

George H Barton Collection, 1852-1945

1971:09.1



A Finding Aid for the George H Barton Collection
at the Goodnow Library

THE GOODNOW LIBRARY
21 CONCORD RD, SUDBURY, MA 01776
[GOODNOW LIBRARY, LOCAL HISTORY AND GENEALOGY](#)

Collection: 1971:09.1

George H Barton Collection, 1852-1945

Collection Overview

Extent: 28 linear feet

Creator: George H Barton

Dates [inclusive]: 1852-1945

Co-Creator: Helen Barton Eastman

Dates [bulk]: 1873-1933

Language: English

Reference Code: 1971:09.1

Abstract: Collection contains the personal papers, diaries, photos, and other items from George H Barton's life, family, and various tours.

Information for Users

Repository: Goodnow Public Library, Sudbury, MA 01776

Acquisitions History: Barton and his family generously donated personal items directly to the Goodnow Library for the purpose of study and research. The rocks and minerals included in this collection were collected by Barton specifically for the Goodnow Library. A portion of this collection was donated by Helen Barton Eastman, the granddaughter of George Hunt Barton, to the Goodnow Library. The papers were received on behalf of the Library and the Town during several meetings with Mrs. Eastman in the fall of 1971.

Processed by: Elle Harms, July 2023

Updated by:

Access and Use

Restrictions: Open for research.

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Subject Headings

The following terms from the Library of Congress Subject Headings suggest topics, persons geography, etc. interspersed through the entire collection.

- Barton, George Hunt, 1852-1933
- Eastman, Helen Barton, 1891-1973
- Barton family
- Diaries
- Geology -- Education (higher) -- Teachings
- Glaciology -- Education (higher) -- Teachings
- Teachers School of Science

Related Collections

Biographical Note

George Hunt Barton was born on the 8th of July, 1852 in Sudbury, Massachusetts to George W Barton (1824-1894) and Mary Susan (Hunt) Barton (1828-1863). He was very studious in his youth and dedicated to journaling daily. He went on to study geology at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), where he would earn his Bachelor's Degree in 1880.

After graduation, Barton worked for the Hawaiian Government Survey in Honolulu for two years from 1881-1883. When he returned to Boston, he joined the faculty at MIT and became the local authority on glacial landscapes. He explored the Middlesex and Norfolk counties where he was one of the first researchers to recognize New England landscapes as a result from ancient glaciation.

George H Barton married Eva May Beede (1855-1933) in the fall of 1884, and they had three children together: Harold Beede Barton (1887-1887), Donald Clinton Barton (1889-1939), and Helen Mary Barton (1891-1973).

In 1896, Barton joined Robert E. Peary on his last Greenland expedition. He also worked to collect rocks and minerals to sell to institutions for educational purposes while on his tours. These years were fundamental in shaping his interest in the education of science teachers. In 1904 he became the director of the Teacher's School of Science, and worked to establish the Boston Children's Museum in 1909 where he became the founding president. For his accomplishments in glacial geology and science education for teachers, he was made a Fellow for the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1916.

George H Barton remained a lecturer at MIT and Boston University for many years. On the 25th of November, 1933 during one of his geology classes, Barton collapsed due to a fatal heart attack.

Scope and Content

The George H Barton Collection chronicles the years of a thorough writer, explorer, and collector. The bulk of the collection pertains to Barton's personal life, containing a number of diaries and journals that Barton maintained throughout his life. He also collected autographs, thoughts, and photos of friends,

family and colleagues that give us a glimpse into the more private moments of George H Barton. There are items from other family members that detail information about the Barton and Hunt genealogy, including family bibles and Barton's own handwritten autobiography.

Barton's diaries and journals also shine a light on the activities of his scholarly work and, more importantly, his various adventures and explorations. There is also an extensive amount of rocks and minerals that Barton collected specifically for Goodnow Library. Also included in the collection are artifacts he kept from different tours, including a seal skin suit and bag, a kayak and textiles, along with different publications he and his colleagues published for educational purposes.

Arrangement

Series I Diaries 1852-1933

Series II Personal Papers 1873-1945

Subseries I Barton Family Genealogy

Series III Educational Publications 1886-1932

Series IV Tours 1880-1926

Items Separated

- Artifacts
 - (AB-A001 – AB-A128)
 - (AB-G001 – AB-G006)
 - (AB-H001 – AB-H004)
- Photographs and Albums
 - (PF-B001 – PF-B022)
 - (PF-F001 – PF-F094)
 - (PF-T001 – PF-T035)
 - (PF-FA1 – PF-FA2)
 - (PF-TA1 – PF-TA3)
- Diaries and Journals
 - See attached list
- Books
 - See attached list
- Rocks and Minerals
 - See attached list

Collection Contents

Series I Diaries 1852-1933

Extent: 4 boxes and 19 individual phase boxes

Scope note: This series includes all of the personal diaries, journals and handwritten reminiscences that George H Barton wrote to document his entire life.

Physical Access: Diaries in phase boxes are shelved separately. See Local History Librarian for assistance to view these items.

Arrangement: Items are separated by printed format. Handwritten diaries are in individual phase boxes or preservation sleeves, typed transcriptions of diaries and handwritten "reminiscences" are in individual folders. All items are in chronological order.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Box : Folder</u>
Autographs Collected by George H Barton (3)	1
1869 Chester, VT	1
1870 North Sudbury, MA	1
1871 North Sudbury, MA	1
1872 North Sudbury, MA	1
1872-1874 Sudbury, MA to Eau Claire, WI	1
1873 North Sudbury, MA	1
1874 Eau Claire, WI	1
1875 Arlington, MA	1
1876 Somerville, MA	1
1877 South Duxbury, MA	1
1878	1
1879 Chelsea, MA	1
1883 Hawaii	1
Reminiscences 1852-1873	2 : 1
Reminiscences 1852-1874	2 : 2
Reminiscences 1874-1883	2 : 3
Reminiscences 1883-1892	2 : 4
Reminiscences 1892-1899	2 : 5
Reminiscences 1899-1905	2 : 6
Reminiscences 1905-1910	2 : 7

Reminiscences 1910-1913	2 : 8
Reminiscences 1913-1915	2 : 9
Reminiscences 1915-1918	2 : 10
Reminiscences 1918-1922	2 : 11
Reminiscences 1922-1927	2 : 12
Diary Transcription 1868-1873	3 : 1
Journal for 1871	3 : 2
Diary Transcription 1875-1879	3 : 3
Diary Transcription 1908-1909	3 : 4
Diary Transcription 1909-1910	3 : 5
Diary Transcription 1911-1912	3 : 6
Diary Transcription 1912-1913	3 : 7
Diary Transcription 1913	3 : 8
Diary Transcription 1913-1914	3 : 9
Diary Transcription 1915-1916	3 : 10
Diary Transcription 1916-1917	3 : 11
Diary Transcription 1917	3 : 12
Diary Transcription 1918	3 : 13
Diary Transcription 1919	3 : 14
Diary Transcription 1920	3 : 15
Diary Transcription 1921	4 : 1
Diary Transcription 1922	4 : 2
Diary Transcription 1923	4 : 3
Diary Transcription 1924	4 : 4
Diary Transcription 1925	4 : 5
Diary Transcription 1926	4 : 6
Diary Transcription 1927	4 : 7
Diary Transcription 1928	4 : 8
Diary Transcription 1929	4 : 9

Diary Transcription 1930	4 : 10
Diary Transcription 1931	4 : 11
Diary Transcription 1932	4 : 12
Diary Transcription 1933	4 : 13
April 1877 - October 1885	PB I
April 1880 - March 1881	PB II
April 1881 - October 1881	PB III
September 1881 – April 1883	PB IV
November 1881 – December 1882	PB V
January 1883 – October 1883	PB VI
November 1883 – October 1885	PB VII
November 1885 – December 1887	PB VIII
January 1888 – April 1890	PB IX
May 1890 – June 1892	PB X
June 1892 - December 1893	PB XI
January 1894 - July 1895	PB XII
August 1895 – November 1897	PB XIII
July 1896 – September 1896	PB XIV
November 1897 – October 1900	PB XV
November 1900 – December 1902	PB XVI
January 1903 – July 1904	PB XVII
September 1904 – October 1906	PB XVIII
November 1906 – September 1908	PB XIX

Series II Personal Papers 1873-1945

Extent: 1 box, 1 oversize box, 1 photo file

Scope note: This series includes the personal papers of George H Barton, including a self-written biography, poems he cherished, letters to his children and various notes about his book collection. The oversize scrapbook is strictly newspaper articles that Barton collected about various topics. Most of the items in this series are undated.

Physical Access: Photographs and scrapbook included in this series are housed separately. See Local History Librarian for assistance to view these items.

Arrangement: none

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Box : Folder</u>
Autobiography	5 : 1
'Notes by the Way'	5 : 2
Poems Collected in Youth I	5 : 3
Poems Collected in Youth II	5 : 4
Letters & Personal Papers	5 : 5
Book Lists	5 : 6
Misc Papers of G.H. Barton	5 : 7
GH Barton Scrapbook	AB : A004
Barton Photos	PF : B001-022

Subseries I Barton Family Genealogy

Extent: 4 folders, 2 artifact boxes, 2 photo files

Scope note: This subseries includes the personal papers and items of Barton family members. All items are undated.

Physical Access: Family photos and bibles included in subseries are housed separately. See Local History Librarian for assistance to view these items.

Arrangement: none

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Box : Folder</u>
Genealogy of Mary Susan Hunt	5 : 8
Nonsense Book of Life by Barbara Barton	5 : 9
Misc Papers of Donald C Barton & Sister	5 : 10
Family Descent Information	5 : 11
Barton Family Bibles	AB : A001-003
Barton Family Photos	PF : F001-094
Barton Family Albums	PF : FA1-FA3

Series III Educational Publications 1886-1932

Extent: 1.5 boxes

Scope note: This series contains manuscripts that were published by George H Barton and other colleagues in his field. A number of these items were notes and outlines for various classes/subjects used either for the Teachers School of Science or university courses. Subjects range from geology to expedition findings and experiences.

Arrangement: Items are separated by those published by G.H. Barton then by other colleagues. All items with dates are in chronological order, undated items follow without order.

<u>Folder Title</u>	<u>Box : Folder</u>
On the Great Dikes at Paradise, Near Newport	6 : 1
Boulders Formed in Situ	6 : 2
Glacial Origin of Channels on Drumlins	6 : 3
Evidence of the Former Extension of Glacial Action on the West Coast of Greenland and in Labrador	6 : 4
Glacial Observations in the Umanak District, Greenland	6 : 5
Lieutenant Peary's Last Greenland Expedition	6 : 6
Outline of Elementary Lithology	6 : 7
Outline Notes of Dynamical and Structural Geology	6 : 8
Outline for the Course of Lessons in Structural Geology	6 : 9
Questions on Dynamical and Structural Geology	6 : 10
Memoir of William Harmon Niles	6 : 11
The Religion of a Scientist	6 : 12
Historical Geology (bound)	7 : PB 1
Papers (bound)	7 : PB 2
Outline for Course of Lessons in Historical Geology	6 : 13
Dynamical Geology	6 : 14
Glacial Geology	6 : 15
MIT Syllabus of the Course of Instruction in Structural Geology	6 : 16
Frobisher Bay Revisited	6 : 17

Teacher's School of Science	6 : 18
Certain Peculiar Earthworks Near Andover, MA	6 : 19
Studies on the Material Culture of the Eskimo in West Greenland	6 : 20
Stone & Webster Journal	6 : 21
Contributions to the Study of Mountain Building	6 : 22

Series IV Tours 1880-1926

Extent: 3 folders, 2 photo files and 3 artifact boxes

Scope note: This series includes artifacts, photos and books that Barton collected during his various tours. These items include invitations to events, minerals, the kayak and seal skin suit, along with handwritten entries Barton made during Hawaiian excursions. Of the nearly 100 minerals, most are identified. Goodnow Library had a collection of Barton's glass slides of his various tours to accompany the magic lantern and slide indexes, but they have been missing for a number of years.

Physical Access: Photographs, artifacts and books included in this series are housed separately. A list of items is included at the end of this finding aid. See Local History Librarian for assistance to view these items.

Arrangement: none

Folder Title

Box : Folder

Brochures & Invitations	7 : 1
Hawaiian Islands	7 : 2
Slide Indexes	7 : 3
Tour Photos	PF : T001-031
Tour Albums	PF : TA1/TA2
Artifacts	AB : A034-127
	AB : G001-006
	AB : H001-004
Books	see list

Separated Items

Artifacts

Hunt Family Bible (AB-A001)

Hunt Family Bible (AB-A002)

Barton Family Bible (AB-A003)

GH Barton Scrapbook (AB-A004)

Magic Lantern (AB-A005)

Lantern Slides

- All slides have been missing since the late 1990s
- George H Barton Collection includes slide indexes (*Series IV: Box 7, Folder 3*)

Glass Negatives (AB-A006 – AB-A031)

- Images of family and friends

Daguerreotypes (AB-A032 – AB-A033)

- Both images are of George Barton Sr.

Rocks and Minerals (AB-A034 – AB-A127)

- Total of 93 minerals

Seal Skin Suit (AB-G001)

Seal Skin Bag (AB-G002)

Kayak with Double Bladed Oar (AB-G003)

- Used in 1896 during Peary's sixth expedition to Cape York, Greenland
- Kayak hung for display above the stairs of the Goodnow Library in 1999

Ivory Dogsled – miniature (AB-G004)

Wooden Dogsled – miniature (AB-G005)

Fishing Tackle Set (AB-G006)

Unidentified Sculpture (AB-H001)

Unidentified Stone 1 (AB-H002)

Unidentified Stone 2 (AB-H003)

Coral Piece (AB-H004)

Textile I (AB-H005)

Textile II (AB-H006)

- Collected during a Hawaiian tour

Photographs

(PF-B) Barton Photos includes: (PF-B001-022)

(PF-F) Family Photos includes: (PF-F001-094)

Barton Family

Sanborn Family

Beede Family

Hunt Family

1901 Album (PF-FA1)

Undated Family Album 1 (PF-FA2)

Undated Family Album 2 (PF-FA3)

(PF-T) Tour Photos includes: (PF-T001-031)

California: Yosemite

Hawaii: Kilauea

Wyoming: Yellowstone

1911 Yellowstone Album (PF-TA1)

Arizona: Grand Canyon

Maine: Ellsworth

Massachusetts: Fitchburg, Mt Holyoke

Geological Excursion to Mt. Tom and Mt. Holyoke (PF-TA2)

Switzerland: Grindelwald

Diaries and Journals

April 1877 - October 1885	PB I
April 1880 - March 1881	PB II
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November 1900 – December 1902	PB XVI
January 1903 – July 1904	PB XVII
September 1904 – October 1906	PB XVIII
November 1906 – September 1908	PB XIX

Books

Alexander, W. D. (1899). *A Brief History of the Hawaiian People*. Kessinger Publishing.

Gulick, O. H. (1918). *Pilgrims of Hawaii: Their own story of their pilgrimage, from New England and life work in... The Sandwich Islands, now known as Hawaii*. Revell.

Hosmer, F. L., & Gannett, W. C. (1918). *The Thought of God*.

London, C. K. (1917). *Our Hawaii*. MacMillan.

Miller, J. M., & Greely, A. W. (1909). *Discovery of the North Pole: Dr. Frederick A. Cook's own story of how he reached the North Pole April 21st, 1908, and the story of commander Robert E. Peary's discovery April 6th, 1909*. American Book & Bible House.

Twombly, A. S. (1900). *Hawaii and Its People: The Land of Rainbow and Palm*. Silver Burdett & Co.

Westervelt, W. D. (1916). *Hawaiian Legends of Ghosts and Ghost-Gods (mythology)*. Ellis Press.

Westervelt, W. D. (1916). *Hawaiian Legends of Honolulu (mythology)*. Ellis Press.

Westervelt, W. D. (1916). *Hawaiian Legends of Volcanoes*. C. E. Tuttle.

Westervelt, W. D. (1915). *Legends of Old Honolulu*. C.E. Tuttle.

Rocks and Minerals

Tremolite or Hornblende	Feldspar	Tremolite
Red Sandstone	Marcasite	Calcite Ontario
Malachite	Kyanite	Crystalized Gypsum (Selenite)
Fossil	Gypsum	Biotite
Garnets	Prehnite	Dendrite on Slate
Siderite on Quartz	Stalactite	Rose Quartz
Geode (Quartz)	Pyrophyllite	Aquamarine (Beryl)
Amethyst	Hematite	Hornblende
Calcite	Orange Calcite	Chalcedony Agate
Actinolite	Scapolite	Chalcedony on Quartz
Iridescent Coal	Graphite	Orthoclase Feldspar
Dendrites	Petrified Wood	Marl
Goethite	Goethite on Quartz	Gneiss
Dolomite	Franklinite Zinc	3 stones from Windsor Castle, England
Rhodonite	Aqua	2 stones from George the 3 rd statue at Windsor Castle, England
Amber	Biotite Mica	1 cement stone from Dunure Castle, Scotland
Beryl	Asbestos	1 stone from Dunure Beach, Scotland
Actinolite on Quartz	Black Tourmaline	
Tourmaline on Quartz (2)	Actinolite in Quartz	
Lepidolite (lithia mica)	Magnetite	
Clay Concretion	Pyrite	
Fluorite	Black Tourmaline in Quartz	