

**GENEALOGY/BIOGRAPHY**  
**General Nathaniel P. Banks Collection**

**Scope and Content**

The items in this collection include: photographs of the Banks family; a genealogy of the family; clippings; brochures and other items celebrating the Centennial of General Banks birth; a brochure celebrating the dedication of his statue; correspondence from and relating to Banks; typed manuscripts and books of Banks speeches; biographies and histories about Banks and his career; monographs from the personal library of Nathaniel Banks.

This collection demonstrates Banks strong political and military career. (His early biography is found in the Waltham Authors Record Group in W.M Thayers's *The Bobbin Boy; or, How Nat Got His Learning. An Example For Youth*, 1899.) Brochures including brief looks at his life were put out to celebrate his birthday and to dedicate a statue to him on Waltham Common. Books about his campaigns as Major General in the Union army describe his military life. However, the majority of the materials in this collection shed light on Banks career as Governor of Massachusetts. There is little in this collection about his career in the United States House of Representatives.

Noteworthy here are the bound Addresses of Banks which primarily include his years as Governor. Though this does not seem to represent all of the orations delivered by Banks, those found in the two bound volumes are from his personal collection and may represent some of the speeches most important to him. Among these addresses are speeches about citizens rights, the conditions in southern states and western territories, and general addresses to the House of Representatives and Senate in Massachusetts. From his days as Speaker of the House, a volume with the published Rules and Orders of the Speaker and Banks handwritten notes is another interesting item housed here. Finally, the photographs in this collection are noteworthy because they include images of the whole Banks family and of the Banks Estate.

**Arrangement**

The collection is housed in two boxes. The first box contains documents relating to Banks and are arranged alphabetically by subject category with clippings at the end. The second box contains Monographs relating to Banks. Unboxed materials include the books from Banks' private library. These materials are from the original Waltham Public Library archival collection located in the basement of the old building and were moved to the new Waltham Room in October of 1994.

**Biographical Note**

General Nathaniel Prentiss Banks served in the United States Congress (1853-1857) and as Governor of Massachusetts (1858-1860). He is one of two Governors of this state from Waltham (The first Waltham resident to serve as Governor was Christopher Gore.). Banks was born January 30, 1816 and died September, 1894. Before rising to political fame, he was a bobbin boy at the Boston Manufacturing company. He was largely self educated. A member of the bar, he was elected to the General Court November 15, 1848. Banks served as Speaker of the House of Representatives for the United States from 1856-57. He strongly campaigned against slavery while serving in this position. He resigned in 1858 to become Massachusetts Governor. In 1861 he moved to Illinois to direct the Central railroad and then volunteered to serve President Lincoln in the Civil War in 1862. He was appointed Major General of Volunteers and had great success in several campaigns.

**BOX AND FOLDER LIST**  
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| <u>Box</u>        | <u>Folder</u>   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>Documents</b>  |   |
| <b>1</b>          | Correspondence -<br>to Gardener Brewer from NP Banks, Feb. 29, 1861 (typed copy)<br>to General Swift from Mary P. Banks   |
|                   | Centennial -<br><u>Celebration of the Centennial of the Birth of General Nathaniel Prentice Banks, January 30, 1916</u><br>Program brochures (2 copies)<br>Newsclippings  |
|                   | Genealogy -<br>typed genealogy<br>Correspondence from Elizabeth Castner re: Banks and family<br>Newsclippings (obituaries)<br>typed genealogy (Acq.# 2002-02)   |
|                   | Government related documents - (see also box 2 for bound documents)<br><i>Revision of the Tariff: Speech of Hon. Nathaniel P. Banks of MA in House of Representatives, May 7, 1878</i> (published manuscript)<br>Commencement Exercises, Harvard University, 1859 (in Latin)<br>Address delivered by Governor Banks, 1859 (news copy)<br>Proclamation for a Day of Public Fasting, Humiliation and Prayer, March 9, 1860<br><i>Eulogy Memorial of President Garfield, 1881</i> (photocopy of typed manuscript)  |
|                   | Photographs (2 folders) (see photo index for more info.)<br>Clippings   |
| <b>Monographs</b> |   |
| <b>2</b>          | Addresses -<br><i>Address of His Excellency Nathaniel P. Banks to the Two Branches of the Legislature of Massachusetts, no. 1, January 7, 1858; and Jan. 6, 1859; and May 30, 1860.</i><br>Bound Speeches vol. 1 - (from the Banks' library)<br><i>An Oration Delivered Before the Neptune and Boyden Fire Companies and the Citizens of Waltham, July 4, 1842.</i><br><i>Col. Conwell's Address on General N. P. Banks Delivered before the Aurora Club of Boston, September 4, 1874.</i><br><i>Address of Governor Banks to the Officers and Soldiers of the Third Division W. V. M. at Camp Wool Springfield, September 22, 1858.</i><br><i>Address of His Excellency Nathaniel P. Banks to the Two Branches of the Legislature of Massachusetts, January 7, 1858.</i> |

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| <b>2 (cont.)</b> | Addresses (cont.) -<br>Bound Speeches vol. 1 (cont.) -<br><i>Address of His Excellency Nathaniel P. Banks to the Council of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts</i> , January 11, 1859.<br><i>Special Message of His Excellency Nathaniel P. Banks, Governor, Relating to the Award of the Commissioners on the Back Bay and Public Garden with Accompanying Documents</i> , October 3, 1859.<br>House Address no. 277, September 7, 1859<br><i>An Address Delivered at the Laying of the Cornerstone of the National Monument to the Forefathers at Plymouth, MA</i> , August 2, 1859.<br><i>The Reconstruction of States - Letter of Major-General Banks to Senator Lane</i> , 1865.<br><i>Observations on the Present Condition of Louisiana, ND Emancipated Labor in Louisiana</i> , October 30, 1864.<br><i>Speech of Mr. Banks, of Massachusetts on the Nebraska and Kansas Bill Delivered in the House of Representatives</i> , May 23, 1854.<br>House Address no. 13, January 13, 1859.<br>Senate Address no. 115, March 19, 1860<br><i>Rights of American Citizens delivered before the House of Representatives</i> , January 27, 1868<br><i>Neutral Relations delivered before the House of Representatives</i> , July 25, 1866.<br><i>Rights of American Citizens Abroad: Speech of Hon. Nathaniel P. Banks of Massachusetts in the Hosue of Representatives</i> , March 10, 1868.<br><i>Hawaiian Treaty Speech of Hon. N. P. Banks of Massachusetts in the House of Representatives</i> , April 10, 1876.<br><i>Centennial Celebration of American Independence Speech of Hon. Nathaniel P. Banks of Massachusetts in the House of Representatives</i> , January 20, 1876.<br>Bound Speeches vol. 2 -<br><i>An Oration Delivered Before the Neptune and Boyden Fire Companies</i> , July 4, 1842.<br><i>Observations on the Present Condition of Louisiana, ND Speech of N. P. Banks Jr. of Mass. on the Employment of Army Officers in National Armory</i> , July 17, 1854.<br><i>Address of Governor Banks to the Officers and Soldiers of the Third Division, M. V. W....</i> , September 22, 1858.<br><i>Address of His Excellency Nathaniel P. Banks to the Council of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts</i> , January 11, 1859.<br><i>An Address Delivered at the Laying of the Cornerstone of the National Monument....</i> , August 2, 1859. |

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| <b>2 (cont.)</b> | Addresses (cont.) -<br>Bound Speeches vol. 2 (cont.) -<br><i>Address of His Excellency Nathaniel P. Banks to the Two Branches of the Legislature of Massachusetts</i> , January 6, 1860.<br>Senate Address no. 115, March 19, 1860<br>House Address no. 13, January 13, 1859.<br>House Address no. 277, September 7, 1859<br><i>Speech of Hon. N. P. Banks of Massachusetts upon the Representation of the United States at the Exhibition of the World's Industry, Paris, 1867, Delivered in the House of Representatives</i> , March 14, 1866.<br><i>Rights of American Citizens in Foreign States</i> Speech of Hon. N. P. Banks of Massachusetts..., April 20, 1868.<br><i>Neutral Relations...</i> , July 25, 1866.<br><i>Rights of American Citizens...</i> , January 27, 1868.<br><i>An Address Delivered by Major-General N. P. Banks at the Custom House, New Orleans on the fourth of July, 1865.</i> (2 copies)<br><i>Political Condition of south Carolina Report of N. P. Banks A Member of the Minority on the Committee of Investigation</i> ,<br>February 28, 1877.<br><br>Biographies and Histories -<br>Flinn, Frank M. <u>Campaigning with Banks in Louisiana, 1863 and 1864 and with Sheridan in the Shenandoah Valley in 1864 and</u><br><u>1865, 1887</u><br>(2 copies)<br>Harrington, Fred Harvey. <u>Fighting Politician Major General N. P. Banks</u> , 1948.<br><br>Dedications -<br><u>A Record of the Dedication of the Statue of Major General Nathaniel Prentiss Banks</u> , September 16, 1908<br><br>Speaker of the House - handwritten notes and published Rules and Orders of the House with Speaker's Duties listed<br><br>Unboxed Books from Banks' private Library -<br>(Lieutenant Governor) <u>Eliphalet and Ruby Squier Trask Memoria</u> , 1890<br><u>Adjutant General's Report</u> , 1876<br><u>Annals of the Massachusetts Charitable Mechanic Association</u><br><u>Boston Municipal Register</u> , 1890 |

Census of Massachusetts, 1875  
Fitchburg City Documents, 1874  
Industry of Massachusetts, 1855  
Massachusetts and Its Early History, 1869  
Massachusetts Convention, 1820