

**Kingston Public Library: Local History Room**  
**Manuscript Collection Finding Aid**  
**November 2, 2002**

**Kingston Water Department**  
**Bulk dates: 1885 - 1994**

**Manuscript Collection, PC-14**

1 Box (5 linear inches)

**Historical Sketch:** The first existence of a Water Department is found in the 1885 Town Annual Report. It is in this report that the Committee on Water Supply states that since their organization as a committee on March 31, 1884, they have explored manners in which to supply water for the town. Their report continues, stating that through consultation with expert engineers and through investigation of every available water source in town that they propose a plan for the price of \$40,000 to supply water to nearly 279 tenements, 109 stables, and 40 fire hydrants (for additional information refer to the 1885 Annual Town Report, pages 53 – 56.) It is under this plan that the Kingston Aqueduct Company was established.

During the next few years, a bitter argument, known as the Water Wars, developed between town residents over the establishment of the Aqueduct versus the establishment of a Town system. In the end, the Aqueduct went out of business and the Town took on the responsibility of providing clean water to its citizens. The first residence in Kingston to receive town water was Mary Kennedy.

**Scope and Content Note:** This Collection contains material that supports the existence of the water system as run by the Town. Particular items of note include Water Department minutes and the original copies of petitions and reports submitted by the Water Department Committee to the Town.

**Box and Folder List:**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Item</b>
1	1	<i>Correspondence</i> Complaints Petitioners Statement in favor of the Kingston Water Bill Clipping: Kingston to honor ex-water board chief Letters to the Selectmen from the Water Department (c. 1880 – 1890) Letters re: sub-division of property Letters re: broken water pipes Letters re: quality of drinking water Letters re: building and maintaining of (cranberry bog) flumes
	2	<i>Water Department. Meetings</i> Meeting Minutes 1905 – 1908 Accounts Receivable 1895 – 1925
	3	<i>Reports</i> Town Report 1886 Report on the Reservoir at Kingston, May 1927 (2 copies) Report of the Committee on Water Supply 1885 – 1994

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**(Box and Folder List continued...)**

- 4      *Water Analysis*
  - Copy of 1887 findings
  - Copy of 1888 findings
  
- 5      *Certificates*
  - Water Supply Loan for \$500, c. 1890
  - Water Supply Loan for \$500, c. 1900
  - Water Supply Loan for \$500, c. 1901
  - Water Supply Loan for \$1000, c. 1925
  - Certificate allowing Town of Kingston to sell water to the Town of Duxbury,  
1953
  - Water Loan Notes in the values of \$10 and \$20
  
- 6      *Miscellaneous*
  - Estimated cost of extra crystals, 1962
  - Maps / diagrams of materials
  - Proposed line of driven wells
  - Appropriation Statement, 1962
  - Application of Employment, 1960
  - Manuscript *A Brief Sketch of the Water System of Kingston,  
Massachusetts*, by Emily Drew

Photographs:                      MC-24 PEO 020001 / MC-24 PLA 020001 – MC-24 PLA 020020

**Acquisition:** Donated by the Kingston Water Department in the summer of 2002.

**Access:** Unrestricted.

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**Processor:** Volunteer Dot Ellis conducted the initial survey, processing and boxing of the Collection. Archivist Carrie Elliott created the finding aid.