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A guide to the Salisbury family papers

Worcester Polytechnic Institute

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MS 27 Salisbury Family

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MS 27

Personal Papers

ABSTRACT

The Salisbury Family Papers (1811-1928) contain materials of three generations of Stephen Salisburys. Most materials are from Stephen Salisbury II and Stephen Salisbury III relating to their work as president of the Corporation. Other items include deeds and land transfers to WPI and to the Chaffinsville Mill section of Holden.

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

This collection contains materials of three generations of Stephen Salisburys. There is one receipt from the store of S. & S. Salisbury. This Stephen Salisbury was the father of Stephen Salisbury who was one of the founders and benefactors of Worcester Free Institute of Industrial Science (later Worcester Polytechnic Institute). The first Stephen Salisbury opened an outlet in Worcester for some of the hardware and other items imported by S. & S. Salisbury from England (he was in partnership with his brother Samuel, who was in Boston), around 1767. The partnership lasted until the death of Samuel in 1818, and was the basis for the Salisbury fortune which later benefited WPI, the Worcester Art Museum and the city of Worcester. [Information about the first Stephen Salisbury is from Worcester Art Museum News, Vol. XXI, March 1956.]

Stephen Salisbury II, sometimes referred to in WPI history as Stephen Salisbury, Sr., was a founder, trustee and first president of the Corporation, from 1865-1884. He was born in 1798 and died in 1884. Mr. Salisbury was a principal benefactor to WPI. In a letter to Mr. Salisbury's son around 1885 (part of this collection), President Homer T. Fuller listed the total value of Mr. Salisbury's gifts to the school as \$236,800.

Stephen Salisbury III, also referred to as Stephen Salisbury, Jr., became a trustee after his father's death in 1884. He served as president of the Corporation from 1895 to 1905. He was born in 1835 and died in 1905. In 1893, Mr. Salisbury gave to WPI about two hundred acres of land in Holden, which became the site for the Alden Hydraulic Laboratories. He also gave other financial gifts to the school.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

This collection spans the years from 1811 to 1928. The bulk of the collection, and the materials of Stephen Salisbury II and Stephen Salisbury III, date from 1869 to 1905. Most of these relate to their work as president of the Corporation, especially in the case of Stephen Salisbury III, from 1901-1905.

Items of Stephen Salisbury II include a deed of gift to WPI for land in 1869. Much of the material of Stephen Salisbury III when he was president relates to financial matters and challenges facing WPI at that time.

Another large part of this collection is comprised of the deeds and land transfers relating to the Chaffinsville Mill section of Holden. Most of this land was purchased by Stephen Salisbury II, and was donated to WPI by Stephen Salisbury III in 1893, for the Alden Hydraulics Laboratories.

It should be noted that many other documents relating to both Stephen Salisbury II and III can be found in the collection of Early History of WPI, and in early trustees' records.

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title
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Series I: Document re. Stephen Salisbury I

MS 27_01

Personal Papers

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title
Box 01	Folder 01	Dec. 27, 1811	Receipt to Mr. Silas Fay for Purchases from S. & S. Salisbury

Series II: Documents of Stephen Salisbury Sr. (Stephen Salisbury II)

MS 27_02

Personal Papers

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title
Box 01	Folder 02	Sept. 9, 1869	Deed of Gift from Stephen Salisbury to Worcester County Free Institute of Industrial Science <i>Lot between Boynton and Bliss Streets</i>
Box 01	Folder 03	1873	"An Essay on the Star Spangled Banner & National Songs," by Stephen Salisbury
Box 01	Folder 04		Speeches to graduates of WPI by Stephen Salisbury
Box 01	Folder 05	1882	Part of Draft of Statement re. Dr. Thompson's Resignation as President
Box 01	Folder 06	June 10, 1882	Letter from Stephen Salisbury to Trustees Presenting Portrait of Hon. Emory Washburn

Series III: Documents relating to Chaffinsville Mill Property in Holden

MS 27_03

Personal Papers

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title
Box 01	Folder 07	October 10, 1870	Mortgage Deed from Lucy C. Chaffin to Stephen Salisbury <i>Include note from American Antiquarian Society about the deeds in Holden</i>
Box 01	Folder 08	August 18, 1884	Warranty Deed from Alfred Chaffin to Daniel H. Hesselton - Land in Holden, house, mill, water power
Box 01	Folder 09	July 29, 1885	Deed from Alfred Chaffin to Stephen Salisbury
Box 01	Folder 10	August 14, 1885	Warranty Deed from Daniel and Angelia Hesselton to Lyman A. Ely
Box 01	Folder 11	August 29, 1885	Mortgage Deed to Stephen Salisbury
Box 01	Folder 12	January 1, 1886	Promises to Pay from Marietta Sherbrooks to Lewis Rivers
Box 01	Folder 13	February 8, 1886	Mortgage from Marietta Sherbrooks to Lewis Rivers
Box 01	Folder 14	October 27, 1887	Mortgage Deed from Goulding & Murphy to Stephen Salisbury <i>Mortgage given by Marietta Sherbrooks to Lewis Rivers</i>

Box 01	Folder 15	March 24, 1890 and October 10, 1890	Deeds from J. W. & Marietta Sherbrooks to Stephen Salisbury
Box 01	Folder 16	1887, 1890, 1894	Two Examiner's Office, Worcester Registry of Deeds findings <i>Includes note re. water privileges at Chaffinsville</i>
Box 01	Folder 17	c. 1905	Letter of Complaint to Charles H. Morgan re. Trespassing on Land Adjoining WPI's Holden Land

Series IV: Documents re. Gifts to WPI and Embossed Envelope

MS 27_04

Personal Papers

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title
Box 01	Folder 18	September 11, c. 1885	Letter to Stephen Salisbury from Homer T. Fuller re. Gifts to School from Stephen Salisbury Sr.
Box 01	Folder 19	October 1, 1887	Extract: Deed of gift of Stephen Salisbury to City of Worcester - Institute Park
Box 01	Folder 20	June 25, 1898	Receipt to Stephen Salisbury from C. Washburn <i>For donation of \$10,000 to secure note and for future endowment</i>
Box 01	Folder 21		Envelope with embossed "S S" on back - addressed to Alumni Secretary

Series V: Documents re. S. Salisbury's position as President of Trustees

MS 27_05

Personal Papers

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title
Box 01	Folder 22	June 1901	Invitation to Reception for President Mendenhall and Dr. Engler from Stephen Salisbury
Box 01	Folder 23	1899, 1905	Mr. Salisbury's sentiments re. resignation of Pres. Mendenhall & Letter from C. Washburn re. same
Box 01	Folder 24	1903	Letter, report and memo to Stephen Salisbury <i>re. financial needs, proposed Electrical Engineering building, proposed salary increases</i>
Box 01	Folder 25	December 7, 1904-November 31, 1905	Letters and reports re. WPI
Box 01	Folder 26	January 1, 1905	Letters to President Engler from Harold B. Smith re. needs of Department of Electrical Engineering
Box 01	Folder 27	January 21, 1905	Letter from C. G. Washburn to M. P. Higgins <i>re. possible work for New Era Machinery Co. by Washburn Shops</i>
Box 01	Folder 28	April 1905	Letters of Introduction <i>Letter of introduction to Mr. Carnegie from Francis Kimmicut Letter re. same to Mr. Salisbury from C. Washburn</i>

**Series VI: Letters to Stephen Salisbury and Resolution
after his Death**

MS 27_06

Personal Papers

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title
Box 01	Folder 30	1904 and 1905	Three letters to Stephen Salisbury from T. C. Mendenhall and Mrs. Mendenhall
Box 01	Folder 31	November 17, 1905	Resolution of the WPI Alumni Association on the death of Stephen Salisbury

Series VII: Brief Biography of Stephen Salisbury Senior

MS 27_07

Personal Papers

Container List

Container	Folder	Date	Title
Box 01	Folder 32	1928	Brief Biography of Stephen Salisbury Senior, by Zelotes W. Coombs, Faculty