

**Ellerton J. Brehaut Collection of
Edward Hartwell Savage Papers
1826-1963 (bulk 1854-1878)**

MS.2004.069

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Summary Information

Library Unit	Archives and Manuscripts Department
Creator	Savage, Edward H., (Edward Hartwell), 1812-1893
Title	Ellerton J. Brehaut collection of Edward Hartwell Savage papers
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1854-1878
Date [inclusive]	1826-1963
Extent	16.5 Linear feet (18 boxes)
Language	English
Abstract	This collection documents the life of Edward Hartwell Savage and his role in the development of the Boston Police Department from its roots in the Boston Watch.

Preferred Citation note

Identification of item, Box number, Folder number, Ellerton J. Brehaut collection of Edward Hartwell Savage papers, MS.2004.069, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Processed by Shelley Barber, 2004, and Lynn Moulton, 2017. This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit.

Restrictions on access

Collection is open for research.

Restrictions on use

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Provenance

Originally part of the Ellerton J. Brehaut - Bostoniana Collection, these papers were purchased by Brehaut at a bookstore on Huntington Avenue, Boston, in the 1940s. One manuscript "A Dialogue," was purchased by Brehaut at an auction in Methuen, April 9, 1955.

Biographical note

Edward Hartwell Savage was born in East Alstead, New Hampshire, on May 18, 1812. As a boy he attended school in winter, worked at maple sugaring in spring, and worked on his father's farm the remainder of the year. On April 30, 1835, he married Zoa Houston of Acworth, New Hampshire, and the couple moved to nearby Marlowe. In Marlowe, Savage served as a Selectman, Surveyor of Highways, and as a member of the School Committee. Edward and Zoa Savage had two sons, but both died young.

After failing in business in Marlowe, Savage moved to Boston to find employment and pay his debts. He arrived in Boston in 1843, where he worked at his brother's grocery in the North End. He also found work repairing clocks and as a handcart man at Haymarket. Savage joined the police force under Marshal Francis Tukey in 1851. When reorganization created the Boston Police Department in 1854, Savage was promoted to Captain and was placed in charge of Station Number One on Hanover Street in Boston's North End.

Savage lived at several North End addresses, eventually moving to Boston's South End. His wife Zoa died in 1859 and, in 1861, Savage married Fannie M. Baker. The couple had two children, Lillian and Edward (Neddie), though Neddie died of scarlet fever in 1869.

Savage was promoted to Deputy Chief in 1861 and to Chief of Police in 1870. On his retirement in 1878, he became Probation Officer of Suffolk County.

Savage had a keen interest in Boston history. His awareness of every sort of event taking place in the city and his detailed recordkeeping led to his authoring two books. His first book, *A Chronological History of the Boston Watch and Police, from 1631 to 1865; together with the Recollections of a Boston police officer, or, Boston by daylight and gaslight, from the diary of an officer fifteen years in the service*, was published in 1865 and again in 1873. His second book, *Boston Events; brief mention and the date of more than 5,000 events that transpired in Boston from 1630 to 1880, covering a period of 250 years, together with other occurrences of interest, arranged in alphabetical order*, was published in 1884.

Edward Hartwell Savage died at the age of 80 in January 1893.

Sources:

"Edward Hartwell Savage's Memorandum from May 18, 1812 to December 31, 1869; Book 1; Alstead NH to Boston Mass," Box 18, Volume 3, Ellerton J. Brehaut collection of Edward Hartwell Savage, MS.2004.069, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

Letter from Ellerton Brehaut to Rudolph Elie, May 25, 1949, Box 2, Ellerton J. Brehaut collection of Edward Hartwell Savage, MS.2004.069, John J. Burns Library, Boston College.

Lane, Roger. *Policing the City; Boston 1822-1885*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1967

Scope and Contents note

This collection documents the life of Edward Hartwell Savage and his role in the development of the Boston Police Department from its roots in the Boston Watch. His materials include meticulous notebooks with chronological listings of events in his life and in Boston history; manuscripts of his published works, as well as some poetry and dialogue; local newspaper clippings; and records of the Boston Police Department. While on the police force Savage compiled departmental correspondence; lists of department members and shifts worked; receipts for returned lost/stolen property; and property inspection reports. This collection also includes a scrapbook of newspaper clippings and correspondence about Savage gathered by Ellerton J. Brehaut, the source of these papers.

Arrangement note

Arranged into two series. I. Savage personal; and II. Boston Police Department. Because Savage published works on events he witnessed as part of the Boston Watch and Boston Police, many of his personal papers also document the history of the Boston Police Department. Files are chronological within series.

Collection Inventory

Series I: Savage personal, circa 1838-1963

Commonplace book. Includes Savage's own poetry, probably 1838-1848	Box 1	
"Edward Hartwell Savage's Memorandum from May 18, 1812 to December 31, 1869; Book 1; Alstead NH to Boston Mass," notebook of biographical and current events, as well as 1877 police department survey results summaries, probably 1844-1877	Box 18	Volume 3
Boston area history, Boston Police Department, and Savage, newspaper clipping scrapbook, 1857-1873	Box 2	
Boston Police Department and Savage, clippings and correspondence compiled by Brehaut, 1857-1963	Box 2	
"Captain Savage's Book for the Year 1862 of Police Records and Recollection," notebook including drafts for <i>Police Recollections; Boston by Daylight and Gaslight</i> , 1862	Box 3	
"Election Returns 1864-1882" for city and state races, notebook, 1864-1882	Box 18	Volume 4
<i>Boston Events; brief mention and the date of more than 5,000 events that transpired in Boston from 1630 to 1880...</i> manuscripts, circa 1868-circa 1888	Box 7	
	Box 8	
	Box 9	
	Box 10	
	Box 11	
Scope and Contents note		

Includes four drafts in five volumes. Several drafts of this work are entitled "Annals of Boston". The last two volumes continue the index through eight years after the publication of *Boston Events*.

Account book, 1877-1883

Box 4

"Birth and Death [Dates] of Eminent Men. Memorandum" notebook, 1880

Box 18

Volume 1

"A Dialogue: Country in Boston - A Scene in a Police Office" manuscript, undated

Box 4

Series II: Boston Police Department, 1826-1878

Boston Watch member shift log, entitled "Account of the City Watch, Boston, Massachusetts", 1826-1841, 1852

Box 13

Boston Police Station Number One (North End) Captain's record book, 1854-1859

Box 14

Property control receipt book, 1861-1875

Box 5

Special Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Boston Police 1869. Also contains also a list of members of the department in Savage's handwriting, 1869

Box 18

Volume 5

Statement of Extra Police Services log books (2 volumes), 1870-1877

Box 15

Correspondence of the Chief of Police (4 volumes), 1870-1878

Box 12

Volume 1-2

Box 16

Box 17

Police department surveys (American, Canadian, English, and Irish city police), 1877

Box 8

Folder 2

Listing of members of the Boston Watch and Boston Police Department from 1822-1878, alphabetical, 1878 October 21

Box 18

Volume 6

Listing of members of the Boston Police by appointment
year (1838-1854), 1882 April

Box 18

Volume 2

Sanitary inspection log for Boston's North End
neighborhood, undated

Box 6
