

**George M. Champney (1812-1882)
Papers, 1846-1882**

Manuscript Collection, FAM-34

4 cubic feet (13 boxes)

Biographical Sketch: George Mather Champney was born in New Ipswich, New Hampshire on March 6, 1812, the son of Benjamin and Rebecca (Brooks) Champney. He attended school in New Ipswich until the age of 14 when he moved to Boston to work in a retail store in the city. While in Boston, he became interested in literature, and spent much of his free time in that pursuit. At the age of 21 he returned to New Ipswich and became a partner in a country store. While there he became involved with the Appleton Academy, a lyceum and debating society. He was married in 1836 to Lucy H. Champney and soon after moved back to Boston where he became a partner in a dry goods business. Champney continued in this business until 1847 when he formed a partnership with his brother, Edward W. Champney, under the name of Champney Brothers. In 1847 he also moved to Woburn with his family. In 1851, with the formation of the first town library, Champney served as Chairman of the Library Committee and worked to develop the library. In 1872 the Champney Brothers' firm was destroyed in the Great Fire in Boston and the business soon closed. After Charles B. Winn's death in 1875, Champney took a leading role in planning for the new library that the town would build with the Winn endowment. He spent considerable time and energy acquiring books for the library, and became the first librarian in the new building when it opened in 1879. George Champney wrote a history of the library for the Woburn Journal in November of 1881. Less than two months later, on January 4, 1882, Champney died on the front porch of the library, at the age of 69. He was survived by his wife Lucy H. Champney, his son Edwin Graves Champney, his daughter Ellen Champney Hayden, and his brother, the artist Benjamin Champney.

Scope and Contents Note: The collection consists of George M. Champney's journals, scrapbooks and related transcriptions with indexes and research notes.

Champney's personal journals (Series 1), dating from 1846 to 1882, were transcribed over several years by Octavia Hughes for the Champney Family of Bedford. Hughes was working on a biography of Benjamin Champney that was never published. Due to editing, the transcripts (Series 2) do not include the entirety of some of the journal entries. The two Sunday School Class Books, from Champney's time as Sunday school teacher at the First Unitarian Church in Woburn, have not been transcribed. Three of the scrapbooks, part of what was previously known as "The Champney Collection of Autographs", contain correspondence and other documents collected by Champney for their antiquarian interest as autographs (Series 3). Autographs: Vol. 1" (box 8) consists of 241 documents. Autographs: Vol. 2 (box 9) consists of 555 documents. Autographs: Volume 3 (box 10) contains 385 documents. Each of the volumes was indexed by William R. Cutter, the second librarian in the 1879 Woburn Public Library building. The documents in volume 1 are mostly related to statesmen while the documents in volumes 2 and 3 were grouped into several categories including statesmen, military men, orators,

Woburn Public Library
Dr. Thomas J. Glennon Archives
Manuscript Finding Aid
July 2, 2015

artists in painting, sculpture and music and eminent women. The Woburn-related scrapbook (box 11), which is untitled, is unindexed. It is largely comprised of correspondence to Champney from lecturers at the Woburn Lyceum along with news clippings he collected. The Sermons by Woburn Pastors volume (box 11) consists of six 19th century sermons collected by Champney. The Champney Family of Bedford materials (box 13) includes a history of the Champney family and photocopies of digital images donated by the family.

Arrangement: Arranged in five series: 1. Journals (chronological); 2. Journal transcripts (chronological); 3. Scrapbooks (topical); 4. Indexes and transcriptions (topical); 5. Research materials (topical).

Acquisition: The Champney journals and transcriptions (Series 1 and 2) were acquired from the Champney Family of Bedford on May 18, 2011. Autographs: Vol. 1 (box 8) is a library collection made up of documents collected by Champney, some through purchase, during his service as Librarian between 1879 and 1882, along with the 83 documents donated by Nathan Wyman. Autographs: vol. 2 (box 9) and Autographs: vol. 3 (box 10) were donated to the Library by George Champney's son, Edwin G. Champney, on April 30, 1891 along with the Sermons by Woburn Pastors volume. The untitled Woburn-related scrapbook was purchased by the Library for \$7.50 in 1919. The Middlesex County Historical Survey transcripts (box 12, folder 6) were formerly cataloged in Special Collections as W027 Z2. Champney Family of Bedford notes and images (box 13, folder 1) include copies of photographs (some digital) that were acquired from the Champney Family of Bedford (Acc. 2011-004). The Diary of George Champney Extracts (box 13, folder 2) was compiled by a family member for the library and was formerly cataloged in Special Collections as W027 Zz1.

Access: Unrestricted.

Copyright: Contact the Archivist about questions on the copyright status of this collection.

Related Material: See Benjamin Champney Papers (FAM-42)

Preferred Citation: The George M. Champney Papers.

Processor: Thomas R. Doyle

**George M. Champney (1812-1882)
Papers, 1846-1882**

Series 1: Journals

Box Item

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | January 1, 1846 - December 1, 1846
January 1, 1847 - June 4, 1848
June 5, 1848 - December 31, 1848
January 1, 1849 - April 2, 1850
April 5, 1850 - April 25, 1852
April 26, 1852 - November 5, 1853
November 6, 1853 – March 21, 1855
March 22, 1855 - December 8, 1855
January 3, 1857- March 2, 1858
March 1, 1858 - January 13, 1859
January 31, 1859 - April 28, 1860
April 29, 1860 - May 6, 1861 |
| 2 | May 7, 1861 - May 19, 1862
May 20 1862 - April 3, 1863
April 4, 1863 - March 25, 1864
March 25, 1864 - February 11, 1866
February 12, 1866 - November 18, 1867
November 19, 1867 - February 4, 1870
February 6, 1870 – December 3, 1871
December 3, 1871 - June 27, 1873 |
| 3 | June 28, 1873 - January 18, 1875
January 19, 1875 – April 3, 1876
April 4, 1876 - March 28, 1877
March 24, 1877 - June 8, 1878
June 9, 1878 - November 28, 1879
December 19, 1879 - May 18, 1881
May 19, 1881 - January 3, 1882
Sunday School Class Book, ca. 1864
Sunday School Class Book, 1880 |

Series 2: Journal Transcripts

Box Folder

- | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 4 | 1 | January 1, 1846 - December 1, 1846 |
| | 2 | January 1, 1847 - June 4, 1848 |

Woburn Public Library
 Dr. Thomas J. Glennon Archives
 Manuscript Finding Aid
 July 2, 2015

Box Folder

4	3	June 5, 1848 - December 31, 1848
	4	January 1, 1849 - April 2, 1850
	5	April 5, 1850 - April 25, 1852
5	6	April 26, 1852 - November 5, 1853
	7	November 6, 1853 - March 21, 1855
	8	March 22, 1855 - December 8, 1855
	9	January 3, 1857- February 18, 1858
	10	March 1, 1858 - January 13, 1859
	11	January 31, 1859 - April 28, 1860
	12	April 29, 1860 - May 6, 1861
6	13	May 7, 1861 - May 19, 1862
	14	May 20 1862 - April 3, 1863
	15	April 4, 1863 - March 25, 1864
	16	February 12, 1866 - November 18, 1867
	17	November 19, 1867 - February 4, 1870
	18	February 6, 1870 – December 3, 1871
7	19	June 28, 1873 - January 18, 1875
	20	January 19, 1875 - April 3, 1876
	21	April 4, 1876 - March 23, 1877
	22	March 24, 1877 - June 8, 1878
	23	June 9, 1878 – November 28, 1879
	24	December 19, 1879 - May 18, 1881
	25	May 19, 1881 - January 3, 1882

Series 3: Scrapbooks

Box Volume

8	Autographs: Vol. 1
9	Autographs: Vol. 2
10	Autographs: Vol. 3
11	Woburn-related Vol.
11	Sermons (by Woburn Pastors)

Series 4: Indexes and Transcriptions, Scrapbooks

Box Folder

12	1	Autographs: Vol. 1, Index
	2	Autographs: Vol. 2, Index

Woburn Public Library
Dr. Thomas J. Glennon Archives
Manuscript Finding Aid
July 2, 2015

Box Folder

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 12 | 3 | Autographs: Vol. 3, Index |
| | 4 | Woburn-related Vol., Index |
| | 5 | Section from William D. Goddard's "Guide to the Collections of Woburn Public Library", 1939 |
| | 6 | Middlesex County Historical Survey Transcript of Items in Champney, Autographs: Vol. 3, ca. 1938 |

Series 5: Research Materials

Box Folder

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 13 | 1 | Champney Family of Bedford notes and images, 2011 |
| | 2 | Diary of George M. Champney, Extracts relative to the Woburn Public Library copied from the volume for 1876. |

Series 6: Books

Box Item

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 14 | 1 | The Middlesex Collection of Church Music, 1807 |
|----|---|--|