

# **St. Johnsbury Community Archives Guide to Historic Records**

Prepared by Archivist Selene Colburn with support from the Vermont Humanities Council, Vermont Community Foundation and the partner institutions

**St. Johnsbury Community Archives – Guide to Historic Records**

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# St. Johnsbury Community Archives – Guide to Historic Records

## An Overview History of St. Johnsbury

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St. Johnsbury, with a population of 7,500, is located in Caledonia County, relatively close to the New Hampshire border. It is the southernmost Town in the Northeast Kingdom (Caledonia, Orleans, and Essex counties), an area known in part for its geographic, climatologic, and economic differences from the remainder of Vermont.

The Township of St. Johnsbury was granted to early settler Jonathon Arnold and associates by Gov. Thomas Chittenden and chartered in 1786. The name was derived out of tribute to Hector St. Jean de Crevecoeur, a French New England settler and agriculturalist who authored *Letters from an American Farmer* and served as French consul from 1783-1790. De Crevecoeur suggested that it be named St. Johnsbury, to set it apart from the many St. John's already in existence.

The Passumpsic, Moose, and Sleeper's rivers all run through the Town and provided the power for early industries, among them the Fairbanks mills and hemp works. In 1830, Thaddeus Fairbanks invented a platform scale to facilitate the weighing of hemp by the wagon load. Within four years, brothers Thaddeus, Erastus, and Joseph had formed the E. and T. Fairbanks Co. to manufacture and distribute scales. The success of their endeavor played a significant role in the development and livelihood of St. Johnsbury. As workers came to the area from far and wide the Town's population soared and diversified.

In 1856 the Caledonia County seat was relocated from neighboring town of Danville to St. Johnsbury. Railroad lines developed by the Fairbanks brothers and established in 1850 and 1877 ensured the Town's status as a center of commerce and industry. As Fairbanks family members experienced burgeoning wealth, they endowed the Town with numerous cultural and educational facilities, among them the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, the Y.M.C.A., the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, and the St. Johnsbury Academy. With the exception of the Y.M.C.A., which was destroyed by fire in 1984, these institutions continue to play a vital role in the community. With an avid Congregationalist movement, temperance was preached in the community for almost 100 years. At the height of the scale works' success, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, St. Johnsbury was lauded as a model of enlightened industrialism and was studied by critics here and abroad.

As central operations for the Fairbanks Scale Co. shifted to larger urban centers, new owners came in and the Fairbanks family's influence, which lasted well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century, slowly diminished. Many other businesses, among them Maple Grove, St. Johnsbury Trucking, E.T. & H.K. Ide, Lydall Westex, and E.H.V. Weidmann Industries have operated out of St. Johnsbury, which has continued as a regional center in the Northeast Kingdom, offering a concentration of both locally and nationally-based businesses and services. Located amidst rolling hills along Interstates 91 and 93, St. Johnsbury, with its

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Victorian legacy, as evidenced by its active cultural institutions and its architectural landmarks (many designed by area architect Lambert Packard), has made the Town an attractive destination for visitors from around the country.

### **About the St. Johnsbury Community Archives**

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The St. Johnsbury Archives Collaborative is a partnership between five institutions – the St. Johnsbury Academy, the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, the Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, the Town of St. Johnsbury, and the St. Johnsbury Historical Society. The Collaborative was formed in 1999 to exchange information about the partners' holdings of historic records and to develop a strategy for preserving St. Johnsbury's heritage.

The same year the Collaborative was awarded a three-year grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC), largely due to the national significance of the local story. The records in St. Johnsbury provide rich possibilities for the study of agriculture, industry, labor, immigration, philanthropy, and social history. This money brought a professional archivist into the community to organize and preserve records, make the documents accessible through printed and online guides, and train staff and volunteers in archival practices.

In 2004, the Community Archives received funding from the Vermont Humanities Council, the Vermont Community Foundation, and partner institutions to educate the public about the use of St. Johnsbury's historic records. In addition to presenting a series of lectures and workshops, the Collaborative published this guide to the community's archival holdings.

The Collaborative is happy to serve as a model for other regional archives initiatives. To learn more about the St. Johnsbury Archives Collaborative, contact Joanne Bertrand, Archivist and Bibliographic Instructor at the St. Johnsbury Academy's Grace Stuart Orcutt Library, 1000 Main St., St. Johnsbury VT 05819. 802-751-2474.

### **Community Archives Partners**

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#### **Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium**

The Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium, located in St. Johnsbury, was founded in 1889 by local industrialist Franklin Fairbanks to house his substantial collections of natural science specimens and related artifacts. The building, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was designed by Lambert Packard and opened to the public in 1891. The Museum continues to educate visitors about natural sciences and regional history through programs and exhibits and is home to the Northern New England Weather Center and Vermont's only public planetarium.

The Fairbanks Museum's archives houses materials that document the history of St. Johnsbury, the Northeast Kingdom region, and, to a lesser degree, the

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state of Vermont. Collection strengths include Civil War records, photographic materials, personal papers, and institutional records.

To access the archives, contact:

Patricia Swartz

Director, Kitchel Center for the Study of the Northeast Kingdom, Fairbanks Museum

1302 Main St.

St. Johnsbury VT 05819.

802-748-2372     [pswartz@fairbanksmuseum.org](mailto:pswartz@fairbanksmuseum.org)

Hours: By appointment only.

### **St. Johnsbury Academy**

The St. Johnsbury Academy, an independent secondary school, was established in 1842 by the founders of the E & T Fairbanks Scale Company, with continued support from Thaddeus Fairbanks as the school expanded. In 1874, arrangements were made with the Town of St. Johnsbury taxpayers to send area students to the Academy, a tradition which continues to this day. In addition to its 750 local day students, the Academy is home to approximately 160 boarding students from across the United States and around the world. The school offers a post-graduate year, which in 1891 was attended by future President, Calvin Coolidge.

The St. Johnsbury Academy's archive is largely comprised of the school's institutional records.

To access the archives, contact:

Joanne Bertrand

Archivist and Bibliographic Instructor

St. Johnsbury Academy's Grace Stuart Orcutt Library

1000 Main St.

St. Johnsbury VT 05819

802-751-2474. [jbertrand@stjacademy.org](mailto:jbertrand@stjacademy.org)

Hours: By appointment only.

### **St. Johnsbury Athenaeum**

The St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, a public library in St. Johnsbury, was endowed by Horace Fairbanks in 1871. The building, a National Historic Landmark, was designed by architect John Davis Hatch III. In 1873 an Art Gallery wing was added to house works from Fairbanks' collection, including examples of paintings by the Hudson River School and Albert Bierdstadt's magnificent painting, "The Domes of the Yosemite." In addition to its circulating materials, the Athenaeum maintains the original 9,000 volume book collection, which was assembled under the guidance of the noted bibliographer William F. Poole.

The St. Johnsbury Athenaeum's archive houses materials that document the history of St. Johnsbury and, to a lesser extent, the surrounding area.

## **St. Johnsbury Community Archives – Guide to Historic Records**

Collection strengths include records of local clubs and individuals, photographs, general research materials, and institutional records.

To access the archives, contact:

Lisa von Kann  
Library Director  
St. Johnsbury Athenaeum  
1171 Main St.  
St. Johnsbury VT 05819  
(802) 748-8291  
[inform@stjathenaeum.org](mailto:inform@stjathenaeum.org)

Hours: Archives available by appointment only. General assistance may be available during library hours, which are: M & W 10am-8pm; T, TH & F 10am-5:30 pm, SAT 9:30-4 pm.

### **Town of St. Johnsbury, Clerk's Office**

The Town of St. Johnsbury was chartered in 1786. The Village of Saint Johnsbury was incorporated in 1853. Its existence continued, governed by Trustees, until it merged with the Town of St. Johnsbury in 1965.

The Town Clerk preserves and maintains both permanent and temporary records relating to all aspects of the Town's history and governance, as required by Vermont law. Some additional materials have local historical interest have been deposited here over the years.

To access historic records, contact:

Jeannette Farmer, Asst. Town Clerk  
Town of St. Johnsbury  
34 Main St.  
St. Johnsbury VT 05819.  
802-748-4331     [jrmer@town.st-johnsbury.vt.us](mailto:jrmer@town.st-johnsbury.vt.us)  
Hours: M-F, 8am-5pm (Summer 7am-4pm)

### **St. Johnsbury Historical Society**

The Historical Society was revived in 1980 and boasts membership of over 100 people. It is run entirely by volunteers. The Society is a non-collecting institution and hosts four public programs a year, which relate to the history of St. Johnsbury and the surrounding area.

### **Other Historic Records in St. Johnsbury**

In addition to the record held by St. Johnsbury Community Archives partners, materials about the town's history can be found in the collections of:

- The Caledonia County Court
- Churches
- Cemeteries

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- Businesses
- Clubs and social organizations
- Individuals

### Published materials on St. Johnsbury

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#### Books

Balch, F. A. *A Collection of Views in and Around St. Johnsbury, Vermont*. St. Johnsbury, VT: The Caledonian Press, 1900.

Beers, F. W. *County Atlas of Caledonia, Vermont*. New York: Beers, 1875. (St. Johnsbury, pp. 38, 40-61).

Chadwick, Albert G. *Soldier's Record of the Town of St. Johnsbury, In the War of the Rebellion, 1861-5*. St. Johnsbury, VT: C.M. Stone, 1883.

Child, Hamilton. *Gazeteer of Caledonia and Essex Counties, Vt. 1764-1887*. Syracuse, NY: Syracuse Journal Co., 1887. (St. Johnsbury, pp. 309-345).

Crosby, George. *A Historical Sketch of St. Johnsbury*. St. Johnsbury, VT: St. Johnsbury Bicentennial Committee, 1975.

Fairbanks, Edward T. *The Town of St. Johnsbury: A Review of One Hundred Twenty-five Years to the Anniversary Pageant of 1912*. St. Johnsbury, VT: Cowles Press, 1914.

Hemenway, Abby. *Vermont Historical Gazeteer*. 5 volumes. Burlington, VT: Abby Hemenway, 1868-1891. (St. Johnsbury, Vol. I, pp. 386-345).

Johnson, Claire Dunne. *I See By the Paper: An Informal History of St. Johnsbury*. 2 volumes. St. Johnsbury, VT: Claire Dunn Johnson, c1987-1989.

Johnson, Claire Dunne. *St. Johnsbury*. Dover, NH: Arcadia, 1996.

Saint Johnsbury, Vt. Sesquicentennial Committee. *One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary of the Founding of St. Johnsbury, Vermont*. [150 Years of Progress, Cover title]. St. Johnsbury, VT: Cowles Press, 1937.

Stone, Arthur F. *St. Johnsbury Illustrated: A Review of the Town's Business, Social, Literary, and Educational Facilities with Glimpses of Picturesque Surroundings*. St. Johnsbury, VT: C. M. Stone and Co., 1891.

*Streets, Public Buildings, and General Views of St. Johnsbury, Vermont*. 1884.

#### Newspapers

Both the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum and the library at Lyndon State College have a complete set of the local newspaper, the *Caledonian Record* on microfilm (beginning in 1837). The St. Johnsbury Athenaeum has a partial card index to the *Caledonian*, with entries for deaths, marriages (1837-1859), and general topics (1837- the early 1900's and 1972-1987). Select years (1860-1920) of the *Caledonian* are currently being indexed for vital records by Stuart and Ann

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Smith. These bound indices are available at the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, the Fairbanks Museum’s Kitchel Center for Research on the Northeast Kingdom, the Vermont Department of Libraries. They can also be purchased directly from Ann and Stuart. Additional newspapers, in limited runs, in the collections of the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum and Fairbanks Museum Archives include the *St. Johnsbury Republican*, *The Farmer’s Herald*, *The Danville North Star*, and *The Index*.

### Town Directories

Town directories are a source of useful information about when and where people lived in town and what businesses existed at different times. The Fairbanks Museum’s Kitchel Center, the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, and the Town Clerk’s Office all maintain town directories, though no single set is complete.

### Guide to Historic Records

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Major collections held by St. Johnsbury Community Archives partners, are described below. In addition to these records each institution contains several individual documents, too numerous to describe here. Many of these items are cataloged in ArcCat, a statewide database describing archival and manuscript materials (available at <http://arccat.uvm.edu>). Materials are being newly acquired and organized on an ongoing basis. To receive the most up-to-date information about archival holdings, researchers are urged to contact the participating institutions directly.

### Institutional Records

Each of the partners maintains an archive documenting the history of its own institution, from its founding through the present day. These are rich sources of information about many aspects of St. Johnsbury’s history. Selected individual record series from these collections have been noted in the relevant categories below.

### General

See also: Maps; Photographs

*Carlton Felch diaries, 1862-1918 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*2 linear ft. (40 folders)*

Carlton Felch’s diaries document daily life in St. Johnsbury over a period of more than fifty years.

*Claire Dunne Johnson papers, 1800-1996 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*8.5 linear feet (11 boxes)*

Comprised of local historian Claire Johnson’s research notes in various forms, collected documents and photographs, writings and articles, lectures and teaching tools, genealogies, and correspondence, these papers serves as an excellent first resource for any inquiry concerning St. Johnsbury.

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*Edward T. Fairbanks "Town of St. Johnsbury" Manuscript, 1914 (Athenaeum)*  
.75 linear feet

Consists of Fairbanks' handwritten manuscript text for The Town of St. Johnsbury, Vt., a review of one hundred and twenty five years documenting minor revisions.

*George Felch papers, 1880-1937 (Fairbanks Museum)*  
2 linear feet (33 volumes)

George Felch's diaries document daily life in St. Johnsbury from 1885-1937.

*Gerald Heon papers, 1830-1999 (Fairbanks Museum)*  
5 linear ft., 13 volumes

Comprised of photographs, postcards, newspaper clippings, ephemera, historical documents, videos, audio tapes, and self-published works and pamphlets collected by Gerald Heon in his efforts to document the history of St. Johnsbury.

*Local history audiotapes, 1978-1981 (Fairbanks Museum)*  
20 tapes

Recordings made in the late 1970's and early 1980's dealing with recollections of the history of St. Johnsbury.

*Municipal records (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

The Town Clerk's office holds records documenting all aspects of St. Johnsbury's history and governance. These include materials relating to the founding of the town; town meeting, the creation of grand lists and local taxation; elections; town officers; the establishment and maintenance of roads and highways. Also included are land records and the minutes of various governing bodies, such as the Select Board, Planning Commission, and Board of Civil Authorities.

*Sarah Houston Nelson scrapbook, 1888-1920 (St. Johnsbury Athenaeum)*  
.25 linear ft. ( 5 folders); 1 volume.

The scrapbook was apparently kept by Sarah Houston Nelson and contains clippings about local events in St. Johnsbury, Hardwick and Walden, VT.

*St. Johnsbury Athenaeum manuscript collection (Athenaeum)*  
2 linear ft. (2 boxes)

The Athenaeum also maintains a collection of individual manuscripts documenting various aspects of St. Johnsbury's history. Some, but not all of these have been cataloged individually.

*St. Johnsbury Athenaeum reference collection, 1737-1984 (Athenaeum)*  
2.5 linear ft. (3 boxes)

Comprised of pamphlets, clippings, and ephemera documenting various aspects of St. Johnsbury, Vt., the Northeast Kingdom, Vermont, and New Hampshire history. These include biographies, obituaries, memorial tracts, printed genealogies, various programs and clippings documenting St. Johnsbury area organizations and events, historical pamphlets commemorating events in the history of various Vermont towns, speeches

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delivered by Vermonters, poems and writings by Vermonters, and printed materials on general aspects of Vermont history.

### Agriculture

*Account book collection, 1806-1906 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*3 linear ft. (3 boxes)*

Includes account books documenting the financial transactions of individuals and businesses from the greater St. Johnsbury, Vermont area. Many of the account books document farm life.

*Asa Lee Journal, 1812-1842 (St. Johnsbury Athenaeum)*

*1 volume*

Asa Lee (1769-1848) purchased farmland in St. Johnsbury, VT. In 1792. The bound volume contains accounting records, a diary or work log. Daily dairy entries, beginning in 1831, record weather, labor, community events and the activities of Lee's children.

*Charles A. Choate diaries, 1881, 188-1889 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.25 linear feet (12 folders)*

Charles Choate (1838-1902) was a farmer from West Barnet, Vermont. The collection includes photocopies of three diaries describing daily life on Choate's farm.

*George C. Cary papers, 1898-1986 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*2.25 linear ft. (2 boxes)*

George Clinton Cary (1864-1931), a prominent St. Johnsbury businessman also was a hobbyist farmer, raising cattle and Welsh ponies. His papers include a scrapbook documenting these activities.

*Stuart family journals, 1818-1876 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.25 linear feet (3 folders)*

Three bound volumes created by the Stuart family of Lunenburg, VT document farm life in the nineteenth-century, with accounting and weather entries.

*William Henry Preston papers, 1861-1908 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.25 linear ft. (23 folders) and oversized materials*

The collection is made up primarily of letters to William Henry Preston from family and friends between 1861 and 1864. Many of the letters concern the maintenance of the family farm in Danville, VT.

### Architecture

*George Felch papers, 1880-1937 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*2 linear feet (33 volumes)*

Diarist George Felch documents daily life in St. Johnsbury from 1885-1937. A piano tuner and musician, Felch records his musical education at the New England Conservatory, his travels throughout Vermont's Northeast Kingdom region tuning pianos, and his involvement in St. Johnsbury's town band.

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*Earl Cross covered bridge photograph collection, 194?* (Fairbanks Museum)  
1.5 linear ft. (2 boxes)

The collection primarily consists of negatives taken by Earl Cross depicting Vermont covered bridges ca. 1940. Also included are photographic prints, commercial postcards, and research notes and drawings. The images show the bridges both in situ and with close-ups of architectural details.

*St. Johnsbury image collection, 1880-1980* (Athenaeum)  
20.5 linear ft. (12 boxes, 8 volumes)

Comprised mostly of photographic prints dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, including hundreds of images of local buildings, this collection is a rich source of information on St. Johnsbury's architectural history.

### **The Arts**

*Passumpsic Valley Craft Guild records, 1953-1974* (Fairbanks Museum)  
.25 linear ft. (13 folders)

The Passumpsic Guild was founded circa 1953 and was the sponsor of an annual state-wide Arts and Crafts Fair in St. Johnsbury at the state armory. Includes histories and by-laws, treasurers' reports, correspondence, check statement books, membership lists, newsletters, and fair consignors' lists.

*St. Johnsbury Athenaeum institutional records* (Athenaeum)  
*Art Gallery records, 1873—present*

Includes written and photographic documentation of artworks owned by the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum, curatorial activity, and viewer attendance and comments as recorded in the gallery's guest books.

*W. Henry Herrick diaries, 1861-1871* (Fairbanks Museum)  
5 volumes, 1 folder

The collection consists of five bound diaries covering the years 1861-1871 with the years 1868-1869 missing. Herrick was the leader of the North Church choir and performed in the band and the diaries contain programs from musical performances.

### **Business, Industry, and Manufacturing**

#### **General**

*Account book collection, 1806-1906* (Fairbanks Museum)  
3 linear ft. (3 boxes)

Includes account books documenting the financial transactions of individuals and businesses from the greater St. Johnsbury, Vermont area. Businesses represented include the Lyndon General Store.

*Business registrations, 1909-present* (Town of St. Johnsbury)  
2 linear ft (4 boxes), 6 volumes

Comprised of four boxes of forms documenting the establishment and cessation of businesses in St. Johnsbury (ca. 1920--).

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*Caledonia Fair records, 1912-1916, n.d. (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

*2 volumes*

Includes expenses of the Caledonia Fair Ground Company (1912-1916) and what appears to be an undated entry book from the Caledonia County Fair.

*Corporation records, 1893-present (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

*4.5 linear ft. (9 boxes) 1 volume*

Includes Articles of Association and related registration records for corporations formed in St. Johnsbury (ca. 1900--).

*George C. Cary papers, 1898-1986 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*2.25 linear ft. (2 boxes)*

George Clinton Cary (1864-1931) founded the Cary Maple Sugar Company, which eventually grew to a million-dollar business, in St. Johnsbury in 1904. In 1920 he formed the Maple Grove Candy Company, Inc. as well, which included the candy business of Katharine Ide Gray, Helen Gray Powell, and Ethel McLaren. The collection consists mainly of correspondence and legal and financial records relating the Cary's bankruptcy and estate, with some biographical material.

*Zeno Waterman papers, 1925-1942 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.5 linear feet (10 folders)*

The collection includes for Berry Ball Dry Goods, Lougee & Smythe, and Waterman., Inc., related dry goods businesses located on St. Johnsbury's Main St.

### **E. and T. Fairbanks and Co.**

*Carlton Felch diaries, 1862-1918 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*2 linear ft. (40 folders)*

Felch's large collection of diaries documents his work at the E. and T. Fairbanks Co., where he worked until 1910.

*E. and T. Fairbanks Co. collection, 1810-1985 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*7 linear ft. (9 boxes), 1 volume, 16 oversized folders*

Includes materials collected by the Fairbanks Museum relating to the E. and T. Fairbanks Co. and related businesses. These date back to the Fairbanks family's mercantile business in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and continue through the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, when the Fairbanks factory in St. Johnsbury had long ceased to be the center of operations for the scale manufacturing industry

*Fairbanks Company records, 1847-1967 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*17 linear ft. (16 boxes)*

Comprised of documents created between 1847 and 1967 by the Fairbanks Co., its predecessor and original parent organization, the E. and T. Fairbanks Co., and subsidiary companies. The Fairbanks Company was formed in 1891 by William Wells of New York, Samuel Brown of Massachusetts, William Fairbanks of Vermont, William Bush of New Jersey and Theodore MacIntyre, also of New Jersey. Business was conducted out of New York City, and extended to nearly every state in the US and many other countries.

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*W. Henry Herrick diaries, 1861-1871 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*5 volumes, 1 folder*

The collection consists of five bound diaries covering the years 1861-1871 with the years 1868-1869 missing. The diaries describe Herrick's work as an employee of the E.T. & H.K. Fairbanks Company, where he eventually became the foreman of the scaling of weights section

### **Education**

*Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium records (Fairbanks Museum)*

Comprised of records documenting all aspects of the museum's history and activities since its inception in 1891. The archives reflect the museum's commitment to interpreting the region's natural and applied sciences and their extensive education programs.

*St. Johnsbury Academy publications, 1875-1988 (Athenaeum)*

*3 linear ft. (4 boxes)*

The Athenaeum maintains an incomplete collection of serials and special publications produced by the St. Johnsbury Academy that duplicates materials held in the Academy's own archival collections (see below). They serve as rich documentation of student and alumni activities and of the history of the institution.

*St. Johnsbury Academy records (St. Johnsbury Academy)*

The records of the Academy document all aspects of campus life since the school's inception in 1842 to the present day. Record types available for research include:

- student and alumni publications
- administrative records
- personal papers of faculty, student, and alumni
- samples of student textbooks and coursework
- club records
- architectural records
- photographs documenting a large range of activities and time periods.

Collections relating to specific topics other than education have been noted throughout this guide.

*School district records, 1805-1914 (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

*3 linear ft. (3 boxes)*

Includes: meeting and committee records of various local schools districts; copies of statistical information presented to the state; school census data (1891-1910), documenting the existence of school aged children within local families; and expense and inventory records.

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### **Environmental Affairs and Natural Resources**

*Arthur Graves home movies, 1946-1960 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*1 linear ft. (15 reels)*

Includes 18 reels of 8mm films, depicting Graves' home and family. Graves appears to have been somewhat of a sportsman and naturalist. Fishing, mountain views, and birds feature prominently.

*Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium records (Fairbanks Museum)*

Comprised of records documenting all aspects of the museum's history and activities since its inception in 1891. The archives reflect the museum's commitment to interpreting the region's natural and applied sciences and their extensive education programs.

*The Northern New England Weather Center Records, 1894 – 1997 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*34 linear feet*

Includes the observations and recordings compiled at the Fairbanks Museum's Center, documenting meteorological conditions in St. Johnsbury and northern New England from 1894 to the present.

*Stuart family journals, 1818-1876 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.25 linear feet (3 folders)*

Three bound volumes created by the Stuart family of Lunenburg, VT document farm life in the nineteenth-century, with accounting and weather entries.

### **Families**

*Arthur Graves home movies, 1946-1960 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*1 linear ft. (15 reels)*

Includes 18 reels of 8mm films, depicting Graves' home and family, the St. Johnsbury region, and trips taken by the Graves family throughout the United States and abroad.

*Asa Lee Journal, 1812-1842 ( St. Johnsbury Athenaeum)*

*1 volume*

Asa Lee (1769-1848) purchased farmland in St. Johnsbury, VT. In 1792. The bound volume contains accounting records, a diary or work log. Daily dairy entries, beginning in 1831, record weather, labor, community events and the activities of Lee's children.

*Cray family home movies, 1942-1956 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*1 linear ft. (41 reels)*

The films contain footage of family and friends, St. Johnsbury events, and travels around Vermont and New England.

*Stone family papers, 1849-1998 (Athenaeum)*

*3.75 linear ft. (4 boxes)*

The Stone family papers include correspondence, personal papers, photographs, and publications belonging to several generations of Laura

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Stone's antecedents, including her father, editor and historian, Arthur Stone and the Fairbanks and Paddock families.

*Stuart family journals, 1818-1876 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.25 linear feet (3 folders)*

Three bound volumes created by the Stuart family of Lunenburg, VT document farm life in the nineteenth-century, with accounting and weather entries.

*Vital records, 1790-present (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

Includes birth and death certificates, marriage and civil union licenses, and burial permits. The vital records are rich sources of information for genealogical research, documenting relationships between family members.

### **Labor**

*Carlton Felch diaries, 1862-1918 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*2 linear ft. (40 folders)*

Felch's large collection of diaries documents his work at the E. and T. Fairbanks Co., where he worked until 1910.

*Harriet Pope and Charles Walter Carpenter papers, 1895-1902 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.25 linear ft. (8 folders)*

The collection is primarily comprised of letters exchanged by Harriet Pope and Charles Walter Carpenter during the period of their courtship. Hattie served as domestic help for St. Johnsbury families and Charles Walter worked as a machinist in Claremont, NH. Their letters contain occasional references to their working lives.

*W. Henry Herrick diaries, 1861-1871 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*5 volumes, 1 folder*

The collection consists of five bound diaries covering the years 1861-1871 with the years 1868-1869 missing. The diaries describe Herrick's work as an employee of the E.T. & H.K. Fairbanks Company, where he eventually became the foreman of the scaling of weights section

### **Medicine and Health Care**

*Caledonia County Red Cross records, 1918-1923 (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

*1 linear ft (2 boxes)*

Comprised of written records documenting the Caledonia County Chapter of the Red Cross from 1918 to 1923. The Red Cross provided assistance to World War I efforts and during the local influenza epidemic.

*Hospital liens, 1963-present (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

Bound volumes containing liens filed which list injured persons receiving or having received medical treatment or hospitalization by area hospitals. The individual alleged to be liable is also noted. The records are for Brightlook Hospital (1963-1964) and Northeast Vermont Regional Hospital (1972-present).

## **St. Johnsbury Community Archives – Guide to Historic Records**

*Saint Johnsbury Red Cross records, 1917-1924 (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

*1 volume, 6 folders*

Consists of the shipping lists, meeting minutes, membership lists, clippings, and course notes of the St. Johnsbury Red Cross. The shipping lists track medical supplies, linen, and clothing sent to Red Cross headquarters from 1917-1918. Course notes record attendance at classes on general first aid topics. Meeting minutes describe the activities of the chapter from the end of World War I, in 1918, until 1920, which included generating supplies for demobilization and refugee support and caring for the sick and poor at home.

### **Maps**

*St. Johnsbury Athenaeum map collection, 1853-1986 (Athenaeum)*

*68 maps*

Includes primarily local and state maps, dating mostly from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

*Fairbanks Museum map collection, 1850-1972 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*25 linear ft.*

Includes maps of St. Johnsbury, the Northeast Kingdom counties (Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans), Orange County, a handful of individual towns, and the states of Vermont and New Hampshire. A large collection of U.S. Geological Survey maps of Vermont and New Hampshire are also present.

*Maps (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

Include surveys and plans of both municipal and personal property. Accompanied transactions are recorded and cross-referenced with land records. The maps are indexed by place.

### **Military**

#### **General**

*Military discharges, 1945-present (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

Comprised of discharges from United States military service filed in St. Johnsbury, generally by individuals from the area.

*Militia records, 1812-1867 (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

*1.25 linear ft. (2 boxes)*

Comprised of militia returns detailing the certification of men, service, and equipment in the militia in the state of Vermont between 1808 and 1867. In addition to returns, the collection also includes several communications regarding the certification of particular officers and notices from the Adjutant Inspector General regarding the eligibility and actual enrollment for the entire state.

## St. Johnsbury Community Archives – Guide to Historic Records

### Civil War records

*Carlton Felch diaries, 1862-1918 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*2 linear ft. (40 folders)*

Felch was a soldier in the Third Regiment of the Vermont Volunteer Infantry. His collection of diaries begins with his Civil War years.

*Civil War collection, 1861-ca. 1960 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*37 documents*

Includes individual records documenting Vermont's participation in the Civil War, with an emphasis on individuals and regiments from St. Johnsbury and the surrounding area. Also includes some records relating to the Chamberlain Post G.A.R. chapter.

*Eleventh Vermont Infantry Regiment, Battery B. records, 1862-1867 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.25 linear ft. (10 folders), 7 oversized folders*

Contains numerous quartermaster style reports listing equipment on hand, new equipment issued, and equipment lost or damaged. It includes rosters of people assigned to the 11th Vermont Infantry, Battery B and initial enlistment records from 1862 for soldiers who were assigned to the 11th Vermont Infantry.

*Erastus Fairbanks dispatches, 1860-1861 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.25 linear ft. (14 folders) and oversized materials*

This collection is made up of a large number of telegraphic dispatches and some letters to and from Governor Erastus Fairbanks primarily during the period of April 1861 through October 1861. These materials show Vermont rushing to meet her promise of doing her full duty for the Union Army.

*Grand Army of the Republic; Vt. Dept.; Chamberlain Post N.o 1 records, 1865-1941(Athenaeum)*

*7.25 linear ft. (6 boxes)*

The Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) was a national organization of former Civil War Union veterans. The George Chamberlain Post No. 1 of St. Johnsbury, Vermont, was first founded in 1868. This collection contains a reasonably complete view of the Chamberlain Post No. 1, after its resurgence in 1880. It contains minute, ledgers, and secret ritual and service books, which show the form and working of internal GAR meetings. Additional materials, including clippings, burial records, rosters, and photographs, provide information about Vermont Civil War veterans, especially from the Northeast Kingdom region.

*Town of St. Johnsbury record, 1790-1920s (Fairbanks Museum)*

*4 linear ft. (5 boxes)*

Includes materials created and maintained by the Town of St. Johnsbury, then donated to the Fairbanks Museum. A series of Civil War records documents includes bills, enlistment records, pay vouchers, correspondence, and orders for St. Johnsbury soldiers.

## **St. Johnsbury Community Archives – Guide to Historic Records**

*Turrell E. Hariman papers, 1862- 1901 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.5 linear feet*

Includes letters, a memoir, and photographs documenting the military service of Turrell Harriman, of Peacham, Vt., who enlisted in the Eighth Vermont Regiment at the age of fifteen.

*W. Henry Herrick diaries, 1861-1871 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*5 volumes, 1 folder*

The collection consists of five bound diaries covering the years 1861-1871 with the years 1868-1869 missing. The diaries describe Herrick's service as a member of the band of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regimental Vermont Volunteers.

*William Henry Preston papers, 1861-1908 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.25 linear ft. (23 folders) and oversized materials*

The collection is made up primarily of letters to William Henry Preston from family and friends between 1861 and 1864. "Henry" was a younger brother to Addison Preston, who, during the course of the Civil War, rose to the command of the 1<sup>st</sup> Vermont Cavalry Regiment. The collection includes letters home from Addison.

*William Henry Proctor papers, 1855-1908 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.5 linear feet (27 folders) and oversized material*

Includes materials documenting William Henry Proctor's Civil War experiences and his life following the War up until 1908. Proctor, who was born in Fair Haven, enlisted in Company E of the Second United States Sharpshooters from West Randolph, Vermont on October 8, 1861 at the rank of Sergeant. On March 3, 1865, he was appointed Second Lieutenant to the 24<sup>th</sup> Regiment of the United States Colored Troops, an African-American unit.

*Woman's Relief Corps, Howard No. 24, Lunenburg, VT, records, 1886-1961*

*(Fairbanks Museum)*

*.5 linear feet (17 folders)*

Includes records documenting the activities and practices of the Lunenburg chapter of the Woman's Relief Corps (the auxiliary to the Civil War veterans' Grand Army of the Republic) and its parent national organization.

### **World War I**

*Caledonia County Red Cross records, 1918-1923 (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

*1 linear ft (2 boxes)*

Comprised of written records documenting the Caledonia County Chapter of the Red Cross from 1918 to 1923. The Red Cross provided assistance to World War I efforts and during the local influenza epidemic.

*Horace Locklin papers, 1826-1945 (Fairbanks Museum)*

Horace Locklin's diary contains intermittent entries about his activities during the year of 1918. He was first station at Fort Constitution in Portsmouth, N.H. as part of the coastal defense, then transferred to Fort Monroe, Virginia, in March, and eventually to Fort Williams, Maine in November. Additional papers in the collections document his sister's estate.

## **St. Johnsbury Community Archives – Guide to Historic Records**

*Saint Johnsbury Red Cross records, 1917-1924 (Town of St. Johnsbury)*  
*1 volume, 6 folders*

Consists of the shipping lists, meeting minutes, membership lists, clippings, and course notes of the St. Johnsbury Red Cross. The shipping lists track medical supplies, linen, and clothing sent to Red Cross headquarters from 1917-1918. Course notes record attendance at classes on general first aid topics. Meeting minutes describe the activities of the chapter from the end of World War I, in 1918, until 1920, which included generating supplies for demobilization and refugee support and caring for the sick and poor at home.

### **Photographs**

In addition to the photograph collections listed below, small selections of photographs may appear in individual manuscript collections.

*Cased photograph collection, [ca. 1843-ca. 1880] (Fairbanks Museum)*  
*4 linear ft. (4 boxes)*

Includes daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and some tintypes and unidentified processes. In addition to portraits, which comprise most of the collection, there are some images of buildings and objects. Many of the images depict the Fairbanks family and their relatives. Other families and individuals represented are the Clapp family, the Jewett family, the Spaulding family, Benjamin Badger, and George Knapp. Many individuals are unidentified, although most appear to be from the vicinity of St. Johnsbury, Vermont.

*Earl Cross covered bridge photograph collection, 194? (Fairbanks Museum)*  
*1.5 linear ft. (2 boxes)*

The collection primarily consists of negatives taken by Earl Cross depicting Vermont covered bridges ca. 1940. Also included are photographic prints, commercial postcards, and research notes and drawings. The images show the bridges both in situ and with close-ups of architectural details.

*Fairbanks family photograph collection 1800's-1900's (Fairbanks Museum)*  
*2 linear ft. (5 volumes, 1 box and 24 oversize folders)*

This collection is made up of family photographs of individuals and the homes of Fairbanks family members mostly in St. Johnsbury.

*Local history photograph collection, 1800's-1900's (Fairbanks Museum)*  
*4 linear ft. (4 boxes and 29 oversize folders)*

Comprised mostly of photographic prints depicting the buildings, landscapes, events, and inhabitants of St. Johnsbury, Vermont and surrounding towns.

*St. Johnsbury Academy photograph collection, ca. 1870-ca. 1998 (Academy)*  
*53 linear ft. (28 volumes, 18 boxes)*

Includes primarily black and white photographic prints and negatives, dating from the 1870's through the mid-to late 1990's, documenting all aspects of campus life. This collection is being added to continually and forms the bulk of the Academy's archives.

## **St. Johnsbury Community Archives – Guide to Historic Records**

*St. Johnsbury image collection, 1880-1980 (Athenaeum)*

*20.5 linear ft. (12 boxes, 8 volumes)*

Comprised mostly of photographic prints depicting the buildings, landscapes, events, and inhabitants of St. Johnsbury, Vermont. They date from the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and embody a wide variety of photographic processes. The collection also contains postcards, etchings, and clippings of photographs or drawings from various publications. A few photographs of surrounding localities are present.

### **Politics, Government, and Law**

*Erastus Fairbanks dispatches, 1860-1861 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.25 linear ft. (14 folders) and oversized materials*

This collection is made up of a large number of telegraphic dispatches and some letters to and from Governor Erastus Fairbanks primarily during the period of April 1861 through October 1861. These materials show Vermont rushing to meet her promise of doing her full duty for the Union Army.

*Municipal records (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

The Town Clerk's office holds records documenting all aspects of St. Johnsbury's history and governance. These include materials relating to the founding of the town; town meeting, the creation of grand lists and local taxation; elections; town officers; the establishment and maintenance of roads and highways. Also included are land records and the minutes of various governing bodies, such as the Select Board, Planning Commission, and Board of Civil Authorities.

*Stone family papers, 1849-1998 (Athenaeum)*

*3.75 linear ft. (4 boxes)*

The papers of legislator, editor, and historian Arthur Stone form part of this collection and are a rich source of information on Vermont's Republican Party in the early twentieth century.

*Town of St. Johnsbury record, 1790-1920s (Fairbanks Museum)*

*4 linear ft. (5 boxes)*

Includes materials created and maintained by the Town of St. Johnsbury, then donated to the Fairbanks Museum. The records document the performance of duties by town officers, the establishment of village water works and sprinkler system, the establishment of the police department, the local courthouse and cemeteries, the hearse maintained by the Town; tax collection, and general expenses.

*Zeno Waterman papers, 1925-1942 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.5 linear feet (10 folders)*

The collection contains a handful of records documenting Sterry Waterman's work as a lawyer.

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### Recreation and Leisure

*Arthur Graves home movies, 1946-1960 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*1 linear ft. (15 reels)*

Includes 18 reels of 8mm films, depicting Graves' home and family. Graves appears to have been somewhat of a sportsman and naturalist. Fishing, mountain views, and birds feature prominently. Local sporting events are depicted as well.

*Harriet Pope and Charles Walter Carpenter papers, 1895-1902 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.25 linear ft. (8 folders)*

The collection is primarily comprised of letters exchanged by Harriet Pope and Charles Walter Carpenter during the period of their courtship. Their letters describe recreational and social activities in St. Johnsbury at the turn of the century in great detail.

### Religion

*Caledonia Association records, ca. 1829-1910 (Athenaeum)*

*1 linear ft. (1 box)*

The Caledonia Association was made up of Congregational ministers of Caledonia County. The association's main activities of theological discussion and debate are reflected in meeting minutes and reports. Accompanying correspondence primarily concerns the dismissal of ministers from the Association, either due to relocation or to activities incompatible with the expectations of members.

*Caledonia County Sunday School records, 1835-1847, n.d. (Athenaeum)*

*1 linear ft. (1 box)*

Includes documents created by Rev. John H. Worcester in the course of his involvement with the Caledonia County Sunday School, an apparent affiliate of both the Massachusetts Sunday School Society and the Caledonian Association (see above). Notes for speeches to various audiences and committee records address methods of Sunday School education.

*Congregationalist records, 1809-1919 (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

*6 volumes*

A Congregationalist church community in St. Johnsbury Vt. was established in 1809, with several churches in existence throughout the 19<sup>th</sup> century and into the present day. Includes the records of the first Congregational Society (1833-1889), four of five volumes of the records of the First Congregational Church (1809-1919), and a small volume listing pew rents for the South Congregational Church (1865).

*George Felch papers, 1880-1937 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*2 linear feet (33 volumes)*

Diarist George Felch documents daily life in St. Johnsbury from 1885-1937. Felch was very active in the Universalist Church and records meetings, sermons, and special events in that community.

## **St. Johnsbury Community Archives – Guide to Historic Records**

*Society of Universalists of St. Johnsbury records, 1813-1854 (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

*1 volume*

The Society of Universalists was established in 1813, with over 200 men listed as members. This volume contains the constitution of the Universalist Society, a list of the all-male members, meeting minutes documenting the election of officers and major decisions, and a photograph of a painting depicting the original Universalist Church and surrounding buildings in St. Johnsbury Center.

### **Science and Technology**

*Fairbanks Museum and Planetarium records (Fairbanks Museum)*

Comprised of records documenting all aspects of the museum's history and activities since its inception in 1891. The archives reflect the museum's commitment to interpreting the region's natural and applied sciences and their extensive education programs.

See also: Business, industry, and manufacturing: E. and T. Fairbanks Co.

### **Social Organizations and Activity**

In addition to the materials listed here, the St. Johnsbury Athenaeum serves as a physical repository for the records of many active local area clubs, including the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Synapse Club, the Scotia Club, the Sphinx Club, and the Women's Club. Access to these materials must be arranged through contact with club representatives.

*Adelphian and Athenian records, 1871-1895 (St. Johnsbury Academy)*

*.5 linear feet (7 folders)*

Includes minutes of male and female literary debating societies at the St. Johnsbury Academy.

*Caledonia County Red Cross records, 1918-1923 (Town of St. Johnsbury)*

*1 linear ft (2 boxes)*

Comprised of written records documenting the Caledonia County Chapter of the Red Cross from 1918 to 1923. The Red Cross provided assistance to World War I efforts and during the local influenza epidemic.

*George Felch papers, 1880-1937 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*2 linear feet (33 volumes)*

Diarist George Felch documents daily life in St. Johnsbury from 1885-1937. Felch was active in many local organizations, including the St. Johnsbury Town Band and the Volunteer Fire Department. He records his attendance at these meetings and his social interactions with many St. Johnsbury residents.

*Harriet Pope and Charles Walter Carpenter papers, 1895-1902 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.25 linear ft. (8 folders)*

The collection is primarily comprised of letters exchanged by Harriet Pope and

## **St. Johnsbury Community Archives – Guide to Historic Records**

Charles Walter Carpenter during the period of their courtship. Their letters describe recreational and social activities in St. Johnsbury at the turn of the century in great detail.

*Saint Johnsbury Red Cross records, 1917-1924 (Town of St. Johnsbury)*  
*1 volume, 6 folders*

Consists of the shipping lists, meeting minutes, membership lists, clippings, and course notes of the St. Johnsbury Red Cross. The shipping lists track medical supplies, linen, and clothing sent to Red Cross headquarters from 1917-1918. Course notes record attendance at classes on general first aid topics. Meeting minutes describe the activities of the chapter from the end of World War I, in 1918, until 1920, which included generating supplies for demobilization and refugee support and caring for the sick and poor at home.

*Woman's Relief Corps, Howard No. 24, Lunenburg, VT, records, 1886-1961 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.5 linear feet (17 folders)*

Includes records documenting the activities and practices of the Lunenburg chapter of the Woman's Relief Corps (the auxiliary to the Civil War veterans' Grand Army of the Republic) and its parent national organization.

### **Transportation and Communication**

*St. Johnsbury Republican records, 1865-1935 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*3 linear feet (3 boxes)*

Includes correspondence and papers exchanged between the *St. Johnsbury Republican's* managing editor, Charles Walter and his wife Mabel, and Dudley Hall's descendants. Also included are itemized financial records for the newspaper. The *St. Johnsbury Republican* was first published in 1885. The paper was founded by Col. Franklin Fairbanks, S. S. Thompson, Dudley Hall and others as a forum to counteract the political views expressed by C. M. Stone, the editor of the *Caledonian Record*, another paper run out of St. Johnsbury.

*Stone family papers, 1849-1998 (Athenaeum)*

*3.75 linear ft. (4 boxes)*

The papers of legislator, editor, and historian Arthur Stone form part of this collection and document Stone's work as a reporter and editor of the *Caledonian Record*. Charles Marshall, his father, whose papers also appear in this collection controlled the newspaper before his son took over.

### **Women's History**

*Harriet Pope and Charles Walter Carpenter papers, 1895-1902 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.25 linear ft. (8 folders)*

The collection is primarily comprised of letters exchanged by Harriet Pope and Charles Walter Carpenter during the period of their courtship. Hattie's spirited

## St. Johnsbury Community Archives – Guide to Historic Records

letters provide unique insight into her perspective on the relationship and her daily life.

*Ladies Library Association records, 1855-1871 (Athenaeum)*

*2 volumes*

The Ladies Library Association functioned a circulating library, a literary society, and a debate society. They also presented essays of their own authorship. Includes histories of the organization, minutes of meetings, membership lists, lists of books purchased, and account balances.

*Stone family papers, 1849-1998 (Athenaeum)*

*3.75 linear ft. (4 boxes)*

The Stone family papers contain records of several generations of St. Johnsbury-area women, including Sarah Fairbanks Stone, Helen Lincoln Stone, and Laura Stone.

*William Henry Preston papers, 1861-1908 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.25 linear ft. (23 folders) and oversized materials*

The collection is made up primarily of letters to William Henry Preston from family and friends between 1861 and 1864. Many of the letters are from the Preston women, William's mother, sister, and sister-in-law, who were maintaining the family farm while William Henry was at Dartmouth and his brother Addison was fighting in the Civil War.

*Woman's Relief Corps, Howard No. 24, Lunenburg, VT, records, 1886-1961 (Fairbanks Museum)*

*.5 linear feet (17 folders)*

Includes records documenting the activities and practices of the Lunenburg chapter of the Woman's Relief Corps (the auxiliary to the Civil War veterans' Grand Army of the Republic) and its parent national organization.