

The Brookline Room

Local History Resources

The Brookline Room houses a special non-circulating collection dedicated to the compilation and preservation of materials pertaining to Brookline - Past, Present and Future.

The following is a partial list of materials that are of particular interest in researching the history of the town and its residents.

HISTORY

Brookline by Greer Hardwicke and Roger Reed. 1998. Part of the Images of America Series. A pictorial history that celebrates the people and places of Brookline from 1680-1940. (Circulating copy - 974.45 B83h) (Brookline Room - 974 H26br).

Brookline, Massachusetts: a pictorial history by Jean Kramer. 1989. Photographs document the rich history of Brookline. (Circulating and STACK copies available - 974.45 B77K) (Brookline Room - 973 K89b).

Brookline Close-Up. League of Women Voters of Brookline. 1997. Introduction to Brookline's local government with chapters on government, elections, finances, public works, education, etc. (Circulating and Reference copies available - 974.45 B79Lba) (Brookline Room -- 352 B8Lba).

Historical Sketches of Brookline, Massachusetts by Harriet F. Woods. 1874. Short sketches of places and people in Brookline. No index, but a detailed table of contents. The style of language in this book gives a great "feel" for historical Brookline. (Circulating and Reference copies available - 974.45 B77w) (Brookline Room -- 973 W8).

History of the Town of Brookline, Massachusetts by John Gould Curtis, 1933. A history of Brookline, beginning with Muddy River and ending in the early 1930s. The extensive index includes names of churches, prominent citizens and political figures. A good source for finding "firsts". (Circulating, STACK and Reference copies available - 974.45 B77c) (Brookline Room -- 973 C9).

Proceedings of the Brookline Historical Society. 1903-1984. Online index at Reference Desk. (Circulating copies STACK 974.45 B77hn) (Brookline Room - 973.06 B8).

History of Brookline Massachusetts, From the First Settlement of Muddy River until the Present Time: 1630-1906. Commemorating 200 years of Brookline history. Includes a chronology of events, biographical sketches of prominent townspeople and many photographs of residences and public buildings. (Brookline Room copy - 973 B87). Another copy at Reference Desk.

HOUSES

National Register of Historic Places Inventory by the Brookline Historical Commission, 1988, (4 volumes).

These four volumes include a brief history of Brookline, an extensive bibliography of historical sources for the town of Brookline and a building-by-building discussion of homes and buildings on the National Register of Historic Places. Located at Reference Desk.

Some Old Brookline Houses by Nina Fletcher Little, 1949. Short descriptions of 28 Brookline homes built before 1825 and still standing in 1948. Some descriptions include floor plans, most include photo. (Circulating and Reference copies available - 974.45 B83L) (Brookline Room -- 974.1 L7).

Banker and Tradesman Annual Transfer Directory. (Norfolk, Suffolk and Middlesex counties) Banker and Tradesman, 1978 - present. Gives selling information on Brookline homes - includes names of buyer, seller, date of sale and purchase price. Current year at Reference Desk. Earlier years are in the Reference Room. Reference only. (REF 333.7 A61).

Assessor's Information System for the Town of Brookline. Find the most up to date information on the Assessors on-line Property Database at www.townofbrooklinemass.com/assessors. Current Real Estate Commitment books are available at the Reference Desk.

RESIDENTS

Blue Book of Brookline, Massachusetts. 1885, 1887-1895, 1897, 1899-1904, 1906-1926, 1928, 1932, 1939, 1941. Annual lists of "leading residents, societies, churches, and clubs." Residents are listed both alphabetically and by street address. (Brookline Room 030 B6). Non-circulating.

Brookline City Directory. 1875-1889, 1891-1920, 1922, 1924-1932, 1934, 1940, 1944, 1966, 1968. Arranged by name, lists residents of Brookline, address, and sometimes occupation. Also includes an index by street, and a classified business directory. (Brookline Room 030 B87) Non-circulating. Microfilm is available on the ground floor beyond the Information Desk.

Murivian. (Brookline High School Yearbook), 1923 - 1997, 1999, 2003-2006 (Years missing - 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002). Great source for tracking down people who went to or taught at Brookline High School. (Brookline Room 379.5 B8) Ask at Reference Desk.

Brookline High School Alumni Association. Directory. 1843-1997. Includes an alphabetical listing of alumni, listing by class year and geographical location. (Reference Desk - 370.971 B87d) Non-circulating.

Street List of Persons Seventeen Years of Age and Over in the Town of Brookline. 1891 - present. Arranged by address, this lists the resident(s) at each address, year of birth, and occupation. (Brookline Room 030 B8). Non-circulating.

List of Polls and Property Assessed in the Town of Brookline, Massachusetts. 1910, 1911, 1913-1973, 1974 - present. (Earlier lists bound with Town Reports). Also known as the Tax List, this lists Brookline residents by name and gives personal property assessment and real estate assessments for that year. (Brookline Room 352.2 B8a). Non-circulating.

Biographies of prominent Brookline Residents. Included are the Gardner, Aspinwall, Sewall and other families who were among the town's founding fathers. Arranged alphabetically by subject. Brookline Room - non-circulating.

Brookline Obituary File. An online index to obituaries of Brookline residents that were printed in the local Brookline newspapers from 1874-1974. A more recent index from 1998-present is included. Available on www.brooklinelibrary.org.

Vital records of Brookline, Massachusetts, to the end of the year 1849. Birth, Marriage and Death records through 1849. Brookline Room 929.1 Brookline 1929. Vital records for all other Massachusetts towns are also in the Brookline Room.

Ancestry.com (Library Edition). Thousands of family history databases, including vital records, census records, ship passenger lists, military records and lots more! For use IN LIBRARY ONLY. Find under Databases on MLN webpage.

Heritage Quest Online. **Heritage Quest Online™** is a web-based reference tool that offers several paths to finding information. You can search the **U.S. Federal Census** by state, surname or date, find listings of over 20,000 family and local history books, search an index to nearly 2 million magazine articles with genealogical information and research a vast database of Revolutionary War era records. Search here at the library or Brookline residents can search from home with a Brookline Public Library card. Find under Databases on MLN webpage.

NEWSPAPERS

Brookline Chronicle. (includes Brookline Chronicle-Citizen), 1874 - 1984. On microfilm. Online index for years 1874 -1976 (search by name, date, subject, keyword, byline etc.) Obituaries included. Microfilm located on ground level beyond the Information Desk. www.brooklinelibrary.org.

Brookline Citizen. (includes Brookline Citizen-Journal), 1935 - 1959, 1984 - 1995. (most on microfilm). Located on the ground level beyond the Information Desk.

Brookline Tab. 1980 - present. On microfilm. Located on the ground level beyond the Information Desk. Bound copies in STACKS. Online index from 2004 - present. Ask at Reference Desk.

Boston Globe. 1960, 1968 - present. On microfilm. Paper copies kept for one year. Indexed from 1983 - 1998, (REF 070 B41). Available on-line through the Massachusetts Newsstand database, 1980 - present. See library website/databases. Some full text. Microfilm is located on the ground level beyond the Information Desk.

PAMPHLETS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Brookline Pamphlet File. Clippings from local newspapers about Brookline issues and personalities. Arranged by subject - A-O located in Brookline Room; P-Z in cabinets outside of Reference Room. Index of subject headings at the Reference Desk. Non-circulating. As of 2005, the newspapers have been indexed and are included in the online Newspaper Index.

Brookline Photograph Collection. Historical photographs of Brookline depicting houses and estates, streets, business, public buildings, portraits and more. Notebooks, with photocopy of each photograph, are available at the Reference Desk for public use. Ask Librarian for more information. Non-circulating.

Digital Commonwealth. Digital Commonwealth is a Web portal and repository service for online cultural heritage materials held by Massachusetts libraries, museums, historical societies, and archives. The portal facilitates the searching and browsing of member institutions' digital assets, allowing the discovery of digital resources including manuscripts, images, historical documents, and sound recordings. The Brookline Public Library has many of our historical photographs available for viewing on this site. Additional photographs will be added annually. www.digitalcommonwealth.org.

MAPS AND ATLASES

Brookline Maps. Maps of Brookline depicting the town from the 17th century to present day. Located in Map Case in the Brookline Room. List of maps at Reference Desk. Several 1998 Brookline GIS (Geographic Information Systems) maps available, including census tract. Non-circulating. Visit the town website for more recent maps and for a full inventory of maps made available through the town of Brookline at <http://www.brooklinema.gov/gis>.

Town of Brookline Atlas. 1872 - most recent [2005].

Indexed by street, this atlas offers a close-up view of individual blocks in Brookline. Includes name of property owner, addresses of buildings and square footage. Most recent edition at Reference Desk; 1930 - most recent located in cage (cBR 917.445 B76al). Reproductions for 1872 - 1931 are boxed in the Brookline Room. Non-circulating.

Please ask for assistance at the Reference Desk with any questions you may have pertaining to Brookline materials.