

WALTHAM GOVERNMENT Executive Department Records

Scope and Content

This series contains the outgoing correspondence of the Executive Department of the City of Waltham, 1907-1910 and Records of the Mayors Official Acts, 1897-1914.

The Executive Department outgoing Correspondence covers the end of the administration of John Le Grande Harvey (served 1904-1908; records of July 1907-1908 are housed here), and most of the administration of Edward A. Walker (served 1908-1911; records of 1907-1910 are housed here.) The Mayors' correspondence includes letters to the Board of Alderman and other City departments, letters to the people of Waltham responding to their concerns about the city, and letters to leaders of other Cities. Letters regarding permits, invitations, engineering and construction dominate this series.

Noteworthy in this series is a letter from July 1908 regarding the Francis Buttrick bequest. This bequest led to the building of the Waltham Public Library in 1917. Correspondence regarding the Citizens Relief Committee for the benefit of Chelsea sufferers shows the role Waltham played in helping Chelsea after its great fire in 1908.

This series is especially interesting because it comes from a period of transition in Waltham. In 1908 the Mayor authorized the selling of city owned horses used for transportation by the police, fire and other departments. Meanwhile, he also set speed limits for automobiles. Also interesting are many letters addressed to the Superintendent of Moths. These letters show the importance of this department to the farmers in agricultural Waltham. This was also a time when the Government could give personal attention to individuals. This is emphasized in a letter dated January 23, 1908 that describes the Mayor helping a woman find a lost family member.

The ledgers of the Mayor's Official Acts include records of all the Mayor's official duties. This includes; appropriations and orders, filing of bonds, official communication, appointments and nominations for city posts, granting of certain licenses and permits, and other official duties. Noteworthy among these ledgers is information about the death and burial of General Nathaniel P. Banks. The Mayor ordered flags of the city at half-mast. The September 4, 1897 entry gives a brief, but beautiful description of the funeral.

Melissa Mannon
March 12, 1997

BOX AND FOLDER LIST
WALTHAM GOVERNMENT
Executive Department Records

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>
1	Outgoing Correspondence 1907 Index Jan-Dec 1907 Outgoing Correspondence 1908 Index January 1908 (2 folders) Feb-Aug 1908
2	Outgoing Correspondence Sept-Dec 1908 1909 Index Jan-Dec 1909 1910 Index Jan-Dec 1910
3	Mayors List of mayors Serving Waltham, 1885-2000 Newsclipping- "City Mayors from Johnson to Gately" Johnson, 1884- Bond, 1896 Leonard Duane- General Correspondence (2 folders) Kerns, 1914- Beal MacDonald, 1933-36 Hansen, 1937-1942 Rhodes, - 1965 Dacey, 1966- Clark, 1969-1985 Stanley, 1986-1999 Gately, 2000- 2003 McCarthy, 2004-

Flat Box

	Mayors
1	1894-95- Record of Mayors Official Acts- Ledgers
2	1897-98 1899-1900
3	1901-03 1904-06
4	1907-08 1909-10
5	1911-12 1913-14
6	Town Treasurer's Records 1809-39
7	Ledger- Treasury Department- total daily receipts, 1915-18