McArthur Library Institutional Collection, 1855-2024

McArthur Library · special collections
270 Main Street • Biddeford, Maine 04005
www.mcarthurlibrary.org

Call Number: MS103
Title: **McArthur Library Collection**

Dates: 1855 -- 2024 Inclusive

Extent: 38 Boxes, 40 Volumes, 2 Items, 36 Linear Feet

Creator: McArthur Library, Biddeford Public Library

Abstract: Institutional papers of the McArthur Library. Contains materials from the York Mechanic's Institute and Biddeford Public Library, precursors to McArthur Library. Examples of materials include accession records, circulation records, financial records, correspondence and research of directors, communications created by the library, scrapbooks and photos.

Language: **English**

Administrative Information:
Accession Number: 2006.0103
Barcode: 34005002862521
Reference Code: US MeBiMPL *MS103*
Repository: McArthur Public Library, Biddeford, Maine, USA.

Citation: From MS103 McArthur Library institutional collection, McArthur Public Library, Biddeford, Maine.

Restrictions: Dane Yorke's Problem Patrons File (103.003.003.007) - Staff Only

Copyrights: Any copyright questions should be directed to the library's Director.

Processed By: Burkett, Renee 2009-2022, Dionne, Rose 2023-2025

Arrangement & Processing Notes: Collection created from materials found at McArthur Library since 2006. Divided into eight series: administration, financial records, Dane Yorke's papers, The Library Club, publications & exhibits, programs, photos and objects.

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Collection Information:

Scope & Contents:

This collection contains accession records, circulation records, financial records, correspondence and research of directors, communications created by the library, scrapbooks and photos, as well as some digital photos. This collection also contains materials from the York Mechanic's Institute and the Biddeford Public Library, precursors to McArthur Library.

Biography/History:

The Biddeford Library was chartered in 1863 as a city department. It was originally helmed by Mr. Octavius Dearing. Part of the original collection was presented by the York Mechanics' Institute, a private membership library which formed in 1840 and dissolved in 1863.

After a fire in 1894 at the City Building, the library was run out of a storefront on Main Street. After the City Building was rebuilt, the design did not leave enough space for the library to include a reading room, so the Biddeford Library and Reading Room Association was formed to find a more suitable space for the growing collection.

The Pavilion Church split from the Second Congregational Church in Biddeford in the 1857. The Pavilion Society started construction in 1863, and the finished church was dedicated on February 14th 1865. Previously the church had met in the upper floor of the Pepperell counting room. The Pavilion church eventually lost parishioners and closed in 1899. The Biddeford Library and Reading Room Association moved to secure the Pavilion Church Building as its new home. The mortgage was paid by Robert McArthur, the agent of Pepperell Mills, and donated to the Library Association. The Association in return decided to name the library after him, despite his protests.

Money was also used from the Elizabeth Stevens fund. Elizabeth Stevens was a woman who worked in the Laconia Mills who died at 41 in 1881. She left her life savings of $3,500 to the city to create a reading room for the library, which it lacked at the time. While the Pavilion church was being renovated, the Stevens Fund was used to aid the construction. With interest Stevens' contribution matched Robert McArthur's.

The McArthur Library opened in October 1902 after extensive renovations including, shortening the steeple and redesigning the interior to create a reading room in the basement and a concert hall on the first floor. Emma Hatch was the Head Librarian at the time and would go on to be the longest serving director at 42 years. In 1935 the reading room was converted to a children's room (called the Junior Department) and the auditorium into an adult reading room.

Many things have changed over the years. Dane Yorke took over as Head Librarian in 1937 and through that time expanded the library's offerings by writing "A History and Stories of Biddeford." His interest in history drove the library to collect historic archives and items that are still a part of the library's collections. Yorke also lead the first major renovations since 1935, completing a modern addition in 1963, which now houses the community room and nonfiction section.

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Another addition was made in 1996, which included a new circulation desk and expanded the library's accessibility to more patrons with an elevator. That area however was not complete until 2009 when the Carroll Room was finished.

Controlled Access Terms:
McArthur Library,
York Mechanic's Institute,
Biddeford Public Library,
Biddeford (Me.)—History,
Libraries,
Dane Yorke (1889-1967)
Emma Hatch (1861-1940)
Elizabeth Stevens (1841-1881)

Related Materials:
McArthur Library Image Collection

Administration (MS103.001):

Box or Item #	Folder	Contents
103.001.001		Accessions 1863-1902
103.001.002		Accessions 1896-1900
103.001.003		Accessions 1896-1900
103.001.004		Accession Records 0001-5,000
103.001.005		Accession Records 5,001-10,000
103.001.006		Accession Records 10,001-15,000
103.001.007		Accession Records 15,001-20,000
103.001.008		Accession Records 20,001-25,000
103.001.009		Accession Records 25,001-30,400
103.001.010		Accession Records 30,401-35,400
103.001.011		Accession Records 35,401-40,400
103.001.012		Accession Records 40,401-45,400
103.001.013		Accession Records 45,401-50,400
103.001.014		Accession Records 50,401-55,400
103.001.015		Accession Records 55,401-60,400
103.001.016		Accession Records 60,401-65,400
103.001.017		Accession Records 65,401-70,400
103.001.018		Accession Records 70,401-75,400
103.001.019		Accession Records 75,401-80,400
103.001.020		Accession Records Bx1-Bx 2401
103.001.021		York Mechanics Institute 1855-1857 + Biddeford Public Library First Register 1863
103.001.022		Ledger 1 - 1878-1885
103.001.023		Ledger 2 - 1886-1890
103.001.024		Charge Book 1 1863-1871

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103.001.025		Charge Book 2 1871-1876
103.001.026		Charge Book 3 1878-1880
103.001.027		Charge Book 4 1880-1885
103.001.028		Charge Book 5 1885-1890
103.001.029		Circulation Book 1937-1942
103.001.030		Circulation Book 1943-1947
103.001.031		Circulation Book 1948-1952
103.001.032		Circulation Book 1953-1957
103.001.033		Circulation Book 1958-1962
103.001.034		Circulation Book 1963-1967
103.001.035	**001**	Financial/Bank Books [includes Elizabeth Stevens trust passbook]
103.001.035	**002**	Wills Bequests Etc.
103.001.035	**003**	McArthur/Stevens Gravestones 1949, 1963
103.001.035	**004**	Policies, 1844-2016
103.001.035	**005**	Earliest Library Association Documents, 1895-1903
103.001.035	**006**	Building - Real Estate, 1901-1963
103.001.035	**007**	Library Addition Invoices, 1962-1963
103.001.035	**008**	Library Reports, 1905-1949
103.001.035	**009**	Emma Hatch, Correspondence Etc. 1895-1923
103.001.035	**010**	Emma Hatch, Maine Library Association 1902-1935
103.001.035	**011**	Emma Hatch--Miscellaneous materials 1895-1928
103.001.035	**012**	Circulation Statistics Records 1930's-1960's
103.001.035	**013**	Circulation Statistics Records 1968-1972
103.001.036	**001**	McArthur Library Association, 1947
103.001.036	**002**	Inventories 1950's-1970's
103.001.036	**003**	Alfred Pierce Correspondence, 1958
103.001.036	**004**	State Library Communications 1940's-1960's
103.001.036	**005**	Maine State Library Newsletter 1958-1961
103.001.036	**006**	Maine Library Association, 1962
103.001.036	**007**	Round Table 1970
103.001.036	**008**	Planning Committee, 1994
103.001.036	**009**	School Survey Data 1994
103.001.036	**010**	Jeff Cabral, 2011
103.001.036	**011**	Library Catalogues, 1841-1896
103.001.036	**012**	Miscellaneous History [Catalog 1864; Catalog 1878; Call slips; Bookplates with regulations 1863, 1902, 1915
103.001.036	**013**	Research
103.001.037	**001**	Association Records 1895-1941
103.001.037	**002**	Trustee Records 1912-1941
103.001.037	**003**	State Library Reports 1930-1971
103.001.037	**004**	State Library Reports 1972-1994
103.001.037	**005**	Librarian's Reports 1938-1954
103.001.037	**006**	Librarian's Reports 1955-1977
103.001.038		Annual Reports 1992-2026

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103.001.039	**001**	Register of Borrowers 1903-1915
103.001.039	**002**	Register of Borrowers 1922-1928
103.001.040	**001**	Non-Resident Register 1940's
103.001.040	**002**	Book #2 1947, Cards 5,201-10,000
103.001.040	**003**	Book #3 1947, Cards 1-5,200
103.001.040	**004**	Book #4 1947, Non-Resident Register

Financial Records (MS103.002):

Box	Folder	Contents
103.002.001		1902 Renovation Receipts
103.002.002	**001**	Receipts 1902-1905
103.002.002	**002**	Building Renovation 1948-1959
103.002.002	**003**	Insurance 1902-1954
103.002.003		Petty Cash & Cash Received 1916-1974
103.002.004		City Bills & Checkbooks 1926-1971
103.002.005		McArthur Association Expenses 1895-1952
103.002.006		Budgets 1936-1974

Dane Yorke (MS103.003):

Box	Folder	Contents
103.003.001	**001**	Records of Gift & Historical Notes
103.003.001	**002**	Gifts 1935-1944
103.003.001	**003**	Gifts-1945-1961
103.003.001	**004**	Misc. Documents & Clippings
103.003.001	**005**	Budgets/Personnel
103.003.001	**006**	Correspondence 1
103.003.001	**007**	Correspondence 2
103.003.001	**008**	Correspondence 3
103.003.001	**009**	Correspondence with Library Board
103.003.002		Saco Water Power & Shawmut Bank Scrapbook
103.003.003	**001**	Dane Yorke Research Files 1952-1962
103.003.003	**002**	Library Research
103.003.003	**003**	An Outline of Biddeford History
103.003.003	**004**	Notes on Biddeford
103.003.003	**005**	Stories and Legends of Biddeford
103.003.003	**006**	Biddeford Historical Project Receipts
103.003.003	**007**	Problem Patrons **(RESTRICTED)**

The Library Club (MS103.004):

Box	Folder	Contents
103.004.001	**001**	Library Club News, No.1 (1957) - No.30 (1958)
103.004.001	**002**	Library Club News, No. 31 (1958) - No. 77 (1959)
103.004.001	**003**	Library Club News, No. 78 (1959) - No. 112 (1961)

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Publication & Exhibits (MS103.005):

Box	Folder	Contents
103.005.001	**001**	Publications-"Maine Memories: Southern Maine Coast" (2005) [1 booklet & 1 CD]
103.005.001	**002**	Publications-New England Archivists Newsletter (Jan. 2008)
103.005.001	**003**	Publications-Maine Historical Society Newsletter (Summer 2008)
103.005.001	**004**	Publications - Journal: "Maine History" (June 2008)
103.005.001	**005**	Exhibits -Saco Museum: “Close-Ups: Photographs of Biddeford and Saco, 1880-1915" (1990)
103.005.001	**006**	Publications-New England Historic Genealogical Society: *New England Ancestors* magazine, v.9 n.3. "Guide to Genealogical Research in Maine" (Summer 2008)
103.005.001	**007**	Publications-Down East Magazine (June 2009). "What's in a picture?" feature.
103.005.001	**008**	Publications-McArthur Library Assn. Postcard series: Series I, No.2 -No.5 (1994)
103.005.001	**009**	Stationary and Greeting Cards
103.005.001	**010**	Anastasoff Photos 1950's
103.005.001	**011**	McArthur Library 150th Calendar 2013
103.005.001	**012**	Interview with Florence Bridger 1941
103.005.001	**013**	Exhibitions 1938-1968
103.005.001	**014**	Pins - 125th and Libraries are For Everyone
103.005.001	**015**	The Library Journal - Thinking Beyond Books
103.005.002		125th Banner

Programs (MS103.006):

Box	Folder	Contents
103.006.001		Scrapbook - Newspaper clippings 1937-1944
103.006.002		Scrapbook - Newspaper clippings 1944-1964
103.006.003		Scrapbook - Newspaper clippings 1946-1968
103.006.004		Scrapbook - Newspaper clippings and photos 1976-1979
103.006.005		Scrapbook - Photos from programs 1975-1983
103.006.006		Scrapbook - Newspaper clippings and promotional materials 1979-1981
103.006.007		Scrapbook - Library calendar, promotional materials, newspaper clippings 1982-1985
103.006.008		Scrapbook - Photos from programs 1982-1986
103.006.009		Scrapbook - Library calendar, promotional materials, newspaper clippings 1985-1988
103.006.010		Scrapbook - Photos from programs 1986-1993
103.006.011		Scrapbook - Library calendar, promotional materials, newspaper clippings 1989-1993
103.006.012		Scrapbook - Photos from programs 1989-1995
103.006.013		Scrapbook - Library calendar, promotional materials, newspaper clippings 1993-1994

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103.006.014		Scrapbook - Photos from programs 1995-1996
103.006.015		Scrapbook - Photos from programs 1995-2001
103.006.016		Scrapbook - Photos and promotional materials 1997-1998
103.006.017		Scrapbook - Photos and promotional materials 1999-2000
103.006.018		Scrapbook - Photos and promotional materials 2001-2002
103.006.019		Scrapbook - Photos and promotional materials 2003-2004
103.006.020	**001**	McArthur Library Auditorium, Show programs c.1900-1930
103.006.020	**002**	McArthur Library Auditorium, Season programs 1902/3 & 1903/4
103.006.020	**003**	Story Time Records 1913-1930
103.006.020	**004**	Summer Reading Materials 1980's
103.006.020	**005**	Guinness World Records Certificate 2005
103.006.020	**006**	McArthur @ Your Mailbox Flyer Summer 2020, March 2021
103.006.020	**007**	Dane Yorke Programs – 1932, C. 1960

Photos (MS103.007):

Box	Folder	Contents
103.007.001		Photos - 1981-2000's
103.007.002		Negatives – 1980's-2000's
103.007.003		Photos (Digital) 2000's-2014
103.007.004		Photos Found in Catalog
103.007.005		McArthur Library and Biddeford 1952-2000
103.007.006		McArthur Library Photos 1990's -2000's

Objects (MS103.008):

Box	Folder	Contents
103.008.001		McArthur Library Embosser
103.008.002		McArthur Library Association Embosser
103.008.003	**001**	Reading Glass
103.008.003	**002**	9 Children's Metal Barclay Toy Figures C. 1950

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