

Monday Evening Club (Haverhill, Mass.) Records 1860-2016

Collection Summary

Reference Code:	MRQ, US.
Repository:	Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Call Number:	MSS 63
Creator:	Monday Evening Club (Haverhill, Mass.)
Title:	Monday Evening Club (Haverhill, Mass.) Records
Dates:	1860-2024
Size:	7.25 linear feet (19 boxes, 29.5 MB digital files)
Language(s):	Collection materials are in English.
Abstract:	This collection contains record books, correspondence, essays, financial records, and photographs from the Monday Evening Club of Haverhill, Massachusetts, a men's club that holds regularly scheduled meetings to discuss history, science, and current events.

Organizational History

The Monday Evening Club was organized in 1860 in Haverhill, Massachusetts, as a private club for men, who meet at 8:00 pm on each alternate Monday evening from October until April at the home of one of the members for scientific, literary, and social improvement. Members give five-minute talks and read an original essay. There is no constitution or by-laws, just a few simple rules.

Dr. James R. Nichols met with James H. Duncan and Dr. George Cogswell in early November 1860 to discuss the idea of a club and they all agreed to the plan. Several other gentlemen were invited to Dr. Nichol's house on the evening of November 16, 1860, to organize the club. The eight original members were Dr. James R. Nichols, James H. Duncan, Dr. George Cogswell, Rev. Charles H. Seymour, Dr. A. Bullard, James E. Gale, Edward F. Adams, and Alfred Kittredge. The club was composed of gentlemen with differing political views; it was determined at the first meeting that no discussions or allusions to political topics or occurrences should be permitted in the club.

The first meeting of the club was held on Monday, November 26, 1860, at the home of Alfred Kittredge. At this meeting, 23 men became charter members of the club. A paper was read by Dr. Nichols on "New and Rare Metals." The papers for the rest of that winter were "Anatomy

and Physiology” by Dr. Cogswell, “Art of Conversation” by Dr. Seeley, and “Finance and Business” by Mr. Speare. The format of the meetings, after old business, new business, elections, and nominations, was to discuss “timely topics,” give five-minute talks, then have a member read a formal original essay, followed by refreshments.

Dr. Nichols wrote of the club, “Its work has stimulated inquiry, created a taste for reading and for research in directions which would never have been known but for information imparted in club meetings. Most of its members not accustomed to place their thoughts in paper in the form of extended essays, not accustomed to search for and read rare and important books, find that new tastes have been acquired, new sources of knowledge opened, and new capabilities awakened.”

Membership was capped at 25. Other clubs of the same name formed in other cities, such as Lawrence, Newburyport, and Newton, Massachusetts.

The Monday Evening Club of Haverhill, Mass., continues to meet in 2024 and donate materials to the Haverhill Public Library on an ongoing basis.

Arrangement

Series 1. Administration, 1860-2016, undated

Subseries 1.1. Record Books, 1860-2016

Subseries 1.2. Meeting Invitations, 1861-2013

Subseries 1.3. Other Administrative, 1860-2012, undated

Series 2. Members, 1903-1999, undated

Subseries 2.1. Member lists and books, 1975-1999, undated

Subseries 2.2. Essays, 1903-1977, undated

Subseries 2.3. Photographs, 1910-1921, 1970, 1985, 2000, undated

Series 3. Financial, 1926, 1934, 1960-2004, undated

Series 4. Digital materials, 2007-2024

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains letters, record books, and photographs from the Monday Evening Club of Haverhill, Massachusetts, a men’s club that held regularly scheduled meetings to discuss history, science, and current events. It has been organized into three series. Series one contains record books for the club, meeting invitations, club regulations, news clippings, programs, attendance records, lists, and essay assignments. Series two contains member lists, resolutions in memory of members, individual member books, a member’s autograph signature book, a master copy of the individual member book for members, number 1 through 249, essays written by members and delivered at club meetings, and photographs of members. Series three contains treasurers’ reports, bills, and receipts.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:	[Item Identification], Monday Evening Club Records, MSS 63, Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Custodial History:	Material was acquired from creators.
Acquisition Information:	Schedules for October 1916 to December 1930 were a gift from Mr. A. T. Chase. The provenance of the majority of physical materials in the collection is unknown, but assumed to have been donated by the Monday Night Club. Digital materials are donated on an ongoing basis by the club.
Processing Information:	Processed by Tamara Gaydos, 2021. Revised by Elizabeth Smith and Becky Geller, 2025.
Access Rights:	Collection is open for research. Recent files with personal information are restricted as noted.
Phys. Access Restrictions:	None.
Tech. Access Restrictions:	The Haverhill Public Library does not own playback equipment required for use of audio recordings (wire and tape recordings). Digital materials can be made available upon request.
Copyright:	Copyright has not been assigned to the Haverhill Public Library. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Board of Trustees. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Haverhill Public Library as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.
Related Collections:	None.
Separated Material:	None.
Conservation Notes:	Photographs were sleeved to protect them. Newspaper clippings were photocopied onto archival quality paper. Paperclips and staples were removed. Material was removed from plastic sleeves and binders. Digital materials were ingested using a bit imaging tool on a local computer, converted to preservation formats, saved as master files, and duplicated to provide access files.
Subjects:	Monday Evening Club (Haverhill, Mass.) Administrative records Attendance records Clubs Freeman, Donald C., 1901-2001 Haverhill (Mass.) – History Katsaros, Sotiris S., 1917-1990 Lockhart, Howard A., 1901-1992

Collection Inventory

Series 1: **Administrative, 1860-2016, undated**

This series consists of three subseries: 1.1, Record Books; and 1.2, Meeting Invitations; and 1.3, Other Administrative.

Subseries 1.1: Record Books, 1860-2016

This subseries consists of record books for the club, which contains schedules, meeting minutes, essays read, and sometimes correspondence. The volumes for 1865-1869, 1935-1936, 1961-1962, 1963-1964, 1968-1969 are missing. It is arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Record book, 1860-1865	1	1
Record book, 1869-1872	1	2
Record book, 1872-1874	1	3
Record book, 1874-1877	1	4
Record book, 1877-1881	2	1
Record book, 1881-1888	17	
Record book, 1888-1897	18	
Record book, 1897-1905	19	
Record book, 1905-1906	2	2
Record book, 1906-1907	2	3
Record book, 1907-1908	2	4
Record book, 1908-1909	2	5
Record book, 1909-1910	2	6
Record book, 1910-1911	3	1
Record book, 1911-1912	3	2
Record book, 1912-1913	3	3
Record book, 1913-1914	3	4
Record book, 1914-1915	3	5
Record book, 1915-1916	3	6
Record book, 1916-1917	3	7
Record book, 1917-1918	4	1
Record book, 1919-1920	4	2
Record book, 1920-1921	4	3
Record book, 1921-1922	4	4
Record book, 1922-1923	4	5
Record book, 1923-1924	4	6
Record book, 1924-1925	4	7
Record book, 1925-1926	5	1

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Record book, 1926-1927	5	2
Record book, 1927-1928	5	3
Record book, 1928-1929	5	4
Record book, 1929-1930	5	5
Record book, 1930-1931	5	6
Record book, 1931-1932	5	7
Record book, 1932-1933	5	8
Record book, 1933-1934	5	9
Record book, 1934-1935	6	1
Record book, 1936-1937	6	2
Record book, 1937-1938	6	3
Record book, 1938-1939	6	4
Record book, 1939-1940	6	5
Record book, 1940-1941	6	6
Record book, 1941-1942	6	7
Record book, 1942-1946	6	8
Record book, 1946-1947	7	1
Record book, 1947-1952	7	2
Record book, 1952-1957	7	3
Record book, 1957-1958	7	4
Record book, 1958-1959	7	5
Record book, 1959-1960	7	6
Record book, 1960-1961	8	1
Record book, 1962-1963 [blank, schedule only]	8	2
Record book, 1964-1965	8	3
Record book, 1965-1966	8	4
Record book, 1966-1967	8	5
Record book, 1967-1968	8	6
Record book, 1969-1970	8	7
Record book, 1970-1971	8	8
Record book, 1971-1972	8	9
Record book, 1972-1973	8	10
Record book, 1973-1974	9	1
Record book, 1974-1975	9	2
Record book, 1975-1976	9	3
Record book, 1976-1977	9	4
Record book, 1977-1978	9	5
Record book, 1978-1979	9	6
Record book, 1979-1980	9	7
Record book, 1980-1981	9	8
Record book, 1981-1982	9	9

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Record book, 1982-1983	9	10
Record book, 1983-1984	10	1
Record book, 1984-1985	10	2
Record book, 1985-1986	10	3
Record book, 1986-1987	10	4
Record book, 1987-1988	10	5
Record book, 1988-1989	10	6
Record book, 1989-1990	10	7
Record book, 1990-1991	10	8
Record book, 1991-1992	10	9
Record book, 1992-1993	10	10
Record book, 1993-1994	10	11
Record book, 1994-1995	11	1
Record book, 1995-1996	11	2
Record book, 1996-1997	11	3
Record book, 1997-1998	11	4
Record book, 1998-1999	11	5
Record book, 1999-2000	11	6
Record book, 2000-2001	11	7
Record book, 2001-2002	11	8
Record book, 2002-2003	11	9
Record book, 2003-2004	11	10
Record book, 2004-2005	11	11
Record book, 2005-2006	11	12
Record book, 2006-2007	11	13
Record book, 2007-2008	12	1
Record book, 2008-2009	12	2
Record book, 2009-2010	12	3
Record book, 2011-2012 [incomplete]	12	4
Record book, 2012-2013	12	5
Record book, 2013-2014	12	6
Record book, 2014-2015	12	7
Record book, 2015-2016	12	8
Unused covers for record books, undated	12	9

Subseries 1.2: Meeting Invitations, 1861-2013

This subseries consists of the meeting invitations that were mailed monthly to members, arranged chronologically. They list the members' names and starting in 1915, the order of hosts and order of essays, which was later called the schedule.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Invitations, 1861-1918	12	10
Invitations, 1918-1924	12	11
Invitations, 1924-1928	13	1
Invitations, 1929-1970	13	2
Invitations, 1970-2013	13	3

Subseries 1.3: Other Administrative, 1860-2012, undated

This subseries contains club regulations, news clippings, programs, attendance records, lists, and essay assignments, arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Essay assignments by member, 1860-1916	13	4
Regulations, 1884, undated	13	5
News clippings, 1885, 1998-2012, undated	13	6
<i>Proceedings at the Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the Haverhill Monday Evening Club, 1886</i>	13	7
Lawrence Monday Night Club, 25 th Anniversary program, 1897	13	8
Correspondence, 1909-1929, 1947, 1967, 1974, 1987, 1990	13	9
50 th Anniversary invitations and responses, 1910	13	10
50 th Anniversary proceedings [draft], 1910	13	11
50 th Anniversary proceedings [final], 1910	13	12
Chairman's cards, 1963-1967, 1981	13	13
Attendance records, 1963-1988, 1995-1999, 2006-2007	13	14
Format of an annual report, 1966; format for regular meetings, 1966	14	1
List of recording secretaries and corresponding secretaries, 1980-1992	14	2
Minutes, 2003-2004 [on floppy disk]	16	
Regular meeting agenda, undated [1990s]	14	3
List of topics, undated	14	4

Series 2: Members, 1903-1999, undated

This series consists of three subseries: 2.1, Member lists and books; 2.2, Essays; and 2.3, Photographs.

Subseries 2.1: Member lists and books, 1975-1999, undated

This subseries contains member lists, resolutions in memory of members, individual member books, a members' autograph signature book, blank forms, and a master copy of the individual member book for members, number 1 through 249, arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Resolutions in memory of members, 1975	14	5
Notes, 1982-1983, undated	14	6
Member lists, 1910, 1985-2001, undated	14	7
Individual Member Record Book, 1991	14	8
Members' Autograph Signature book, 1992	14	9
Individual member information sheets, 1996, undated	14	10
Individual Member Record Book, 1999	14	11
Blank member forms, undated [1990s]	14	12
Master copy of individual member book, Numbers 1 through 83, undated	14	13
Master copy of individual member book, Numbers 84 through 179, undated	14	14
Master copy of individual member book, Numbers 180 through 249, undated	15	1

Subseries 2.2: Essays, 1903-1977, undated

This subseries contains essays written by members and delivered at club meetings, arranged chronologically. These essays may also appear in the official record books of the club.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Essay on early records of the Monday Evening Club from 1860 to 1880, by R. Stuart Chase, 1903	15	2
Essay on early records of the Monday Evening Club from 1881-1894, by R. Stuart Chase, [1905]	15	3
Records of the Monday Evening Club from 1894 to 1904 by R. Stuart Chase, 1906	15	4

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Essay on schools, teaching, and teachers by Donald C. Freeman, 1951	15	5
Essay on Samuel Leonardson by Donald C. Freeman, 1957	15	6
Essays given at the 100 th anniversary celebration, 1960	15	7
Autobiographical essay by Howard A. Lockhart, 1970	15	8
Essay on witchcraft, magic, and superstition by Sotiris Katsaros, 1977	15	9
<i>Going, Going, Gone</i> , essay on erosion on Cape Cod, undated [1980s]	15	10
Essay on modern technology, undated [1990s]	15	11
Wire recording, undated	16 OS	
Reel-to-reel recording, undated	16 OS	

Subseries 2.3: Photographs, 1910-1921, 1970, 1985, 2000, undated

This subseries contains photographs of members, and negatives and contact sheets of members and their homes, arranged chronologically.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Member photographs, 1910-1921, undated	15	12
"Random photos of the 1970 Monday Evening Club" slides in carousel, 1970	16 OS	
Group portrait at 125 th anniversary, 1985	15	13
Photographs of special dinner meeting at Haverhill Country Club, 2000	15	14
Negatives and contact sheets, undated	15	15

Series 3: Financial, 1926, 1934, 1960-2004, undated

This series contains treasurers' reports, bills, and receipts.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Treasurer's reports, 1926, 1960-1981	15	16
Bills and receipts, 1934, 1991-2004, undated [1986]	15	17

Series 4: Digital records, 2007-2024

This series contains digital files of minutes, agendas, attendance sheets, membership lists, and notices. Digital files are maintained on the Special Collections server, under Digital Collections by title and call number.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Minutes, 2007-2024	-	FF01
Transcriptions of historical minutes, 2013	-	FF02
Agenda template, n.d.	-	FF03
Attendance sheets, 2011-2020 – RESTRICTED	-	FF04
Membership information, 2017, n.d. – RESTRICTED	-	FF05
Notices and regulations, 1989, 2013	-	FF06