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Town of Lincoln  
Public Assistance Records

2003.018

Processed by William F. Carroll, CA  
April 2003

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### **Collection Information**

Abstract : Records relating to public assistance for the needy from 1905 to 1940 are in ledgers, correspondence, application forms, and other documents, and provide insight into the local level of support for the poor, as well as the number of needy in Lincoln through the early 20th century.

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 : Municipal records, Town of Lincoln, deposited in vault ca. 1980s.

Note: Under Massachusetts statutes, municipal documents are property of the municipality and under the control of the municipal clerk or other official. Records are subject to Records Retention schedules, established by the Office of the State Secretary, and may not be destroyed or otherwise disposed of without permission of the State Secretary's Office. Public assistance records more recent than ca. 1940 may not be public record.

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

Lincoln (Mass.). Overseers of the Poor.  
Massachusetts. Department of Public Welfare.  
Child welfare -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln.  
Old age assistance -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln.  
Public welfare -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln.  
Aged, Services for -- Massachusetts -- Lincoln.  
Lincoln (Mass.) -- History.  
Lincoln (Mass.) -- Politics and government.  
Local government records. aat

## **Historical/Biographical Notes**

A petition to the Governor and General Court in 1746 from the inhabitants of the easterly part of Concord, the westerly part of Lexington, and the northerly part of Weston requested to be set off from their respective towns in order to have a more convenient location for worship. A precinct was established, which gave the inhabitants authority to build a meeting house and hire a minister, the Second Precinct of Concord, Lexington, and Weston. A subsequent petition led to the incorporation of the Town of Lincoln in 1754, encompassing approximately the area formerly the Second Precinct. Evolution of Town government over 250 years has increased the number and kind of municipal services provided by Towns in Massachusetts. In the early years of Massachusetts history, paupers were supported by the town through the Overseers of the Poor; many towns built almshouses or poor houses to house paupers and to employ them in farming or home industry to offset the expense. Increasing mobility of the general public led by the 1930s to an increasing level of support of the needy by the state government. Depression era programs also provided work for the indigent through various federal programs, many of which continue in expanded or altered form today.

## **Scope and Content**

The collection comprises of ledgers of the records of Public Assistance in Lincoln from 1905 to 1940, correspondence relating to public assistance from individuals and from government agencies, applications for public assistance, and related records.

The collection is arranged chronologically by form and format.

## **Series Descriptions**

Series 1: Ledgers. (46 items)

Series 2: Correspondence. (13 items)

Series 3: General Relief. (47 items)

Series 4: Child Guardianship. (4 items)

Series 5: Mothers' Aid. (3 items)

Series 6: Old Age Assistance. (60 items)

Series 7: Military Aid (Includes pensions). (18 items)

Town of Lincoln  
Public Assistance Records  
2003.018  
Series 1, Ledgers

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
BV (OVS)		2003.018.1.1	Pauper Register, register of persons supported by the Town of Lincoln : ledger, not paginated / 1905-1924.
1	1	2003.018.1.2-.8	Return of Poor Relief, schedule of persons, 1925, 1927, 1928; schedule of receipts and expenditures, 1924, 1925, 1928 (Inserted in ledger 2003.018.1.1) (7 items)
1	2	2003.018.1.9	Minutes of the Overseers of the Poor, 1891-1896 : ledger pages, 14 sheets. (Inserted in 2003.018.1.1)
1	3	2003.018.1.10-.18	Correspondence, 1910-1923. (9 items)
1	3	2003.018.1.19-.21	Pencil notes relating to Lincoln poor, nd. (3 items)
1	3	2003.018.1.22	Cover, containing items 2003.018.1.10-.21. (Inserted in 2003.018.1.1)
1	4	2003.018.1.23	Return of Poor Relief, schedule of receipts and expenses, blank.
1	4	2003.018.1.24	Cover, for return of 2003.018.1.23.
1	4	2003.018.1.25	Cover, containing items 2003.018.1.23-.24. (Inserted in 2003.018.1.1)
BV		2003.018.1.26	Register of Persons Supported or Relieved by the Town of Lincoln, 1932-1940 : ledger, not paginated.
1	5	2003.018.1.27-.32	Return of Poor Relief forms. (Inserted in 2003.018.1.26) (6 items)

Series 1, continued

1	6	2003.018.1.33-.40	Correspondence relating to records and reports, 1938-1941. (Inserted in 2003.018.1.26) (8 items)
1	7	2003.018.1.41-.43	Notes and adding machine tapes. (Inserted in 2003.018.1.26) (3 items)
BV		2003.018.1.44	Old Age Assistance, 1931-1938 : ledger, 50 p.
1	8	2003.018.1.45-.46	Notes, memoranda. (Inserted in 2003.018.1.44) (2 items)

Town of Lincoln  
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 Series 2, Correspondence

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	9	2003.018.2.1-.7	Miscellaneous correspondence / 1934-1935. (7 items)
1	10	2003.018.2.8-.10	Miscellaneous correspondence, 1924-1930. (3 items)
1	11	2003.018.2.11	Document relating to administration of Old Age Assistance / MGL Ch. 118A. (2 p.)
1	11	2003.018.2.12	Copy of MGL Chapter 118A, adopted May 28, 1930.
1	11	2003.018.2.13	An Act ... Support of Inmates of State Sanitoria / MGL Ch. 460, June 3, 1924.

Town of Lincoln  
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Series 3, General Relief

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	12	2003.018.3.1-.14	Correspondence relating to specific welfare cases / 1932-1935. (14 items)
1	13	2003.018.3.15-.25	Correspondence from regional towns relating to non-resident welfare recipients / 1930-1935. (11 items)
1	14	2003.018.3.26-.29	Correspondence from Waltham Hospital to Board of Public Welfare, Lincoln, relating to hospitalization of welfare recipients / 1934-1935. (4 items)
1	15	2003.018.3.30-.47	Bills, receipts, cancelled checks, and other documents relating to specific expenses for welfare recipients / 1931-1934. (18 items)



Town of Lincoln  
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Series 4, Child Guardianship

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	16	2003.018.4.1-.4	Statement from Board of Public Welfare, Lincoln, Mass., to Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for board of persons by Department of Public Welfare, Division of Child Guardianship / 1932. (4 items)

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Series 5, Mothers' Aid

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	17	2003.018.5.1-.3	Application for Mothers' Aid, under the provisions of MGL Chapter 118 / ca. 1935. (3 items)

Town of Lincoln  
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Series 6, Old Age Assistance

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	18	2003.018.6.1-.16	Correspondence relating to general old age assistance questions and to specific cases and applicants / 1930-1936. (16 items)
1	19	2003.018.6.17-.31	Correspondence with regional towns relating to non-resident applicants and recipients of old age assistance / 1932-1936. (15 items)
1	20	2003.018.6.32-.56	Applications for old age assistance with related records, documentation, and correspondence / 1931-1935. (25 items)
1	21	2003.018.6.57-.58	Documents relating to hospitalization of welfare recipients / Waltham Hospital, 1936. (2 items)
1	22	2003.018.6.59-.60	Financial records relating to payments made under provisions of Old Age Assistance / 1935. (2 items)

Town of Lincoln  
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Series 7, Military Aid

<u>Box #</u>	<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Identification #</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	23	2003.018.7.1-.4	Correspondence relating to veteran's assistance, pensions, and related aid / 1929-1932. (4 items)
1	24	2003.018.7.5-.18	Statements (payment orders) for military aid from Town of Lincoln / 1932. (14 items)