COLLECTION OVERVIEW
Reference Code: BWR003, MBrid, US
Title: Town of Bridgewater World War II records
Date: 1940-1946
Creator(s): Town of Bridgewater, creator
A. Evelyn Keith, compiler
Bridgewater Public Safety Committee, contributor
Extent: 5.25 linear feet
Languages and Scripts
Materials are in English.
Abstract: This collection includes scrapbooks, correspondence, and committee records related to the Town of Bridgewater's involvement in World War II.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION
Name and Location of Repository: Bridgewater Public Library Archives & Special Collections, 15 South Street, Bridgewater, Mass. 02324

Preferred citation: Item identification. Box #. Town of Bridgewater WWII records (BWR003). Bridgewater Public Library Archives & Special Collections.

Location: Bridgewater Public Library Historical Room

Conditions Governing Access
This collection is open for research.

Physical Access
Delicate materials may be restricted due to their condition.

Technical Access
There are no technical restrictions on this collection.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use
Copyright restrictions may apply. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with Archives & Special Collections staff.

Custodial History
Custodial history is unknown. Scrapbooks are believed to have been primarily compiled by A. Evelyn Keith (who also contributed to the correspondence in this collection) working on behalf of the Town of Bridgewater.

Immediate Source of Acquisition
Immediate source of acquisition is unknown.

Accruals
Accruals are not expected.
BIOGRAPHICAL/HISTORICAL NOTE
The Public Safety Committee (also referred to as the Bridgewater Committee of Public Safety or the Safety Committee, and before January 1942, it was referred to as the Bridgewater Civilian Committee on Defense, the Bridgewater Civilian Committee on National Defense, the Citizens Defense Committee, the Local Defense Committee, or the Bridgewater Defense Committee) held its first meeting on July 9, 1940.

The scrapbooks in this collection are believed to have been compiled by Miss A. Evelyn Keith, town accountant, from photographs sent in by individuals serving in the military.

Keith, along with Leo F. Nourse, Arthur E. Pratt, Ronald Atwood, James R. Moore, and Edward F. McGinn, was also a sponsor of the News Scribblings from Town Hall, Bridgewater, Mass newsletter (also referred to as Scribblings) which was mailed to military personnel from Bridgewater at the end of every month from beginning in July 1943 to approximately 1946. As of August 28, 1944 approximately 850 copies of Scribblings were sent as well as 250 copies of the Boston Herald and 200 copies of the Brockton Enterprise. As of September 24, 1945, approximately 950 copies of scribblings were sent, and by November 30, 1946 this number dropped to 110. Some of the postage for Scribblings appears to have been solicited from Bridgewater residents.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE
This collection contains records related to the Town of Bridgewater’s involvement in World War II including correspondence sent by the town to military personnel, records of the Public Safety Committee, two scrapbooks with photographs of individuals in the service, and two scrapbooks with newspaper clippings about individuals in the service.

ARRANGEMENT
The collection is arranged in three series as follows:

Series I. Correspondence, 1943-1946
Series II. Public Safety Committee records, 1940-1945
Series III. Scrapbooks, approximately 1942-1945

Series I: Correspondence, 1943-1946
Scope and Content Note: Series I contains photocopies (and duplicate photocopies) of correspondence sent by the Town of Bridgewater to Bridgewater residents serving in the
military during World War II, including the “News Scribblings from Town Hall, Bridgewater, Mass” newsletter as well as copies of the *Boston Herald* and *Brockton Enterprise*. It also contains original cards, six “merry christmas” cards with the names Leo F. Nourse, Arthur E. Pratt, Ronald Atwood, James R. Moore, Edward F. McGinn, and A. Evelyn Keith (the sponsors of Scribblings) printed, and one unsigned sympathy card.

There are copies of following issues of Scribblings:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1943</th>
<th>1944</th>
<th>1945</th>
<th>1946</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>January 31</td>
<td>January 29</td>
<td>January 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 30</td>
<td>February 29</td>
<td>February 26</td>
<td>February 25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 27</td>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>March 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 31</td>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>April 30</td>
<td>April 29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 29</td>
<td>May 29</td>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>May 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 31</td>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>July 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 31</td>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>July 29</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 28</td>
<td>August 27</td>
<td>August 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 25</td>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>September 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 30</td>
<td>October 29</td>
<td>October 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 27</td>
<td>November 26</td>
<td>November 30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 21</td>
<td>December 31</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Extent:** 0.4 linear feet  
**Arrangement:** Correspondence is arranged in approximate chronological order, with one complete set of photocopied correspondence following the first complete set and the undated original cards at the end.  
**Box/Folder List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Copies of correspondence</td>
<td>1943-1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Copies of correspondence</td>
<td>1945-1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Duplicate copies of correspondence</td>
<td>1943-1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Duplicate copies of correspondence</td>
<td>1945-1946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Original “Merry Christmas” and sympathy cards</td>
<td>Approximately 1943-1946</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series II: Public Safety Committee records, 1940-1945**  
**Scope and Content Note:** Series II contains records of the Public Safety Committee also referred to as the Bridgewater Committee of Public Safety or the Safety Committee. Before January 1942, it was referred to as the Bridgewater Civilian Committee on Defense, the Bridgewater Civilian Committee on National Defense, the Citizens Defense Committee, the
Local Defense Committee, or the Bridgewater Defense Committee. The following subcommittees/divisions are mentioned:

Communications
Decontamination squad
Executive
General
Information of subversive activities
Medical
Necessities
Personnel and promotion of enlistment
Planning
Protection/protective
Publicity
Rehabilitation
Service and supply
Supplies and finance
Transportation
Utilities
Women’s

This series is predominantly meeting minutes and orders drawn but also includes committee rosters, a list of Bridgewater men in military service as of July 17, 1940, and an organization chart for the Safety Committee.

Minutes deal with military recruitment from 1940-1945, wartime preparedness and planning, women’s defense courses, blackout preparation, the soldier’s canteen, evacuation planning, air raid preparations, and visits from US Army Civilian Defense program representatives. In 1945 there are also mentions of victory gardens and rehabilitation.

Records have been removed from their original binder due to preservation concerns.

**Extent:** 0.05 linear feet

**Arrangement:** Original order of the records has been maintained and is generally organized into three sections: committee rosters, meeting minutes, and orders drawn (financial), which are then organized chronologically.

**Box/Folder List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Public Safety Committee records</td>
<td>1940-1945</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Series III: Scrapbooks, approximately 1942-1945**

**Scope and Content Note:** Series III contains four scrapbooks about Bridgewater military service during World War II. Two scrapbooks have photographs and two have newspaper clippings. Scrapbooks are assumed to have been compiled by A. Evelyn Keith on behalf of the Town of Bridgewater. Most scrapbooks have brittle and flaking pages, and the cover has fallen
off the brown photograph scrapbook and the brown, laminated clipping scrapbook. Due to their fragile nature, scrapbooks may be restricted.

The following appear in the brown photograph scrapbook (in order of appearance with brackets to indicate unclear spelling):

Robert Dupre
William T. Flynn
Simon Gesin
Nathan Gottschalk
Edward Chiocca
Steven Bonfiglioli
Arthur E. Pratt
William E. Kehoe
Theodore R. Kehoe
John Pistone
Charles R. Moore
Winston B. Copeland
George Sweeney
George Chassey
Alexander Santilli
William Bassett
Kendall MacFarland
George Ponti
John Oleskiewicz
Kenneth A. Wood
Thomas Kiley
Ralph E. Thompson (three photographs)
Russell C. Wood
Alton K. Smith
Dino Bertelli
Albert Martinelli
Roger Zenavich
Frank Provost
Royal F. Swift
Frank Dunn
Fred Kondrotas
J. Clifton Reilly
Mario Ricci
John T. Campbell
Richard Dowd
Frank M. Hansler and Charles H. Doyle
Albert Piscatori
Bart. F. Buckley
John Chestna
Carlston H. Wood Jr.
George King
Michael Nawlicki
Warren Brush
Samuel Murray
David F. Sweeney
Michael Silva
Edward Bonfiglioli
Clifton Jackson and family
John A. McCallum
Raymond Mendes
Charles Leach
Frederick O. Carle
Elmer Proule
George J. Maher
Leo McFadden
Thomas Tinsley
Avery E. Johnson
Anthony J. Kumpelis
Leonard Wood
Leon Carswell
Wilfred Moore
Theodore Harrington
Homer Tolivaisa
Reno P. Martelli
Joseph Gricius
Jimmy Bumpus
Chris Bagicidis
Simon Sheehan
Lino Bonfiglioli
Anthony Rose
Donald Hooper
Edward Jenczewski
Francis Janczewski
Francis Dutra
Ralph M. Hunt
George C. Malinsky
Joseph C. Venskutonis
Robert A. Deknes
Hartley Moss
August Malaguti
Ernest Haskell
Bruno Bianchini
Fred Bianchini
Phil. Callery
Ernest F. Botti
Anthony Jenczewski
Richard Carle
Roger LaCrosse
Louis P. Bianchini
Vino Ricci
John P. Dubrowski
John P. Righini
Norman L. Marcotte
Henry B. MacPherson
Walter McLaughlin
James F. Dee
Gualdina Lacerda
Robert Bodge
Marie Holmes
Peter Metti
Richard Huffington
Albert Piscator
Joseph Amaral
Donald C. Bulman
Al. J. [Folloni]
George King
Joseph [De Grace]
Robert Safford
Warren Viets
Albert Querzoli
James Murray
Stephen Costa
Edwin Allison
Ronald Keith
Harton Ross
Robert Cavicchi
Wilfred Perry
William Lefeber
Thomas Hanson
Harry [Cap]
Nahum F. Beal
Ruth Boehner
Richard Packard
Maurice Girouard
Stephen Costa
Charles Doyle
John Tobin
Roland Buron
Paul Brouillard
William Broderick
Joseph Sweeney
Albert Martinelli
Helen A. Murray
Winthrop Shaw
John Ferbert
Russell Lockyer
Leon Carswell
Ralph Porter
Renald Resmini
Harry Bodge
Leonard [L.] Wood
Arthur Joyce
Harry Misassian
Arthur R. Baggia
Thomas Browne
Antonio Gagne
John Revil
Wallace Hruniak
Mary Sabaitis
“Nurse’s Quarters San Diego, Cal.”
Martin Parris
Anthony Cruz
Joseph Roque
Russell Lockyer
Frank Berzinis
Laureston [Talbot]
Bob Atwood and Jack Campbell
Walter Hruniak
William Arrighi
Ralph Atkinson
Norman Moss
Allan Scheffler
Robert Moss
“Every Man’s Chapel Africa” (two photographs)
Ernest Haskell
Joseph Czaikowski
Enio Albergini
John Cionowicz
Joseph Lacopolis

The following appear in the blue photograph scrapbook (in order of appearance with brackets to indicate unclear spelling):

Holliston Hodgkins
William W. Sabaitis
Herbert Finneran
Alfred Herman  
Thomas Buckley  
Herbert Church  
Charles Hickey  
Barbara Kirmayer  
Raymond Burke  
Adam Auglis  
Edward Snarski  
John Righini (two photographs)  
Harry Minassian  
Alfred Dimeo  
August Malaguti  
William Lefeber  
James Saccocia  
“English girl friend of Joe Sweeney”  
“Everyman’s Chapel Africa Cpl. Allan Scheffler”  
Ernest Botti  
Larry Orsini  
Six “pictures of Italy…by Clyde Meserve”  
[F. K.] Sawicki  
Brenda Franz, Jane Franz, Louise Bodge, and Joe Ramda  
Al Falloni  
Larry Falloni (two photographs)  
“Grave of the Unknown soldier France Cpl. Joe Lazaro”  
“Captured German Equipment Joe Lazaro”  
Joseph Silva  
Mario Ricci  
George Chassey (two photographs)  
Julius Rego  
Rennie Resmini, Arthur Baggia, Helen Cassiani, Maurice Girouard, Albert Querzoli, and Hickam Field  
Mary Sabaitis  
Joe and Fred Gricius  
“Scenes from Japan Reno Martelli” (two photographs)  
Joseph Gricius and Nathan Gottschalk  
Stanley Woloszyn  
Edward Smith (pictured as a child)  
“V-E Day in Bischofsreut, Germany near the Czech border 5/8/45 [Laely]”  
Carl Sturtevant  
Stanley Woloszyn  
Bernard Andruszkiewicz  
Alfred E. Herman  
“Pictures sent in by Alfred Herman” (18 photographs)  

**Extent:** 4.8 linear feet (four scrapbooks)
**Arrangement:** Scrapbooks are arranged by type (photograph or news clipping). Pages in the brown news clipping scrapbook appear to be out of order.

**Box/Folder List**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Brown photograph scrapbook</td>
<td>Approximately 1942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Blue photograph scrapbook</td>
<td>Approximately 1945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Green news clipping scrapbook</td>
<td>Approximately 1943</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>Brown, laminated news clipping scrapbook</td>
<td>Approximately 1944-1945</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**RELATED MATERIALS**

**Existence and Location of Originals**

Location of original correspondence is unknown.

**Related Archival Materials at the Bridgewater Public Library**

The following materials may also be of interest:

- Helen M. Cassiani papers
- Bridgewater Independent newspapers
- Town of Bridgewater military information cards
- A. Evelyn Keith military ball collection
- World War II ration books

**ACCESS POINTS**

**Organizations:**

Bridgewater Public Safety Committee

*Subject Source:* Local

**Subjects:**

World War II

*Subject Source:* Library of Congress subject headings

**Places:**

Bridgewater (Mass.)

*Subject Source:* Library of Congress subject headings