



# CHAUTAUQUA ARCHIVE

## FINDING AID

Abstract .....	2
Provenance .....	2
Historical Context.....	2
Outline .....	4
Box 1: Documents and Ephemera.....	4
Box 2: Photographs.....	6
Box 3: Oversized Chautauqua Documents.....	6

## Abstract

The Chautauqua Archive documents the Chautauqua movement in Framingham. This collection consists primarily of photographs, newsletters, and programs that illustrate this institution's focus on education and service. While this archive contains all of the Chautauqua textbooks in the Framingham History Center's collection, other books on this subject can be found in FHC's library.

## Provenance

This archive consists of items donated from a variety of sources. Donor names, when known, are listed within the finding aid along with their associated Object ID numbers. If not otherwise specified, the items in this finding aid are part of the Chautauqua Archive under Object ID 2007.14.1 (Unknown – Found in Collection)

## Historical Context

The following was written by Martha Davidson, former Research Librarian for the Framingham History Center, in 2020:

In the 1870s the Chautauqua movement came to Framingham. A meeting hall in the form of a Greek temple, an open air auditorium, a large dining hall, and tents and cottages, dormitories and classrooms sprang up in the Mt. Wayte area. Chautauqua was named for the lake in New York State where the original camp meeting developed under the sponsorship of the Methodist Church. It soon took on an interdenominational character dedicated to education and uplifting activities. The Chautauqua movement embodied the middle class longing for Culture with a capital "C" in the years after the Civil War.

There was a railroad station at "Lakeview," where as many as thirty trains full of "Chautauquans" stopped each day during the summer months. A Chautauqua session lasted for ten days, and tickets for a single day cost 25 cents. Events included bird classes, Bible study, choral practice, physical culture for children, civic improvement, and of course lectures and "entertainments." Among the speakers were President Rutherford B. Hayes, Booker T. Washington, and Framingham's own poetess, Edna Dean Proctor.

A series of Chautauqua textbooks includes such titles as: *Studies of the Stars*, *Greek History*, *A Brief Outline of the History of Art*, *Man's Antiquity and Language*, *Asiatic History*, and *Assembly Bible Outlines*. For those who were tired of studying there was boating on the pond, swimming in the Sudbury River, and slides and musical presentations, or the cartoons of a chalk artist. The New England Chautauqua in Framingham was the second largest in the nation, after the original one.

In the 1880s there were over 100 cottages. The Hall of Philosophy could seat 500 people, and the dining hall could serve 300 at a time. The largest crowd (3,500) came to hear a speech on "Temperance" in the canopied amphitheater. There was a telegraph and telephone office.

The bells which had summoned people to meetings and to meals rang for the last time on the first anniversary of Armistice Day in 1919. The railroad station had burned in 1905 and a fire in 1933

destroyed three of the houses. Gradually most of the buildings disappeared, though it is still possible to see the foundation stones of the Hall of Philosophy. The once-beautiful site became housing for welfare recipients in the 1930s and the town established a dump and then an incinerator in the area.

(Davidson, Martha. "Framingham's Chautauqua on Farm Pond." *Framingham History Center*, 24 June 2020, [framinghamhistory.org/framinghams-chautauqua-on-farm-pond](https://framinghamhistory.org/framinghams-chautauqua-on-farm-pond).)

## Outline

This collection is arranged in the following boxes

**Box 1: Documents and Ephemera** – Including legal documents; programs, handouts, and flyers for various Chautauqua events; and Tickets and Passes for the New England Chautauqua Assembly (1 box)

**Box 2: Photographs** (1 box)

**Box 3: Oversized Documents** – Primarily newspapers/newsletters (1 box)

### Box 1: Documents and Ephemera

- **Folder 1: General Information**
  - “Mount Wayte: Historical and Developmental Ideas”, Framingham Redevelopment Authority, June 28, 1973
  - Talk about Mt. Wayte given by Ed Convery, April 6, 1975
  - “Status of Revitalization of the Mt. Wayte Neighborhood”, Framingham Planning Department, March 1982
- **Folder 2: Legal Documents & Correspondence**
  - Deed of sale of a cottage on Main Ave., Montwait (Mount Wayte), South Framingham, by Laura A. Vinal to G. Willard Bartlett
  - Letter, To Summer From Hurlbut, 1887, regarding the New England Assembly (Chautauqua) (OBID 1977.8 – Sogoff)
- **Folder 3: Chautauqua Network News, February 1997**
- **Folder 4: Tickets and Passes for the New England Chautauqua Assembly**
  - Adult
    - Season Ticket, 1881, No. 53, Bearer C.T. Boynton
    - Season Ticket, July 15-25, 1890, Bearer Mrs. Boynton
    - Season Ticket, July 18-August 2, 1893, Bearer Local Agent B&A Railroad South Framingham
    - Day Ticket, undated, 1895
    - Season Ticket, July 17-28, 1899
    - Day Ticket, undated, July 19-29, 1910 (OBID 1970.2 – Bray)
    - Day Ticket, July 27, July 23-August 2, 1912 (OBID 1970.2 – Bray)
    - Season Ticket, July 23-August 2, 1912, price \$2.00 (OBID 1970.2 – Bray)
    - Day Ticket, undated, July 15-25, 1913 (OBID 1970.2 – Bray)
  - Child
    - Day Ticket, July 24, July 23-August 2, 1912 (OBID 1970.2 – Bray)
    - Day Ticket, undated, July 23-August 2, 1912 (OBID 1970.2 – Bray)
    - Season Ticket, July 23-August 2, 1912, price \$.75 (OBID 1970.2 – Bray)
  - Employee’s Pass
- **Folder 5: Programs – New England Assembly, Sunday School**
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Session, August 23-September 1, 1881
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session, August 22-August 31, 1882
  - 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, August 21-August 31, 1883

- 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, July 12-23, 1887 (Miss C.O. Howe written on cover in pencil)
- 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, July 15-July 25, 1890 (OBID 361.3 – McPherson)
- 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, July 18-August 1, 1893
- 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, July 10-July 24, 1894
- 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, July 23-August 5, 1895
- 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Session, July 19-July 30, 1897
- **Folder 6:** Programs – C.L.S.C. Recognition Day
  - July 18, 1888
  - July 24, 1890
  - July 18, 1894
  - July 29, 1897
  - Unknown date, 1899
- **Folder 7:** Programs – Entertainment Events
  - Musical Day, Friday, July 25, 1890
  - “1775: A Souvenir of Lexington”, Lecture by Rev. Edward G. Porte, July 21, 1892
- **Folder 8:** Handouts and Flyers
  - Condensed Programs for New England Assembly, Sunday School
    - August 21-31, 1883
    - July 12-23, 1887
    - July 10-21, 1888
    - July 23-August 5, 1895
    - July 20-August 1, 1896
  - Educational Promotional Flyers
    - The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Four Years’ Studies, 1888-1892
    - International Lessons, Berean System, The Methodist Book Room
    - The Chautauqua Literary and Scientific Circle Home Reading Course, 1897-1898
    - Signing the Pledge
    - Joshua Smith, Livery & Boarding Stable, Horse Furnishings of Every Description
- **Folder 9:** Mementos
  - Chautauqua Autograph Album (OBID 2014.88.1 – Banks)
  - “The Chautauqua Year Book”, by Grace Leigh Duncan, copyright 1897
- **Folder 10:** Maps
  - Map of Mt. Wayte Reunion, October 8, 1983 (OBID 1989.12.15 – Reed)
- **Folder 11:** Chautauqua Textbooks – OBIDs (all FICs) 2007.83.1-.3, -.5-.9, and -.15
  - No.5 Greek History
  - No. 2 Studies of the Stars
  - No. 35 Outlines of General History
  - No. 36 Assembly Bible Outlines
  - No. 34 Asiatic History: China, Corea <sic>, Japan
  - No. 32 A Brief Outline of the History of Art
  - No. 29 Man’s Antiquity and Language
  - No. 4 English History
  - No. 37 Assembly Normal Outlines

- **Folder 12: Posters**
  - concert poster/music poster, N.E. Chautauqua S.S. Assembly Opening Concert by G. Rob. Clark Concert Co., readings by John Burgess Weeks, followed by fireworks and grand illumination, 8pm on Tuesday, July 14, 1891 (OBID 2023.35.2 – Sudbury Historical Society)

### Box 2: Photographs

- **Folder 1:** Photos – Reed Collection (1989.12.1-1989.12.12)
- **Folder 2:** Photos – Fletcher-Davis Collection (x2022.3.3-x2022.3..11, donated in 1975)
- **Folder 3:** Photos – Bray Collection (x2022.5.1, x2022.5.2, x2022.5.4, donated in 1972)
- **Folder 4:** Photos – Miscellaneous/Unidentified Donors
  - 1998.75.2-.3
  - 2004.141.14-.16
  - 2004.45.1, -.5-.6
  - 2004.67.3-.4, -.6-.8
  - 2007.16.1-.4

### Box 3: Oversized Chautauqua Documents

- Framingham Evening News, July 25, 1917
- Certificate, Chautauqua Society of Fine Arts, Chautauqua University, two year course in Watercolor Painting, awarded to Emily Frances Goodnow
- The New England Assembly Daily
  - 1883
    - August 29, August 31
  - 1885
    - July 24
      - General Grant died July 23
    - Miss Mabel Allen of S. Framingham took a party of campers boating yesterday in style.
    - Goodell '88 Plymouth Rock Class, Goodell of Sudbury
  - July 25
    - Correspondence course introduced by Prof. R.S. Holmes, the Registrar of Chautauqua Education
    - Some Framingham names mentioned: Mrs. Fay, Mrs. Judd, Dr. Boynton, Mrs. Whittemore, Rev. Haywood
    - Commendation of Rev. Edward Everett Hale as speaker C.L.S.C.
    - 3,200 day tickets sold July 24, 1885
  - July 27
- 1886
  - July 17
- 1890

- July 15- 19, July 21- 26
  - July 15
    - Fireworks Progamme Front Page
    - Yule President Timothy Dwight, DD, speaks on the 24<sup>th</sup>
    - Celebrated Scotch piper Duncan MacLean will entertain on Children’s Day
    - Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer, ex-President of Wellesley College, July 18, 1890, at 8pm. “The Influence of Higher Education of Woman on National Character”
  - July 18
    - Misses Emily Willis, Hattie Goodnow, E. Walker of Sudbury
- 1891
  - July 20
    - Lecture on electricity
    - Governor Russell visits
    - “Negro Problem” by former slave Hon. John M. Langston, graduate of Oberlin College, President of Howard University
    - Baseball game mentioned
    - President Gates, Amherst College
    - New electric light at the railroad gate
  - July 21
- 1892
  - July 15
- 1893
  - July 25
    - The Woman Question in the College 1893, list of people attending