

Guide to the Westport History, Events, and Topics Collection

Collection Overview:

REPOSITORY: Westport Museum for History and Culture, 25 Avery Place, Westport, CT

CALL NUMBER: RG 4

TITLE: Westport History, Events, and Topics Collection

DATES: 1825-2013

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6 linear feet (13 boxes; one oversize box)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The Westport History, Events, and Topics Collection documents the history of the town of Westport through publications, event documentation, and topical files compiled by the Westport Museum.

HISTORICAL NOTE:

Like many other towns in New England, Westport's roots are in the Native Americans who frequented the area years ago. The colonial settlers came from three surrounding towns – Norwalk, Fairfield, and Weston, parts of which comprised Westport. The river was the dividing line between Norwalk and Fairfield, and vital to farmers as a pathway to markets for their produce. A small community of wharves, warehouses, stores and a tavern grew up on both sides of the river to become the Village of Saugatuck. The first church built in Westport was the Green's Farms Congregational Church, in 1711, and it served as the focal point of all town activities, from running the schools to collecting the taxes. After the Revolutionary War, the Village of Saugatuck began to grow as a shipping center. In the 1830s, Daniel Nash, a leading resident, together with 130 other villagers made an application to the Connecticut General Assembly to incorporate Westport as a town. The charter was granted May 28, 1835.

SCOPE AND CONTENT:

This collection gathers together a variety of sources of documentation of Westport and its surrounding area. Some of the documents are purposefully composed writings about various aspects of Westport history while other documents were gathered from events. An alphabetical sequence of topical files contains notes and documents compiled by Westport Museum for History and Culture staff over the years.

ARRANGEMENT:

Series 1: Historical Documentation and Narratives

Series 2: Brochures, Directories, Publicity

Series 3: Events and Festivals

Series 4: Anniversaries and Commemorations

Series 5: Topical Files

Series 6: Newspaper Clippings

Series 1: Historical Documentation and Narratives

Box	Folder		Date
		Chronologies	
1	1	Chronology compiled by E. Ruth Adams – 1640-1979	
1	2	Chronology compiled by Eve Potts – 1637-1994	
		Articles, papers, talks	
1	3	Historical Discourse delivered at 150 th anniversary of Green's Farms Congregational Church by Rev. B. J. Relyea	1865
1	4	"Sketches Historical and Biographical of Westport" from <i>The Norwalk Hour</i>	1873
1	4	"Homes and People of the 18 th Century" by M. Louisa Hyde	1897
1	4	"Colonial and Revolutionary Houses in Westport" – papers read before Historical Society	1900, 1901
1	4	"Leaves from the Town Records" by Joseph G. Hyatt	
1	5	"The Little Minute Man – When the British Came to Compo in 1777" by Henry Gallup Paine	1924
1	5	"Evolution – The Town Protoplasm" by Edward Coley Birge	
1	6	History of Westport as compiled by Burton Davis	1934
1	7	"Westport in Connecticut History" (CT Tercentenary publication)	1935
OV1		Articles about Westport in <i>Connecticut Circle – the Magazine of the Constitution State</i>	1947
1	8	"Westport Canteen" by Susan Bennett Holmes – article in <i>Woman's Day</i> – re. venue for teenagers to gather in Westport	1957
1	8	"Westport Grows Up – And How"	1957
1	9	"The Adams Academy – A History" by Joan L. Ross	1961
1	10	"Early Business and Industries in Westport, CT" by Judge Joseph Adams	1963
1	10	"Landmarks from the Past – Second Graders Take Historical Tour" – with tour script – by Bessie Jennings	1965
1	11	"Westport" by Mike McCune	
1	11	"Days of Onion Boats and Resolute Yankees" by Deborah B. Donnelly	1981
1	12	"Recollections: Looking Across the Fields to Long Island Sound" by Joanna Foster	1990
1	12	"Picture This – a time travel activity book of Westport" by Janet Horowitz and Kathy Faggella	
1	13	"Recollections: Ruth Adams Remembers" by Joanna Foster	1991
1	13	"Green's Farms Church" by Ruth Adams	1995
1	14	"A History of Westport, CT – It Happened in Westport" prepared by Barbara and Allen Raymond	1996-1998
1	15	"The Magic of Main Street" by Woody Klein	1998
1	15	Millenium series in <i>Westport News</i>	1999

1	16	"From Onions to Industry" by Chandra Niles Folsom	2001
1	16	Reprints of Joanna Foster Coppola articles from 1955 in <i>Westport News</i>	2009
1	16	"The Fairfield Swamp Fight" by Jane Edmundson	2002
		Notes and undated articles	
1	17	Articles by Julie Haggeman (see also Haggeman collection in Record Group 12, Named Research Collections)	
1	18	Anonymous narrative re. Westport	
1	19	Miscellaneous notes and clippings	
		Personal reminiscences	
1	20	Ruth Adams	
1	20	Hubbard Cobb	
1	20	John S. Coleman	
1	20	Louise Crossman	
1	21	I. Leon Hunt, including re. Westport Sanitarium	
1	22	"Madam Knight's Journal" – account of trip from Boston to New York in 1825	
1	23	Mrs. E. M. Lee	
1	23	Lee Townsend	
		Miscellaneous newspaper clippings	
12		Arranged chronologically	

Series 2: Brochures, Directories, Publicity

OV-1		<i>Life Magazine</i> issue on Fairfield County	1949 August 8
2	1	Miscellaneous publications	1935, 1955, 1975, 1976
2	2	Miscellaneous publications	1985
2	3	Miscellaneous publications	1994, 2008, n.d.

Series 3: Events and Festivals

2	4	Historical Pageant presented by the Women of the Town Improvement Association of Westport	1921
2	4	George Washington pilgrimage route in Connecticut; George Washington Bicentennial program	1914, 1932
OV1		Yankee Doodle Fair, sponsored by Westport Woman's Club	
2	5	All-American City Award celebration	1959
2	6	Planting of scion of Charter Oak on Jesup Green	1966
2	7	Martha Stewart's Designer Showcase: Homestyles – Trends and Traditions	1990
2	8	Westports of the World (WOW) gatherings	1991-1996
2	9	Festival Italiano, including information about Italians in Saugatuck	1992-2011
2	10	Memorial Day parade / Veterans Day	1995
2	10	Downtown Arts Festival	1996

2	10	Olympic Torch in Westport / Olympic Festival	1996
2	11	Community Concert	2000
2	11	First Night	1994, 2008
2	11	June Day	undated
2	11	National Volunteer Week	undated
2	11	Celebrate Westport	2006
2	12	3 rd annual Riverfront Arts Festival	undated
2	12	Labor Day	undated

Series 4: Anniversaries and Commemorations

		American Centennial, 1876	
3	1	Articles in <i>The Westporter</i> re. Westport celebration of American Centennial	1876 June-July
		Centenary of Westport / Tercentenary of CT, 1935	
3	2	Re. Centenary and Tercentenary Committees, including correspondence of Gladys Mansir	
3	3	Programs and announcements	
3	4	Centennial commemorative stamps	
3	5	Book by Edward Coley Birge: <i>Westport in Connecticut's History</i>	
3	6	Pageant scripts and clippings	
3	7	Photos and artwork	
3	8	Scrapbook	
		American Bicentennial, 1976	
4	1	Westport Bicentennial Committee – lists, minutes, reports	1974-1976
4	2	Committee correspondence, including with Leonard Fisher, Shirley Land	1974-1977
4	3	Arts Subcommittee / Bicentennial Trust for Westport Art	1974-1979
		Arts Committee Prism '76 exhibitions:	
4	4-7	Leonard Everett Fisher; Creative Early America; Stevan Dohano; Westport Illustrators; Celebration of a Quilt; Contemporary Painters and Sculptors of Westport; Inaugural Gowns – Great Ladies of America; A Salute to Harold Von Schmidt; Westport Artists of the Past	
4	8	Guest books from exhibitions	1975
5	1	Guest books from exhibitions	1976
5	2	Newspaper clippings re. show, Arts Committee events	
		Other Bicentennial programs:	
5	3	Bicentennial calendar	
5	4	Bicentennial quilt	
5	5	Event programs	
5	6	Historical bus tours	
5	7	Time Capsule	
6	1	Westport Schools Bicentennial project	

6	2	Newspaper clippings	1974-1975
6	3	Newspaper clippings	1976
6	4	Newspaper clippings	1977
6	5	Special issue of <i>The Westport News</i>	1976 June 30
6	6	Bicentennial issue of <i>The Fairfield County Magazine</i>	
6	7	Publications from other organizations	
6	8	Marketing material received by Committee re. Bicentennial commemorative objects	
Map chest	Drawer 3	Poster for Bicentennial	
		Westport 150th Anniversary, 1985	
6	9	<i>The Westporter</i> special issue, brochure	
		Millennium Project, 1999	
6	10	Flyer, pin	
		Westport 175th Anniversary, 2010	
6	11	Script for Re-Enactment at Saugatuck Congregational Church, brochure	

Series 5: Topical Files

Box	Folder	.	Date
7	1	Actors	
7	2	Architecture	
7	3	Art in the public schools	
7	4	Artists and art awards	
7	5	"The Battle of Compo Beach" by C. W. Owens; "The Alarm: Philip Lester from Saugatuck to Ridgefield 1777" by Emma W. Law Demeritt	1969, n.d.
7	6	Boundaries	
7	7	Boy Scouts	
7	8	Bridge Square	
7	9	Charities	
7	10	Charter Oak Tree	
7	11	Christmas	
7	12	Citizens' planning associations	
7	13	Coleytown	
7	14	Colonial and Revolutionary Homes – Susan Schultz notes	
7	15	Community Center at Longshore	
7	16	Compo Beach – anniversaries	
7	17	Compo Beach Improvement Association	
7	18	Compo cannons	
7	19	Compo Cove and Mill	
7	20	Compo House	
7	21	Compo Inn	
7	22	Condominiums	
7	23	The Connecticut Bus Company schedule; bus schedule	1924, n.d.
7	24	Connecticut Historic Commission	

7	25	Congressional election documents	1883, 1889
7	26	Connecticut State records	
7	27	Conservation - Preservation	
7	28	Costumes	1850-1862
7	29	Coyotes	
7	30	DAR	
7	31	Democratic Town Committee – Lulu Petric	
7	32	Doughboy statue	
7	33	Emergency Medical Service	
7	34	Ethnohistory / Immigrant groups	
7	35	Fable Building	
7	35	Fairfield	
7	36	Fairfield County families	
7	37	Fidelco Guide Dog Foundation (Alice Mulligan, Ken Bernard)	
7	38	Fowler Hexagon Houses	
7	39	Green’s Farms	
8	1-2	Highways – See also Roads, and Record Group 3	
8	3	Historic buildings	
8	4	Historic districts – Myrtle Ave, Jesup	
8	5	Hoot owls (singing group)	
8	6	Household appliances	
8	7	Household hints	
8	8	Houses, historic	
8	9	Huskies, storm of 1934	
8	10	Italians in Westport	
8	11	Law	
8	12	Leatherman – DeLuca collection	
8	13	Library, Friends of the	
8	14	Lighthouses	
8	15	Lobstermen	
8	16	Local place names	
8	17	Long Island Sound	
8	18	Loom, Jacquard	
8	19	Main Street	
8	20	McGuffey Reader	
8	23	Minister’s letter: From Sylvester M. Foster to “My dear Judge” re. life of minister in 1840	
8	24	Minuteman newspaper	
8	25	<i>The Modern Grocer</i> – June 27, 1903	
8	26	Monuments	
8	27	Murals	
8	28	Movie making	
8	29	Myrtle Ave – sketches by Harry Morgan Ayres #96	
8	30	National Hall	
8	31-32	Native American tribes of Connecticut	
9	1	Nature Center – Mid Fairfield County Youth Museum	

		New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad – see under Transportation	
		Nike site – see Record Group 3	
9	2	North Kings Highway Historic District	
9	3	North Kings Highway Historic District Study Group	
9	4	Norwalk Islands	
9	5	“Norwalk in the American Revolution” by John Cuneo, 1976	
9	6	Norwalk: Lockwood Mathews Mansion	
9	7	Nyala Farms	
9	8	Open space	
9	9	Pageant of 1921 (History of Fairfield County)	
9	10	Parks	
9	11	Pequot swamp fight	
9	12	Poem – “Over the Hill to the Poorhouse”	
9	13	Police	
9	14	Politics	
9	15	Post Office	
9	16	Popular Plains	
9	17	Project Return	
9	18	Racism in Westport – paper by student	
9	19	Red Cross	
9	20	Representative Town Meetings 1949-1999	
9	21	Representative Town Meetings – articles	
9	22-24	Revolutionary War, including Revolutionary soldiers – paper read to DAR by Rev. J. E. Coley, 1903	
10	1	Roads – “Early Roads in Westport” by Irving Patney and Mrs. Charles Cutler	
10	2	Roosevelt, Eleanor – visit to Westport 1948	
10	3	Saugatuck families	
10	4	Selectmen	
10	5	Ships and boats	
10	6	Slavery and enslaved people – reference material and clippings	
10	7-8	Slavery and enslaved people – research of Diane Ciccone: Journeys of Freedom – The Bennett, Brunk, Holmes and Parish Family Stories	
10	9	Souvenir programs – various performances and events	
		Special Olympics, 1995 – See Photos	
10	10-11	Sports	
10	12	Stagecoach – “Milestone Recalls Olden Days” by E.C. Birge, 1935	
10	13	Stone walls	
10	14	Stores and houses – miscellaneous	
10	15	Storm of August 4, 1931	
10	16	Tavern signs	
10	17	Telephone	

10	18	Tools	
10	19	Tombstones	
10	20	Town Green – adjacent to Wheeler House	
10	21	Transportation: automobile	
10	21	Transportation: ferries	
10	22	Transportation: railroad – general, clippings New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad	
10	23	Transportation: railroad - history	
10	24	Transportation: railroad – correspondence, telegrams	
11	1	Transportation: railroad – timetables, tickets, manifests, forms	
11	2-3	Transportation: railroad – Commuter Action Committee – correspondence, reports, clippings	1972-1974
11	4	Transportation: trolley	
11	5	Trout Brook	
11	6-9	Tyrone’s Raid (4 folders)	
11	10	Utilities: water and electric - history	
11	11	Victoriana – Peterson’s Ladies National Magazine, 1879 – Santa Claus, 1977	
11	12	Weather	
11	13	Western Reserve Historical Society	
11	14	Weston	
11	15	Westport writers and publishers: Robin Moore, John A. Tarrant, Olivia Vlahas, Richard Scarry, Elsie McCormack, John G. Fuller, Roberta Brandes Fuller, Ruth McKenny, Harold Goldsmith	
11	16	Westport-Weston Board of Realtors	
11	17	Westport neighborhoods	
11	18	Westport Sanitarium	
11	19	Witches	
11	20	“The Wonderful World of Westport” – Frank Jacoby film, 150 th anniversary	
11	21	World War I info re. Westport	
11	22	World War II info re. Westport	
11	23	World War II memorial, honor roll	

Series 6: Newspaper Clippings

12	1	Photographs from late 1800s, early 1900s, published in newspaper	
12	2	Westport history, John S. Jones Publications, <i>The Westporter</i> - Reminiscences	1876-1903
12	3	<i>Westporter Herald</i> – The story of Westport	1914
12	4	<i>Republican Sentinel, Evening Sentinel, Norwalk Hour</i> - social columns	1893-1908
12	5	Misc. clippings, Jesup Green history	1924-1998
12	6	<i>Westporter Herald</i>	1927
12	7	<i>Westporter Herald</i> – cyclone/hurricane, tidal wave	1935-1938

12	8	Westport downtown, early days	1900s-1940s
12	9	Misc. clippings	1940s
12	10	Misc. clippings	1953-1959
12	11	Misc. clippings	1959-2013
12	12	<i>Town Crier</i>	1961-1969
12	13	"Yester year" – photos of old Westport in <i>Westport News</i>	1964
12	14	Misc. clippings	1965
12	15	<i>Westport News</i>	1970-1975
12	16	<i>Westport News, NY Times, Bridgeport Sunday Post</i>	1971-1978
13	1	<i>Westport News</i>	1984-1999
13	2	<i>Westport News, Westport Minuteman</i>	1999
13	3	Misc. clippings	2000-2004
13	4	Misc. clippings	2001-2013