

Spofford Family Papers, 1729-2005

Collection Summary

Reference Code:	MRQ, US.
Repository:	Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Call Number:	MSS 110
Creator:	Spofford Family
Title:	Spofford Family Papers
Dates:	1729-2005
Size:	2 linear feet (7 boxes and 1 volume)
Language(s):	Collection materials are in English.
Abstract:	<i>This collection contains the diaries of Nelson Spofford and personal papers of other Spofford family members, such as Grace Spofford.</i>

Biographical Sketch

The Spofford Family line of John Spofford and his wife Elizabeth, who came to America in 1638.

Nelson Spofford (7th generation) was born in 1825 to Sewall and Elizabeth (Nelson) Spofford of Georgetown, Massachusetts. He married Lucy Edwards of Haverhill and purchased the Haverhill civil engineering office in 1856. Nelson Spofford established many of the streets and roads in Haverhill, including Arlington and Chestnut Streets, which created the Highland district. He also helped establish the northern boundary of Massachusetts after discovering that none yet existed between Massachusetts and New Hampshire. He also invented numerous engineering devices, such as the bit brace and the equal arc meter.

Grace Spofford (9th generation) was born in 1887 to Harry Hall and Sarah Hastings Spofford of Haverhill. She graduated from Haverhill High School and then received her Bachelor of Arts degree for music from Smith College in 1909. Grace Spofford became the director of the Music School of Henry Street Settlement in New York City from 1935 to 1954. In 1937, *The Second Hurricane* (written by Edwin Denby, conducted by Lehman Engel, and staged by Orson Wells) premiered at the school. When Grace Spofford retired she became involved in international music relations and represented the United States at the conference that established the International Society for Musical Education.

Arrangement

Series 1. Journals, 1863-1898

Series 2. Family Papers, 1729-2005

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains Spofford Family papers from the 18th century, the journals of Nelson Spofford, the papers of Grace Spofford, and newspaper clippings.

Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:	[Item Identification], Spofford Family Papers, MSS 110, Special Collections, Haverhill Public Library, Haverhill, Massachusetts.
Custodial History:	Unknown.
Acquisition Information:	Gift of John S. Spofford Estate, unknown date.
Processing Information:	Processed by Elizabeth Smith, 2025.
Access Rights:	Collection is open for research.
Phys. Access Restrictions:	None.
Tech. Access Restrictions:	None.
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Related Collections:	Collection Title, Call Number.
Separated Material:	Published materials were separated from the collection and cataloged separately.
Conservation Notes:	Photographs were sleeved to protect them. Newspaper clippings were photocopied onto archival quality paper. Paper clips and staples were removed.
Subjects:	Spofford Family Spofford, Nelson Spofford, John S. Spofford, Paul Spofford, Grace Henry Street Settlement (New York, N.Y.) – Music School Patents Surveying - Massachusetts

Collection Inventory

Series 1: Journals , 1863-1898

This series contains twenty-nine diaries and one survey journal of Nelson Spofford between the years 1863 and 1898.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1863	1	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1864	1	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1865	1	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1867	1	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1868	1	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1869	2	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1870	2	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1871	2	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1872	2	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1873	2	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1874	3	Volume
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1875	4	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1876	4	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1877	4	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1878	4	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1879	4	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1880	5	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1881	5	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1882	5	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1883	5	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1884	5	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1885	6	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1886	6	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1887	6	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1888	6	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1890	6	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1896	7	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1897	7	Item
Nelson Spofford Diary, 1898	7	Item
Nelson Spoffard, Massachusetts and New Hampshire Boundary Line Survey, 1886	7	Item

Series 2: Family Papers, 1729-2005

This series contains papers of the Haverhill branch of the John Spofford Family.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Container Number</u>	<u>Folder Number</u>
Spofford papers, 1729-1779	8	1
Nelson Spofford, patents, 1879-1883	8	2
Grace Spofford, papers, 1934-1952	8	3
Grace Spofford, autobiography, 1969	8	4
Newspaper clippings, 1873-2005	8	5