

**Sturgis Library Archives
Town and Local History Collection**

**Records of the Barnstable County Commissioners
MS. 147**

Extent: 5 boxes

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of records of the Barnstable County Commissioners / Assembly of Delegates from the 1820s through the 1940s. Documents include dockets; polling examiners records; records pertaining to the building of the Cape Cod Canal; peddler's license records; maps, plans, correspondence and document relating to the construction of or work on Cape Cod roads; prisoner records (including a listing for Mary Dunn, for which a road in Cummaquid is named); documents related to the County Jail / House of Corrections; reports about and photographs of the activities of the County Extension System; etc.

Historical and Biographical Information: Barnstable County is one of the three original counties created in Plymouth Colony and was established in 1685. It appears that in the early days of the County the Commissioners' duties centered around approving and maintaining roads, maintaining the County Jail, issuing licenses, and other services.

Today, the country provides:

- Direction of County agencies
- Preparation of budgets for submittal to the Assembly of Delegates
- Care of County property
- Supervision of revenue collection and fund disbursement
- Reporting on financial and administrative condition of the County
- Proposal of measures for Assembly in action
- Power to veto ordinances
- Appointment and removal of County Administrator and all County employees.

Access: Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library Archives for publication purposes.

Acquisition: Gift of Barnstable County, August 2017.

Processed by: Lucy Loomis, April, 2018.

Contents: See following pages.

BOX 1 Barnstable County Commissioners Dockets

FLDR 1 a-e	1828-1830
FLDR 2 a-d	1831-1832
FLDR 3 a-d	1833-1836
FLDR 4 a-d	1838-1843
FLDR 5	1871-1874
FLDR 6	1881-1884
FLDR 7	1884-1889

BOX 2 Barnstable County Commissioners Dockets

FLDR 1	1895-1904
FLDR 2	1904
FLDR 3	1909-1922
FLDR 4	1922-1927
FLDR 5	1927-1931
FLDR 6	1931-1936
FLDR 7	1937
FLDR 8	1935-1939
FLDR 9	1939-1941
FLDR 10	1941-1943

- BOX 3**
- FLDR 1
 - Examiner’s Records 1838-1853
 - Records of the Proceedings of the Board of Examiners in Sorting and Counting the Votes as Returned by the Several Towns of the County of Barnstable for County & Special Commissioners
 - 1855-1883
 - 1884-1900
 - FLDR 2 Docket Under License Laws 1868
 - FLDR 3 Cape Cod Ship Canal Docket Before the County Commissioners 1885-1889
 - FLDR 4 Record of Peddler’s Licenses 1892-1916
 - FLDR 5 Early 19th century plans & documents relating to roads and lands
 - FLDR 6 Prisoner Inspection Regulations 1936
 - FLDR 7 Prisoner lists and prison inspection records 1837, 1841, 1842, 1843
[Note: The 1842 list includes prisoner Mary Dun [sic] (Dunn), jailed for suspected murder. Mary Dunn was of African American and Native American descent, and offered shelter and “yarb” beer to freed slaves as they made their way along the Underground Railroad. Mary Dunn Road in Cummaquid is named after her. Some believed she was a witch, which may have led to this conviction after a local man went missing in the vicinity.]
 - FLDR 8 Camp Street Road, Barnstable, Petition, 1867
 - FLDR 9 Testimony on [Cape Cod] Canal Cases, 1894 (original + copy)
ORIGINAL VERY BRITTLE. Please use copy provided.
 - FLDR 10 Orders authorizing Treasurer to borrow money on credit 1891, 1898, 1899
 - FLDR 11 Documents related to the County Jail / House of Corrections 1858-1903

BOX 3

(Continued)

- FLDR 12 Miscellaneous Commission correspondence, reports, documents, etc. regarding roads, appointments, accounts, and Hyannis Club House.
- FLDR 13 Petition for damages by Edward H. Eldredge against the Boston, Cape Cod & New York Canal Company, 1907.
- FLDR 14 Charles H. Taylor Sr. and Charles H. Taylor Jr. vs. Boston, Cape Cod & New York Canal Company. 1911 hearing transcript regarding harm to land and oyster grants along the Cape cod Canal.
- FLDR 15 Hearing transcript and correspondence regarding widening of Main Street in Falmouth, 1923
- FLDR 16
 - Annual Report of County Extension Workers, 1931
 - Narrative Report of Carl A. Fraser & Irene B. Pease as Club Agents 1930-1931. Includes text and numerous photographs showing Club activities.
- FLDR 17 Testimony by Herbert R. Boomhower Jr. and Jerald K. Ellis regarding a jail break with another prisoner named Barbarosa.

BOX 4

Maps and plans

VERY FRAGILE. DO NOT PHOTOCOPY

8 maps/plans of Cape Cod town road. Most include names of landowners. Most have brief information.

- 2 unidentified plans
- Abram W. Nye's homestead, 1836.
- Plan of a completed road from near M. Davis' to the sound over Davis Neck, so called
- Plan of the Provincetown Road
- Plan of a road...near the dwelling house of Mathias Gifford ... in the Town of Falmouth
- Plan of ... Harwich & Dennis reads

BOX 5

All items loose in box

- Record of the Doings of the Cohasset Narrows Bridge Commission, 1919
- Letters. Two binders of letters, invoices, receipts, etc. Early 20th century.
- Abstract of Criminal Laws of Massachusetts. Revised edition. 1869.
- 7th Annual Report of the Commissioner of Prisons of Massachusetts, January 1888