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Bemis Free Lecture Series  
Records

2003.035

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### **Collection Information**

Abstract : Records of the activities of the Bemis Free Lecture Series, established in 1892 through funds from a bequest of George F. Bemis, and ongoing through 2003. Collection includes records of Lincoln Lyceum, 1830-1856.

Finding Aid : Finding Aid in print form is available in the Repository

Preferred Citation : Archives/Special Collections of the Lincoln Public Library, Lincoln, Massachusetts.

Provenance : Deposited by Bemis Lecture Series, Lincoln Historical Society.

MARC Access: Collection is catalogued in MARC under the following subject headings (lcs, aat, gm, etc.)

Lincoln (Mass. : Town) -- History.  
Lincoln (Mass. : Town) -- Social life and customs.  
Lyceums -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln (Town).  
Education -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln (Town).  
Lectures and lecturing -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln (Town).  
Programs -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln (Town).  
Entertainment events -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln (Town).  
Philanthropists -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln (Town).  
Constitutions -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln (Town). \$2 aat  
By-Laws -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln (Town). \$2 lcs  
Bemis, George F., (George Francis), 1809-1890.

Lincoln (Mass. : Town). Bemis Trustees.  
Lincoln (Mass. : Town). Lincoln Lyceum.

### **Historical/Biographical Notes**

In 1830 the Lincoln Lyceum was established, which provided various educational speakers for over a quarter century, until its apparent dissolution in 1856. The concept of education/entertainment programs was revitalized in 1892 with the establishment of the Bemis Free Lecture Series, funded from the income of a \$30,000 fund established by George F. Bemis, a Lincoln philanthropist who also funded a new Town Hall and the Stone Church. The Bemis Free Lecture Series established a tradition of providing outstanding programs and speakers for the residents of Lincoln, including musical performances. The Bemis Free Lecture Series continues in 2003, managed by an elected committee of three Trustees. Funds are managed and administered by the Town of Lincoln. Programs are usually held in the Bemis Town Hall, constructed with funds from a bequest by Mr. Bemis after his death in 1890.

### **Scope and Content**

The collection comprises records of the Lincoln Lyceum, 1830-1856, in one ledger with Constitution and By-Laws, minutes of meetings, and programs; 1930s and 1940s financial records of Bemis Lecture Series, scrapbooks with programs etc. of Bemis Lectures, 1892-1960; skits, lyrics and score from *A Bemis Hall Birthday Bash*, 1993; and related materials.

The collection is arranged topically.

### **Series Descriptions**

Series 1: Lincoln Lyceum, 1830-1856. (1 BV in folder)

Series 2: Financial Records, 1930s-1940s. (3 folders)

Series 3: Programs, 1892-1960. (3 folders)

Series 4: Miscellaneous, ca. 1993. (3 folders)

Town of Lincoln  
Bemis Free Lecture Series Records  
2003.035  
Series 1, Lincoln Lyceum Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	1	2003.035.1.1	Lincoln Lyceum records, including organizational records, Constitution and By-Laws, minutes of meetings, programs, committees and committee members, etc. : ledger, manuscript / 1830-1856. (The records end in 1856 without mention in the minutes of dissolution of the Lyceum. The Lyceum was active through 1856.)

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Town of Lincoln  
Bemis Free Lecture Series Records  
2003.035  
Series 2, Financial Records

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	2	2003.035.2.1	Bills, receipts, miscellaneous financial records / 1938-1939.
1	3	2003.035.2.2	Bills, receipts, miscellaneous financial records / 1940-1941.
1	4	2003.035.2.3	Bills, receipts, miscellaneous financial records / 1942-1943.

Town of Lincoln  
Bemis Free Lecture Series Records  
2003.035  
Series 3, Programs

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	5	2003.035.3.1	Bemis Lecture Programs; programs, announcements, postcards, etc. : scrapbook / 1892-1954.
1	6	2003.035.3.2	Bemis Lecture Programs; programs, announcements, postcards, handbills, etc. : scrapbook / 1904-1918.
2	7	2003.034.3.3	Bemis Lecture Programs; programs, announcements, postcards, handbills, tickets to open-air programs, etc. : scrapbook / 1909-1960.

Town of Lincoln  
Bemis Free Lecture Series Records  
2003.035  
Series 4, Miscellaneous

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
2	8	2003.035.4.1	<i>A Bemis Hall Birthday Bash</i> , skits and lyrics : typescript, 43 p. / Lincoln Players and Lincoln Historical Society, 1993. (2 copies)
2	9	2003.035.4.2	<i>A Bemis Hall Birthday Bash</i> , cast of characters, skits, lyrics and scores : typescript, musical scores, not paginated / ca. 1993.
2	10	2003.035.4.3	"Volunteer songs", from <i>A Bemis Hall Birthday Bash</i> , lyrics and score; with other song lyrics : 14 p., 1 p. / ca. 1993.