of military draftees and enlistees who were rejected for service because of poor health. During the war, the inevitable sexual contact between soldiers and prostitutes led to a rise in venereal disease. After the war, various public health agencies began to spread the word that poor health in general and venereal disease in particular was preventable once the population was educated. This collection appears to be part of that effort.</p> <p>Of special interest are number of pamphlets aimed at boys and young men that promote sports and other physical activities as a method suppressing sexual desire. Also of note is a certain segregation that called for special treatment of African American men and boys owing to their general lack of education. It is also interesting to note that the vast majority of the pamphlets are aimed at boys with very little mention being made of girls.</p>
Object ID	RG#128
Date	<1909-1967>
Collection	Class of 1909, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This collection contains a scrapbook kept by the Keene High School Class of 1909.</p> <p>One of the last classes to attend the high school on Winter Street, the class kept the scrapbook until 1967. The collection is mostly clippings with occasional ephemera. Highlights include a clipping of the first meeting of the Keene High School Alumni Reunion in 1914. There is also a collection of highlights of the class's trip to Washington D.C. in 1909. Finally, there are items related to the various reunions the class held through the years.</p>
Object ID	RG#129
Date	
Collection	Center Stage, records
Scope & Content	This collection arrangement and description is in progress.
Object ID	RG#130
Date	<1831-1910>
Collection	Public Library Catalogs, Cheshire County
Scope & Content	The collection consists of 24 catalogs of libraries in the towns of Fitzwilliam, Keene, Marlborough, Marlow, Surry, Swanzey (Mt. Caesar Union Library), Troy, Westmoreland, and Winchester, New Hampshire. In most cases these are public libraries or library associations that later became public libraries.

The catalogs vary in dates from 1831 to 1910 and usually contain rules and regulations as well as book lists. The largest portion of the collection is from Keene.

The Keene collection includes the first such list composed in 1831 by George Tilden. It also includes an account book containing the lists of subscribers and the fees they paid.

Also of interest is a photo copy of the 1837 list of the Washington Library in Winchester.

Originally part of the Archives Room Book Collection, the items were removed to the records group collection on 3 May 2012.

Object ID	RG#131
Date	<1831-1838>
Collection	American Silk-Grower and Agriculturist
Scope & Content	<p>The collection contains a number of issues of the American Silk-Grower and Agriculturalist which was published in Keene, New Hampshire, beginning in May, 1836. The goal of the periodical is stated in its subtitle, "devoted to the culture of silk and the ordinary pursuits of the farmer." Thus, while its primary goal was the promotion of sericulture, it also contained numerous articles on issues and techniques of agriculture in the first half of the 19th century.</p> <p>The periodical published for about 2 years and was probably discontinued in the spring of 1838.</p> <p>The publisher was Benaiah Cooke who came to Keene around 1827 to open a school. However, he quickly found his vocation in editing and publishing. His main publication was the Cheshire Republican and Farmer's Museum. He also published papers devoted to specific issues of the day including temperance and abolition. Like the American Silk Grower, they would be short lived, but the Cheshire Republican would continue on as a major paper in Keene during the 19th century. For more information on Beniah Cooke, see Manuscript Group #4.</p> <p>The collection also includes a response to a query regarding silk manufacturing from the Museum of American Textile History.</p> <p>Originally part of the Archives Room Book Collection, the items were removed to the records group collection on 4 May 2012.</p>

Object ID	RG#132
Date	<1883-1884>
Collection	The Student (Periodical)
Scope & Content	<p>The collection contains a number of issues of a newspaper called the Student ("a weekly periodical devoted to its own interests"). It was published in Keene from 1883 to about 1884. It was published by the New England Observer which existed in Keene until 1890 when it was purchased by the New Hampshire Sentinel.</p> <p>The periodical is devoted to politics with a few bits of local news.</p> <p>Originally part of the Archives Room Book Collection, the items were removed to the records group collection on 7 May 2012.</p>

Object ID	RG#133
Date	<1802-1931>
Collection	Keene (NH) Imprint Almanacs
Scope & Content	<p>The collection contains a series of locally published almanacs beginning in 1802 and continuing with gaps to 1931. The bulk of the collection is between 1802 and 1853.</p>

The collection contains almanacs composed by residents of Cheshire County and published in Keene--mostly by John Prentiss. A small number of editions were published by George Tilden. The collection contains three main publications:

Asa Houghton's almanac started as "The Gentlemen's and Ladies' Diary and Almanac" and continued as "Houghton's Genuine Almanac." Examples run from 1802-1818 with many gaps.

Nathan Wild's almanac began as "The Improved New-England Almanack and Ephemeris" and then continued as "The Farmer's, Mechanic's, and Gentleman's Almanack." Examples run from 1820 to 1840 with gaps and duplicates. At some point, Wild went to Indiana and publication was continued briefly by his son Nathan R. Wild who later moved to Indiana as well.

Albert Godfrey's almanac was simply known as "Godfrey's Almanack." Examples run from 1843-1853 with gaps and duplicates. The 1853 edition was printed with two different covers--one pink, the other green.

The collection also contains editions of the "Old Farmer's Almanac" by Robert B. Thomas with covers for the G.H. Tilden and W.H. Spalter companies of Keene. The covers are designed in such a way as to imply that the companies published the almanac. Tilden and Spalter were stationary and office supply stores in Keene and the editions were meant for advertising.

The collection also includes a 1931 edition of the Farmer's Almanac meant as an advertisement for the A.E. Fish Company in Keene. Fish sold lumber and other wood products from a store on Elm Street. It stood roughly on the site of the new fire department station.

Object ID	RG#134
Date	<1844-1924>
Collection	Marlow Christian Union Society, Record Book
Scope & Content	<p>The collection contains one record book for the Marlow Christian Union Society of Marlow, New Hampshire. The item was originally kept in the Archives Room Library Collection.</p> <p>The record book contains the society's constitution, membership rolls, notices of meetings, and minutes of meetings. Also included is a subscription list to build the Christian Parsonage in Marlow. The collection also includes a short history on the construction and uses of Jones Hall in Marlow. This written by Elgin A. Jones.</p>
Object ID	RG#135
Date	<1916-1930>
Collection	Keene (NH) voter registration lists, early 20th century
Scope & Content	A collection of voter registration lists for wards 1, 2, and 3 in Keene, New Hampshire. Items are some sort of check list cut and pasted from the voter lists of Keene. Their exact function is unknown. The creator, Carlos Seavey, resided at 42 Beaver Street.
Object ID	RG#136
Date	<1823-1930>
Collection	Tax inventory books for Nelson (NH)
Scope & Content	A very scattered collection of property inventories and tax record books for the town of Nelson, New Hampshire. Beginning in 1823 and concluding ca. 1930, the set contains property inventories for each head of household in the town with corresponding valuations and tax liability.

Object ID	RG#137
Date	<1849-1870>
Collection	Tax inventory books for Marlow (NH)
Scope & Content	A scattered collection of property inventories and tax record books for the town of Marlow, New Hampshire, beginning in 1849 and concluding in 1870. The set contains property inventories for each head of household in the town with corresponding valuations and tax liability.

Object ID	RG#138
Date	<1861-1871>
Collection	Records of the Cheshire County Soldiers Aid Society
Scope & Content	<p>A collection of minutes, newspaper clippings, and correspondence that document the activities of the Cheshire County Soldiers Aid Society between 1861 and 1871.</p> <p>During the Civil War, numerous "ladies aid societies" were created so that women could contribute to the war effort by making articles of clothing, blankets, jams, cordials, and other food stuffs to be given to the soldiers fighting on the front.</p> <p>Although the group was based in Keene, it recruited women from all over the county to participate. The first records are from July of 1861 and go through the end of the war in 1865.</p> <p>The records continue until the dissolution of the group in 1866. However, many of the members gathered again in 1871 to make materials to be sent to Chicago after the Great Fire of 1871.</p>

Object ID	RG#139
Date	<1900-1922>
Collection	Perry Granite Company, records.
Scope & Content	This record group contains the records the Perry Granite Company. The dates are 1900-1922.

Object ID	RG#140
Date	<1947-1974>
Collection	Camp Monadnock, records.
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records from Camp Monadnock. The dates are 1947 to 1974.</p> <p>Camp Monadnock was founded by Frederick S. Ernst in 1914. It was located on Thorndike Pond in Jaffrey, New Hampshire. Ernst had work for many years as a teacher and headmaster at various New England Boarding Schools. The camp was constructed on the east side of the pond which was also called Thorndike Lake. Ernst and his wife operated the camp until he died in 1953. His son Frederick "Ted" Ernst took over from his father and operated the camp until 1974 when it was closed.</p> <p>Camp Monadnock was for boys between the ages 7 and 15. In 1947 it had 80 campers. It reached its height of enrollment at 102 in 1965. Campers were divided into three groups--juniors, intermediates and seniors. Each division had their own set of activities. There were required courses such as swimming and other "electives" that were chosen by individuals.</p> <p>Camp Monadnock was "...open only to normal, well-recommended boys of sound character and good background." The campers came largely from wealthy families in New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts.</p> <p>The collection consists of two series. Series I contains a collection of catalogues which describe the programs offered, references from families, and photographs. These cover the years 1947 to 1965 with some gaps. Series II is a collection photographs taken from a scrapbook.</p>

The photos are undated, but seem to be from the early 1950s. They show various activities, staff members, and groups of campers.

Object ID	RG#141
Date	<1930-1990>
Collection	John Abbott Photograph Collection
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains records and photographs by John Abbott of Keene, New Hampshire. The inclusive dates are 1930 to 1990. The bulk dates are 1950-1975.</p> <p>John Abbott was born in Chester, VT, on 16 July 1911. His family later moved to Keene and he graduated from Keene High School in 1929. After high school he held different jobs until he started to work at Tilden's Studio in 1935 and later worked at Granite State Studios. After this "apprenticeship," he enrolled in the Roushan Institute of Professional Photographers in Hartford, CT, where he graduated in 1939. World War II interrupted his career, but after serving in the European Theater he returned to Keene and opened his own studio. This was located at 21 Greenwood Avenue. His wife Marian help manage the business.</p> <p>Mr. Abbott quickly gained a solid reputation as a commercial photographer. The collection highlights the work he did for several Keene Companies especially MPB. He was also well known for his aerial photography and postcard work. He retired in 1992 and died on 21 July 1995.</p> <p>The collection is divided into 3 series. Series I contains a small collect of business correspondence and a large group of his brochure work. It is dominated by the newsletter from MPB during 1954-1971. Series II is a collection of photograph prints. Series III contains the bulk of the collection. These are negatives of shots Mr. Abbott took of various Keene businesses, people, and events.</p>

Object ID	RG#142
Date	<1884-1898>
Collection	Westmoreland Templars/Young Peoples Society
Scope & Content	<p>A collection of minutes of the Lodge of Good Templars of Westmoreland, New Hampshire. The first entry is for 4 February 1884 and concludes on 10 June 1886.</p> <p>The book was recycled to become the record book for the Young Peoples Society of Christian Endeavor of the East Westmoreland Baptist Church. Those entries begin on page 65.</p> <p>Both record books contain minutes of meetings as well some membership information.</p>

Object ID	RG#143
Date	1958
Collection	Fresh Air Friendly Town Program, 1958
Scope & Content	<p>For many years, residents of Keene and the Monadnock Region have participated in various Fresh Air Fund programs that bring inner-city children to the country during the summer months. Committees that organized the activity were locally known as Friendly Towns.</p> <p>This booklet was assembled in 1958 by Harold E. Wheelock who was the chair of the Keene Friendly Town Committee. It is meant to be a report to The New York Herald Tribune which was the Fresh Air Fund sponsor.</p> <p>The booklet contains radio spots promoting the program, testimonial letters regarding the importance of the program, and a number of newspaper clippings and photographs documenting Keene Friendly Town events during 1958.</p>

Object ID	RG#144
Date	<1775-1783>
Collection	Record of Revolutionary Soldiers
Scope & Content	The record book was composed by an unknown individual. It is in the form of a standard address book with a tabbed alphabetical organization. It contains an alphabetical list of all soldiers from Keene, New Hampshire, who served in the Revolutionary War. It was found in the records of the City of Keene and is on permanent loan from them.
Object ID	RG#145
Date	<1819-1829>
Collection	Records, Company of Artillery, 12th Regt., N.H. Militia
Scope & Content	A record book kept by the Artillery Company of the 12th Regiment of the New Hampshire Militia. The record contains rosters, pay records, orders, and other pieces of information regarding the unit's administration. The 12th regiment was made up of men from Rindge, Jaffrey, Dublin, Fitzwilliam, Nelson and Marlborough. The artillery company seems to be mostly from Fitzwilliam. It is not known why the unit was called a company rather than the more traditional term of battery.
Object ID	RG#146
Date	<1827-1876>
Collection	Acts of the Church of Christian Brethren in Marlow, NH
Scope & Content	A record book for the Church of Christian Brethren in Marlow, New Hampshire for the years 1827-1876. The book includes minutes of meetings, actions taken by the church, and membership lists.
Object ID	RG#147
Date	<1833-1886>
Collection	School record books for Nelson and Fitzwilliam
Scope & Content	A collection of three record books for the Nelson School District #1 (1872-1886), the Nelson School District #3 (1836-1868) and the Fitzwilliam School District #1 (1833-1854). Each book contains warrants, minutes of meetings, treasurer's reports, district officers, and teachers.
Object ID	RG#148
Date	<1818-1837>
Collection	Otis Hutchins Account Book and Diary
Scope & Content	This collection contains an account book kept by Otis Hutchins. It includes student lists and accounts for Kimball Union Academy, Chesterfield Academy, and a school he kept in Westmoreland, New Hampshire. The book also contains some personal writings. A diary kept by Mr. Hutchins may be found in RG#88. Otis Hutchinson was born on 10 January 1781 and graduated from Dartmouth College in 1804. He was ordained as a Congregationalist Minister, but spent most of his life teaching. He was the principal of Chesterfield Academy from 1812 to 1814. He left there to help establish Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, New Hampshire, where he served as principal until 1819. He returned to Chesterfield as principal from 1820 to 1823. In 1823, he moved to Westmoreland where he kept a private school and farmed. The diary notes the weather, Sunday worship services, and the various tasks that he undertook for the Westmoreland schools. He died on 6 October 1866. The Chesterfield Academy was founded by vote of the town in 1790 and chartered by the State of New Hampshire in the same year. Over the

years it gained a statewide reputation and attracted students from all over Cheshire County. However, after the Civil War it became more of a local high school.

Object ID	RG#149
Date	<1829-1842>
Collection	Keene Forensic Society and Lyceum Record Book
Scope & Content	<p>A record book for the Keene Forensic Society and Lyceum which existed from about 1829 until at least 1842. The society was a debating club whose members took affirmative and negative sides on questions of the day.</p> <p>The records include membership roles, records of meetings, and summaries of the debates conducted.</p>
<hr/>	
Object ID	RG#150
Date	<1854-1867>
Collection	H.Y. Club record book
Scope & Content	<p>A record book for the H.Y. Club of Keene, New Hampshire. The club was a group of women. It was limited to 12 members and was formed for the "...promotion of useful knowledge and benevolent feelings in a social, friendly circle."</p> <p>The book includes the organization's constitution, by-laws, membership lists, and minutes of meetings.</p>
<hr/>	
Object ID	RG#151
Date	<1927-1947>
Collection	Keene Commandery, U.O.G.C., records.
Scope & Content	<p>A record book of the Keene (NH) Commandery No. 90, United Order of the Golden Cross for the years 1927-1947. The book contains minutes and other records of the group's activities.</p> <p>The Golden Cross was an association of freemasons founded in 1876 to provide the usual fraternal association benefits especially life insurance. They differed from other freemasons in two respects--their support of the temperance movement and in the admission of women as equals to men. The group was very popular in New England, but struggled to establish itself outside of the northeast.</p>
<hr/>	
Object ID	RG#152
Date	<1883-1887>
Collection	Granite Circle, C.L.S.C., records
Scope & Content	<p>A record book of the Granite Circle Club which was affiliated with the Chautauqua Literary Society. The records contain membership lists, records of meetings and annual reports.</p> <p>The "Chautauqua movement" began in 1874 at Chautauqua, New York, and had the goal of bringing literary and educational programs to rural areas. While it was founded by Methodists its membership was non-denominational and open to non-Protestants as well. Topics included political and social issues of the day. The most famous aspect of the movement was the Chautauqua summer circuit that brought speakers and performers to rural towns. However, many local organizations existed as well.</p> <p>The Granite Circle was founded by Rev. H.S. Thompson who was the minister of the Methodist Church in Keene. The group met in members homes.</p>

Object ID	RG#153
Date	<1847-1870>
Collection	Cheshire County Assoc. of Common School...Records.
Scope & Content	<p>A record book of the Cheshire County Association of Common School Teachers and Other Friends of Education. It includes the organization's constitution as well as the records of its meetings from 1847 until 1870.</p> <p>The association was created in 1836, "...to collect and diffuse such information as shall have a tendency to awaken a greater interest in common schools and improve the qualification of teachers." To that end, the group conducted institutes and met annually in different towns around the county.</p> <p>This book is volume 3 for their records and covers the period of 5 October 1847 to 5 November 1870.</p>
Object ID	RG#154
Date	<1834-1840>
Collection	Weather Records for Keene.
Scope & Content	<p>A record book of weather observations for Keene, New Hampshire, made by Joshua D. Colony between 1834-1840. Each entry is short and includes entries for places that Mr. Colony was visiting.</p> <p>Researchers may also wish to see RG#80 which contains observations by Keene's official weather watchers from 1886 to 1965 as well as earlier reports.</p>
Object ID	RG#155
Date	<1812-1815>
Collection	Hartford Convention Proceedings.
Scope & Content	<p>A collection of printed documents relating to the Hartford Convention of 1814. The first is a copy of the 3rd edition ("corrected and improved") of the convention proceedings published in 1815. The second is a copy of the Cheshire County convention proceedings. The third is a photostatic copy of an article by David R. Proper on the subject.</p> <p>The convention was held at Hartford, Connecticut, on 15 December 1814. It was called to protest the War of 1812. During the war New England was harmed economically since most trade with Europe was cut off by the British Navy. Since the region was not a great supporter of the war to begin with, a meeting was called to discuss seceding from the union. In reality, secession was only a fringe issue with the real cause being the Federalist Party's opposition to the Republican led national government which was dominated by Virginia. In addition there was the dispute with the government over the famous compromise that allowed slaves to be counted for legislative apportionment. With the war being decided by Andrew Jackson's forces at New Orleans, the push to bring the grievances forward faded. The Convention also proved to be the final time that the Federalist Party could affect national politics and it soon disappeared.</p> <p>The convention was represented by Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. The northern New England states were only represented by Windsor County, Vermont; and Cheshire and Grafton Counties in New Hampshire.</p>
Object ID	RG#156
Date	<1927-1988 >
Collection	Historical Society of Cheshire County, Inc., records, part 2.
Scope & Content	This record group contains the records and papers of the Historical Society of Cheshire County, Inc. The dates are 1927 to 1988. These records continue Records Group 25.

This collection is organized into 2 series. Series I has 2 records books containing the minutes of the society from its beginnings in 1927 to 1971. The minutes include the first by-laws--both draft and final copy. They also contain membership records and some of the first donations to the society. The third record book is a dues book from 1967 to ca. 1984. This lists members of the society for that time period. Series II is a collection probably kept by a trustee or other official in the society for the year 1983 to 1988. It contains some correspondence, policies as they developed, and some meeting minutes. Of particular interest are the documents related to the development of the archives center and the capital campaign in 1983-1984.

Object ID	RG#157
Date	<1890-1970 >
Collection	Naturalizations, Cheshire County, Superior Court, Keene, NH, records
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains photostatic copies of the naturalization records issued by the Superior Court of Cheshire County, New Hampshire from about 1890-1970.</p> <p>The records are arranged alphabetically by surname. Females are filed by the surname they were using at the time of naturalization. Volume 1 contains "petitions granted" lists. The remaining 32 volumes contain all of the papers filed by the individual.</p> <p>These volumes are housed in the Lower Level Archives Room Library.</p>

Object ID	RG#158
Date	<1963-1980>
Collection	Marjorie W. Smith Scrapbooks
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of scrapbooks made by the staff of the Keene Public Library to collect articles on historic homes in Cheshire County. The articles were written by Marjorie W. Smith.</p> <p>Marjorie Smith began writing articles for the "Keene Sentinel" in 1962 and continued until 1980. She wrote about historic homes and the people who lived there. The articles often included notes on the architecture and the ownership of the property from its construction to the present. Many of these articles were reprinted in Smith's three volume set "Historic Homes of Cheshire County" which is contained within the library collection.</p> <p>The articles are organized by town and date of publication. Each book contains an index in the front. Copies of the indexes have been consolidated into a single folder for quicker reference. The folder is located within Box 1.</p>

Object ID	RG#159
Date	<1963-1999>
Collection	Marjorie W. Smith Articles
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of articles written by Marjorie W. Smith for the "Keene Sentinel" between 1963-1980. It contains photostatic copies taken from the newspaper.</p> <p>Marjorie Smith began writing articles for the "Keene Sentinel" in 1962 and continued until 1980. She wrote mostly about historic homes and the people who lived there. Most of her work on homes will be found in RG#158. This collection contains articles on other topics as well as a series of reprinted articles published between 1996 and 1999.</p> <p>The collection is organized into 2 series. Series I contains copies of the original articles. Unlike the records group on homes, these articles contain items of interest from all over New Hampshire. In some cases they discuss social life and customs and other cases they discuss "odd curiosities" that people have discovered. There are also numerous articles on cemeteries and grave stones. There is an index located in the</p>

front of the folder.

Series II contains reprints of Smith's series of articles on homes. From 1996 to 1999, the Sentinel reprinted the original article with an updated photograph of the home under the title "Historic Home of the Week." This series is not indexed.

Object ID	RG#160
Date	<1916-1994>
Collection	Albert J. Ricci Papers
Scope & Content	This record group contains a collection of materials collected by Albert J. Ricci. The dates are 1916-1968 with bulk dates of 1943-1949.

The main focus of the collection concerns Albert Ricci's service as the public relations officer for an exhibition that documented conditions in German prisoner of war camps during World War II. The exhibition traveled throughout the United States in 1945-1946 and was known as the AAF (Army Air Forces) Prisoner of War Exposition. The tour set up an interior of a POW barracks and former POWs narrated their experiences. The exhibits were held in major department stores across the country.

The collection also documents Ricci's career in cable television and includes his recognition as a pioneer in the development and promotion of the technology.

Albert Joseph Ricci was born in Keene on 16 August 1916. After completing his education, he began taking jobs in various companies around town. He also had a brief tour with the Civilian Conservation Corps. Around 1938, he opened a fruit and vegetable store on Central Square. The business was somewhat successful, but when World War II broke out, Ricci decided to enlist. In 1943, he completed training as a fighter pilot and was assigned to the 9th Army Air Force where he flew P-51 Mustangs. He flew a number of missions from England to Germany before he was shot down near Munich in March 1944. He was a POW at a camp in Barth near the Baltic Sea. He was liberated in May 1945 and returned to Keene.

One of his fellow inmates at Stalag Luft 1 in Barth was Col. Charles Ross Greening. Greening had had a long career with the Army Air Corps/Army Air Forces--including flying one of the B-17s in the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo. He had flown in North Africa and Italy before being shot down and captured. A trained artist, Col. Greening gained a great appreciation for the ingenuity of his fellow prisoners as they coped with life in the camp. He proposed the POW tour and recruited several men to help out including Ricci. The tour opened in New York on October 1, 1945 and continued until September 1946.

The papers document the highlights of the tour with a number of clippings and photographs. As the public relations officer, Al Ricci appears frequently. While he may have had thoughts of a career in the military, by the end of the tour he had made his decision to move back to civilian life. He formally left the army in December 1946.

Back in Keene he established the Melody Shop which sold records, radios and televisions. As a retailer of TVs, he often heard complaints of poor reception. In response he established Better TV, Inc. which brought cable TV to Keene. He also established a similar system in Bennington, VT. He later brought "wide-band" service to the area which raised the number of available channels to 9.

In addition to his business, he also served as a vice-president for Ashuelot Savings Bank and was active in a number of public service organizations--especially the Lions Club. He retired to Spofford and later moved to Sarasota, FL.

The collection is primarily focused on Al Ricci's military career. This includes his training as an air cadet, his commissioning, and his subsequent assignment as a fighter pilot. The collection also documents his efforts to become a career officer pilot. There is extensive documentation of his work on the POW project. Folder 11 includes a set of POW records on Lt. Ricci. Folder 12 contains a "Wartime Log" which was a project conducted by the International Red Cross to document prisoner's lives. Although it only contains 2 entries, Lt. Ricci was apparently responsible for the project at Stalag Luft 1.

The collection also includes a memoir of his life that was written shortly before his death (Box 1, Folders 1-6). Researchers desiring information on Ricci's post-war career should consult Folders 5 and 6.

Object ID	RG#161
Date	<1815-1920>
Collection	Grimes/Barker Family Papers
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of materials collected by Alexander Grimes and his descendants including Bertha Barker and her husband Frank. The dates are 1815-1920 with bulk dates of 1815-1880. The collection includes account books and receipts as well as family photographs.</p> <p>The collection begins with the somewhat extensive collection of receipts from Alexander Grimes beginning with the deed to his farm which he purchased in 1815 from Samuel Dinsmoor. Alexander was born on 21 May 1788 and was the son of John Grimes. There are a few papers from John as well. John and Samuel Dinsmoor owned both sides of what was called Grimes Hill near the Keene--Westmoreland town line. John's farm was located on what is now Stearns Road and Alexander's home was accessed from the Chesterfield Road on what would become Grimes Road.</p> <p>Alexander married Abigail Dwinell on 21 January 1813 and they had five children. The account books and receipts show the many transactions of goods produced and goods received that are typical of a New England farm in the early to mid-19th century. His many promissory notes drawn mostly from merchants indicate the ebb and flow of capital transactions and the importance of credit. In spite of the many debts, the farm must have made a living as all of the notes were paid. Alexander and Abigail had two sons. Alexander Hamilton Grimes was born on 15 April 1829. He established a dry good store in Keene. The oldest son, Thomas, inherited the family farm.</p> <p>Thomas was born on 16 January 1826. He married Nancy Elizabeth Robbins on 11 November 1852. His account book begins in the rear of Alexander's book and continues for a few years in a separate book. Thomas and Nancy had six children including Sarah Louise who was born on 3 November 1862.</p> <p>She married Charles Guild on 30 June 1887. Their wedding was recorded by noted Keene photographer J.A. French and one mounted "cabinet card" from the occasion is in the collection. The Guild's resided in eastern Massachusetts where Charles was from. They had 5 children including Bertha Elizabeth who was born on 25 March 1895.</p> <p>Although her family resided in Massachusetts, Bertha is shown in the 1900 and 1910 census as residing with her grandparents. She attended Keene schools and graduated from the Keene Grammar School class of 1909. A photo of the class shows her standing in the back row. She went on to graduate from high school and enrolled at Keene Normal School where she graduated in 1916. According to her obituary she taught school for 9 years. The collection only documents (photograph) her teaching at the Alstead Center School. She may have spent her career at Alstead or other places. The 1920 census shows her boarding with a family in Harrisville. It was probably about that point where she met Frank Barker.</p> <p>Frank Norman Barker was born on 20 July 1869 and was the fourth child of Henry Hollis Barker and Martha Ann (Burt) Barker. He first appears in the Keene City Directory in 1889-90 listed as a letter carrier and residing with his family at 55 Castle Street. He seems to have continued work in the post office until around 1898 when he joined the Alaska Gold Rush. A number of documents, date books, and gold mining information in this collection have been transferred to the main Frank Barker collection which is in preparation. A photo of Frank and his colleagues washing for gold near Nome is kept in this collection. Frank apparently went back and forth to Alaska and, according to his gold receipts made some money on the deal. He returned to Keene around 1919 and went to work at Robertson Motors at 124 Main Street. He was known as the "battery man" because his job was recharging and maintaining car batteries as documented in a 1924 photograph in the collection. He worked for Robertsons until he retired in 1946.</p>

He and Bertha married on 18 June 1925 in Georgetown, Massachusetts, which seems to indicate that her family was residing there. He was 55 and she was 30 years old. They resided at 55 Castle Street. Their first child was born on 15 April 1926. Her name was Sarah Louise, but she was known as Sally. Around the time of Sally's birth, the family moved to the family farm on Grimes Road. Another child, Elizabeth A. was born after the move. She was known in the family as Betty.

After Frank's death around 1960, Bertha continued to live at the Grimes Road place. Sally married Gilbert Chadwick on 18 June 1949. They resided in Connecticut, but settled in Keene upon his retirement. After Bertha's death on 26 July 1991, Sally became the custodian of the records and she donated them to the H.S.C.C.

As noted above, the core of the collection is the records kept by Alexander and to a lesser degree Thomas. The first set (folders 1-5) of records are receipts and accounts mostly from Alexander. These contain details of transactions and "squaring" of money owed with services rendered. This was common practice for farmers who usually dealt with value of services rather than cash transactions. The second set (folders 6- 9) are promissory notes drawn from individuals, local merchants, and a few from banks. The balance of box 1 is devoted to legal papers and miscellaneous items.

Box 2 contains oversized items such as portraits, the original deed to the property on Grimes Road, and a photograph of Frank Barker digging for gold.

There are also three large format portraits which kept with the large format collection on the second floor.

Object ID	RG#162
Date	<1600-1980>
Collection	Marjorie V. Howe Genealogical Research Collection
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of genealogical research notes and charts collected by Marjorie V. Howe. Most of the research came about from queries and thus contain mostly lineages of specific families as opposed to full genealogies. Most of the families have Vermont or southwest New Hampshire connections. The research is drawn from both primary and secondary resources. The papers include formal lineages as well as notes and correspondence.</p> <p>Marjorie Howe was a genealogist from Williamsville, Vermont, who worked with the Brooks Memorial Library of Brattleboro. Her work was collected into a three volume set with a one volume supplement.</p> <p>The order of the volumes has been maintained. The supplemental material is integrated within Ms. Howe's original order. Thus, all families she researched are arranged in alphabetical order within the collection.</p>

Object ID	RG#163
Date	<1600-1980>
Collection	George Lindsey Genealogical Research Collection
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of genealogical research notes collected by George Lindsey. Most of the research came about from queries and thus contain mostly lineages of specific families as opposed to full genealogies. Most of the families have Vermont or southwest New Hampshire connections. The research is drawn from both primary and secondary resources. The papers include mostly notes and correspondence.</p> <p>George Lindsey was a genealogist who worked with the Brooks Memorial Library of Brattleboro. Her work was collected into a 13 volume set.</p> <p>The order of the volumes has been maintained with the extra research in volumes 12 and 13 integrated into the other volumes as they describe</p>

the same families. All families are arranged in alphabetical order within the collection. There are some lineages, but the bulk of the collection is notes and correspondence regarding research on specific individuals.

Object ID	RG#164
Date	<1600-2002>
Collection	Rita Kingsbury Genealogical Research Collection
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of genealogical research notes and other papers collected by Rita Kingsbury. The collection contains mostly lineages of specific families related to the Kingsbury and Faulkner families of Keene, New Hampshire. The research is drawn almost entirely from secondary sources.</p> <p>Margaret "Rita" Selby (Faulkner) Kingsbury was the daughter of Winthrop and Margaret E. (Jacob) Faulkner and was born in Buenos Aires on 30 April 1922. Her father was part of the Faulkner and Colony Company in Keene. At the time of her birth, he was a wool buyer for the company.</p> <p>As a child she often visited the family retreat on Spofford Lake which was also a gathering place for the Kingsbury family. It is probably there that she met Thayer Kingsbury, Jr. whom she married in 1946. He was a career officer in the U.S. Air Force and they were stationed in several places around the world. They divorced in 1959.</p> <p>In 1961, she remarried to H. Thayer Kingsbury who was a second cousin of her first husband. They remained married until his death in 2012.</p> <p>In later life, Ms. Kingsbury became interested in genealogy--especially the Faulkner and Kingsbury families. Her research also extended to various lines in the Barrett, Eames, and Robinson families. She only studied families that have a direct relationship with the Faulkner or Kingsbury families.</p> <p>While the research is mostly from secondary resources, the collection provides a view of the inter-relationships of various families in Keene during the 19th century.</p> <p>The collection is divided into three series. Series I is the core of the collection as it contains notes and resources on the families Ms. Kingsbury searched. It is organized by family.</p> <p>Series II is a collection of The Forkner Clan Newsletter. The newsletter contains queries and a series of census records from the 1850s. It is not indexed, but Ms. Kingsbury often highlighted different branches related to her family.</p> <p>Series III contains materials used in the research process including ship passenger lists. Faulkner and Kingsbury ancestors are highlighted.</p> <p>Series IV is a collection of miscellaneous materials mostly related to the Keene High School Class of 1940. Folder one contains a sample of the products of the Peg Shop on Otter Brook on the Keene-Roxbury boundary.</p>

Object ID	RG#165
Date	<1860-1954>
Collection	Faulkner & Colony Map Collection
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of maps kept by the Faulkner and Colony Manufacturing Company of Keene, NH. The items relate to properties and rights owned by the company including water holdings in Marlow, Washington and Gilsum; property in Keene that was developed into housing; as well as maps and "footprints" of the mill site on West Street and its water courses.</p> <p>Faulkner & Colony manufactured wool flannel cloth and was founded in 1815 by Josiah Colony and Francis Faulkner. They purchased a grist</p>

and sawmill at what is now 219 West Street in Keene. This included the mill pond on the north side of the street, its sluiceways, and rights to use the canal to conduct the used water and return it to the Ashuelot River. Eventually, a series of water rights were purchased which gave the company control of the Ashuelot from its main source in Washington, NH, as far as Keene. The rights and ownership of the land involved were retained after the company installed a steam boiler for its power.

The company prospered and grew through out the 19th century. Apparently it did very well as a manufacturer of blue cloth for uniforms during the Civil War. The company's profits were invested in purchasing land in the area around River Street, several houses and lots that were used for tenements, and several farms on upper Court Street. These holdings were either sold or became part of the Ashuelot Park System.

Faulkner & Colony managed to survive the post-World War I recession and the Great Depression. However, movement away from woolen cloth after World War II and increasing competition led directly to the company's bankruptcy in 1953. A good deal of the land documented in this collection is now part of conservation lands that help protect the Ashuelot Watershed.

Many of the maps and drawings were made by such prominent surveyors as George W. Sturtevant and Samuel Wadsworth. While the property maps and mill maps are the most interesting there are several other important maps as well. One is the footprint of the Faulkner home that stood for many years at 194 West Street until about 1958. Another is a collection of survey maps from the Army Corps of Engineers plans for the Surry Mountain Dam. Finally, there are sub division maps for several areas in Keene that were made between 1860 and 1875.

The collection documents the company's land holdings and water rights in a series of maps and drawings. For convenience sake, the collection is divided into two sections--flat items and rolled items.

Object ID	RG#166
Date	<1988-2001>
Collection	Monadnock Greens Papers
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of papers and other materials from the Monadnock Greens. The bulk dates are 1988-1995 with a smaller amount of material up to the year 2001.</p> <p>In 1987, a group of people formed the Keene Greens but at their first meeting changed the name to Monadnock Greens to reflect their membership's geography. The group was inspired by a New England wide organization known as the The New England Greens' Committees of Correspondence which sought to organize and exchange information with local Green groups. They NEGCOG sought to create a regional and national grass roots movement to promote political action along the lines of the European Green Movement.</p> <p>The Monadnock Greens started by addressing environmental issues such as development sprawl and sustainable agriculture, but also focused on world peace, nuclear energy, and solid waste disposal. This led to protesting America's involvement in civil wars in Central America--especially El Salvador, Guatemala, and Nicaragua. They also join protests at the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant. In the lead up to Operation Desert Storm (the response to Iraq's invasion of Kuwait) the group participated in many protests in Central Square--often at the same time as pro-war protests.</p> <p>Politically, the state-wide movement reached its zenith with the effort to gain 5% of the vote in the 1990 election. That would have led to New Hampshire recognizing an official Green Party, however, the effort failed. After that, the Monadnock Greens remained active, but their numbers and projects dwindled. One important accomplishment was starting an initiative that eventually led to the creation of a farmers' market in Keene.</p> <p>The collection is divided into two series. Series I contains the records of the group. This includes minutes, agendas, reports, meeting posters and correspondence. The minutes contain concerns and issues as well as coordination with other green groups. Also, there were several periods during which no minutes were preserved. The correspondence indicates activities of the group as well as outreach to other Green groups on the regional, national, and international levels.</p>

Series II contains information related to their activities. These are organized as a subject file. Each topic reflects the concerns and actions of the Monadnock Greens but also includes activities by other groups, issue papers, correspondence, clippings, and press releases.

Object ID	RG#167
Date	<1951-2009>
Collection	Ladies Charitable Society Financial Records
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of financial records created by the Ladies Charitable Society of Keene, NH. The dates are 1951-2009 with bulk dates of 1990-2009. The collection continues the society's records (1815-1992) that are kept in RG#32.</p> <p>The Ladies Charitable Society was formed as the Reading Society on July 1, 1815, by the women of the First Congregational Church. The members met weekly to read the Bible and other religious works. They also planned to aid the suffering and the needy. For analysis of their work and history, see Nanette Reckart Wilson's paper which is located in the library's collection (HSCC 367.97429.W55 1988) and Susan Peery's history of the society (HSCC 361.2.P44 2003).</p> <p>The rules of the society read as follows, "With full belief that societies for reading the sacred scriptures, and pious works of human composition, are calculated to enrich the mind with useful knowledge, to impress the heart with divine truth, and draw more closely the bonds of union between friends and neighbors; believing it also to be our duty to relieve as far as lies in our power the wants of the poor and distressed...."</p> <p>The name of the society was changed to the Charitable and Reading Society in 1817. The first president of the group was Eunice Appleton. The early work of the society included starting a Sabbath school, a charity school, making pillows and sheets for the poor, working for Indian missions, and sending money to aid the Greeks during their rebellion against the Turks in the 1820s.</p> <p>Mrs. Zedekiah Barstow became president in 1820 and remained in that post until her death in 1869. The society was incorporated as the Ladies Charitable Society of Keene, New Hampshire, in 1885. All local religious denominations were represented in the society by that time. The group served to "render assistance to the aged and poor of the city."</p> <p>The society continues to this day and aids the community through "relief of the needy...provision of health service... (and) assistance...in educational and recreational opportunities," according to the revised by-laws of 1951.</p> <p>The collection consists almost entirely of financial records. These include income activity reports on their investments, budgets and expenditures for specific charities, and membership information. Of particular interest is a collection of tax returns which detail income and expenditures. This will show the source of income as well as the charitable expenditures of the society.</p> <p>The collection also includes membership lists. Included is the dues collection documents which lists members from the 1970s to the 1990s.</p>

Object ID	RG#168
Date	<1790-2010>
Collection	Harvey Family Papers
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of papers assembled by various members of the Harvey Family of Surry, NH. The collection also includes papers from other families related to the Harveys including Howe, Porter, and Redding. Researchers may also wish to review MG#45 which contains other documents related to Rev. Perley Howe, Jonathan and Eliza (Howe) (Redding) Harvey, and Surry town records. The collection is organized into 7 series</p> <p>Series I is devoted to Rev. Perley Howe. He was born on 19 September 1762 in Marlborough, MA. He graduated from Dartmouth College in</p>

1790 and accepted the call from the church in Surry, NH, in 1794. He was officially ordained on 16 September 1795. In December of that year he married Zeruah L. Barnes who was also from Marlborough. Rev. Howe served the Surry Church until 1837 and died on 20 October 1840. The Howes had two daughters--Phebe and Eliza. Phebe (1798-1877) married John Petts who was a physician. They lived in several places in Vermont, New York, and Ohio. Eliza (1801-1879) stayed in Surry. Her first marriage was to James Redding. After his death she remarried to Jonathan Harvey, Jr.

The series contains letters to Rev. and Mrs. Howe from various family members--especially his daughter Phebe. Phebe's letters cover a long period of time as she married, had children, and moved to different towns in Vermont and New York. Many of the letters include notes to her sister Eliza as well as notes from her children and husband. The correspondence also contains letters from Zeruah's brother Lovell (Lovewell) Barnes as well as various cousins, nieces and nephews of the Howe and Barnes families as well as related branches.

Other correspondence contains issues regarding the conduct of church affairs. Of interest are appeals for assistance from other churches and petitions from Rev. Howe's Congregation. The latter includes a petition to punish Deacon Ichabod Ballou for working on the Sabbath and spending too much time at the tavern.

The series also contains the personal papers of Rev. Howe. These include texts of his sermons, notes on religious issues, day books, and account books. It also includes some of his note books from his time at Dartmouth.

Series II is devoted to Jonathan and Eliza (Howe) (Redding) Harvey and their immediate family. Jonathan Harvey, Jr, was born on 14 April 1799. He was the second child of Jonathan and Roxanna (Baxter) Harvey and the grandson of Thomas Harvey who was one of the founders of Surry. On 4 May 1820 he married Persis Joslin. They had one child (Sophronia A. Harvey, 1821-1855) before Persis died in 1826. Jonathan remarried to Eliza on 12 June 1828. Eliza was the daughter of Rev. Perley Howe and had married James Redding (1791-1826) on 11 February 1821. Mr. Redding was engaged in a number of business ventures and the couple resided for a time in Cambridgeport, MA. James died in 1826. Eliza and Jonathan had five children including George Kimball Harvey (1829-1898) and Persis Eliza Harvey (1832-1901).

There is a small collection of papers and correspondence for Jonathan, his father and some of his relatives. There are also two letters from Jonathan Junior's cousin Asahel to his uncle Asahel. There is a folder containing some correspondence between James Redding and some of his business partners.

A large portion of the series contains letters from Eliza's sister Phebe (Howe) Petts. The letters start when Phebe still lived in Surry and Eliza had settled in Cambridgeport. The letters continue through Phebe's marriage to John Petts and her various moves around the country. The letters also contain notes from her husband and children.

George Kimball Harvey continued the family farm. On 7 February 1856, he married Sarah Lorinda Wilcox who was the daughter of Hollis and Thankful (Robbins) Wilcox. His sister Persis Eliza Harvey never married and pursued a career in teaching. She was one of the founders of the Reed Free Library in Surry and was very active in the community. George and Sarah had 5 children including James Ellsworth Harvey.

This series also contains a collection of papers from the Wilcox family from 1800 to about 1880. These relate to Hollis Wilcox (George Kimball Harvey's father-in-law) and his father Gaylord and grandfather Obadiah.

Series III contains the next major division of the collection which is correspondence and papers related to William Henry Porter and his wife Clementine Ruth (Balch) Porter. William Porter was born in Alstead in 1830 and studied medicine at Harvard Medical College and Worcester Medical College. He married Clem (as she was known in the family) on 28 March 1854. He established his practice in Surry shortly after that. The Porters had 4 children including Ellen Harriett Porter who would marry James Ellsworth Harvey and was known in the family as Nell. The others were Myron Henry Porter who became a farmer in Surry, Kate Hannah who never married and joined with Persis Harvey in helping to create the Reed Free Library, and Charles who died young. Clem was born in Johnson, VT, on 17 January 1830 and was the daughter of Robert Balch and Lydia (Pike) Balch. Her mother's sister Hannah Pike had married Vine Porter--making their son William Henry her first cousin. Clem resided in Surry until her death on 9 June 1916.

The bulk of the correspondence in the collection was written to Clem. Her correspondents include numerous relatives and her children. A large amount of correspondence comes to Clem from various cousins, uncles and aunts who resided in the towns around Morrisville, VT. The relationships are sometimes unknown because documentation is somewhat thin. Some confusion results from two men with the same name--Paphro Ditus Pike. Clem's uncle Paphro ran a successful factory that made butter tubs and other wooden ware. Her uncle Joseph's son Paphro moved to Boston where he established a plumbing business and held patents on several plumbing fixtures.

Other correspondents include Clem's sisters Carrie and Julia and many cousins related to the Pike and Balch families. Two cousins--Augusta M. Bromley and Amelia (Congdon) Bromley--write several letters after they moved to California in the 1850s.

Another subdivision of this series are letters to Clem from her children--especially from Nell. Nell's letters include her trip to Chicago and Fowler, Indiana in 1887. They also include notes on her life after she married James Harvey and had her children. She mentions her children as they grew and as she endured the slow death of her youngest child in 1912. James Harvey wrote two letters to Clem in 1892 announcing the arrival of their twin sons. All three sons wrote to their grandmother frequently with the largest collection from Shirley from his grade school and high school years through his time at Dartmouth.

Finally there are several folders of correspondence to Kate Porter. Kate never married and lived her life in Surry where she was involved with the community especially the Reed Free Library. Her correspondents include her nephews and cousins as well as her sister Nell Harvey. The collection also includes papers and account books for Dr. Porter.

Series IV contains papers of the family of James Ellsworth Harvey (1861-1930) (son of George K. and Sarah Harvey) and Ellen "Nell" (Porter) Harvey (1861-1953) (daughter of William and Clementine Porter). James was born on 8 September 1861, was educated in the Surry Schools and was accepted to the New Hampshire College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts in Hanover. He had a strong interest in the arts and became a professional photographer. After marrying Nell on 28 May 1889, and they settled in West Somerville, MA. Apparently, he spent his time there learning the photographer's trade and then ventured on his own when he established a studio in Clinton, MA. Around 1900, he established a new studio in Concord, NH. Throughout his career, James kept in touch with the relatives and other people in Surry. He and Nell retired there in 1919. During his frequent visits he photographed a number of scenes and historic buildings in the town. His photo collection will be found in RG#169.

On 2 November 1892, Nell gave birth to twin boys--Shirley Wilcox Harvey and Robert Porter Harvey. On 2 March 1899, another boy--George Kimball Harvey--joined the family.

The collection consists of correspondence and papers. The series begins with letters to Nell from her mother Clementine (Balch) Porter and proceeds through various branches of her family. That is followed by correspondence from various branches of the Harvey family, their children, and a few folders containing papers related to James Harvey. Of interest is a set of drawings made by Mr. Harvey. Also, there is a set of "newspapers" published by George K. Harvey. He had some ambition to be a writer and journalist, but his life was cut short in 1912.

The few papers, correspondence, and clippings of the Robert P. Harvey family are included in this series. Robert graduated from Dartmouth in 1916 and from the Washington College of Law in 1922. He married Margaret Posey Wilson--know as Patty in the family--on 17 July 1918. They had a son name Robert W. who was born on 18 March 1920 and twin boys Alan and Bruce who were born on 2 August 1925. Robert P. was a lawyer in the Washington, DC, area. Robert Wilson Harvey was a distinguished journalist and editor. The entire family resided in Washington, D.C., New York, and Connecticut but retained their connections to Surry. Allan resided for a time in Richmond. Bruce resided in Wilbraham, MA.

Series V contains papers from Shirley Wilcox Harvey (1892-1983) and his family. He was born on 2 November 1892 and was the son of James E. and Ellen "Nell" (Porter) Harvey. Although he grew up in Clinton, MA and Concord, NH, he also visited Surry frequently and spend his summers with the various relatives of the Harvey and Porter families. Although almost always addressed as Shirley or S.W. in the family, he also used the nick-name "Steve." After graduating from high school, he went to Dartmouth College where he earned a BA (magna cum laude) in 1916. He went on to earn a master's degree from Harvard in 1918. On 18 June 1919, he married Helen Maude Crehore. She was the daughter

of Charles and Olive Crehore and was born in Chicopee, MA, on 18 September 1892. The Crehores had roots in Surry and frequently visited the town. The marriage was short lived as Helen died in childbirth on 19 February 1922. Shirley remarried to Annette Bassford McKnight on 20 July 1926. She was the daughter of Thomas W. and Irene (Smith) McKnight and was born on 14 March 1892. Their son David was born on 4 June 1926.

Shirley taught English at several colleges in the Boston area and completed a Ph.D. from Boston University in 1936. He retired from Wheelock College. Annette was also a teacher and worked from a time at Tufts University. Over the years, they kept up their contacts in Surry, but lived in the Boston area and had a summer home in Barnstead, NH. Known as "the little bear" the place became a retirement home of the Harveys. Around 1975, Shirley moved to Keene where he died on 28 April 1983.

David E. Harvey grew up in Massachusetts and graduated from the New Hampton School. He earned a BA degree from Tufts and a master's degree from Brown. He later studied at the University of Pennsylvania. He began teaching history at the high school and community college level. In 1965 we joined the faculty of the history department at Keene State College. On 14 October 1973 he married Mary Louise Hood. They were married until her death on 14 February 2006. David remarried to Mary (Wagner) Tweeter on 29 October 2011. David was very active in the U.C.C. church in Keene, the Historical Society of Cheshire County, and Friends of the Keene Public Library. He died on 30 April 2013.

Series VI contains a set of diaries and day books. These include diaries kept by Zeruah (Barnes) Howe. Eliza (Howe) (Redding) Harvey, and Clementine (Balch) Porter. The series also has an autograph book belonging to Sophronia A. Harvey. The series also includes a set of physician's diaries kept by Dr. William H. Porter. These include people visited by the doctor, births and deaths, and other information.

Series VII contains some records for the Town of Surry. Several of the Harveys served in various town offices and these documents are probably copies or originals they retained. Documents include town meeting records, boundary perambulations, postmaster records, and voting lists. An oversized box contains tax rolls for 1794 to 1813.

Object ID	RG#169
Date	<1860-2012>
Collection	Harvey Family Photograph Collection
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of photographs assembled by various members of the Harvey family of Surry, NH. Most of the photographs were made by James Ellsworth Harvey. Researchers may also wish to consult MG 45 and RG 168 for more information on the Harvey family and related branches.</p> <p>The collection consists of two series. Series I contains photographs of members of the Harvey and Porter families as well as related branches. The series contains portraits of close relatives as well as the children of James and Ellen (Nell) Harvey. The series also contain photos of the family of Shirley and Annette Harvey and their son David.</p> <p>Of particular interest is a post card collection kept by Shirley Harvey showing scenes in Keene, Walpole, and Alstead. There are also albums kept by various family members.</p> <p>Series II contains photographs taken by James E. Harvey of different people and places in Surry, NH. These include several of the houses and farm areas that were removed to make way for the Surry Mountain Dam. Scenes include the Scripture and Shingle mills, scenes along the Ashuelot River, and a number of farms in Surry as well as pictures of Surry's center taken in the period between 1895 and 1920. The most extensive documentation of a farm is the Harvey farm called "Fairview." These include several photos of the buildings, animals, and day-to-day agricultural activities. There is also a folder of photos of Vessel Rock and the stone bridge in Gilsum.</p>

Object ID	RG#170
Date	<1904-1905>
Collection	Thompson-Grinnell's Commercial School Collection
Scope & Content	<p>This record group contains a collection of materials from Grinnell's Commercial School kept by Minnie Thompson who was a student there in 1903-1904.</p> <p>Minnie Thompson was the daughter of Charles S. and Mary Ann (Marian in some records) (Robbins) Thompson and was born in Spofford on 18 July 1884. She attended the Grinnell school during its first year of operation. Around 1907 she married Walter L. Deselle and continued to reside in Spofford. According to the 1910 census she was apparently working as a bookkeeper although her obituary makes no mention of it being a career. She was very active in the Grange and a member of the First Baptist Church in Keene. Minnie and Walter had no children. Her younger sister Hazel May Thompson (born on 22 June 1891, died 1 January 1985) resided with her for a time until she married Frank J. Guyette. Minnie died on 18 November 1972.</p> <p>George H. Grinnell was born in South Braintree, MA, on 23 November 1875. After completing his education, he moved to Holbrook, MA, where he worked in a shoe factory. He was, apparently, an ambitious and restless man. In 1897 he enrolled in the Bryant & Stratton Commercial School in Boston and completed their one year course. He worked the next few years as an accountant and penmanship instructor. In 1901, he became the penmanship instructor for the school system in North Easton, MA. In 1903, he arrived in Keene to establish Grinnell's Commercial School at 48 Main Street. It was located on the second floor of the old E.F. Lane (lower) Block. The school promised, "To thoroughly prepare its students for high grade business positions." The school was important enough to be listed in Patterson's College and School Directory for 1904.</p> <p>Commercial or business schools were popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries when few high schools offered such courses. Keene had 3 or 4 such schools. They offered opportunities for grammar or common school graduates or post-high school students to learn specific skills and job training. Schools often had courses in bookkeeping, stenography, typing, business law, and specific accounting practices related to such enterprises as banking, insurance and retail management. Grinnell's school also offered training in penmanship which seems to reflect a his specific interest. Most of the schools faded as high schools began offering the same field of studies although a small number around the nation evolved into post-secondary business schools and colleges.</p> <p>During his time in Keene, Grinnell resided at 137 Court Street, but he only ran the school for two semesters. In 1905, he moved to Fall River, MA, to take a position as head of the high school's bookkeeping department. He stayed there until 1906 when he moved to Kankakee, IL, to become the head of the commercial department at the high school.</p> <p>Ida M. Dearborn continued the school until 1909 when it disappears from the Keene City Directory.</p> <p>The collection contains Minnie Thompson's memorabilia of her time at the school. This includes a school catalog, photographs of George Grinnell, photographs of her class, and of the school. Of particular interest is a photograph of the interior of the school which suggests how classes were conducted. Also of interest is a penmanship exercise and a fraktur apparently made by Minnie for her sister Hazel.</p>