

Watertown Free Public Library

123 Main Street

Watertown, Massachusetts 02472

Local History Collection

**Citizens' League of Watertown
record book, 1896-1901 (inclusive)**

SC118

Summary

Collection name: Citizens League of Watertown record book, 1896-1901

Collection number: SC118

Repository: Watertown Free Public Library (Watertown, Massachusetts)

Creator: Citizens' League of Watertown (Watertown, Mass.)

Extent: 1 bound volume

Language: English

Provenance: This record book was donated to the library 1979.

Processing information: This record book was previously identified by the call number HIST 367.067444 CIT 1898.

Conditions governing access: Collection is open for use in the Local History Room, Watertown Free Public Library.

Preferred citation: Citizens' League of Watertown record book, SC118, Watertown Free Public Library Local History Collection, Watertown, Mass.

Historical Note

The Citizens' League of Watertown was organized December 17, 1896 to discuss and reform local government. The League's mission was to free local politics of state or national partisanship, vet candidates for municipal offices, push for governance based on "sound business principle," and to promote public interest in town affairs. Herbert Coolidge (1851-1935) served as President from the League's founding until its dissolution in 1898.

Scope and Content Note

This bound volume contains the official records of the Citizens' League of Watertown. All but roughly twenty pages are blank. The first few pages contain handwritten by-laws, meeting minutes, and member lists for 1896 to 1898. About ten more pages, toward the middle of the volume, contain pasted records including meeting announcements, ballots (for voting to endorse local candidates), the 1896 by-laws, and member lists or nominations. One of these lists notes the occupations of prospective members. The book

also includes a few pages of secretary's reports, a short history of the organization, Secretary Alberto F. Haynes' remarks on the dissolution of the organization, and the note of resignation submitted by President Herbert Coolidge in 1898.

Related Materials

Town of Watertown public works records, TW008, Series III, Watertown Free Public Library Local History Collection, Watertown, Mass.

Access Points

People:

Coolidge, Herbert, 1851-1935.

Haynes, Alberto F., 1849-1926.

Corporate names:

Citizens' League of Watertown (Watertown, Mass.).

Subjects:

City and town life—Massachusetts—Watertown.

Elections—Massachusetts—Watertown.

Moral conditions.

Municipal government.

Politics and government.

Watertown (Mass.)—Appropriations and expenditures.

Watertown (Mass.)—Officials and employees.

Watertown (Mass.)—Politics and government.

Watertown (Mass.)—Social life and customs.