

Inventory to the Records of the Great Brook Manufacturing Company (1856-1911)

Finding aid modified by Stephanie Crawford on April 2020

Descriptive Summary:

Creator: Great Brook Manufacturing Company

Variant Creator: Great Brook Reservoir Association

Title: Great Brook Manufacturing Company Records

Dates: 1856-1911

Collection Number: M-3

Quantity: .66 cubic feet (2 manuscript boxes)

Abstract: This collection documents the founding of the collective which served the purpose of building and maintaining a dam and reservoir in Great Brook at Buck's Hill.

Language: English.

Repository: The Max R. Traurig Library and Archive, Mattatuck Museum. Advance notice required.

Biographical Note:

The Great Brook Reservoir Association was formed in 1856 in order to share the expense of building and maintaining a dam and reservoir in Great Brook at Buck's Hill.

Original Members included Waterbury Knitting Co., Waterbury Mfg. Co., W. R. Hitchcock & Co., William Perkins, and L. A. Perkins & Co. Members in 1900 (and for

the period covered by the bulk of these papers) included Great Brook Mfg. Co. (H. S. Chase, W. B. Brooks); Waterbury Mfg. Co. (F. S. Chase); Matthews & Williard (R. F. Griggs); Platt Brothers (L. A. Platt); and Waterbury Clock (H. L. Wade, I. H. Chase).

In 1900, the Association practically ceased to function. The new dams (1900 and 1910) were constructed by the Great Brook Manufacturing Company and financed by a collection from the members of the Association. Although they contributed toward the construction and maintenance, the members apparently ceased to have meetings or function as an association after 1900.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection is divided into two series. The first series is composed of the records of Great Brook Reservoir Association spanning from 1856-1900. These papers deal with the Association in the period when it still functioned as a whole. They are subdivided into three categories:

- A. Internal business and finances (Minutes of meetings, bankbooks, etc.)
- B. Correspondence, legal and real estate business. (When the reservoir wanted to expand, it encountered legal difficulties in obtaining rights-of-way, flooding land land it did not own, etc.)
- C. Bills, (A small number, filed chronologically, and alphabetically within each year)

The second series is composed of the Great Brook Manufacturing Company spanning from 1900-03 and 1909-1911. These records document the first and second new dams respectively. They are subdivided into three categories:

- A. Paper with no apparent connection to the dam (one folder only).
- B. Paper re: construction of dam, 1900-03. (Surveys, specifications, legal papers, correspondence, bills, etc. Includes transactions between Great Brook Mfg. Co. and Reservoir Association companies, mostly to reimburse the former for

dam expenses. Many of the letters are from property holders around the reservoir who would be affected by the new dam.)

- C. Construction of the dam from 1909-1911. (Minutes of meetings, bills, correspondence, etc.) Construction again handled by Great Brook Mfg. Co., which was presumably again reimbursed by Reservoir Association members.
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Administrative History:

Processing Note: In 2020, the archivist for the Mattatuck converted the original finding aid to a more contemporary finding aid.

Preferred Citation: Records of the Great Brook Manufacturing Company. M3.
The Max R. Traurig Library and Archive, Mattatuck Museum.

Container List: This section provides descriptions of the materials found within each series. Each series description is followed by a container list, which gives the titles of the folders and their locations in the numbered boxes that comprise this collection.

Series: Great Brook Reservoir Association, 1856-1900

Arrangement: By type, within each type chronological.

Summary: Box 1 Folders A - F is Internal business and finances; Box 1 Folders G-W is Correspondence and reservoir real estate business. Great Brook Reservoir Association is abbreviated to GBRA.

Box Folder

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|---|---|--|
| 1 | A | GBRA Record book (minutes of meetings), 1856-1900 |
| | B | Typed copies of papers re: early organization, 1856 |
| | C | “Statement of title to Great Brook Reservoir on Bucks Hill,” circa 1856-60 |
| | D | Secretary and Treasurer report, 1857 |

Box Folder

1	E	Check book, 1891-1900
	F	Bank Book, 1891-98
	G	GBRA vs. Town of Waterbury (re: roads & bridges), 1876 Lawyer's notes and petition
	H	GBRA Letters-D. F. Maltby to I. H. Chase, 1887, 1889
	I	Agreements and letter re: ice privileges, 1889
	J	Letters, 1896
	K	Copies of old surveys, deeds from 1718-1850. Compiled by B. F. Howland, 1896
	L	Copies of old surveys and deeds, 1770-1813)
	M	"Records used for Patton's map," compiled in 1896
	N	"Statement of Deeds used in plotting lines upon the map of Great Brook Reservoir, " circa 1896
	O	Letters, 1897
	P	Letters, 1898
	Q	Letters, 1899
	R	Report on raiding Great Brook Reservoir dam, 1899
	S	Bills, 1857-60
	T	Bills, 1862-70
	U	Bills, 1871-75
	V	Bills, 1876-84
	W	Bills, 1886-98

Series: Great Brook Manufacturing Company, 1900-1903 and 1909-1911

Arrangement: By type, within each type chronological.

Summary: Box 1 folders Y through HH and Box 2 Folder A through J detail the construction of Dam, 1900-1903. Box 2 folders K-X contain papers regarding building of new dam, 1909-1911

Box	Folder		
1	X	"First inventory and statement," 1901	
	Y	Settlement between GBRA and W. B. Brooks of Brooks Manufacturing Company, circa 1901	
	Z	Specification for dam, 1901	
	AA	Surveys of land around reservoir, 1901	
	BB	Specifications for repairs on roads around reservoir, circa 1903	
	CC	Memo re: land around reservoir, circa 1903	
	DD	Letters (A - B), 1900-03	
	EE	Letters (Ca - Chase), 1900-03	
	FF	Letters (Chase), 1900-03	
	GG	Letters (Chase Rolling Mills), 1900-03	
	HH	Letters (Lathrop & Shea) includes papers re: legal action, circa 1900-1903	
	2	A	Letters (Le-P), 1900-03
		B	Letters (R-Z), 1900-1903
C		Labels from Letter Box, 1900-03	
D		Cancelled checks, Mar. 1900-Jan. 1902	
E		Paper re: settlement of John Gloster negligence claim vs. G. B. Mfg. Co. (June-Aug. 1901) clipping re: claim against F. Miller & Co. saved as reference ?), saved July 1901	
F		Payroll for dam work, July-Aug. 1901	
G		Bills (A - G), 1900-03	
H		Bills (H - L), 1900-03	
I		Bills (M - V), 1900-03	
J		Bills (W - Z), 1900-03	
K		Original wrappers, labels of papers, 1909-11	
L		Minutes of directors' meeting, November 1901	
M		Letters, December 1909	
N		Letters, February-August 1910	
O		Letters, December 1910-February 1911	
P		Letters, November-December 1911	

Box Folder

- 2 Q Bills (A - Ca), 1909-1911
- R Bills (Chase Rolling Mill Co.), 1909-1911
- S Bills (Chatfield Hamilton), 1909-1911
- T Bills (Hotchkiss & Templeton), 1909-1911
- U Bills (Housatonic - R), 1909-1911
- V Bills (S - Waterbury), 1909-1911
- W Bills (Waterbury Mfg. Co. - Z), 1909-1911
- X Adding machine tapes found with bills, circa 1910