

Henry Bowen Brainerd Collection
Wellesley Historical Society

Repository Identifier

mawelhs

Local Identifier

1999.33

Name and Location of Repository

The Wellesley Historical Society
229 Washington Street
Wellesley, MA 02481
(781) 235-6690
www.wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org

Title

Henry Bowen Brainerd Collection, 1895 – 1981

Date

1895 – 1981

Extent

6 linear feet, 12 boxes

Name of Creator

Henry Bowen Brainerd, (1907 – 1995)

Biographical Note

Henry Bowen Brainerd was born in Wellesley on December 8, 1907 to parents William H. Brainerd and Mary Bowen Brainerd. William Brainerd was a Boston-area architect who designed several Wellesley homes including his own at 10 Upland Road, and Katharine Lee Bates' home at 70 Curve Street. Mary Bowen Brainerd taught in the English Literature Department at Wellesley College for ten years before marrying.

Henry Brainerd attended the Huntington School on Huntington Avenue in Boston before attending Harvard University where he graduated with a BA in Physics in 1927. Due to the Depression, Brainerd's first jobs out of college included working in sales for the Wellesley Press as well as free-lance photography work. During World War II Brainerd did electronic development work at Camp Evens in Belmont, New Jersey.

In 1943 Brainerd married Nanette Tarbox Beals in New York before returning to Massachusetts in 1946, taking up residence in Brainerd's childhood home, located at 10 Upland Road in Wellesley, MA. Brainerd worked at Massachusetts Institute of Technology's (MIT) Draper Lab from 1946 until he retired in 1973. Brainerd was an active member of the Wellesley community until his death on September 24, 1995.

Henry Bowen Brainerd Collection

Wellesley Historical Society

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains materials related to the life of Henry Bowen Brainerd and his life in Wellesley. The collection contains correspondence, written materials, and photography. Of note are the written recollections and oral history interview regarding life in Wellesley from 1907 until the 1980s. The bulk of the collection is made of the photographic negatives and prints produced by Brainerd throughout his life as an amateur photographer.

Index Terms

Correspondence
Katharine Lee Bates
Massachusetts — Wellesley
Photography
Transportation
Wellesley (Mass.) — Biography
Wellesley (Mass.) — History
Wellesley (Mass.) — Politics and government
Wellesley (Mass.) — Social life and customs
Wellesley College
Wellesley College — Faculty

System of Arrangement

This collection is organized into nine series arranged by subject:

- I. Brainerd's Biographical & Personal Items; 1927 – 1981, undated
- II. Correspondence; 1920 – 1980, undated
- III. Brainerd's Memories of Wellesley; 1960 – 1980, undated
- IV. Town of Wellesley Information & Publications; 1916 – 1981, undated
- V. Wellesley College Information & Publications; 1895 – 1940, undated
- VI. Transportation Information; 1937 – 1955, undated
- VII. Photography Information; bulk 1930 – 1950, undated
- VIII. Photographic Negatives; bulk undated
- IX. Photographic Prints; bulk undated

Conditions Governing Access

The papers are open for research purposes by appointment only. Please contact the Wellesley Historical Society for more information.

info@wellesleyhistoricalsociety.org
(781) 235-6690

Physical Access

No restriction.

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use

Copyright restrictions may apply.

Languages and Scripts of the Material

English

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Immediate Source of Acquisition

Unknown

M.13

1988.46

1999.33

Accruals

The Historical Society may add materials to the Collection in the future; however, no further accruals are currently expected.

Description

Processing of this collection was made possible through a grant from the Wellesley Community Preservation Committee.

DACS Finding Aid created by Taylor C. Kalloch in December 2016.

Bibliography

Brainerd, Henry. Interviewed by Dennis J. Viechnicki. Oral History. 10 Upland Road, Wellesley, MA., April 25, 1980. Henry Bowen Brainerd Collection. Wellesley Historical Society. Wellesley, Massachusetts.

Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall School. "Our History." *Chapel Hill-Chauncy Hall School*. January 9, 1917, <http://chch.org/page/ch-ch-today/our-history/our-history>

MIT News. "Obituaries." *Massachusetts Institute of Technology*. October 18, 1995, <http://news.mit.edu/1995/obituaries13-1018>

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Container List

***I.* Brainerd Biographical & Personal Items, 1927 – 1981, undated**

This series contains materials contain biographical information, as well as information and personal items, such as materials from Brainerd’s time at Harvard University.

Box 1

- Folder 1: Articles about HBB; 1981
- Folder 2: General Personal Items; 1932, 1939, & undated
- Folder 3: Harvard Related-Items; 1927

***II.* Correspondence, 1920 – 1980, undated**

This series contains correspondence to and from both Henry Brainerd and his mother Mary Brainerd.

Box 1

- Folder 4: HBB Correspondence; 1920 – 1980, & undated
- Folder 5: Mary Brainerd Correspondence; 1939 - 1942

***III.* Brainerd’s Memories of Wellesley, 1960 – 1980, undated**

This series contains written recollections and transcriptions of oral history interviews with Henry Brainerd concerning his life in Wellesley. The materials were recorded between 1960 and 1980 but the cover Wellesley history dating back to Brainerd’s birth.

Box 1

- Folder 6: Memories of Wellesley, #1; 1960
- Folder 7: Memories of Wellesley, #2; 1960 & 1975
- Folder 8: Oral History Interview, Interviewee Henry Bowen Brainerd, Interviewer Dennis J. Viechnicki, April 25, 1980
- Folder 9: Transportation in Wellesley; undated

***IV.* Town of Wellesley Information & Publications, 1916 – 1981, undated**

This series contains materials relating to the town of Wellesley collected by Brainerd, primary from a government perspective. Also includes Brainerd’s script from the 1981 historical skit detailing the history of Wellesley and it’s separation from Needham in 1881, in which he played the character of Mr. Whitaker.

Box 1

- Folder 10: Brainerd’s Script from “The Separation from Needham” Historical Skit, Playing Mr. Whitaker; c 1981
- Folder 11: Town of Wellesley Materials, #1; 1916, 1926, & 1927
- Folder 12: Town of Wellesley Materials, #2; 1929, 1932, 1933, 1938, 1945, 1946,

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& 1952

Folder 13: Town of Wellesley Materials, #3; 1953, 1963, 1969, 1981, & undated

Archives Oversize Box 4

Folder 16: Town of Wellesley Materials, #4; 1915, 1929, & undated

V. Wellesley College Information & Publications, 1895 – 1940, undated

This series contains materials concerning Wellesley College, primarily it's English Department. The materials belonged to Brainerd's mother, Mary Bowen Brainerd, who taught English at Wellesley College.

Box 2

Folder 1: Campus Life Materials; 1898, 1906, 1911, 1926 – 1929, 1937, 1939, & undated

Folder 2: Completed English Literature Exams; 1910, 1920, & undated

Folder 3: English Literature Course Readings; 1895, 1896, & undated

Folder 4: English Literature Department Course Offerings; 1896-1897

Folder 5: English Literature Exam Information; 1898 - 1902, & undated

Folder 6: Grade Book; undated

VI. Transportation Information, 1937 – 1955, undated

This series contains materials about transportation. The information is not Wellesley specific.

Box 2

Folder 7: Transportation [Not Wellesley Specific]; 1937, 1954, 1955, & undated

VII. Photography Information, bulk 1930 – 1950, undated

This series contains materials regarding photography. Includes information about the field of photography as well as Brainerd's own photography and related business.

Box 2

Folder 8: Information about HBB's photography; 1932, 1934, 1954, 1987, & undated

Folder 9: Published/Printed Information about Photography, #1; 1930, 1932, & 1938

Folder 10: Published/Printed Information about Photography, #2; 1932

Box 3

Folder 1: Published/Printed Information about Photography, #3; undated

Folder 2: Published/Printed Information about Photography, #4; undated

Folder 3: Published/Printed Information about Photography, #5; 1923 & 1928

Folder 4: Published/Printed Information about Photography, #6; 1932

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Folder 5: A Treatise that Henry Bowen Brainerd Wrote on Photography; undated

VIII. Photographic Negatives, bulk undated

This series contains photographic negatives taken by Brainerd though out his life.

Box 4

Folder 1: Negatives; People, A-B
Folder 2: Negatives; People, C-D
Folder 3: Negatives; People, E-K
Folder 4: Negatives; People, L-N
Folder 5: Negatives; People, O-R

Box 5

Folder 1: Negatives; People, S-U
Folder 2: Negatives; People, V-Z
Folder 3: Negatives; Places, A
Folder 4: Negatives; Places, B
Folder 5: Negatives; Places, C-D

Box 6

Folder 1: Negatives; Places, E
Folder 2: Negatives; Places, F #1
Folder 3: Negatives; Places, F #2
Folder 4: Negatives; Places, G-J
Folder 5: Negatives; Places, K-M

Box 7

Folder 1: Negatives; Places, Multiple Places
Folder 2: Negatives; Places, Multiple Places, Massachusetts
Folder 3: Negatives; Places, N-P
Folder 4: Negatives; Places, Q-R
Folder 5: Negatives; Places, S
Folder 6: Negatives; Places, T

Box 8

Folder 1: Negatives; Places, U-Z
Folder 2: Negatives; Places, Wellesley
Folder 3: Negatives; Things & Events, A-D
Folder 4: Negatives; Things & Events, F-P
Folder 5: Negatives; Things & Events, Q-Z

Box 9

Folder 1: Negatives; Unlabeled, #1
Folder 2: Negatives; Unlabeled, #2
Folder 3: Negatives; Unlabeled, #3

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Folder 4: Negatives; Unlabeled, #4

IX. Photographic Prints, bulk undated

This series contains photographic prints taken by Brainerd throughout his life.

Box 10

Folder 1: Small Format; Allegheny Front
Folder 2: Small Format; Bolder Dam
Folder 3: Small Format; Brainerd Christmas Cards
Folder 4: Small Format; Carmel & Monterey
Folder 5: Small Format; Continental Divide
Folder 6: Small Format; Florida
Folder 7: Small Format; Los Angeles, Tree Ferns
Folder 8: Small Format; Mission, California
Folder 9: Small Format; Portraits
Folder 10: Small Format; San Diego
Folder 11: Small Format; San Francisco
Folder 12: Small Format; San Juan, Capistrano
Folder 13: Small Format; Santa Cruz, Redwoods

Box 11

Folder 1: Small Format; Unlabeled Prints, #1
Folder 2: Small Format; Unlabeled Prints, #2
Folder 3: Small Format; Unlabeled Prints, #3
Folder 4: Small Format; Unlabeled Prints, #4

Box 12

Folder 1: Small Format; "Upside Down" House
Folder 2: Small Format; Wellesley & Local, 1938
Folder 3: Small Format; West Bound
Folder 4: Small Format; Yosemite
Folder 5: Large Format and Bound; Christmas Cards by Henry Bowne Brainerd,
Bound
Folder 6: Large Format and Bound; Christmas Cards by Henry Bowne Brainerd,
Bound
Folder 7: Large Format and Bound; Unbound Brainerd Catalog
Folder 8: Large Format and Bound; Unlabeled Prints 8x10