

LINCOLN TOWN ARCHIVES 2014

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INTRODUCTION

Work performed by Lincoln Town Archives (LTA) staff directly supports goal CH-3 of Lincoln's 2010 Comprehensive Plan, "Promote stewardship of Lincoln's cultural and historic resources."

Accomplishments

CH-3.1 Make information on Lincoln's cultural and historic character, buildings, districts, cemeteries, and other heritage treasures widely available to residents and visitors in formats that are attractive, accurate, and easily understood.

- The Archives webpage has been updated on the Library website. Finding aids for LTA's archival collections are posted on the website so that they are searchable by anyone with Internet access.
- Town Reports and Financial Sections are available online through the Library website. The Farrar Historical Houses Manuscript has been posted to the Digital Commonwealth, a cloud-based repository for cultural and historical materials, also available online through the Library website.
- The Archivist and Reference Librarians regularly answer local history and genealogy questions by phone, email, and in person. They retrieve archival material from the vault for use by various researchers.
- An exhibit of the Town's War Memorial Book, featuring Lincoln veterans of various wars, was curated by Marjorie Hilton and displayed at Town Offices in the early winter.
- A panel exhibit by Marjorie Hilton about conservation treatment of the Town's Vital Records Book, 1754-1811, is on view in the Donaldson Room at Town Offices.
- The Lincoln Historical Society is the LTA's most regular user, drawing on town Archives materials for its programs.
- Grants from the Community Preservation Committee were used for preservation treatment and digitization of archival materials.

CH-3.2 Expand the collections and finding aids for the newly integrated archives and records management initiative spearheaded by the Lincoln Public Library and the Town Clerk's Office.

- We have completed an inventory of Town Hall Vault records, a resource to researchers and a reminder to town departments whose records are or should regularly be deposited there.
- The Archives is currently developing Finding Aids for town record collections about Hanscom Air Force Base, Hanscom Area Towns Committee (HATS), North Lincoln 47-Acre Project and Battle Road Farm.
- Finding aids have been completed and/or updated for the Lincoln League of Women Voters collection, Lincoln Library Trustees collection, the Flint and Chapin Families collections, and the Archives' audiovisual and digital collections.

CH-3.3 Support stewardship by collaborating with existing local organizations and providing funding from local and non-local sources.

- The **Town Archives Advisory Council (TAAC)**, composed of designees of twelve local historic preservation entities, continues to meet twice yearly, serving essentially as a professional development forum for member organizations. Following the TAAC's development and adoption of a Long Range [5 year] Plan in 2013, the group has sharpened its focus on collaborative endeavors, as evidenced by the events reported below.
- The Archivist presented a talk on Digital Archiving at the Lincoln Historical Society's Winter Carnival event, "Historical Records in the Digital Age: Online Records for All." The event also featured Tom Blake, the Digital Projects Manager for the Boston Public Library.
- The Town Archives collaborated with the Lincoln Historical Society to create a program celebrating the restored War Memorial Book. The Town Offices exhibit referenced above was followed by a November presentation featuring Andrew Tabak, a docent at the Fort Devens [military history] Museum, speaking about the changing nature of the draft in America and Randy Bergeron, the 66th Air Base Group Historian, speaking about Hanscom's unique contribution to the technological evolution of contemporary warfare.