

Guide to the Westport Schools Collection

Collection Overview:

REPOSITORY: Westport Historical Society, 25 Avery Place, Westport, CT

CALL NUMBER: RG 20

TITLE: Westport Schools Collection

DATES: 1797-2016

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 3.75 linear feet (9 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: This collection documents the history of schools and education in Westport, Connecticut.

HISTORICAL NOTE: The Town of Westport was officially incorporated on May 28, 1835, but the area was settled by colonists as early as the late 17th century and schools existed from the 18th century. Westport currently has eight public schools: one high school (Staples High School), two middle schools (Bedford and Coleytown) and five elementary schools. Private schools that have existed in the town include Adams Academy, which was operated by Ebenezer Adams from 1837 to 1867. For more detailed history about schools and education in Westport, see documents in Series I.

SCOPE AND CONTENT: The development and history of schools in Westport, both private and public, is documented from the late 18th century onwards. Series I contains material related to education and schools in general in the town, arranged chronologically. Series 2 is organized alphabetically by the names of specific schools. For additional documentation related to the Adams Academy, see Record Group 9, Adams Family Papers.

ARRANGEMENT

Series 1: General

Series 2: Related to Specific Schools

Series 1: General

Reports and records: Westport and region

Box	Folder		Date
1	1	Record of contributions of firewood by individuals for school started in southern district, Weston	1798
1	2	Reports of School Fund of Connecticut to General Assembly	1819
1	3	Record book of West School District of Westport	1838
1	4	Reports of Treasurer of West Saugatuck School District	1860, 1865
1	5	Memo to teachers in Westport Union School	1872
1	6	Record book of West Saugatuck School District	1873-1894
1	7	Treasurer's account book, Compo School District	1885-1899

1	8	Annual reports of the Board of School Visitors	1877, 1886, 1888
1	9	Copies of Teacher's Certificate for the town of Westport	1888, 1894
1	9	School record of William Clinton Welch	1898-1912
1	9	List of private schools in Westport, with teacher names	n.d.
1	10	Pamphlet: "Course of Study of the Elementary Schools of Westport" and miscellaneous notes re. curriculum	1909, n.d.
1	11	Report of Westport School Study Council	1947
1	12	Report of Social Studies Summer Curriculum Workshop – Grade 2	1959
1	13	Minutes of Board of Education	1962 May 7
1	14	Report: "Immediate and Long-Range School Building Program"	1964
1	15	Report on new elementary school districts after closing of Bedford Elementary School	1974
1	16	Pamphlet: "Focus on Westport Schools"- prepared by League of Women Voters	1980
1	17	Preliminary design study for Westport schools additions	1991

Financial records:

1	18a	School Districts Real Estate Assessments	1858-1876
1	18b	School Districts Real Estate Assessments	1877
1	19	School Districts Real Estate Assessments	1878-1895
1	20	Compo School District Abstract	1887-1888, n.d.
1	20	Grand list of 10 School Districts	n.d.

Histories, notes, and clippings:

2	1	Typescript history of Westport schools – 43 pp.	n.d.
2	2	Handwritten histories: E.C. Birge, "The Hut" – re. Long Lots School (7 pp); unidentified author (8 pp)	1924, n.d.
2	3	Notes	
2	4	Newspaper clippings and articles	

Photographs:

2	5	Unidentified class groups and teachers	
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Series 2: Related to Specific Schools

Adams Academy – see also Record Group 9, Adams Family Papers

2	6	Narrative histories of Adams Academy, including by Joan L. Ross	1961, n.d.
2	7	Information re. painting of the Academy by artist John Ludlow Morton	
2	8	Newspaper clippings and notes	

2	9	Correspondence with Westport Historical Society	1965-1987
2	10	Clippings and articles re. restoration of Adams Academy	1958-1961
2	11	Clippings and articles re. restoration of Adams Academy	1961-1977
2	12	Letters and reports re. restoration	1958-1964, 1983
2	13	Flyer re. restoration effort; land survey	
2	14	Notebook listing contributors to restoration	1962

Bedford Elementary School

3	1	Notice re. building of Bedford School	1916
3	1	PTA meeting notebook	1923-1929
3	2	PTA minutes and records	1935-1937, n.d.
3	3	PTA correspondence and records	1951-1966
3	4	PTA Parents' Handbook	1965-1970
3	5	PTA Parents' Handbook	1971-1974, n.d.
3	6	"Bedford Buzz" – PTA newsletter	1962-1967
3	7	"Bedford Buzz" – PTA newsletter	1969-1974, n.d.
3	8	Program from school theater event	1931
3	8	"The Inky Press" – student literary publication	1973, 1974
3	9	Clippings re. school	1956-1979
3	10	Photo of teachers and school staff	n.d.

Bedford Junior High School

3	11	Yearbooks	1955, 1956, 1957
3	12	Yearbooks	1974, 1976
4	1	Student literary magazines and event programs	1932, 1935, 1976, n.d.
4	2	Parent handbooks and memos	1975-1976
4	3	Clippings	1951-1993, n.d.

Mrs. Bolton's School

4	7	Programs for plays	1933, 1935
4	7	Photo from Shakespeare play	1932
4	7	Clipping	

Bridge Street School – see also Record Group 9, Adams Family Papers – Dorothy Adams

4	4	Related to curriculum and testing	1929-1930s
4	5	Teacher roll and marking books (belonging to Dorothy Adams?)	1929-1930s

4	6	Student composition book and "Language Creed and Pledge"	
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Burr Farms School

4	8	PTA newsletter	1966
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Coleytown Elementary School

4	9	History as told by Carrie Bradley	
4	10	Dedication	1953
4	11	Memo re. history of school	
4	12	Yearbooks	1968, 1970, [1972]

Compo Seminary for Young Ladies

4	13	Prospectus	n.d.
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Mrs. Gray's School

4	14	Program from entertainment event	1872
4	14	Program from school reunion	1883
4	15	Student essays	

Green's Farms Academy

Ebenezer Adams sold Adams Academy to Green's Farms Academy Association in 1868; the school foreclosed in 1882.

4	16	Prospectus	n.d.
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Green's Farms School

4	17	Early financial record: "dividend of school money due"	1797
4	18	Notices of annual meetings of Green's Farms School District	1893, 1894, 1895
4	18	Treasurer's report	1895
4	19	Notices of annual meeting and special meeting	1898
5	1	Newspaper clippings – "Beginners" – Alba Allard Collection	1945
5	2	Newspaper clippings – incl. re. school closing	1950s-1983
5	3	Newspaper clippings	1965
5	4	6 th Grade Scrapbook – Alba Allard Collection	1974-1981
5	5	6 th Grade Scrapbook – photos – Alba Allard Collection	1970s

5	6	6 th Grade Scrapbook – photos – Alba Allard Collection	1975-1980
5	7	6 th Grade Memory Books – Alba Allard Collection	1975-1980
5	8	School alumni party	1995
6	1	Helen Weinstein (teacher) papers	1958-1967, n.d.
6	2	Event and play programs, photos, notices	1935-1940
6	3	PTA Cookbook	1962
6	4	Article: “The Evolution of Greens Farms School” by Bob Weingarten, from <i>Greens Farms Living</i>	2016

Hillspoint School

6	5	Parent Bulletin and Hillspoint Newsletter from time of closing of school	1980
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Kings Highway School

6	6	Letter containing school facts	1980
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Saugatuck School

6	7	Dedication and renovation of school	1931, 1953
6	8	Miscellaneous correspondence and notes, incl. to Dorothy R. Adams, Principal	1932-1952
6	9	Documentation of Junior Red Cross program at school	1931-1932
6	10	Documentation of Junior Red Cross program at school	1933-1936
6	11	<i>Junior Red Cross News</i> – magazine issues	1922, 1931, 1935
6	12	School plays and event programs	1932-1958, n.d.
6	13	Student essays on Connecticut history	n.d.
6	14	Unidentified notebook	
6	14	“Milestones of Saugatuck” – student publication; “Saugatuck Crier”	1935-1936, n.d.
6	15	PTA newsletters	1964-1977, n.d.
6	16	Related to mural in school by Robert L. Lambdin	1935
6	17	Newspaper clippings and re. scholarship fund honoring Dorothy R. Adams	1945-1956, n.d.
6	18	Postcard and drawings of school	n.d.
6	19	Photographs of school building	1931, n.d.
6	20	Class photos and activities	1928, n.d.
6	21	Photo of teachers and Principal Dorothy Adams	n.d.

Select School for Boys

7	1	Prospectus, Rev. J.E. Coley, Principal	1881
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Shercrow District School House

7	2	Notes re. school house	1985
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Staples High School

7	3	Contents of school cornerstone	1884
7	4	Contents of school cornerstone	1884
7	5	Reports (photocopies)	1886-1887
7	6	Prospectus	1890
7	6	Graduation essay by Edith Wakeman	1892
7	6	Founders Day address by William J. Jennings (d. 1894)	n.d.
7	7	Salutary Address by Thomas D. Adams	1896
7	7	Financial document	1900
7	7	Program of study	1903-1904
7	7	Founder's Day program	1904
7	8	Documents re. sale of land	1924
7	8	Poster for basketball game	1933
7	9	Address and published letter by Connecticut Governor Wilbur Cross, who was the second Principal of SHS (1885-1886)	1938, n.d.
7	10	Re. school building and renovations	1946-1981
7	11	John F. Kennedy Memorial at SHS	1964
7	12	Miscellaneous notes re. history and list of graduates 1887-1977	n.d.
7	13	Documents re. centennial of SHS	1984
7	14	Commencement exercises and receptions programs and invitations	1884-1968
7	15	Reunion, Class of 1977	
7	16	Compiled newspaper clippings (photocopies)	1890s-1917
7	17	Diploma and pin	
7	18	Miscellaneous photos	ca. 1890s-1982
8	1	Miscellaneous newspaper clippings	
8	2	Publications: "The Bugle" (1898), "Student News" (1924-1925)	
8	3	Publication: "Inklings"	1932-1963
8	4	Publication: "Soundings – the best of Twenty Years"	1947-1966
8	5	Programs and notices of theatrical and music events	1888-1976, n.d.
8	6	Re. Masque & Wig Club productions	1949-1951
8	7	Re. Masque & Wig Club productions	1949-1951
8	8	Staples Players	ca. 1983, 1991
8	9	SHS Yearbooks	1911, 1912
8	10	SHS Yearbook	1924
8	11	SHS Yearbooks	1935, 1943

9		SHS Yearbooks	1971, 1987, 1998, 2010
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