

Our Town Newspaper Collection
Wellesley Historical Society

Repository Identifier

mawelhs

Local Identifier

Not applicable

Name and Location of Repository

The Wellesley Historical Society

229 Washington Street

Wellesley, MA 02481

(781)235-6690

www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org

Title

Our Town Newspaper Collection

Date

1898-1903

Extent

2 boxes

Name of Creator

Our Town

Administrative History

Publication of *Our Town* began in January 1898 as a monthly periodical that was edited and financed by local Wellesley ministers from various Protestant denominations. Its purpose was laid out for its readers in the first paragraph—so “that there may be an opportunity for an earnest and honest discussion of the problems relating to the moral and spiritual development of the town” (*Our Town* v.1, n.1). Each of the town’s churches was allotted space for its own items of news, and articles and letters were invited from “all who desire to further the higher life of the town” (*Our Town* v.1, n.1). The publication was edited by the town’s Pastors, who were also financially responsible for the publication at the start; Reverend Edward H. Chandler acted as managing editor until he moved out of town in 1900.

Starting January 1901, the monthly periodical was edited by Reverend Parris T. Farwell, and acquired more the appearance of a literary journal, with a different cover every month, photographs and illustrations. The periodical also began to broaden the scope of its articles, and adopted the motto “a monthly magazine devoted to the interests of the Town of Wellesley” (*Our Town* v.5, n.1).

The final issue of *Our Town* was December 1903. In it, the managing editor suggested that the town was in need of a good weekly newspaper. In fact, on the very first page of the final issue, was an announcement calling for the establishment of a good weekly newspaper. *Our Town* was eventually proceeded by *The Townsman*, a weekly paper which published its first issue on April

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6, 1906, and which continues to run to the present day. It should be noted that *Our Town* was not the first local paper for the town of Wellesley, *The Wellesley Courant* (or *The Courant*) ran from 1883 until around 1895, while the *Wellesley Review* ran from 1893 until about 1906.

Scope and Content

The *Our Town* collection consists of a minimum of one copy of each issue of the monthly periodical that was published from January 1898 to December 1903 (except for a December 1898 issue, which was not published). Also included is a Publisher's Announcement, which was distributed January 1901 to announce the upcoming physical changes to the periodical.

Two special issues were published, the first was the June 1899 issue, titled "Dana Hall Number" and was devoted almost entirely to Dana Hall. The second special issue was May 1902, titled "Special Wellesley Number." This special edition was intended to give the readers "something which they can send to their friends and shall, in some degree at least, by picture and descriptive article set forth these characteristics of our town" (*Our Town* v. 5, n.5).

System of Arrangement

The newspapers are arranged chronically.

Index Terms

Researchers searching for related materials about similar topics, or places should search the Library of Congress' catalog using the following headings:

Newspapers—Local editions

Wellesley (Mass.)

Wellesley Hills (Mass.)

Religious literature—Publications

Protestant press

Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research purposes by appointment only. Please contact the Wellesley Historical Society for more information.

info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org
(781)235-6690

Physical Access

Some of the materials are fragile.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply.

Languages and Scripts of the Material

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English

Immediate Source of Acquisition

The majority of the collection does not have any acquisition information. According to the Wellesley Historical Society's accession records, thirteen issues were gifts of the Estate of George W. Adams (accession number T.2); however, only five issues are stamped T-2: May 1901, September 1901, October 1901, November 1901 and December 1901. The January 1901, February 1901 and September 1901 issues were gifts of Donald E. Hughes (accession number 1989.17). The June 1902 issue was a gift of the estate of Elizabeth Hewin (accession number 1987.28.A.5).

Accruals

The Wellesley Historical Society may add additional materials to the collection in the future; however, no further accruals are currently expected.

Existence and Location of Originals

Wellesley Historical Society

Related Materials

Our Town's successor, *The Townsman*, is available online for the years 1906-1989 through the Wellesley Free Library at the following address: <http://www.wellesleyfreelibrary.org/digitized-content.html>, and is also available in print at the Wellesley Historical Society. Several issues of *The Wellesley Courant* issues are also available at the Wellesley Historical Society.

Description

DACS finding aid created March 2014 by Hilary Streifer

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Appendix: Box and Folder List

Box 1: January 1898- October 1901

Folder 1: January-November 1898

Folder 2: January-December 1899

Folder 3: January-December 1900

Folder 4: January-April 1901

Folder 5: May-August 1901

Folder 6: September-October 1901

Box 2: November 1901- December 1903

Folder 1: November -December 1901

Folder 2: January-May 1902

Folder 3: June-September 1902

Folder 4: October -December 1902

Folder 5: January-June 1903

Folder 6: July-December 1903