

**Acton, Massachusetts:
Guide to Local History,
Genealogy,
and other Local Materials
in the Acton Memorial Library**

**Compiled by the Reference Department,
Acton Memorial Library
revised February 2005**

Note: In cases where the library owns more than one copy of an item, only one call number is listed. Check the library's catalog for additional holdings.

General information on Acton today

- Acton, Know Your Town.* League of Women Voters of Acton-Stow, 2000. (Act Coll/974.44/A188)
- Acton, Middlesex County: A Community Profile.* Executive Office of Communities and Development. (Ref/974.44/A188). (<http://www.state.ma.us/dhcd/iprofile/002.htm>).
- Annual Reports, Town of Acton, Massachusetts.* 1862-present, bound. (Act Coll/974.44/A188)
- Census of Population and Housing, Acton Town.* State Data Center, Mass. Institute for Social and Economic Research. (Ref/317.34/C396) (see also: <http://factfinder.census.gov>)
- Commonwealth Communities, Town of Acton.* (<http://www.state.ma.us/cc/acton.html>)
- Massachusetts Municipal Profiles.* Information Publications, [annual]. (Ref/352.008/M414)
- Master Plan.* Acton Planning Council, 1991. *Master Plan Update,* Acton Planning Board, 1998. (Ref/974.44/A188)
- Municipal Quarterly.* [Town of Acton newsletter]. October 1993-present. (Ref/974.44/A188)
- Official Acton Massachusetts Home Page* (<http://www.town.acton.ma.us>)

Town histories

1835. *A History of the Town of Concord, Middlesex County, Massachusetts: From its Earliest Settlement to 1832; and of the Adjoining Towns, Bedford, Acton....* By Lemuel Shattuck. Boston: Russell, Odiorne, and Company; Concord: John Stacy, 1835. (Geneal Coll/974.44/C744s). (Index under separate cover).
1880. "Acton," by Franklin P. Wood. In *History of Middlesex County, Containing Carefully Prepared Histories of Every City and Town in the County...* By Samuel Adams Drake. Estes and Lavriat, 1880. 2 vols. Volume 1, p. 196-207. (Geneal Coll/974.44/M627d)
1890. *Acton in History.* By James Fletcher. J.W. Lewis and Co., 1890. (Act Coll/974.44/A188). Also in *History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts, with Biographical Sketches of Many of Its Pioneers and Prominent Men.* Comp. by D. Hamilton Hurd. 3 vols. J.W. Lewis & Co., 1890. Vol. 1, pp. 238-305. (Geneal Coll/974.44/M627h). See also *Index to Fletcher's Acton in History*, compiled by Hayward Houghton. (Geneal Coll/974.44/A188).
1954. *History of the Town of Acton.* By Harold R. Phalen. Cambridge, MA: Middlesex Printing, Inc., 1954. (Ref/974.44/A188)
1974. *A Brief History of Acton.* Acton Historical Society, 1974. (Ref/974.44/A188)

1994. *The Clerk's Book of The Concord Village Proprietors. Presentation to the Acton Historical Society.* By Isabella V. Choate & Elizabeth S. Conant. (Geneal Coll/974.44/A188)
1998. Choate, Isabella V. and Elizabeth S. Conant. *The other Robbins papers: a presentation to the Acton Historical Society concerning the 18th & 19th century papers donated to the Society by Joyce Robbins, May 16, 1998.* Acton Historical Society, 1998. (Geneal Coll/974.44/A188)

Annual town reports

Annual Reports, Town of Acton, Massachusetts. 1862-present, bound. (Ref/974.44/A188)

Earlier town records (1735-) on microfilm and online (www.actonmemoriallibrary.org) (Ref/MF cabinet).

Assessors lists see under Directories

Business lists

List of Businesses in the Town of Acton. Acton Town Clerk. Library has 1984, 1985, 1992, 1994, 1997, 1998, (Ref/974.44/A188).

Note: The Town Clerk's database includes active as well as inactive businesses back to mid-1980s.

Bylaws

Bylaws of the Town of Acton. Current edition. (Ref/974.44/A188) Also 1971, 1972, 1981, 1984, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005.. (Storage Ref/974.44/A188)

Zoning Bylaw, Town of Acton. Current edition. (Ref/974.44/A188) Also 1972, 1981 (Storage Ref/974.44/A188)

See also in the annual town reports: proposed bylaws 1921, 1926; proposed zoning bylaw 1937; zoning and building bylaws 1946; zoning bylaw 1947; amendments to town bylaws 1950; proposed zoning map 1951; building code 1970; zoning bylaw 1977; zoning bylaw 1984.

Cemetery

Forest Cemetery, North Acton, Massachusetts: Transcriptions, Photographs, Maps. By May Shepard, 1991. (Geneal Coll/929.3/S547)

Cemeteries of Acton: Speech Given at a Meeting of the Acton Historical Society. (sound recording). By Fred Kennedy. (Oral History Coll/9)

See also History Scrapbooks.

List of non-resident burials included in some Annual Reports.

Acton Historical Society has inscriptions and photographs of markers in the Revolutionary section of Woodlawn Cemetery.

Census and census indexes (listed by date of census)

Access to federal census schedules and indexes are available from the library via commercial database subscriptions.

- 1790. *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790, Massachusetts*. Genealogical Publ. Co., 1973. (Geneal Coll/317.34/U58)
- 1800. *Index to the 1800 Census of Massachusetts*. By Elizabeth Petty Bentley. Genealogical Publishing, 1978. (Geneal Coll/317.34/B477)
- 1800. *Massachusetts 1800 Census: Computer Index*. Accelerated Index Systems, 1973. (Geneal Coll/317.34/M414)
- 1830. *Massachusetts 1830 Census Index*. Accelerated Index Systems, 1976. (Geneal Coll/317.34/J13)
- 1850. Population schedules of the seventh census of the United States, 1850: Massachusetts, Middlesex County. (Ref/MF cabinet).
- 1850. Massachusetts, 1850 Census Microfilm Records (Family Tree Maker CD-ROM).
- 1855, 1858 Acton Census on microfilm reel 24. (Ref/MF cabinet). By house number only—no name index..
- 1855 and 1865 Massachusetts State Censuses for Acton*. Compiled by Ann S. Lainhart. (Geneal Coll/317.44/L187)
- 1870. Census Index: Massachusetts, 1870. (Family Tree Maker CD-ROM)
- 1900. Census Index: New England, 1900 (Family Tree Maker CD-ROM)
- 1910. 1910 Massachusetts U.S. Federal Census Index.. (Heritage Quest CD-ROM)

For Town Census see under “Street Lists” in this guide.

Census statistics

- Pre-1790 *American Population Before the Federal Census of 1790*. Evarts B. Greene and Virginia D. Harrington. Reprint of 1932 edition. Genealogical Publishing Company, 2004. See pages 25, 33 and 41 for Acton statistics. (Ref 317.3 G799)
- 1790. *A Century of Population Growth, 1790-1900*. Genealogical Publishing, 1989 (reprint of 1909 edition). Includes some information from population enumerations by town prior to 1790. (Ref/317.3/U58)
- 1870- For historical Massachusetts economic statistics, see: *Their Lives and Numbers: The Condition of Working People in Massachusetts, 1870-1900* (Cornell U Press, 1995). (Ref/331.09/T377)

1875. *The Census of Massachusetts, 1875*. Mass. Bureau of Labor Statistics. A.J. Wright, 1876-77. (Geneal Coll/317.44/M484)
1965. *Decennial Census*. Commonwealth of Massachusetts. (Ref/317.44/M414) Library has 1965, 1975, 1985. (The 1965 census includes a table with population of cities and towns at each census since 1935.)
- 1980- Federal decennial census statistics for Massachusetts in Reference. (Ref/317.3/C390).
- 1988-2000 *Town of Acton Demographic Summary*. Town Clerk's Office. Town of Acton, 1988-2000. (Not produced after 2000). (Ref/974.44/A188)
- 1990 and 2000 statistics available on U.S. Census Bureau web site (<http://www.census.gov>) and (<http://factfinder.census.gov>)

Charter

Charter of the Town of Acton. The Town, 1998. (Act Coll/974.44/A188)

Churches and church records

A Brief History of the Acton Congregational Church, 1735-1982. The Church, 1982. (Ref/974.44/A188).

Division in Early Nineteenth Century Massachusetts Congregationalism: A Study of the Church in the Town of Acton. By James L. Parker. 1965. (Acton Coll/974.44/A188)

“Parish records, 1738-1860” on microfilm reel 10. (Ref/MF cabinet). Typed list of contents available at the Reference Desk.

“Records of the Evangelical Society of Acton, 1832-1910; 1832-1932” on microfilm reel 25. (Ref/MF cabinet)

See also history scrapbooks.

Conservation and recreation

See “Natural Resources” in this guide

Directories with names (see also Census, Probate Records)

Assessors' lists

1771. *Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771*. Edited by Bettye Hobbs Pruitt. Picton Press, 1998. See pp. 164- for Acton. (Geneal Coll/974.4/M414).
- 1850-. *Assessors' Report of the Polls, Valuation and Taxes of the Town of Acton, Massachusetts*. 1850, 1875, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1926, 1966 in Genealogy Collection. (Geneal Coll/974.44/A188). 1850, 1872, 1890, 1900, 1910, 1926 bound with town annual reports in Reference. (Ref/974.44/A188).
- 1949-. 1949-1958 on microfilm reels 1-3 (alphabetical by name of owner). (Ref/MF cabinet).
- 1977 published in *The Beacon*, Nov. 17, 1977.
- 1983-. *Real Estate Listings for the Town of Acton*. Acton Tax Collector's Office, 1983-present (computer print-outs). (Current ed. in Ref/974.44/A188; older editions in Geneal Coll).

Street lists

- 1855, 1855 and 1858 Acton Census on MF reel 24 (Ref/MF cabinet).
1883. *Acton Directory, Embracing also a Brief History of the town, with the Town Clerks...* W.N. Sharp, 1883-84. (Geneal Coll/974.44/A188). In addition to a list of residents includes a street map, business advertisements, and lists of town officers, churches, and societies.
1932. Street List bound with annual report (Storage Geneal/974.44/A188)
- 1955-. *Street List of Residents Seventeen Years of Age and Over, Town of Acton, Massachusetts*. Registrars of Voters, 1957-present. (Geneal Coll/974.44/A188)
- Note: Acton Historical Society has Street Lists, 1871- (incomplete); Town Hall has 1934-present.

Telephone directories

- 1964-. *Your Acton Directory*, 1964/65; 1965/66, 1974. (community telephone directory). (Geneal Coll/974.44/A188)
1974. *Marlboro-Concord and Vicinity Blue Book: Cross Reference Directory*. PSP Inc., 1974. (Geneal Coll/929.3/M347)
- 1977-. New England Telephone/NYNEX Marlboro/Concord Area: 1977-present. (Storage Geneal/not cataloged).
- 1987-. Acton Guide: 1987-. (community telephone directory) (Storage Geneal Coll/974.44/A188)

Financial records

“Ledger of Acton, 1906-1913” on microfilm reel 24. [Financial ledgers by town department]. (Ref/MF cabinet).

Town of Acton Budget. Library retains latest two years only. (Ref/974.44/A188)

See also report of the Town Treasurer/Accountant in *Annual Report, Town of Acton*, 1862-present. (Ref/974.44/A188); newspaper index under “Acton--Finance and budget” (Ref Desk); and “Minutes of the Acton Finance Committee” in *Minutes of the Meetings of the Acton Town Boards, Commissions, Committees, etc.* (Ref/974.44/A188).

A search in the Library Catalog for “Acton--appropriations and expenditures” will retrieve additional items.

Geology and geography

See “Natural resources” in this guide.

Genealogical records

In addition to a print Genealogy collection, the library subscribes to genealogical database services via commercial publishers. See a Reference Librarian for details.

Hazardous waste

The Memorial Library is a depository site for several collections of materials related to DEP confirmed hazardous waste sites, including W. R. Grace, Grace Daramic, Agway/Kress, H.G. Pars, Mobil, and 930 Main Street (Deck House). See separate spreadsheets for holdings.

Superfund Program Information Update: W.R. Grace. (EPA Newsletter). (Ref/333.9/S959)

Miscellaneous documents relating to the W.R. Grace Site. Includes print outs of indexing from the Acton Beacon, as well as a spreadsheet listing Superfund depository documents. (Ref Desk/not cataloged).

See also the index to the Acton Beacon (Ref Desk/computer file).

High school yearbooks

Acton-Boxborough Regional High School Alumni Directory, 2000. Bernard C. Harris Publishing Company, 1999. (Geneal Coll/371.01/A188)

A list of graduating seniors is published in some annual town reports and in the *Acton Beacon*. These lists have been gathered under one cover and cataloged under the title *Annual List of Acton High School Graduates, 1926-*. (Geneal Coll/371.01/A188)

The Acton-Boxborough High School library has a collection (incomplete) of high school yearbooks.

Historic buildings and sites

- Acton's Architectural Heritage: Pictures of Houses Referred to by Robert H. Nylander at a Meeting of the Acton Historical Society...* Compiled by Frances Moretti, 1986. (Photographs). (Geneal Coll/974.44/A188)
- Acton Center Historic District: Materials Describing the Properties Included*, 1983. Reproduced from original application to the National Register of Historic Places. (Ref/974.44/A188)
- Acton, A Second Look*. Acton Historical Commission, 1985. (Ref/974.44/A188) Booklet of historic photographs.
- Acton Historic District Commission Design Guidelines*. The Commission, 1997. (Ref/974.44/A188)
- Acton's 250th Anniversary, 1735-1985*. (Booklet contains a map of the Acton Center Historic District and a description of the properties surrounding Acton Common.) (Ref/974.44/A188)
- Collection of Photographs of Acton Houses, 1936-1939*. Compiled by Ernest H. Washburn. (Geneal storage/974.44/A188). See also notes on Washburn and the Acton Historical Society's collection of Washburn negatives in the history scrapbooks (*Historical Information, Acton and Vicinity*).
- Final Study Report, Acton Historic District Study Committee*. Acton Historic District Study Committee, 1990. (Ref/974.44/A188)
- Green Town 1974*. Acton Green Town Project, 1974. (Includes inventory of historic sites keyed to map). (Ref/974.44/A188)
- Highlights of Acton's Architecture: Lecture Given at a Meeting of the Acton Historical Society, November 21, 1971* (sound recording). By Robert H. Nylander (Oral History Coll/12)
- Historical Information--Acton and Vicinity*. Scrapbooks compiled by the Acton Memorial Library. Six volumes with index. (Ref/974.44/A188)
- Historical Properties Inventory*. Loose-leaf survey forms for over 500 properties located in Acton's three historic districts, prepared by the Acton Historical Commission, 1987-1990. (not cataloged, Ref/File cabinet). (see also the Street Index/Name Index/Chronological List, prepared by the Acton Memorial Library).
- Historical Sketch of the Faulkner House*. By Robert H. Nylander. Iron Work Farm, 1969. (Ref/974.44/A188)
- The Iron Work Farm in Acton, Inc.* By Robert H. Nylander. Iron Work Farm, 1966. (Ref/974.44/A188)
- Mill Corner (South Acton Village), an Architectural History: Based on A Walking Tour of Mill Corner by Robert H. Nylander*. By Barbara Nylander. Iron Work Farm in Acton, Inc., 1989. (Ref/974.44/A188).
- National register of historic places registration form: Jonathan and Simon Hosmer House* [form prepared by Anita Dodson, Peter Grover, Acton Historical Commission ; with Anne Forbes, ed. consultant]. Acton Historical Commission, 1999]
- North Acton Study, Volume 2, Map Supplement*. Curran Associates, 1976. (Ref/974.44/A188). See figure 5.
- South Acton Village Plan*. South Acton Village Planning Committee, 1994. (Ref/974.44/A188).

See page 65, "Historic background and resources."

A Walking Tour of Mill Corner. Iron Work Farm in Acton, Inc, 1979. (Ref/974.44/A188)

West Acton Village Plan. West Acton Village Planning Committee, 1993. (Ref/974.44/A188).
See section 4, "Historic and Architectural resources"

See also: *House Histories: A Guide to Tracing the Genealogy of Your Home*. By Sally Light. Golden Hill Press, 1989. (728.37/L723)

Historic photographs

Acton, A Second Look. Acton Historical Commission, 1985. (Ref/974.44/A188)

Klauer, William A. *Acton*. Arcadia, 2001 (Ref/974.44/A188)

See also annual town reports for the years 1982 and 1987; also under "Historic buildings and sites" in this guide.

Historical Society

Acton Historical Society Newsletter. Library has October 1993-present. (Ref/974.44/A188).

Acton Revisited: Notes from the Acton Historical Society. Vol. 1, No. 1, Fall 2003 - present. (Ref 974.44 A188)

Incorporation

For text of the Act of Incorporation see history scrapbooks (*Historical Information, Acton and Vicinity*).

Indians

Archaeological Data Recovery Program, Pine Hawk Site, Acton Massachusetts. PAL, 2001.
(Acton Coll/970.4/P976)

See also History scrapbooks.

Industry, History of

Cover Charge: Early Inns and Taverns. Presentation to the Acton Historical Society, February 18, 1996. By Brewster Conant. (Act Coll/974.44/A188)

Powder Mills: A Speech to the Acton Historical Society. By Brewster Conant, 1994. (Act Coll/974.44/A188)

For the history of industry in Acton see also the index to *Historical Information Acton and Vicinity* (Acton history scrapbooks), under "Business and Industry".

Maps

Maps of Acton, Massachusetts. (various maps). (Reference Room/Map case).

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Acton, Massachusetts. 1916, 1929, & 1929 with 1937 and 1945 corrections. (Ref/MF cabinet).

Town Atlas, Acton Massachusetts. Acton Engineering Dept. 3 vols. Current edition. (Ref/974.44/A188)

For USGS topographic maps see the Maynard and Billerica quadrangles (1987). (Pam file/Topographic maps).

See separate spreadsheet for description of library's map holdings.

Military records

1675-1676, King Philip's War

Soldiers in King Philip's War, By George M. Bodge. 3d ed. Genealogical Pub. Co., 1967. (Geneal Coll/973.24/B666)

1723-1743

Massachusetts Officers and Soldiers 1723-1743 Dummer's War to the War of Jenkins Ear. Edited by Myron O. Stachiw. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1979. (Geneal Coll/973.25/S775)

1755-1756, French and Indian Wars

History of the Acton Minutemen and Militia Companies, 1774-1963. Charles R. Husbands, 2003-2004. 2 volumes. (Geneal Coll/974.44/A188).

Massachusetts Officers and Soldiers in the French and Indian Wars 1755-1756. Edited by K. David Goss and David Zarowin. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1985. (Geneal/ Col 973.26/G677)

1775-83, American Revolution

See the separate pathfinder "Isaac Davis & The Nineteenth of April 1775". Also:

History of the Acton Minutemen and Militia Companies, 1774-1963. Charles R. Husbands, 2003-2004. 2 volumes. (Geneal Coll/974.44/A188).

The Loyalists of Massachusetts: Their Memorials, Petitions, and Claims. By E. Alfred Jones. Originally published, London, 1930. Reprinted by Genealogical Pub. Co., 1969; Clearfield Company, 1995. (Geneal Coll/929.3/J76)

Mariners of the American Revolution. Marion J. Kaminkow. Magna Carta Book Co., 1967. (Geneal Coll/929.3/K15)

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War: A Compilation From the Archives. Mass. Office of the Secretary of State. 17 volumes. Wright and Potter, 1896-1908. Alphabetically arranged by name with variant spellings. Includes Maine, which was part

of Massachusetts until 1820. (Geneal/973.34/M414)

Roll of Membership With Ancestral Records... Sons of the American Revolution, Massachusetts Society. The Society, 1893-. (Geneal Coll/973.34/M414)

Soldiers and Sailors Whose Graves Have Been Designated by the Markers of the Society. Sons of the American Revolution, Mass. Society, 1901. (Geneal Coll /973.34/M414)

1784-1815 (War of 1812)

History of the Acton Minutemen and Militia Companies, 1774-1963. Charles R. Husbands, 2003-2004. 2 volumes. (Geneal Coll/974.44/A188).

Records of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia Called Out by the Governor of Massachusetts to Suppress a Threatened Invasion During the War of 1812-14. Mass. Adjutant General's Office. Gardner W. Pearson, 1913. Includes the names of officers and enlisted men in each company. (Geneal Coll/973.524/M14)

For a list of names of the Acton Company see "Report of the Trustees of the Acton Memorial Library," in *Annual Report Town of Acton, Year Ending Jan. 1914*, p. 86.

1861-65, Civil War

See also "Selections from Civil War Archive and Reference Material", prepared by Dennis Ahern.

Town of Acton Historical Documents Online. Includes: *Reminiscences of the War of the Rebellion, Isaac Davis GAR Post 138* (recorded in 1885); *Acton Town Ledger*; and *Images of Soldiers*. (www.actonmemoriallibrary.org)

Confederate Military History, Extended Edition. Broadfoot, 1987. 17 volumes (Geneal Storage/973.7/C748).

A Compendium of the War of the Rebellion. By Frederick H. Dyer. Thomas Yoseloff/Sagamore press, 1959. Volume 1: Number and Organization of the Armies of the United States; Volume 2: Chronological Record of the Campaigns, Battles....; Volume 3: Regimental Histories. (Geneal Coll/973.7/D996)

The Fifty-Third Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers: Comprising also a History of the Siege of Port Hudson. Henry A. Willis. Higginson Book Company, 2000. Originally published by Press of Blanchard & Brown, 1889. (Geneal Coll/973.744/W734)

Grand Army of the Republic: Civil War Veterans, Department of Massachusetts, 1866 to 1947. Dean A. Sargent. Heritage Books, 2002. (Geneal Coll/973.744/S245)

Historical Sketch of the Old Sixth Regiment of Massachusetts Volunteers. J.W. Hanson. Lee and Shepard, 1866. (Geneal Coll/973.744/H251)

History and Complete Roster of the Massachusetts Regiments. George W. Nason. Smith & McCance, 1910. (Geneal Coll/973.741/N263).

History of the Acton Minutemen and Militia Companies, 1774-1963. Charles R. Husbands, 2003-2004. 2 volumes. (Geneal Coll/974.44/A188).

History of the Second Massachusetts Battery (Nims' battery) of Light Artillery, 1861-1865. By Caroline Elizabeth Whitcomb. Concord, N.H., The Rumford press [c1912] (Geneal

Coll/973.744/W581)

History of Massachusetts in the Civil War. William Schouler. E.P. Dutton, 1868-71. 2 volumes. (Geneal Coll/973.7/S376).

Letters from Acton, 1861. Acton Historical Society, 1985. (Civil War letters) (Ref/974.44/A188)

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors and Marines in the Civil War. Massachusetts Adjutant General's Office. Norwood Press, 1931-35. 8 vols. and index. Listed by regiment. (Geneal Coll/973.34/M414)

Memorial History of the Seventeenth Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry (Old and New Organizations) in the Civil War from 1861-1865. Thomas Kirwan. Pub. for the Committee on history by the Salem Press Co, c1911. (Geneal Coll/973.744/K61)

Military Records: Civil War Service Records. (Ancestry.com CD-ROM)

A Narrative of the Formation and Services of the Eleventh Massachusetts Volunteers. Gustavus B. Hutchinson. Higginson Book Company, 2000. Originally published by Alfred Mudge & Son, 1893. (Geneal Coll/973.744/H976 0)

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies in the War of the Rebellion. United States Naval War Records Office. Library has Series I, vol. 1-7. GPO, 1898-. (Geneal Coll/973.71/O32)

Record of the Thirty-Third Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, from August 1862 to August 1865. Andrew J. Boies, Higginson Book Company, 2000. Originally printed by the Sentinel Printing Company, 1880. (Geneal Coll/973.744/B678)

Report of the Commission on Andersonville Monument. Massachusetts Commission on Andersonville Monument. Boston, Wright & Potter printing Co., state printers, 1902. "A list of the Massachusetts soldiers known to be buried in the national cemetery, Andersonville, Ga.": p. 43-75. (Geneal Coll/973.771/M414)

Roll of Honor: Names of Soldiers Who Died in Defense of the American Union, Interred in the National Cemeteries. U.S. Quartermaster's Department. Reprinted by Genealogical Pub. Co., 1994-. 10 volumes and Index. (Geneal Coll/973.76/U58)

The Story of the Thirty-second Regiment Massachusetts Infantry. Francis J. Parker. Higginson Book Co., 1998. Originally published by C.W. Calkins, 1880. Geneal Coll/973.744/P239

Supplement to the Annual reports of the Adjutant General of the State of Maine, for the Years 1861, '62, '63, '64, '65 and 1866. The Adjutant General, 1867. Cover title: Alphabetical Index of Maine Volunteers, etc., Mustered into the Service of the United States during the War of 1861. (Geneal Coll/973.7441/M225)

Supplement to the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Broadfoot Publishing Company, 1994-. Incomplete holdings—check library's catalog. Index to Part 1 is in Genealogy cage. Other volumes are in Genealogy storage.

Three Years in the Army: The Story of the Thirteenth Massachusetts Volunteers. By Charles E. Davis, Jr. Estes and Lauriat, 1894. Reprint, Higginson Book Company, 2000. (Geneal Coll/973.744/D261)

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Under the direction of the Secretary of War. GPO, 1880-1901. 70 vols. (Geneal storage; Index volume shelved in Geneal cage/973.71/W253). Also on the Web at:

<http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/browse.monographs/waro.html>. See also: *Military Operations of the Civil War: A Guide-Index to the Official Records...*(National Archives and Records Service, 1977-). 5 paperback vols. (Geneal storage).

See also 1862/3 and 1863/4 Annual Town Reports for list of Volunteers from Acton.

See also Local history scrapbooks for list of men from Acton, compiled by Dennis Ahern.

Spanish-American War, 1898

History of the Acton Minutemen and Militia Companies, 1774-1963. Charles R. Husbands, 2003-2004. 2 volumes. (Geneal Coll/974.44/A188).

Webber, Harry Endicott, 1874- *Twelve months with the Eighth Massachusetts Infantry in the service of the United State*. Newcomb & Gauss, 1908. (Geneal Coll/973.89/W371)

20th Century

History of the Acton Minutemen and Militia Companies, 1774-1963. Charles R. Husbands, 2003-2004. 2 volumes. (Geneal Coll/974.44/A188).

Kaduboski, Madeleine C. *Blackouts, bombardiers and boogie-woogie: the Acton home front 1941-1945*. Acton Historical Society, c2001. (Acton Coll/974.44/A188)

State Guard of Massachusetts: Some Notes On the 82nd Co. Massachusetts State Guard During World War II. By Frederick E. Crory. (N.p., 1992.) (Act Coll/974.44/C781)

Stringer, Harry R. editor. *Heroes all! A compendium of the names and official citations of the soldiers and citizens of the United States and of her allies who were decorated by the American government for exceptional heroism and conspicuous service above and beyond the call of duty in the war with Germany, 1917-1919*. Fassett Publishing Company c1919. (Geneal Coll/940.3/S918)

“Veterans discharges” (WWI, WWII, Korea) on microfilm reel 13. (Ref/MF cabinet)

See also Phalen, *History of the Town of Acton*, Appendix XXI and XXII.

See also Local history scrapbooks.

Medal of Honor Recipients

Lang, George. *Medal of Honor Recipients, 1863-1994*. New York: Facts on File. 1995. (Ref/355.134/L269)

United States of America's Congressional Medal of Honor Recipients and Their Official Citations. 1994. (355.134/U58)

Minutes

Minutes and Agendas of the Acton Board of Selectmen Meetings. Board of Selectmen, 1989-present. (Ref/974.44/A188)

Minutes of the Acton and Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committees. 2 years plus current year. (Ref/371.01/A194)

Minutes of the Meetings of the Acton Town Boards, Commissions, Committees, etc. 9 vols. (Ref/974.44/A188). In general, the library retains only three years plus the current year, but with some exceptions. See separate spreadsheet for holdings.

Natural resources

Conservation and recreation

A Guide to Acton Conservation Lands. Acton Conservation Commission, 1996. (Ref/974.44/A188)

Open Space and Recreation Plan for the Town of Acton. Acton Conservation Commission. (Ref/974.44/A188) 1996.

Publicly owned lands in the town of Acton, Massachusetts. Engineering Dept., 2000. (Ref/974.44/A188).

Recreation in the Town of Acton. (The White Paper). By William C. Mullin. [1997]. (Ref/974.44/A188)

Geology and Natural History

“Geologic Sketch of Acton,” in *Acton in History*, by James Fletcher, 1890, p. 280. (Acton Coll/974.44/A188)

Geology and Mineral Resources of the Hudson and Maynard Quadrangles, Massachusetts. By Wallace R. Hansen. Geological Survey Bulletin 1038. USGPO, 1956. (Ref/557.44/H249)

“Geology and Natural History,” in *A Brief History of Acton.* Acton Historical Society, 1974. pp. 51-53. (Ref/974.44/A188).

Master Plan. The Town of Acton, 1991. p. 97 -. (Ref/974.44/A188)

Middlesex County, Massachusetts: Interim Soil Survey Report. U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service. Middlesex Conservation District, 1995. (Ref/631.4 U58). (Map in Ref/Map case).

“Natural History,” in *History of the Town of Concord*, by Lemuel Shattuck, 1835, pp. 196-203. (Geneal Coll/974.44/C744s)

Open Space and Recreation Plan 1996-2000 for the Town of Acton. Acton Conservation Commission. 1996. p. 18 -. (Ref/974.44/A188).

Soil Survey of Middlesex County, Massachusetts. W.J. Latimer. GPO, 1929. (Ref/631.4/L357)

Soils and Their Interpretations for Various Land Uses: Town of Acton, Middlesex County, Massachusetts. U.S. Soil Conservation Service, 1963. (Ref/631.4/S683)

Water

Acton Shoreline Survey. O.A.R. Acton Stream Teams. Mary S. Michelman, 1998.

Acton Water District Water Words Notice. (Newsletter). (Ref/333.9/W324)

Annual Report of the Water Supply District of Acton Massachusetts. The District, 1895-present. (Acton Coll/974.44/A188).

A History of the Acton Water Supply District (sound recording). By James Kinsley. (Oral History)

Coll/5)

“Minutes of the meetings of the Water Supply District Commissioners” (1981 -.) are in vols. 7-9 of *Minutes of the Meetings of the Acton Town Boards, Commissions, Committees, etc.* (Ref/974.44/A188).

Report: Water Supply District of Acton: Water System Master Plan Update. Prepared by: Dufresne-Henry; presented to: Mr. James L. Deming, District Manager, 2002.

A search in the Catalog under “Water-supply-Massachusetts--Acton” will retrieve additional items. See also “Hazardous waste”, “Planning” and “Maps” in this guide.

Newspapers

1888-. *Concord Enterprise*, 1888-1906, 1910-1963 (not indexed). (Microfilm)

1915-. *Acton Enterprise*, 1915-1921, 1931-1937 (not indexed). (Microfilm)

1945-. *The Acton Beacon* (title varies) Jan. 2, 1945 - Jan. 15, 1946, 1950-1953 scattered issues, 1957-1959, 1963-present. (Microfilm)

1975-. *Acton Minuteman*. 1975-1981. (Microfilm)

1994-. *Acton Citizen*, March 1994-present. (Microfilm)

Index to the Acton Beacon, Acton Minuteman, and Acton Citizen. (Database). Acton Memorial Library. (Available from select library computers).

For the history of local newspapers see *Historical Information, Acton and Vicinity* (Acton history scrapbooks). See also Oral History Tape 11 (*A History of the Acton Newspapers*). For local holdings of historic newspapers see separate spreadsheet.

Obituaries

The Library did not begin to consistently index obituaries from the *Acton Beacon* until September 1993. The Acton Historical Society has an alphabetized obituary notebook spanning 140 years (incomplete). An index to the Historical Society’s obituary collection is available at the Reference Desk. See also “Vital records” in this guide.

Oral histories

The library’s oral History collection includes over 30 interviews and taped lectures. For a complete list see the Catalog under title “Oral History, Acton (Mass.)”

Organizations

The library has cataloged materials documenting the history of various organizations (AB Colonials Hall of Fame, Acton Congregational Church, Acton Garden Club, Acton Fire Department, Acton Post Office, Acton Woman’s Club, The Acton Memorial Library, etc.). Check the Catalog for specific holdings.

See also the library’s history scrapbooks (*Historical Information, Acton and Vicinity*), oral history tapes, and the index to *The Beacon*.

For a current directory of community organizations see the Minuteman Library Network's *Community Information and Referral Database* (online through MLN).

Paintings and sketches

The Library owns an extensive collection of paintings and drawings by Acton artist and librarian Arthur Davis, as well as reproductions of works in private collections. (Ref/Ref Office).

Passenger Lists

Family Tree Maker Passenger and Immigrations Lists Index, 1500s-1900s. Genealogy.com, 2001. (Reference Desk/CD-ROM.).

See also the library catalog under subject "Ships--Passenger Lists".

Planning

1976. *North Acton Study*. Curran Assoc., 1976. (Ref/974.44/A188)

1991. *Master Plan*. IEP Inc., et al, 1991. (Ref/974.44/A188)

1993. *West Acton Village Plan*. West Acton Village Planning Committee, 1993. (Ref/974.44/A188)

1995. *Kelley's Corner Specific Area Plan*. Kelley's Corner Planning Committee, 1995. (Ref/974.44/A188)

1995. *South Acton Village Plan*. South Acton Village Planning Committee, 1995. (Ref/974.44/A188)

1998. *Economic Development Plan for the Town of Acton*. U Mass., Center for Economic Development. (Ref/974.44/A188)

1998. *Master Plan Update, Town of Acton, Massachusetts*. Acton Planning Department, 1998. (Ref 974.44/A188)

See also under "Natural resources" and "Sewers" in this guide.

A keyword search in the library's catalog under "Acton city planning" will retrieve additional items.

Probate records

Index to the Probate Records of the County of Middlesex, Massachusetts: First Series, from 1648 to 1871. Prepared under the supervision of Samuel H. Folsom and William E. Rogers. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1998. (Geneal Coll/974.44/M627m)

Middlesex County in the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay in New England: Records of Probate and Administration, October 1649-December 1660; Volume II: 1660/61-1680. By Robert H. Rodgers. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1999-.

Real estate transfers

1918-1956 on microfilm reel 19-23. (Ref/MF cabinet).

1987-1998. *County Comps Real Estate Sales, Acton*. 1987-June 1998. (Ref/333.33/C855)

2000-present. *CompReport: Acton*. (Ref/333.33/C855)

The Acton Assessors' Office has a publicly accessible online database containing some property records. The weekly publication "Banker & Tradesman" lists real estate transactions for all Massachusetts towns and is also available through the World Wide Web (http://realestate.boston.com/buying/search/recent_sales)

See also: Middlesex South District Registry of Deeds Online records (1974-):
www.sec.state.ma.us/rod/rodmidsth/midsthidx.htm

Schools (see also High School Yearbooks)

Minutes of the Acton and Acton-Boxborough Regional School Committees. 2 years plus current year in Reference. (Ref/371.01/A194)

School Committee annual reports are bound with: *Annual Reports, Town of Acton*, 1861-present. (Ref/974.4/A188). See 1960, 1982, annual reports for historic photos.

For history of the Acton schools see *Historical Information, Acton and Vicinity* [scrapbooks with index]. (Ref/974.44/A188)

See also *School District Profiles*; the index to local newspapers under "Schools"; and the Acton and Acton-Boxborough Home Page (<http://ab.mec.edu>). For library holdings of school department documents see the Catalog under keywords "acton schools".

Scrapbooks, Acton History

Historical Information, Acton and Vicinity. Compiled by Acton Memorial Library staff. Twelve+ volumes with subject index. (Ref/974.44/A188)

Selectmen's minutes/reports

1800-1829 Selectman's reports on microfilm reel 16. (Ref/MF cabinet)

1930-1980 Selectman's minutes on microfilm reel 16-18. (Ref/MF cabinet)

Minutes and Agendas of the Acton Board of Selectmen, 1989-present. (Ref/974.44/A188)

See also *Annual Reports, Town of Acton* (Ref/974.44/A188)

Sewers

A search in the Catalog under "Acton and (sewage or sewerage)" will retrieve all library holdings on sewers. See also the index to the Acton Beacon, under "wastewater".

Sociological study

“The New Englanders of Orchard Town U.S.A.” By John L. Fischer. From *Six Cultures: Studies of Child Rearing*. Wiley, 1963. (Ref/974.44/A188)

Street lists see under Directories

Telephone directories see under Directories

Town records

- 1730- *The Concord Village Clerk's Book; Village Map (1732), Account Book (1730)*. Acton Historical Society. (Ref/MF cabinet)
- 1735-. “Town meeting records, 1735-1852” on microfilm reel 11 (Ref/MF cabinet). The earliest town records (1735-1764) have been digitally scanned and are on the library’s web site (www.actonmemoriallibrary.org).
- 1735-. *Town of Acton, Massachusetts Early Town Meeting Records: Transcriptions of the Original Handwritten Records*, by Acton Memorial Library. (Ref 974.4 A188)
- 1804-. “Warrants, 1804-1839” on microfilm reel 16. (Ref/MF cabinet)
- 1851-. “Town meeting records, 1851-1913” on microfilm reel 12. (Ref/MF cabinet)
- 1913-. “Town meeting records, 1913-1956” on microfilm reel 13. (Ref/MF cabinet)
- 1957-. “Town meeting records, 1957-1958” on microfilm reel 23. (Ref/MF cabinet)
- 1958-. *Warrant Articles for the Annual Town Meeting, with the Finance Committee Recommendation*, 1958- present. (Ref/974.44/A188).
- 1968-. *Special Town Meeting Warrant*. Library has 1968, 1984, 1987-present. (Ref/974.44/A188) . 1957 in Beacon (see newspaper index); 1968 and 1969 bound with Warrant Articles for the Annual Town Meeting.
- 1986-. *Abstracts of Special and Annual Town Meetings*. Library has 1986-1991. (Ref/974.44/A188)

For warrants and/or abstracts of the proceedings of town meetings see also the town annual reports 1884- present and the newspaper index.

Town records

Microfilm Copy of the Vital Statistics and Records of the Town of Acton. 25 rolls of microfilm. [Prepared under the direction of the town Archives Committee, 1970(?)]. See catalog record for contents. (Ref/MF Cabinet)

Vital records

1735-1850. *Vital Records of Acton, Massachusetts to the Year 1850*. New England Historic Genealogical Society, 1923. (Geneal Coll/929.3/M414)

1849-1857. *Acton, Massachusetts, Vital Statistics, 1849-1857*. Compiled by Florence Rouillard Grandine. (Ref/929.3/A188)

1850-1960. *Index to the Vital Records of Acton, Mass.* Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 1987. (Ref/929.2/C562) (Contains Births and Marriages 1850-1895; Deaths 1850-1960).

1861-. *Annual Reports, Town of Acton Massachusetts*. Includes births, deaths, and marriages for 1861-1956 (and non-resident burials for at least 1894-); births only 1957-1982; births and deaths 1983-1990; deaths only 1991-present.

Microfilm Copy of the Vital Statistics and Records of the Town of Acton. 25 rolls of microfilm. See catalog record for contents. (Ref/MF Cabinet)

For a list of the library's vital records holdings, use the subject heading "Registers of Births". For certified copies of vital records refer to the Town Clerk. See also "Obituaries" in this guide. See also *The Social Security Death Index* and a growing number of other databases available free of charge via the World Wide Web.

Voter registration records

See under "Street Lists" in this guide. An asterisk next to a name in the street list indicates a registered voter.

Water Supply District

See under Natural resources.