

TWENTY-THIRD REPORT
ON
PUBLIC RECORDS
FOR THE YEAR
1910

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TWENTY-THIRD REPORT

ON THE

CUSTODY AND CONDITION

OF THE

PUBLIC RECORDS

OF

PARISHES, TOWNS, AND COUNTIES.

By HENRY E. WOODS, COMMISSIONER.

Mass;

of public records



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STATE HOUSE, BOSTON

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The Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC RECORDS,
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON, Dec. 31, 1910.

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives.

I have the honor to submit the nineteenth report of this commission, being the twenty-third in the series of reports on the public records.

INSPECTION.

Inspection of public records — of registries of deeds and probate, the courts, or of the various city and town departments — has been made during the year in the following 110 places: Acton, Acushnet, Ashburnham, Ashland, Athol, Auburn, Barnstable, Belchertown, Bellingham, Berkley, Boston, Brewster, Brimfield, Brookfield, Cambridge, Canton, Carlisle, Concord, Dana, Dartmouth, Dedham, Dennis, Dighton, Dudley, Eastham, Enfield, Fairhaven, Fall River, Fitchburg, Freetown, Gardner, Goshen, Granby, Greenfield, Greenwich, Hardwick, Harwich, Holland, Holyoke, Hopkinton, Hubbardston, Lakeville, Leicester, Leominster, Lincoln, Marion, Marlborough, Mattapoisett, Middleborough, Millbury, Milton, Monson, Needham, New Bedford, New Braintree, Newbury, Newburyport, New Salem, Northampton, North Brookfield, Northfield, Norwood, Oakham, Orange, Orleans, Palmer, Paxton, Pelham, Phillipston, Plymouth, Prescott, Provincetown, Quincy, Reading, Rehoboth, Rochester, Rockport, Royalston, Rutland, Seekonk, Shutesbury, Somerset, Southborough, Southbridge, South Hadley, Spencer, Stoneham, Stoughton, Sturbridge, Sudbury, Swansea, Templeton, Truro, Uxbridge, Wakefield, Wales, Ware, Wareham, Warren, Warwick, Webster, Wellfleet, West Brookfield, Weston, Westport, Whitman, Williamsburg, Winchendon, Woburn, and Worcester.

In many of these cities and towns, as the result of the inspections, vaults have been, or are to be, built or refitted, safes have been purchased, or other measures taken to safeguard the records.

SPECIAL ACTION.

Bills for a new court house at Quincy and a new city hall at Northampton — involving the fireproof protection of records, at the instance of the commissioner — were enacted by the Legislature during the year; and action, following a recommendation of the commissioner, has been taken by the county commissioners for the better protection of records at Barnstable, Chicopee, Concord, Dedham, Orange, Provincetown, Stoughton, Uxbridge, and Worcester.

Court proceedings, for violation of the provisions of section 18, chapter 35, Revised Laws, were commenced in June against the members of the city council of Cambridge, but were withdrawn upon their complying with the statute.

REPAIRING AND BINDING.

Records have been repaired or bound during the year by the Emery Record Preserving Company for the following places: Athol, Auburn, Barnstable, Blackstone, Bourne, Boxford, Enfield, Freetown, Goshen, Haverhill, Hawley, Hull, Leyden, Marion, Norton, Orange, Paxton, Rochester, Rutland, Scituate, Shirley, Shutesbury, Stoneham, Sudbury, Warwick, Williamsburg, Wilmington, Windsor, and Yarmouth. Also for the counties of Bristol, Middlesex, Plymouth, Suffolk, and Worcester. In many instances the repairs were made by order of the commissioner.

FIRES.

At 9 o'clock in the evening of Dec. 22, 1909, the town hall of Leominster was discovered to be on fire, and the building was totally destroyed, but no records were lost. A visit of the commissioner, three months before, had resulted in the purchase of some additional safes by the authorities, so that all the public records of the town were protected.

At 4 o'clock in the morning of May 23, 1910, the home

of the town clerk of Windsor, where his current records were kept in a safe, was burned to the ground. Some bindings of the books were scorched and warped, but they have been repaired and nothing was destroyed.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

Under the provisions of chapter 422 of the Acts of 1908 the following towns have voted not to receive the series of public documents, and their action has been ratified by the commissioner in accordance with the act: Becket, Granville, Hatfield, Heath, Leverett, Plainfield, Southampton, Tolland, and Wilbraham.

PRINTING.

During the year the vital records to 1850 of the following towns have been printed, under the provisions of chapter 470 of the Acts of 1902: Athol, Bolton, Danvers (Vol. 11.), Haverhill (Vol. I.), Natick, Tisbury, Warren, Wayland, Weymouth (Vols. I. and II.), and Wrentham (Vol. I.).

The following publication has also been issued:—

Probate Index, Norfolk County, Massachusetts. (2 Vols.) 1793–1900. Dedham, Massachusetts, 1910.

DESTRUCTION OF OBSOLETE PAPERS.

Chapter 287 of the Acts of 1910, permitting the destruction of papers and files (but not the docket books) which have been completed over twenty years in criminal cases in the lower courts, has given considerable relief to county commissioners who had to provide fireproof quarters for, and to court clerks who had the care of, such useless records.

MANUAL OF THE LEGISLATURE.

At the request of the clerk of the Senate and the clerk of the House of Representatives, the table entitled "Counties, Cities, and Towns of Massachusetts," in the "Manual," is prepared by the commissioner, who has continued to receive from the department on the topographical survey and map of the State, of the Board of Harbor and Land Commissioners, the benefit of its exhaustive search of all records.

REPRINTING OF TENTH REPORT.

There have been many requests for copies of the tenth report of this department, for the year 1897, — containing valuable historical data relating to “Churches, Parishes, Precincts, and Religious Societies, past and present, in Massachusetts,” — which could not be supplied because the edition is out of print. As the stereotype plates of that report are in existence, and the expense of printing a further small edition would be moderate, it is recommended that the commissioner be permitted to have 200 copies printed.

TYPEWRITING RIBBONS AND STAMPING PADS.

In accordance with the provisions of section 9 of chapter 35 of the Revised Laws, and of chapter 57 of the Acts of 1908, the following ribbons, pads, and other devices used for printing by typewriting machines and hand stamps, made by any of the manufacturers named below, are approved for use upon the public records of the Commonwealth, and of the several counties, cities and towns therein. The use of any other is a violation of law.

The arrangement of the list is alphabetical by the names of the manufacturers, without regard to preference. The name of the manufacturer should be particularly noted in connection with the name of the ribbon, pad or ink.

*Typewriter Ribbons.***Eagle Brand Black Record Ribbon.**

Manufactured by American Ribbon and Carbon Company, Rochester, N. Y.

Markwell Brand Black Record Ribbon.

Manufactured by The Frank Bayer Company, 22 North William Street, New York.

Carter's Black Record Typewriter Ribbon.

Manufactured by The Carter's Ink Company, First and Atheneum streets, Cambridge, Mass.

Columbia Brand Black Record Ribbon.

Manufactured by Columbia Ribbon and Carbon Manufacturing Company, New York.

Crown Brand Black Record Ribbon.

Manufactured by Crown Ribbon and Carbon Manufacturing Company, Rochester, N. Y.

Du-ra-bul Black Record Ribbon.

Manufactured by The Dodge Company, Syracuse, N. Y.

How-Ko Brand Black Record Ribbon.

Manufactured by The How Company, Old Town, Me.

Empress Brand Black Record Ribbon.

Manufactured by Imperial Manufacturing Company, Newark, N. J.

Kee Lox Black Record Ribbon.

Manufactured by Kee Lox Manufacturing Company, Rochester, N. Y.

Little's Satin Finish and Gold Seal Brands, Black Record Ribbons.

Manufactured by A. P. Little, Rochester, N. Y.

Carnation Brand Black Record Ribbon.

Manufactured by Miller-Bryant-Pierce Company, Aurora, Ill.

Eureka Brand Special Black Record Ribbon, ink No. 158.

Manufactured by Mittag & Volger, Park Ridge, N. J.

Cotton King Black Record Ribbon.

Manufactured by Pen-Carbon Manifold Company, New Brunswick, N. J.

Diamond Brand Official Black Record Ribbon, ink No. 621.

Manufactured by The S. T. Smith Company, 11 Barclay Street, New York.

Underwood's Black Record Ribbon, ink No. 655.

Manufactured by John Underwood & Co., 30 Vesey Street, New York.

Black Record Ribbon.

Manufactured by Union Ribbon and Carbon Company, 9th and Thompson streets, Philadelphia.

Paragon, Premier, Invincible, Monarch, and Success Brands, Black Record Ribbons, and Yost Black Record Pad.

Manufactured by The Union Typewriter Company, Ribbon Factory, Bridgeport, Conn.

The Webster Star Brand Black Record Ribbon, ink No. 147.

Manufactured by F. S. Webster Company, 332 Congress Street, Boston.

*Stamping Pads.***The Carter's Ink Company's Black Record Pad, and Pad Ink.**

Manufactured by The Carter's Ink Company, First and Athenæum streets, Cambridge, Mass.

Superb Immediate Drying Pad (Black).

Manufactured by Stewart & Holihan, Inc., 201 Broadway, New York.

Union Typewriter Company's Black Record Pad Ink.

Manufactured by The Union Typewriter Company, Ribbon Factory, Bridgeport, Conn. (Same ink as used on the Yost typewriter pad, and applied to any plain uninked pad.)

HENRY E. WOODS,
Commissioner.



