



BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC **LIBRARY**
ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

MS003

**TOWN OF BRIDGEWATER WORLD WAR II RECORDS,
1940-1946: Finding Aid**

BRIDGEWATER PUBLIC LIBRARY
Archives & Special Collections
15 South Street
Bridgewater, Mass. 02324

COLLECTION OVERVIEW

Reference Code: MS003, MBrid, US

Title: Town of Bridgewater World War II records

Date: 1940-1946

Creator(s): Town of Bridgewater, creator
Bridgewater Public Safety Committee, contributor
A. Evelyn Keith, compiler

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 (MS003). 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.

Processor: This collection was processed by Allyson Sekerke 2022.

Rules & Conventions: This finding aid is DACS-compliant.

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 was appointed town accountant on August 1, 1931, and served as the town accountant until 1957 when Evelyn Nourse was appointed.

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.

Sources Used

Town of Bridgewater World War II records. Bridgewater Public Library Archives & Special Collections.

Historical reference collection. Bridgewater Public Library Archives & Special Collections.

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:

1943	1944	1945	1946
July 31	January 31	January 29	January 28
August 30	February 29	February 26	February 25
September 27	March 27	March 26	March 30
October 31	April 24	April 30	April 29
November 29	May 29	May 28	May 27
December 31	June 26	June 25	July 1
	July 31	July 30	July 29
	August 28	August 27	August 30
	September 25	September 24	September 30
	October 30	October 29	October 30
	November 27	November 26	November 30
	December 21	December 31	

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

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	1	Copies of correspondence	1943-1945
1	2	Copies of correspondence	1945-1946
1	3	Duplicate copies of correspondence	1943-1945
1	4	Duplicate copies of correspondence	1945-1946
1	5	Original “Merry Christmas” and sympathy cards	Approximately 1943-1946

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

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
1	6	Public Safety Committee records	1940-1945

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.
Robert E. Farrell
Edward Snarski
Gordon D. Libby
M. Gerald Farrell
Richard Farrell
John P. Malinsky
Robert C. Atwood
William McIlwraith
Clifford Rand
Joseph B. Rand
Reuben Greenberg
Alphonse Moruzzi
Manuel Souza
Alfred Baleri
Theodore Bois
Robert Smith
Primo Resmini
Wilfred J. Bois
George J. Wylie
Vaughn E. Boynton
Elmer Cloutier
Norman Crawshaw
James K. Moore
Arthur D. Kemp
Walter Glista
Nathan E. Freeman
T. Joseph Freeman
Willard G. Freeman
Marie H. Holmes
Joseph M. Vallen
Kenneth W. Hall
Alfred Hall
Etra Pratti
Joseph L. Mello and Alfred E. Mello
Americus Mazzoli
Robert Pratti
Manuel J. Perry
Benjamin Hathaway
Helen M. Cassiani
Vincent Malewicz

Alexander Znotin
Ernest F. Botti
Fred W. Brown
Alfred Bertelli
George Hunt
Renaldo Cassani
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 Tolivaia
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 Piscatori
Joseph Amaral
Donald C. Bulman
Al. J. [F]olloni
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 Fallon
Larry Fallon (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

Box	Folder	Description	Dates
2	-	Brown photograph scrapbook	Approximately 1942
3	-	Blue photograph scrapbook	Approximately 1945
4	-	Green news clipping scrapbook	Approximately 1943
5	-	Brown, laminated news clipping scrapbook	Approximately 1944-1945

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

Subjects:

World War II **Subject Source:** Library of Congress subject headings

Places:

Bridgewater (Mass.) **Subject Source:** Library of Congress subject headings