

GUIDE TO THE MICROFILM EDITION

**MASSACHUSETTS PEACE SOCIETY
RECORDS, 1816-1838, 1911-1917**

*Published in cooperation with the
Swarthmore College Peace Collection
Swarthmore, Pennsylvania*

A Microfilm Publication by

Scholarly Resources Inc.
An Imprint of Thomson Gale

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ISBN: 0-8420-4345-4

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Printed and bound in the
United States of America

2005

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Note to Researcher

Researchers citing materials in this edition of the *Massachusetts Peace Society Records, 1816-1838, 1911-1917* should use the following format:

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Document Group: DG 020

Provenance: Parts donated by the Massachusetts Peace Society and by Mabel Soule Call (American Peace Society)

Size: 5 linear feet

Microfilm: 11 reels

Restrictions: None

Introduction to the Collection

History

There were two periods in which there was an existing Massachusetts Peace Society. The records of both groups have been put together in this microfilm edition to form one archival collection.

The Massachusetts Peace Society (MPS) was the second [or third?] such society to form in America and was organized on December 28, 1815, primarily by Noah Worcester (1758-1837), a Unitarian minister. The membership list of the new Society included an array of clergymen and Boston merchants, as well as prominent men at Harvard University and in local and state government. It accepted persons who did not hold to a full pacifist position, attempting to unite all those who believed that war, as a method of resolving conflict, was both unchristian and inhumane. By 1819 the MPS had over 850 members, with branches established throughout the state and beyond.

Membership fees and the sale of publications were the chief sources of financial support for the MPS, whose main work was to enlighten public opinion through tracts and articles. Worcester, the corresponding secretary, established a periodical in 1816 entitled *Friend of Peace*, which was published at irregular intervals; by 1828, fifty numbers had been issued. In addition, he published numerous tracts, with as many as 27,500 being distributed in 1828. These were sent to both Americans and foreigners. Support for the MPS dwindled during the 1820s, and Worcester's retirement in 1828 bled the Society of much of its vitality. The MPS merged, along with the New York Peace Society and others, with the newly formed American Peace Society in May 1828.

The MPS was reorganized on April 27, 1911, upon the departure of the American Peace Society's offices to Washington, DC. Samuel B. Capen was elected president and James L. Tryon as secretary. It was possibly a branch of the American Peace Society. The MPS held monthly meetings, with addresses by prominent men. It raised \$4,000 in 1910 and had a series of Sunday afternoon talks in Tremont Temple during 1914 and 1915. In 1916 it purchased a stereopticon, and Secretary Tryon gave illustrated lectures in many New England cities and towns on the topic of peace. World War I put an end to the activities of the MPS.

[Sources: Peter Brock, *Pacifism in the United States* (1968); and Edson L. Whitney, *The American Peace Society: A Centennial History* (1928)]

Arrangement

One scrapbook of newspaper clippings (1914-1917) about the MPS was removed to the Oversized Items Collection: Scrapbooks. This item is not included on the microfilm.

Boxes 1-12 for this collection are stored off-site. The microfilm may be borrowed (three reels at a time) through interlibrary loan.

Scope and Content

Much of the material in Folder 1 of Box 1 is duplicated in Noah Worcester's *Friend of Peace* (available in the SCPC Periodical Collection), and probably most other MPS items can be found through a close reading of this periodical and early ones of the American Peace Society.

Within the Reel Contents, the folder titles are arranged under Massachusetts Peace Society [I] and Massachusetts Peace Society [II]. These titles refer to the two different periods when the organization was in existence.

Correspondence of the twentieth-century MPS was donated by Mabel Call in January 1947. Correspondents, in addition to those listed below, include Percy Bliss, Le Baron Russell Briggs, Marion L. Burton, J. Augustus Cadwallader, Arthur Deerin Call, Crystal Eastman, Edward A. Filene, Sidney L. Gulick, Lucia Ames Mead, George W. Nasmyth, Harry Clinton Phillips, L. S. Rowe, William H. Short, Benjamin F. Trueblood, Lyra D. Trueblood, James L. Tryon, and L. Hollingsworth Wood.

**MASSACHUSETTS PEACE SOCIETY
RECORDS, 1816-1838, 1911-1917**

Reels 1-11

Massachusetts Peace Society Records, 1816-1838, 1911-1917

Reel No. Box No. Reel Contents

- Massachusetts Peace Society [I]**
- 1 1 Circulars, 1816-1836
Literature: addresses, sermons, Massachusetts State Legislature reports on the Congress of Nations, 1816-1838
Annual Reports, 1818-1828 [incomplete set]
Reports of the Executive Committee, 1832-1835
Constitution, [1819]
Catalogues of officers and members, 1819-1820
Advance, 1938 [3 copies; contains historical information about MPS]
- Massachusetts Peace Society [II]**
- 2 History; by-laws; constitution
Meeting minutes, 1915-1917
Correspondence: A, 1911-1915
Correspondence: A, 1915 (contd.) - 1916
Correspondence: Ambercombie, Daniel W., 1914-1915
Correspondence: Alexander, Magnus N., 1914-1915
Correspondence: American Peace Society, 1913-1914
- 2 Correspondence: American Peace Society, 1915
Correspondence: Andrews, Fannie Fern, 1914-1915
Correspondence: Andrews, Mrs. Julius, 1914-1915
Correspondence: B, 1911-1914
- 3 Correspondence: B, 1915 (Oct.-Dec.) [in reverse order on microfilm]
Correspondence: B, 1915 (Sept.-Oct.) [in reverse order on microfilm]
Correspondence: B, 1915 Sept.
Correspondence: B, 1915 (Jan.-Aug.) [in reverse order on microfilm]
Correspondence: B, 1916 [2 folders]
- 3 Correspondence: Balch, Emily Greene, 1915-1917
Correspondence: Blakeslee, George H., 1911-1916
Correspondence: Buffalo Peace and Arbitration Society
Correspondence: Bushnell, Rev. Samuel, 1914-1915
Correspondence: C, 1910-1914
- 4 Correspondence: C, 1915 (Sept.-Dec.) [in reverse order on microfilm]
Correspondence: C, 1916

Massachusetts Peace Society Records, 1816-1838, 1911-1917

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Correspondence: D, 1911-1915
Correspondence: D, 1915 (contd.)–1916
Correspondence: Dole, Dr. Charles F., 1914-1915
Correspondence: Duncan, James, 1914-1915
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Correspondence: E, 1913-1915
Correspondence: E, 1915 (contd.)–1916
Correspondence: Elder, Hon. Samuel J., 1914-1916
Correspondence: Emergence Committee, [1915]
Correspondence: Evans, Mrs. Glendower, 1914-1915
Correspondence: F, 1913-1915
Correspondence: F, 1915 (contd.)–1916
Correspondence: Fall River Peace Society, 1914
Correspondence: Fish, Frederick P., 1914-1915
Correspondence: Fitzpatrick, Thomas B., 1914-1915
- 5
Correspondence: Forbes, Rose Dabney (Mrs. J. Malcolm), 1915-1916
Correspondence: Frothingham, Rev. Paul Revere, 1913-1915
- 6
Correspondence: G, 1913-1915
Correspondence: G, 1915 (contd.)–1916
Correspondence: H, 1911-1914
Correspondence: H, 1915 (Sept.-Dec.) [in reverse order on microfilm]
Correspondence: H, 1915 (Jan.-Aug.) [in reverse order on microfilm]
- 6
Correspondence: H, 1916 (Jan.-Aug.) [in reverse order on microfilm]
Correspondence: Hamlin, Hon. Charles S., 1912-1915
Correspondence: Hemenway, Mrs. Augustus, 1914-1915
Correspondence: Heywood, Lucy B., 1914-1915
Correspondence: Hudson, Jay William—"The New Internationalism" [1915]
- 7
Correspondence: I, 1915-1916
Correspondence: J, 1914-1916
Correspondence: K, 1913-1915
Correspondence: L, 1911-1915
Correspondence: L, 1915 (contd.)–1916
Correspondence: Lane, Maud Philbrick, 1914-1915
Correspondence: League to Enforce Peace, 1915-1916

Massachusetts Peace Society Records, 1816-1838, 1911-1917

Reel No. Box No. Reel Contents

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| 7 | | Correspondence: legislature, 1915-1916 Correspondence: local committees, 1915-1916 Correspondence: Loring, Louisa, 1914-1915 |
| 8 | | Correspondence: M, 1911-1915 Correspondence: M, 1915 (contd.)–1916 Correspondence: Mead, Edwin D., 1911-1915 Correspondence: Mowry, W. A., 1913-1915 Correspondence: N, 1913-1915 Correspondence: N, 1915 (contd.)–1916 |
| 8 | 9 | Correspondence: O, 1911-1916 Correspondence: P, 1911-1915 Correspondence: P, 1915 (contd.)–1916 Correspondence: Paine, Robert Treat, 1911-1915 Correspondence: Peace Oratorical Contest, 1912-1915 Correspondence: Peace Oratorical Contest, 1915 (contd.)–1916 Correspondence: Perry, Prof. Bliss, 1915-1916 Correspondence: Phillips, H. B., 1914-1915 Correspondence: preparedness (attitude of peace societies), 1916 Correspondence: press, 1915-1916 |
| 9 | 10 | Correspondence: R, 1911-1915 Correspondence: R, 1915 (contd.) Æ 1916 Correspondence: Raymond, Judge Robert T. (& Mrs.), 1914-1915 Correspondence: Rice, Horace J., 1913-1915 Correspondence: S, 1911-1914 Correspondence: S, 1915 Correspondence: S, 1915 (contd.)–1916 |
| 10 | 11 | Correspondence: Seabury, Miss(es), 1913-1915 Correspondence: Seabury, Miss(es), 1915 (contd.)–1916 Correspondence: Smith, George S., 1914-1915 Correspondence: Snedden, David, 1911-1915 Correspondence: Sprague, Dr. Homer B., 1913-1915 Correspondence: suggested names, 1914 Correspondence: T, 1913-1915 Correspondence: T, 1915 (contd.)–1916 Correspondence: U, 1914-1916 |

Massachusetts Peace Society Records, 1816-1838, 1911-1917

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| | | Correspondence: United States, 1914-1916 |
| | | Correspondence: V, 1915-1916 |
| | | Correspondence: W, 1911-1914 |
| | | Correspondence: W, 1915 |
| 11 | 12 | Correspondence: W, 1915-1916 |
| | | Correspondence: Weston, Stephen F., 1913-1915 |
| | | Correspondence: Wheelwright Jr., George W., 1914-1915 |
| | | Correspondence: Winslow, Erving, 1914-1915 |
| | | Correspondence: Worcester Organization, 1914-1915 |
| | | Correspondence: X-Y-Z, 1915 |
| | | Pamphlets and leaflets |
| | | Miscellaneous |
| | | Newsclippings |