

**Kingston Public Library: Local History Room**  
**Manuscript Collection Finding Aid**  
**March 7, 2003**

**Mitchell Toabe Papers**  
**1909 - 2002**  
**Bulk dates (1955 - 1964)**  
**Manuscript Collection, MC-18**

5 Boxes (31 linear inches)

**Biographical sketch:**

Mitchell Toabe is perhaps best known as the one-time proprietor of Toabe's Hardware, which was originally established in Kingston; later with branches in neighboring towns. Mitchell Toabe was also active in Kingston's civic affairs, serving on Kingston's School Committee, and later on the committee of the Silver Lake Regional School District.

Mitchell Toabe was interested in the history of Kingston and collected early photographs depicting images of the town's buildings and people. He also wrote historical papers detailing the history of Toabe's hardware, the history of the earlier Henry Keith store, and other aspects of Kingston. During World War II he was a volunteer worker for the Office of Price Administration.

Mitchell Toabe was the husband of the late Anna (Black) Toabe and was survived by his wife of thirty years, Miriam Ross Toabe. Toabe was the father to son, Norman, daughter, Shelia, stepsons, Barry and Nelson and stepdaughter, Rhoda. He passed away in April of 2002, at his home in Kingston.

**Scope and Content Note:** Items of note housed in the Toabe Collection include a history of Toabe's hardware and surrounding businesses on Summer Street (1:1.1). Also of interest may be a thank you note to Toabe for his position of Price Administrator from the White House (1:1.3). As Toabe was heavily involved with Silver Lake Regional High School, the Collection contains account reports, meeting minutes and surveys all relating to the early years of Silver Lake Regional High School (2, 3, 4). Finally Toabe's Hardware was known for producing a yearly calendar containing photographs of area places, houses or events. The Collection contains calendars from 1948 – 1971, though not encompassing all years (5).

**Box and Folder List:**

Box	Folder	Item
1	1.1	Sketches re: History of Toabe's Hardware, Surrounding Businesses and Kingston
	1.2	Keith Store Papers 1848 – 1868
	1.3	War Rations / Booklets / Stamps (Thank you from White House re: Officer of Price Administration)
	1.4	Toabe Hardware shopping bag
2	2.1	Addition to Silver Lake School, 1959
	2.2	Architect Correspondence re: Silver Lake High School
	2.3	Athletics, Silver Lake School District (SLSD)

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**(Box and folder list continued...)**

- |   |      |   |
|---|------|---|
|   | 2.4  | Accounts / Budgets, SLSD 1949 – 1960  |
|   | 2.5  | Accounts / Assorted Reports (Treasurer), SLSD 1957 – 1960                                       |
|   | 2.6  | Accounts / Cafeteria, SLSD 1956 – 1960  |
|   | 2.7  | Accounts / Trial Balances, SLSD 1957 – 1960   |
|   | 2.8  | Accounts / Financial Statements, SLSD   |
|   | 2.9  | Bonds / Interest SLSD   |
| 3 | 3.1  | Black Notebook Cover, Engraved <i>The Silver Lake Regional School Committee, Mitchell Toabe</i> |
|   | 3.2  | School Committee Reports, Undated   |
|   | 3.3  | School Committee Correspondence   |
|   | 3.4  | Curriculum, SLSD  |
|   | 3.5  | Directories, 1954/55, 1955/56, 1957/58, 1958/59, 1959/60  |
|   | 3.6  | Drawings and Floor Plans, SLSD  |
|   | 3.7  | Five Year Academic Program, SLSD 1959 – 1964  |
|   | 3.8  | Handbook: Teacher's SLSD  |
|   | 3.9  | Laker Legend Publications 1959 – 1960   |
|   | 3.10 | Meeting Agendas, SLSD 1950 – 1959   |
|   | 3.11 | Memorandums, SLSD 1951 – 1960   |
|   | 3.12 | Minutes, SLSD 1954 – 1955   |
|   | 3.13 | Minutes, SLSD 1957  |
|   | 3.14 | Minutes, SLSD 1958  |
|   | 3.15 | Minutes, SLSD 1959  |
|   | 3.16 | Minutes, SLSD 1960  |
|   | 3.17 | Miscellaneous, SLSD   |
|   | 3.18 | Miscellaneous, Fragile  |
| 4 | 4.1  | SLSD Committee Notes  |
|   | 4.2  | Pamphlets, SLSD (assorted)  |
|   | 4.3  | Reports, SLSD 1945 – 1960   |
|   | 4.4  | Report (Analysis): New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools                    |
|   | 4.5  | Rules and Regulations, SLSD   |
|   | 4.6  | Salary Schedules, SLSD  |
|   | 4.7  | School Story  |
|   | 4.8  | Study Committee, SLSD   |
|   | 4.9  | Superintendents Reports, SLSD   |
|   | 4.10 | Survey of Schools by the Massachusetts Department of Education, 1946                            |
|   | 4.11 | Teacher's Union, SLSD   |
| 5 |      | <i>Calendars</i>  |
|   | 1971 | Kingston Inn  |
|   | 1965 | Community Project 1923: Building Town Playground  |
|   | 1964 | Rock Nook   |

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- 1963 Cushman Brothers Store (RT 108)
- 1962 The Bay Farm
- 1961 Pawtuxet Hill, Laying Water Mains, August 1886
- 1960 Myrick's Block (Showing Post Office, Canton's Store and Stegmaier's Barber Shop, 1895)
- 1959 Bailey's Blacksmith Shop, early 1900s, located on Green Street
- 1958 Main and Summer Streets, Old Point (Junction of RT 3A and 106)
- 1957 View of Jones River (Myles Standish Monument in background)
- 1956 Street Car Wreck at Car Barn, Pembroke Street
- 1955 George C. Cushman Store at Junction of Main and Summer Streets
- 1954 Looking Down Summer Street, 1900
- 1953 Early Street Car, 1895
- 1952 Parade of the G.A.R. at Kingston Center, 1908
- 1951 "Welcome Home Day October 18, 1919, Veterans of WWI"
- 1950 Old Meeting House (Built 1789 – Demolished 1851), sketch
- 1949 Kingston Village from Col. Thomas Hill in 1838, sketch
- 1948 October 1883, Scene at the Dedication of the Memorial to the patriotic citizens of Kingston, who fought in the War of the Rebellion

**Acquisition:** Mitchell Toabe donated his papers in 1995 to the Local History Room.

**Access:** Unrestricted and open to the public at large.

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**Processor:** LHR volunteers Jan Guidoboni and Dorothy Garfield surveyed the collection. Archivist, Carrie Elliott completed processing and finding aid for the Collection.