

Sturgis Library Archives

Sturgis Library Records

MS. 31

Extent: 28 Boxes

Administrative note: Sturgis Library opened its doors in 1867 due to the generosity of William Sturgis who, from his will, left the building and the property it stood on, an additional woodlot, a \$15,000 bequest and 1300 books from his private collection for the establishment of a library.

The building that houses the library was originally built in 1644 for the benefit of the Reverend John Lothrop. Lothrop was the spiritual leader of a group of pilgrims that left England in 1634 for Scituate in the Plymouth Colony. In 1639 Reverend Lothrop led his flock from Scituate to Cape Cod and settled in the area that is now known as Barnstable Village. After Lothrop's home was built, religious services were held there until the first meetinghouse was built in 1646.

As far as can be told from the records William Sturgis is a direct descendent of John Lothrop. Lothrop's granddaughter Abigail married William Sturgis's great, great grandfather Thomas Sturgis Sr. William Sturgis was raised in the homestead until his father died and he went to sea to earn a living for the family at the age of thirteen. He made his fortune first as a ship's captain then as a head of a shipping house in Boston. He was also known as a proponent of fair treatment of Native Americans and was an early proponent of voting rights for women.

In as much as he established a library for Barnstable Village he was not the first to desire to do so. In 1855 a committee headed by George Lovell, Zenos D. Bassett and Nathaniel Hinckley raised funds and submitted a petition to the Town of Barnstable that urged the town to establish a library in Barnstable Village. The town at that time declined to establish a library. William Sturgis was no doubt aware of these efforts. Although his childhood home was sold to John Chipman after his widowed mother died, he later repurchased it from the Chipman family with the idea of having it used as a library.

Upon William Sturgis's death in 1863 three trustees; Samuel Hooper, Lemuel Shaw and Edward Hooper, were charged by his will to turn the old homestead into a library. To prepare for the new library's opening in 1867 the trustees removed the second floor of the west side of the house to permit installation of a high shelf lined room serviced by a ladder. The other half of the house was turned into a residence for the librarian.

Over the years the library would see changes both to its structure and organization. In 1926 Sturgis Bigelow left the library \$30,000 to enlarge the building. 1948 saw not only an increase in the number of trustees (to seven) but the retirement of

Elizabeth Nye who had faithfully served the library for fifty-four years. Ms. Nye was the last librarian to live in the library. In 1955 the library space was remodeled, and in 1961 the Town of Barnstable started to contribute to the libraries yearly budget. By 1970 it was recognized that the library needed more space and a capital campaign was launched to enlarge and modernize the building. When renovations started in 1971 Anne Moore of Cotuit, great, great granddaughter of William Sturgis, was present to turn over the first shovel of earth. In 1982 another capital campaign resulting in a new addition literally doubled the space of the library to 4,200 square feet. At this time a children's librarian was added to the staff. Finally, 1998 saw the installation of an elevator to improve access for all patrons.

For more information about Sturgis Library please see *A Short History of the Sturgis Library* by Eugene Exman and *The Sturgis Library: The Literary Legacy of the Lothrop Homestead*, Cape Cod Life Winter 1983, by Eugene Exman.

Scope and Content Note: The collection is organized into four series: I. Bylaws and Organization; II. Sturgis Library History; III. Trustee's Records; and IV. Director's Files. The latter includes a variety of materials, including files on construction projects (including architectural drawings and blueprints), photographs, anniversaries celebrations, and visitor logs.

Access Note: Restricted; all requests for information from these records are at the discretion of the library director.

Acquisition: Transferred from staff office files and the vault, Accession # 05-08.

Processed by: Stephen Robert Lovell Farrar, 2006.

Series I: By Laws and Organization

Box# Folder#

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|----|----|---|
| 1 | 1 | Deed, William Pope to Wm Sturgis, 1803 |
| | 2 | Deed, William Chipman to William Sturgis, 1862, (Lothrop house and 23 acres of land) |
| 15 | | Deed, William Sturgis to Trustees, 1863 |
| 1 | 3 | Sturgis library rules, 1892 |
| | 4 | Act of Incorporation, March 24 1915 |
| | 5 | Deed, transferring land and property from trust to corporation, 1915 |
| | 6 | Bylaws of the Sturgis Library, March 1915 |
| | 7 | Lease to William Goss of 23 acre plot, 1917 |
| | 8 | Sturgis Library Bylaws, 1942 |
| | 8A | An Act Authorizing certain changes in the Sturgis Library Charter, 1971 |
| | 9 | Photocopy of: William Sturgis's Will, articles of incorporation, bylaw and Amendments |

Series II: Sturgis Library History

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|----|------|---|
| | 10 | Letters relating to establishing a library in Barnstable Village in 1855 signed by George Lovell, Zenos D. Bassett and Nathaniel Hinckley |
| | 11 | History of Sturgis Library, 1954 |
| | 12 | A Library with the oldest house in America, By D G Trayser |
| | 13 | Amy Coolidge and Elizabeth Nye |
| | 14 | Who Lived Here? Handwritten notes on the occupants of the Lothrop House |
| | 14A | Notes on Lothrop House and William Sturgis; author unknown |
| | 15 | Unitarian and West Parish Churches |
| | 16 | National Historic Register Application |
| | 17-F | Newspaper Clippings, photocopied |
| | 17G | Photographs of Sturgis Library, mostly outside shots |
| 16 | | Scrapbook, 1940's |
| 17 | | Scrapbook, Clippings, 1950-1973 |
| 18 | | Scrapbook, 1974-1978 |
| 19 | | Scrapbook, 1978-1983 |
| 20 | | Scrapbook, 1979-1981 |

Series III: Trustees Records

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|----|----------------|-----------|
| 18 | Correspondence | 1915-1917 |
| 19 | Correspondence | 1924 |

Box# Folder#

	20	Correspondence	1927-1929
	21	Correspondence	1930-1932
	22	Correspondence	1933-1947
2	23	Correspondence	1954-1957
	24	Correspondence	1974-1985
2	25	Suggestions in Regard to The Sturgis Library, Desmond Fitzgerald 1912	
	26	Report on the free public libraries of Barnstable, 1949	
	27	A Central Library, editorial Cape Cod Standard Times, 1951	
	28	Trustees appointments and resignations	
	29	Notice of Meetings, minutes 1970-1971	
	30	Stone Property	
	31	Photocopies of founding trust records	

Series IV: Directors Files

	32	Correspondence	1900-1933
	33	Correspondence	1943-1979
	33A	Correspondence	1980-1995

Administrative Records

	34	Permission to borrow forms, late 1800's	
	35-39	19 th Century Lending/Repository agreements between Sturgis Library and the following libraries: Centerville, Cotuit, Marstons Mills, Osterville and West Barnstable.	
	40	Library Report, 1948	
	41	Friends Activities, 1950	
	42	Library Volunteer List, 1971-1977	
	43	Exhibition Labels, undated	
	44	Program invitations, Misc.	
	45	Water Damaged books	
	46	Binding of Patriot newspaper, 1967-1968	
	47	Books ordered from Yale University Press	
	48	Receipts and estimates for grounds and building maintenance	
	48A	Dutton Book catalog, 1943	
	48B	Receipt for the library war fund	
	48C	Account Books	

Box# Folder#

Subject Files

2 49 Research Material to be found at Sturgis Library, by Esme Williams

Lothrop Quadracennial Anniversary

2 50 Planning and schedule notes, press releases
51 Lothrop research and brochure information
52 Correspondence 1984-1985

Lothrop Bible Presentation

3 53 About John Lothrop
54 Lothrop presentation notes, handwritten, author not known
55 Newspaper articles, photocopied

Construction

56 Plan of land surveyed for Sturgis Library, 1971
57 Hooper Room remodeling
58 Sketch of Addition
7 Barrier Free Access Project
22-28 Sturgis Library Architectural Drawings and Blueprints (located in maps)

Financial Series

3 59 Deposit Agreement, 1960
60 Bank deposit books 1931-1934, 1956-1958

Visitor Logs

4 Sturgis Descendants, 1975-2004
Lothrop Descendants, 1962-2004
Guest Book, 1970-1977

Mixed Media

5 1 VHS Tape: Barnstable 305th anniversary, Gorham's Rangers
5 Audio cassettes: Dexter Leens Eulogy and memoirs, Lothrop History
1 microfilm reel: Bids for construction, 1984
Photos: Approximately 25 packages of photos of Sturgis library

Box# Folder#

- 5A Slides – Sturgis and Cape area
- 21 Sturgis Library Photographs (historical)
- 6 Cape Cod Postcards and Glass plate negatives
 - 27 glass plate negatives
 - 53 Postcards

Artifacts

- 6 Section of Mulberry Tree from in front of library
 - Bookplates (3)
 - 1 Gravestone stamp

Bound Library records (ledgers)

Accessions

- Vol. 1 1867-1873
- Vol. 2 1873-1878
- Vol. 3 1878-1886
- Vol. 4 1886-(?)
- Vol. 5 1900-192
- Vol. 6 1923-1948

Borrowers Index: Borrowers listed alphabetically along with books borrowed

- Vol. 1 undated
- Vol. 2 undated

Circulation: Books taken out

- Vol. 1 1867-1873
- Vol. 2 1873-1876
- Vol. 3 1877-1879
- Vol. 4 1880-1883
- Vol. 5 1885-1893
- Vol. 6 1893-1901
- Vol. 7 1901-1912
- Vol. 8 1913-1939

Printed Catalogs

- 1867-1893
- 1877-1879 w/supplement w/supplement 1
- 1882-1886
- 1886-1890
- 1879-1882 w/supplement 2

Contemporary Library Records

Box# Folder#

9 Borrowers Register
 62 September 1984-May 1991
 61 April 1970-September 1984
 63 Juvenile Registration (14yrs and under), April 1970-June 1990

Record of Borrowers

10 64 n.d. small account book
 65 n.d. small account book
 66 1931-1933 small account book
 67 1941 small account book

Books asked for

68 1867-1875 leather bound ledger

Accession Records

11 69 1893-1911 ledger
 70 n.d. ledger
 71 1927
 72 1949-1960
 73 1960-1962
 74 1974-1978
 75 1978-1981
 76 1981-1987

Circulation: Records of Books taken out

13 77 1929-1930
 78 1930-1932
 79 1932
 80 1933-1934
 81 1934-1935
 82 1936-1937
 83 1938-1939
 84 1939-1940
 85 1940-1941
 86 1941-1942

	87	1941-1942
14	88	1942-1943
	89	1947-1949
	90	1972-1981
	91	1982-1987
	92	1988-1991