

Kingston Public Library: Local History Room
Pamphlet Collection
March 31, 2005

Kingston Fire Department Collection
Bulk dates: 1887 – present
Pamphlet Collection, PC - 32

8 boxes (59 linear inches)

Boxes 1,2, and 8 are housed in the Local History Room. Boxes 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 are housed at the Kingston Fire Department.

Historical sketch: The Kingston Fire Department was officially established in 1887. Previous to this year, the Town of Kingston had generally relied on individual action to provide and control fire protection for the Town. After an act passed in 1835 by the Massachusetts Legislature, which empowered boards of selectmen to appoint fire engineers to organize formal departments, Kingston began its journey to establish a professional department.

Following controversy surrounding the dissolution of the Kingston Aqueduct Company (a private company that only supplied water to paying customers), the founding of a public water department (which was to supply water to all residents) and the Town voted to float a \$40,000 bond issue, repayable over a thirty-year period, for the construction of water pipes. Following the installation of the pipes, the Kingston Fire Department was formally established in 1887.¹

Scope and content: This Collection contains the early records of the Kingston Fire Department. In Box 2, minutes of the three Hose Companies (the Surprise Hose Company No. 1, the Governor Bradford Hose Company No. 2, and the Pocanoket Hose Company No. 3) are housed. These minutes are valuable as they contain information on the early development of the Department. In addition to the minutes, this Collection also includes 2,500 photographs.

The photographs document Department members, equipment and the Department in action, battling fires. Additional photographs in the Collection document the participation of the Kingston Fire Department in local musters (the Kingston Fire Department muster team being formed in 1981 and called the ‘hosebusters’) and parades. Photographs in the year 1987 also include the Department’s 100th Anniversary parade and muster.

Box and folder list:

Box	Folder	Item
1	1	Fire reports: 1916 – 1919 (non-consecutive)
	2	Chief G. Palmer Holmes: certificate of training from the “Fire Chief’s Club of New Hampshire,” 1957; and retirement program, 1964.
	3	Bylaws: 1925 bylaws; and correspondence re: special meeting to

¹ For more information on the history of the Kingston Fire Department, see: [The History of the Kingston Fire Department: 1887–1987](#) (published by the Kingston Fire Department in 1987).

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Box and folder list continued...

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| 4 | discuss corporation of the Board of Engineers, 1941. |
| 4 | Correspondence: April 13, 1887 re: the appointment of Fire Engineers and the organization of a Town Fire Department; Aug. 14, 1941 re: resignation of Clarence Drew as Chief Engineer; Sept. 4, 1941 re: resignation of Clarence Drew as Chief Engineer; Sept. 24, 1941 re: resignation of Clarence Drew as Chief Engineer; and date unknown re: the adjustment of age limits for the Department. |
| 5 | Funding requests: funding issues including handwritten warrants; Mar. 13, 1945 re: quote for lying of concrete floor; May 3, 1945 re: Finance Committee approval of funds. |
| 6 | Bylaws: Surprise Hose House Company No. 1, 1898. |
| 7 | Hose Company No. 2: signed document by members of Company No.2, stating membership in said company, 1890 – 1891; correspondence re: Hose Company No.2's membership to the Massachusetts State Fireman's Association, Sept. 19, 1941; and receipt from J. E. Childs for pole, flag and bucket purchased, May 23, 1916. |
| 8 | Dance Cards, programs and tickets: dance card and ticket for 3 rd annual ball, 1890; dance card for 5 th annual ball, 1892; dance card for 6 th annual ball, 1893; dance card for 10 th annual ball, 1897; dance card for 11 th annual ball, 1898; Ladies Night (sponsored by Pocanoket Hose Company No. 3) program, 1893; Field day (1 st annual) program, 1948; ticket to 1977 retirement of Engine Co. No. 1; ticket to 2002 retirement of Chief Jon Alberghini; dance program and menu 1896. |
| 9 | Surprise Hose House restoration: thank you for donations of materials and service by restoration committee. |
| 10 | Underwriter's report, 1943; 1876 town map, notes from minutes and records; notes on development of Department |

Meeting Minutes

- | | | |
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| 2 | 1 | Fire department records (inc. account of first fire under Department), 1887 – 1911 |
| | 2 | Hose Company No. 1 minutes, 1887 – 1908 |
| | 3 | Hose Company No. 1 minutes, 1911 – 1935 |
| | 4 | Hose Company No. 2 minutes, 1887 – 1913 |
| | 5 | Hose Company No. 2 minutes, 1877 – 1899 |
| | 6 | Hose Company No. 3 minutes, 1899 - 1910 |

Images

- | | | |
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| 3 | n/f | See corresponding database for image list |
| 4 | n/f | See corresponding database for image list (box contains KFD19400002 – KFD19850231) |
| 5 | n/f | See corresponding database for image list (box contains KFD19860001 – KFD19870592) |
| 6 | n/f | See corresponding database for image list (box contains KFD19880013 – KFD00000107) |

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Box and folder list continued...

7	n/f	Oversized photographs
8	n/f	Negatives to images cataloged.

Acquisition: Retrospective through the Kingston Fire Department

Access: Unrestricted.

Copyright: Obtaining proper copyright permission is the responsibility of the Collection user.

Processing note: Volunteer Ruth Ryan processed the images in this Collection and Archivist Carrie Elliott prepared the finding aid for this collection. The creation of this Collection was made possible through a 2004 Sampson Fund grant.