

George F. Sever (1866-1954)
Papers 1921 –1946
Manuscript Collection, MC-9

4 Boxes (20 linear inches)

Biographical sketch: Major George Francis Sever was born in Cambridge on July 30, 1866, son of Charles Sever of Plymouth and Mary C. Webber of Watertown. He died on December 16, 1954.

According to an obituary notice that appeared in the December 23, 1954 issue of the *Old Colony Memorial*, “He was educated in private schools, was graduated from Cambridge High school and entered Massachusetts Institute of Technology with the class of 1887, majoring in electrical engineering. Upon graduation he accepted a position with the Thomas Houston Electric Company in Lynn, later becoming assistant superintendent of the Germania Electric company in Marlboro. In 1893 he was appointed instructor in electrical engineering at Columbia University, becoming dean of the Faculty of Applied Science in 1905.

“Major Sever enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1898 and was assigned to the Coast Signal service where he established the Montauk Point Coast Signal station and remained in charge of the Point during the Spanish –American war. In 1902, he was appointed consulting electrical engineer of the water, gas and electricity of the city of New York. On Feb. 13, 1919 he was commissioned major in the engineer reserve corps, in the office of the chief of engineers and was assigned to active duty in the power section of the war industries in Washington, D.C.

“Upon retiring he came to Kingston to make his home in the old Sever homestead on Linden street. For several years he served on the Kingston board of selectmen, board of public welfare and board of health. He was a past president of the Jones River village club and a member of the First Parish Church.”

Scope and Content Note: The George F. Sever (GFS) papers document the involvement of a retired engineer in Kingston town governance and local community organizations. There are two series in the collection, Town Records and Local History.

The Town Records series contains records that relate to GFS’s work on the Board of Selectmen and on the Board of Public Welfare. Two folders originate from his service on the Board of Public Welfare. Financial records and playground expenses from the financial responsibilities of the Board of Selectmen. The largest proportion of the series relates to GFS’s work on Kingston boundary lines and street lighting.

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(Scope and content note continued...)

The Local History series is derived from GFS's involvement and membership in the First Parish Congregational Church and the Jones River Village Club. His chief research interest in local history, and the largest proportion of the series, is related to gravestone documentation in Kingston although gravestones in Plymouth County are documented and illustrated in a postcard album. The series includes photographs of Kingston gravestones, notes from a lecture on tombstones and notes related to Revolutionary and Civil War gravestone sites in Kingston. This research was used to order commemorative plaques for soldier's gravesites in Kingston.

***Please note photographs found in this collection are cataloged in the Local History Image Collection, but are physically housed within this Collection.**

Box and Folder List:

Box	Folder	Item
		<i>Town Records, 1927-1946</i>
1	1.1A	Public Welfare 1929-1930-1931
	1.1B	Public Welfare 1929-1930-1931
	1.2	Financial Affairs of the Town of Kingston, 1932
	1.3	Playground Expenses and Receipts, 1927-1940
	1.4	Benchmarks Established by Department of Public Works in Kingston MA, 1929
	1.5	Stone Bounds for Town Ways, 1928
	1.6	Bounds for Town Ways, 1929 Blueprint: Plan Showing Proposed Westerly Connection to Crescent Street, Kingston, 1929 Blueprint: Street Name Signs, 1937
	1.7	Lucy M. Washburn Property, Maple and Summer Streets, 1932
	1.8	Street Lighting Information, 1927 Blueprint: Kingston Street Lights 1927
	1.9	Report on Street Lights, 1929 Blueprint: Kingston Street Lighting 1929
	1.10	Street Lighting 1925-1929
	1.11	Report: Planning a Schoolhouse for Tomorrow's Citizens, 1946
		<i>Local History, 1921-1942</i>
2	2.1	First Parish Congregational Church Anniversary, 1942
	2.2	Allan Seeger and Adams Genealogy, n.d.
	2.3	Evergreen Cemetery Sketch and Key, 1933
	2.4	Evergreen Cemetery Associated Documents, 1927-1939
	2.5	Miscellaneous Local History, 1921 Blueprint: Details for Window Frames for the Major John Bradford House, 1921
	2.6	Photographs of Gravestones in Old Burying Ground, c. 19293
3	3.1	Tour, Pilgrim Homesteads and Burying Grounds, 1930

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(Box and folder list continued...)

	3.2	Jolly Old Tombstones, Old Burying Grounds, n.d.
4	4.1	Burying Stones Marked for Pilgrim and Puritan Periods, 1930
	4.2	Revolutionary Soldiers Graves in Old Burying Ground, 1930
	4.3	Revolutionary War Soldiers on 1927 Memorial List, Part 1, n.d.
	4.4	Revolutionary War Soldiers on 1927 Memorial List, Part 2, n.d.
	4.5	Graves of Soldiers in Old Burying Ground, Civil War, n.d.
	4.6	Civil War Soldiers, Gravestone Research, n.d.
	4.7	Order for Revolutionary Marker, n.d.
	4.8	Revolutionary War Soldiers, Miscellaneous, n.d.
	4.9	Processing Note, 1995

Acquisition: The Local History Room of the Kingston Public Library acquired the George F. Sever papers in two containers.

Access: Unrestricted

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Processor: Thomas R. Doyle, Intern 2001.