THE LOCAL HISTORY ROOM
The Robbins Library Local History Room contains books, scrapbooks, annual reports, directories, atlases, photographs, postcards, slides, vertical files and other materials documenting the history of Arlington. Although the focus of the collection is the historical, social and cultural development of Arlington, relevant materials concerning Middlesex County, Massachusetts and its towns, and New England are also included. Special collections include the Lenore and Howard Winkler Files, Robbins Library History and the Arlington Woman’s Club Archive.

* Also found in the Circulating Collection

A SELECTED LIST OF RESOURCES:

TOWN HISTORY
Arlington Celebrates the Growing Years, 1875-1975* Hist. Coll. 974.44 ARL
History of the Town of Arlington, Mass. 1637-1879 by Benjamin Cutter* Hist. Coll. 974.44 ARL

One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Town of Arlington’s Part in that Memorable Struggle of April 19, 1775 Hist. Coll. 974.44 ARL

One Hundredth Anniversary of the Incorporation of the Town of Arlington, Massachusetts 1807-1907 Hist. Coll. 974.44 ARL

Our Local Interests: Arlington Advocate Souvenir 1872-1897 Hist. Coll. 974.44 ARL
Stories of Early Twentieth Century Life, edited by Oakes Plimpton* Hist. Coll. 974.44 ARL
Town of Arlington, Past and Present 1637 to 1907 by Charles S. Parker* Hist. Coll. 974.44 ARL

TOWN RECORDS, DIRECTORIES & YEARBOOKS
Annual Report 1842-present Hist. Coll. 974.44 ARL
Arlington High School Literary Magazine, The Clarion, 1897-1931 [Reference Room microfilm]
Arlington Vital Records to 1850 Hist. Coll. 917.44 ARL
Town Directories 1869-1940 [Reference Room microfilm]
True List of Persons 1921-present Hist. Coll. 974.44 ARL

HOUSES
Arlington Historical Commission Publications:
Inventory of Historically and/or Architecturally Significant Properties in Arlington Hist. Coll. 974.44 ARL

Ice, Crops and Commuters: South and East
Arlington’s Historical & Architectural Heritage* Hist. Coll. 974.44 ARL

Northwest Arlington, Massachusetts: An
Architectural and Historical Study* Hist. Coll. 974.44 ARL

Mill Brook Valley: An Historical and Architectural Survey* Hist. Coll. 974.44 ARL

MILITARY HISTORY
Arlington’s War Records - Revolutionary, Civil, Spanish American, Philippine Insurrection, Mexican Border, World Hist. Coll. 974.44 ARL

Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War Hist. Coll. 973.3M
Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the Civil War Hist. Coll. 973.7M
West Cambridge on the Nineteenth of April, 1775 by Samuel A. Smith* Hist. Coll. 974.44 ARL

GENEALOGICAL RESOURCES
Complete Book of Emigrants 1607-1660 Hist. Coll. 929.3 COL
Genealogical and Personal Memoirs Relating to the Families of Boston and Eastern Massachusetts Hist. Coll. 929.1 CUT

Massachusetts town histories Hist. Coll. 974.423-974.49

History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts by Samuel Drake (1880) Hist. Coll. 974.44D

History of Middlesex County, Massachusetts by D.H. Hurd (1890) Hist. Coll. 974.44H

Middlesex County and Its People by Edwin P. Conklin (1927) Hist. Coll. 974.44C

Vital Records to 1850 (Massachusetts towns) Hist. Coll. 929.3

ATLASES
Atlas of the Towns of Watertown, Belmont, Arlington & Lexington, Middlesex County, Mass. (Stadly, 1898) [Reference Room microfilm]

County Atlas of Middlesex, Mass. (Beers, 1875) [Reference Room microfilm]


Official Topographical Atlas of Massachusetts (Walling & Gray, 1871)

NEWSPAPERS [Reference Room microfilm]
Arlington Advocate 1871- (Index 1871-1946)
Arlington Enterprise 1898-1903 (Index 1898-1903)
Arlington News 1932-63, 66, 69 (Index 1932-38)
Arlington Press 1948-1952 No index

DIGITAL IMAGES digitalcommonwealth.org
HOURS
Monday through Wednesday: 9am to 9pm
Thursday: 1 to 9 PM
Friday & Saturday: 9am to 5 pm
*Open Sundays: 2pm – 5 pm Oct - June

ACCESS TO MATERIALS
Patrons who would like to use the Local History Room for research complete an application at the Reference Desk.

Patrons with applications on file sign the log & leave an ID each time they use the room. All bags must be left at the Reference Desk.

Materials can be brought from the Local History Room to the Reference Room for short-term research. Patrons just need to leave identification with the reference librarian.

Many local history materials are now digitized and accessible via digitalcommonwealth.org or the Internet Archive: https://archive.org Included are historical Photograph/Postcard Collection, Arlington High Yearbooks & Literary Magazine (the Clarion), town street directories, newspapers, town annual reports. Some atlases are available on microfilm.

CARE OF MATERIALS
Care must be taken when handling fragile books, atlases and pamphlets. Please use pencils when taking notes.

REPRODUCTIONS
Reference librarian should be consulted before photocopying fragile material found in the Local History Room. Copy machines are available in the Reference Room. Professional reproductions can be arranged. Contact Library for details.

OTHER RESOURCES
Town Clerk’s Office
Robbins Memorial Town Hall
730 Massachusetts Avenue
Arlington, MA 02476
(781) 316-3070

Arlington Historical Society
7 Jason Street
Arlington, MA 02476
(781) 648-4300 arlingtonhistorical.org

Middlesex South Registry of Deeds
208 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
(617) 679-6300 middlesexsouthregistry.com

Massachusetts Archives
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, MA 02125
(617) 727-2816 sec.state.ma.us/arc

Massachusetts Vital Records
150 Mt. Vernon Street
Dorchester, MA 02125
(617) 249-0323 mass-doc.com/vitals_research.htm

Boston Public Library
Copley Square
Boston, MA 02117
(617) 536-5400

National Archives at Boston
380 Trapelo Road
Waltham, MA 02454
(781) 663-0154 archives.gov/boston

New England Historic Genealogical Society
99 - 101 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02116
(888) 296-3447 americanancestors.org

Databases provided by Robbins Library
American Ancestors [in-library use only]
Ancestry Library [in-library use only]
Arlington Advocate (2005 – present)
Heritage Quest Online Historical Boston Globe