

# Barry Flynn Essex Company Collection, 1804 - 1985?

## General Information

**Repository:** Lawrence History Center

**Creator:** Barry Flynn

**Dates:** 1804 - 1985?

**Accession Number:** 2011.256

**Quantity:** Four Carton Boxes, One Newspaper Box, One Nonstandard Wooden Box

**Processed By:** Jennifer Williams

**Access:** Open for research.

## Provenance

This collection was created by Barry Flynn. It was gifted to the Lawrence History Center by Leo Flynn, the son of Barry Flynn, in 2011.

## Historical Note

The Essex Company was incorporated on March 20, 1845 with the purpose of building a dam as well as the north and south canals on the Merrimack River. The hope was that textile mills would use them for water power. Though it was not the stated purpose of the company, there were also plans to create a city around the dam and canals. This would be done by selling land to different individuals and companies for the creation of homes, stores, churches, schools, and government buildings.

The Essex Company built the infrastructure that allowed for industrial growth and actually created city plans laying out land for streets, churches cemeteries, schools, parks, and house lots. They also built the first drainage system. While selling plots of land to various organizations and individuals the Essex Company used deeds to restrict what could be done on the land. These deeds restricted such things the number of buildings that could be placed on the lots and the type of building materials that could be used. Some of these restrictions are still enforced today. The Essex Company set aside the Common, Storrow Park, Bodwell Park, Union Park, and Stockton Park for public use. These were pieces of land that were left for the enjoyment of the town's residents, to give them a bit of green space.

The person who was the driving force in the building of the dam, canals, and planning the city was Charles S. Storrow, a well known engineer. He worked for the company in many capacities over the years, including chief engineer, treasurer, and President. He also became the first mayor of Lawrence. He established several banks in the city, helped to develop the school system, directed cultural activities, and helped to distribute relief funds to those in need.

As individuals and companies became interested in Lawrence, the Essex Company became involved in building some of the mills that would provide jobs for most Lawrence residents. The company engineered, built, or sold buildings to companies looking to set up mills. The Atlantic Cotton, Upper

Pacific, Pemberton, and Duck Mills were all created and sold in one of these ways. When the buildings were bought, the Essex Company would guarantee that the mills would receive a certain amount of water from the dam and canals so that the mills could operate efficiently. The owners of mills paid for this water. During this time the Essex Company built the Machine Shop, with the purpose of building and repairing machinery for the mills. The Shop built and repaired everything from spindles to locomotives. Eventually it was sold to the Lawrence Machine Co. By the 1860s and 1870s the city was established and the infrastructure for the mills had been created, so the company focused on its own endeavors, which included controlling water power in the city and managing the land it still retained.

During this time Hiram F. Mills became the chief engineer of the Essex Company, and became well known for his focus on sanitation. In the 1870s he created the Experimental Station to treat water and sewage. The station was then turned over to the state and Mills became a member of the board of health. He became the Chairman of the Board's Committee on Water Supply and Waste Water Disposal in 1886. Between the years of 1887 and 1915 he was in charge of the investigations taking place at the Experiment Station. While doing so he developed a filtration system that eradicated most bacteria from the drinking water in Lawrence. He wrote several articles about sanitation and the importance of clean drinking water, as well as other articles about water power.

Another important figure in the history of the Essex Company was Richard A. Hale. In 1892 he became the resident engineer and was later made the principal assistant engineer. When Hiram F. Mills died in 1921 he was appointed the chief engineer. However, Hale was the unofficial chief engineer beginning in 1911, due to the fact that Mills had very little to do with the company during those ten years. During his time at the Essex Company Richard Hale consulted on projects for many different organizations and city governments, determining the practicality of using water power and in some cases developing that power. He also worked on several court cases involving water power issues. He was a member of the New England Water Works Association and the Boston Society of Civil Engineers.

The mid-20<sup>th</sup> century was a difficult time for the Essex Company. Cotton and worsted mills began to leave the city, leaving buildings unoccupied. When they were sold the new owners who often used them for new purposes, and did not need the water power provided by the Essex Company. The company therefore saw its profits greatly reduced. The management decided to sell all of the land and buildings it owned that were not needed for the water works, and in doing so received approximately \$600,000. The money was then invested in government bonds to serve as a contingency fund.

However, by the 1970s the city's water power had become an unused resource, with very few companies being supplied with it. In the early 1970s the company, and 90% of its stock, was bought by six men, including Barry Flynn. Their goals were to restore the fishways in the dam to allow Atlantic salmon to move upstream (which they did between 1974 and 1976) and to look into new ways to use water power. They also wanted to preserve the original rights given to the Essex Company in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, such as the right to approve the building of structures along the canals. In 1979 the company became a subsidiary of a hydroelectric company called Consolidated Hydro. By 1995 all the land owned by the Essex Company had been sold, with the exception of a small plot of land near the South Canal. The company left Lawrence and moved to Boston.

Barry B. Flynn was born on January 12, 1940 to Arthur and Mary Flynn Sr. In 1957 he graduated from

Punchard High School in Andover, Massachusetts. He then went on to Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont, and in 1961 he received a degree in Business Administration. Mr. Flynn worked for several different companies. He worked for the Flynn Development Company, which was a real estate business in Lawrence, MA. In 1974 he became the Managing General Partner of the Lawrence Rehabilitation Company, which constructed several housing projects. As Vice-President of the Essex Development Associates he managed the construction of a hydroelectric project in 1980. In later years Flynn worked as the Vice President of the Essex Hydro Associates. During his time there he developed and operated fourteen hydroelectric projects across New England. As mentioned above, Barry Flynn and six other men bought the Essex Company and most of its stock in the early 1970s. Mr. Flynn stayed at the company into the 1980s in several capacities, including the Chairman of the Board. Barry Flynn Married Joan Turner of Biddeford, ME and had four children: Daniel, Leo, Kathleen, and Kerry.

## **Scope and Content Note**

Although this collection contains a wide variety of materials, the majority are paper documents. The company records include canceled stock certificates, agreements and indentures between the Essex Company and other organizations, sales valuation documents, quit-claim deeds, and lists of subscribers. The majority of these records were created between 1847 and 1917. There are also engineer's records from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century that include correspondence with other organizations, diagrams, and reports. There are only a few legal records, which focus on issues related to water power. There are also correspondence files for Richard A. Hale and Charles S. Storrow, as well as the treasurers office. These records date from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. There are also many different books, articles, newspapers, and pamphlets on a variety of subjects, from the Civil War to the water supply. Most of these records date from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

There are many blueprints, diagrams, and maps related to Lawrence and businesses located within it, as well as businesses outside Lawrence. These latter businesses were ones with which either the Essex Company or its employees worked. The majority of these records are from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The collection also includes three scrapbooks filled mostly with newspaper clippings related to the Essex Company, water power, the water supply, and the goings-on of Lawrence. There are also a variety of objects in the collection, from large tools to small numbers probably used to number houses. These objects are undated. Lastly, this collection contains many different images. They include photographs taken of the dam and the Essex Company building in the 1970s and 1980s as well as images of buildings, bridges, machinery, and construction work in Lawrence in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Most of these images are located in two photograph albums. Other types of images include postcards, framed signs, and framed blueprints.

## **Arrangement**

This collection has been arranged into nine series: I. Company Records, 1845-1980?; II. Engineer's Files, 1909-1926; III. Legal Records, 1909?, 1919; IV. Correspondence, 1851-1941; V. Blueprints, Maps, and Diagrams, 1845?-1922?; VI. Books, Pamphlets, Articles, and Newspapers, 1804-1947; VII. Scrapbooks, 1857-1965; VIII. Objects, undated; IX. Images; 1893? - 1985?.

### **I. Company Records, 1845-1980?**

The majority of records in this series are canceled stock certificates, which date from approximately 1886 to 1923. Some of these canceled certificates have corresponding legal records with them. The other documents vary in type and date. There is an undated copy of the the bill incorporating the town of Lawrence, agreements and indentures between the Essex Company and other businesses (including the agreement to build the reservoir) from 1853 to 1896, records of the sale valuation of land from 1846 to 1851, records praising the work of Charles S. Storrow, and a card catalog with information on different businesses using water power and different water power parts used by the Essex Company. Some of these records are photocopies. The majority of records date from 1845 to 1923. The series is arranged chronologically.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
1	Sales Valuation of Land, 1846-1851
1	Agreement to Build the Reservoir, 1853
1	Catalogs for the Sale of Land, 1855, 1901
1	Agreement Between the Essex Company and the Boston and Maine Railroad, 1866
1	Stock Certificates, 1869, 1872
1	Quit Claim Deeds, 1864-1873
1	Indenture Between the Essex Company and the Pentucket Navigation Co., 1877
1	Checks, 1880-1881
1	Recognition of Charles Storrow by the Stockholders, 1882
1	Report and Vote on Charles Storrow's Retirement, 1889
1	Agreement for Taking Land to Create Den Rock – Photocopy, 1896
1	Canceled Stock Certificates, 1886?-1897
1	Canceled Stock Certificates, 1897-1898
1	Canceled Stock Certificates, 1898-1902
1	Canceled Stock Certificates, 1902-1904
1	Canceled Stock Certificates, 1904-1905

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
1	Canceled Stock Certificates, 1906-1907
1	Canceled Stock Certificates, 1907-1910
1	Canceled Stock Certificates, 1910-1911
1	Canceled Stock Certificates, 1911-1913
1	Canceled Stock Certificates, 1913-1917
1	Canceled Stock Certificates, 1918-1919
1	Canceled Stock Certificates, 1919-1920
1	Canceled Stock Certificates, 1920-1922
1	Canceled Stock Certificates, 1922-1923
1	Canceled Stock Certificates, 1923
1	Miscellaneous Records, 1845-1980?
1	S. Hopkinson's Draft of a Bill Incorporating the Town of Lawrence, Undated
1	Essex Company History, Undated
2	Card File, Undated

Flat File (Main Office)

Folder Title

Lists of Subscribers, Shareholders, and Stocks Sold, 1845-1854?

Contract and Supplementary Contract with the Atlantic Cotton Mills, 1850, 1852

Indenture Between the Essex Company and the Pacific Mills, 1864

Photocopies of Indentures, 1863?-1872

Photocopies of a Quit Claim Deed with the Monroe Paper Company, 1872

**II. Engineer's Files, 1909-1926**

This series is composed of the records of engineer Richard A. Hale. It includes correspondence, reports, notes, tables, and court testimonies. The series focuses on Hale's work with different companies and city governments on issues concerning water power. In some cases the records indicate that Hale was consulting for a company, while in others he was working on a court case. Some of the records are related to associations with which Hale was affiliated. The series is arranged by subject, and date. Please see the Blueprints, Maps, and Diagrams series for corresponding information.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
2	Fulton Heat, Light, and Power Company Report and Correspondence, 1909
2	Bellows Falls Co. vs. International Paper Co. - Engineer's Report and Correspondence, 1916
2	Bellows Falls Co. vs. International Paper Co., 1916
2	Bellows Falls Co. vs. International Paper Co. Testimony, 1916
2	City of Providence – Clyde Print Works, Water Division Report of Frank E. Winsor, 1918
2	Memoranda Relating to Rainfall and Runoff by F. P. Stearns, 1918-1919
2	New York State Stream Gaging Stations, 1921
2	Edison Electric Illuminating Co. - Water Supply for Edgar Station, 1926

Flat File (Main Office)

Folder Title

Boston Society of Civil Engineers – Committee on Run-off, Final Report, 1921

**III. Legal Records, 1909?, 1919**

This series is composed of two documents. The first one was written by the Supreme Court in Maine, and answers questions relating to the legal rights of companies owning land along water ways, whether or not states can make reservoirs and basins for various purposes, whether or not a state can charge the owners of water power construction fees when the state built their reservoirs and basins, whether or not states can tax private corporations that make dams to use water power, and whether or not laws regarding the reservation of land near water bodies were still being used. There is also a pamphlet which details the Essex Company's dismay at a proposed law making owners of dams responsible for any boating accidents which occur on their dams. The series is organized by date.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
2	Protest of the Essex Company Against Legislation Making the Owner of a Dam Responsible for Accidents Over It, 1909?
2	Opinion of the Supreme Judicial Court of Maine in Answer to Questions from the House of Representatives in Regard to Storage Reservoirs and Water Power, 1919

#### **IV. Correspondence, 1851-1941**

This series is mostly composed of correspondence to and from Charles S. Storrow and Richard A. Hale. However, there are also letters to and from the treasurers office as well as postcards and other miscellaneous correspondence. The majority of the letters date from between 1851 and 1920. Subjects of the Storrow correspondence include the participation of Abbott Lawrence in the Essex Company, worsted manufacturing, the Pacific Mills, the building of bridges over the canals, the use of water power by the mills, and the reservoir. Subjects of the Hale correspondence include court cases relating to water power, the use of water power in different locations, the yield of drainage areas in New England, benchmarks for the Boston sea level, and the definition of mean sea level. The correspondence from the treasurer's office focuses on the Kunhardt Mill and the right of railways to run electric cars over the canal. Lastly, the postcards focus on a variety of subjects, from lunch meetings to the new addresses of stockholders. The series is arranged by correspondent and date. For corresponding information see the Blueprints, Maps, and Diagrams series.

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
2	Charles Storrow, 1851-1859
2	Charles Storrow, 1867-1880
2	R. A. Hale – S. D. Warren Co., Cumberland Mills, 1885-1925
2	R. A. Hale – Miscellaneous, 1898-1905
2	R. A. Hale – Streeter, Walker & Hollis Law Offices, 1898-1903
2	R. A. Hale – Court Case Correspondence with Leslie P. Snow, 1902
2	R. A. Hale – Hartford, CT Additional Water Supply, 1902?-1917
2	R. A. Hale – New England Water Works Association, 1911-1913
2	R. A. Hale – Benchmarks for Boston Sea Level, 1915-1920

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder Title</u>
2	R. A. Hale – Roanoke Rapids Power Co., 1917
2	R. A. Hale – City of Providence, Clyde Print Works, 1918-1919
2	R. A. Hale – Department of Commerce, U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, 1920
2	Treasurer's Office – Merrimack Valley Sheet Railway Co., 1891
2	Treasurer's Office – Kunhardt Mill, 1941
2	Postcards, 1880?-1911
2	Miscellaneous Correspondence, 1879-1894

#### **V. Blueprints, Maps, and Diagrams, 1845?-1922?**

This series is composed of several types of documents, including blueprints for different types of machinery used create and use water power, maps of Lawrence, plans of land to be sold by the Essex Company, plans of streets and parks, and diagrams related to water power and the water supply. The materials do not only relate to Lawrence, but other cities and states as well, including New York and Road Island. Several are related to the consulting positions which Richard A. Hale held. The materials range in size from relatively small to very large. The series is arranged in seven different folders, each having a similar range of dates. There is also one plan of the dam that was too big to fit inside a folder. For corresponding information see the Correspondence and Engineer's Files series.

#### Flat File (Main Office)

<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Item Title</u>
1	Plan of Lots in Lawrence to be Sold April 28, 1847
1	Map of the City of Lawrence, 1853
1	Plan of Lots in Lawrence to be Sold December 6, 1855
1	Plan of Lots in Lawrence to be Sold on December 6, 1855
1	Plan for Roanoke Mills Co., 1896
1	Plan for Two 30" Hercules Turbines – Holyoke Machine Co., Worcester, Mass., 1897



<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Item Title</u>
1	Plan for a Samson Horizontal Turbine for the Carolina Fiber Co., 1906
1	Plan for Roanoke Rapids Paper Manufacturing Co., 1906
1	Plan for Roanoke Rapids Paper Manufacturing Co., 1906
1	U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey: Conditions of Field Operations, United States Map, 1919
1	Plan Showing Relocation of Old North Parish Road. December 17. 1920
1	Plan Showing Relocation of Old North Parish Road, December 17, 1920
1	Plan of Memorial Park, 1922
1	Plan of Lawrence Before 1850, Undated
1	Preliminary Runoff Map Showing Areas of Approximately Equal Stream Flow – New York Water Power Investigation, Undated
1	Plan of Lawrence, Undated
2	Plan of Lots in Methuen to be Sold April 28, 1846
2	Map of Lawrence – Valuation of Land, 1852
2	Map of Lawrence, 1869
2	Map of Lawrence with Hand-Drawn Markings Indicating the Limits of Essex Company Holdings in South Lawrence, 1869
2	Map of Area Affected by a Tornado, 1890
2	Watershed of Pequawket River from Scarborough's Map of the White Mountains, 1907
2	Roanoke Fibre Board Co. - Plan of Samson Horizontal Turbines, 1909
2	Plan for Roanoke Mills Co., 1911
2	Plan for Roanoke Mills Co., 1911
2	Diagram Showing Relation Between Gage Heights at Rutland R. R. Bridge and Use of Mill Powers by Fall Mountain Mill, Undated

<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Item Title</u>
2	Early Plan of Lawrence, Mass., Undated
3	Proposed ARR of Head Gate and Hoisting Mechanism for the Lawrence Gas Co., 1905
3	Section Through Unit #8 Drawing #5260 of 7500 H.P. Development Under 22' Head at Fulton, NY, 1909
3	Section Through 480 H.P. Unit for 4800 H.P. Development Under 14' Head at Fulton, NY, 1909
3	Plan of Proposed Development of Water Power at Fulton, NY, 1909
3	Plan of Proposed Development of 7500 H.P. Under 22'-0" Head at Fulton, NY or 4800 H.P. Under 14'-0" Head, 1909
3	Section Through Unit for 14' Head Development at Fulton, NY
4	Barden and Ponaganset Reservoirs – Water in Storage During 1913 and 1914
4	Barden and Ponaganset Reservoirs – Water in Storage During 1915 and 1916
4	City of Providence Scituate Reservoir Capacity & Area Curves, 1916
4	City of Providence Flow of Pawtuxet River Showing Concentration for Mill Use Based on Fiskeville Weir Measurements of 1916 and 1917
4	Barden and Ponaganset Reservoirs – Water in Storage During 1917
4	City of Providence Flow of Pawtuxet River Showing Concentration for Mill Use Based on Fiskeville Weir Measurements of 1916 to 1918
4	Diagram Showing Available Storage in Ponaganset, Barden, Westconnaug, and Moswansicut Reservoirs During the Year of 1918
4	Diagram Showing Available Storage in Ponaganset, Barden, Westconnaug, and Moswansicut Reservoirs During the Year of 1918
4	City of Providence Percentage of Streamflow at Fiskeville Available for Use During Mill Hours Based on 1916 and 1917 Weir Measurements at Fiskeville Dam, 1918

<u>Folder #</u>	<u>Item Title</u>
4	Diagrams – Providence Clyde Cases, Undated
5	Preliminary Isohyetal Map Showing Lines of Equal Precipitation – New York Water Power Investigation, New York State, 1920
6	A Plan of Lands Belonging to the Essex Company in Methuen and Andover, October 1845
6	A Plan of Lands Belonging to the Essex Company in Methuen and Andover, October 1845
6	A Plan of Lands Belonging to the Essex Company in Methuen and Andover, October 1845
7	Plan of the Central Mill Site to be Sold December 17, 1863
7	Map of Lawrence, Undated
7	Map of Lawrence, Undated
7	Map of Lawrence, Undated
7	Map of Lawrence, Undated
N/A	Plan of the Dam, 1846

## **VI. Books, Pamphlets, Articles, and Newspapers, 1804-1947**

### **Library Collection and Box 5**

This series is composed of published materials dating mostly between 1846 and 1912. The subjects of the books, pamphlets, and articles vary greatly. They include the Civil War, the Lawrence water supply, water filtration, the life of Charles S. Storrow, the use of water power, the Daniel Webster statue, the collapse of the Pemberton Mill, and the phases of the moon. There are several almanacs from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century as well as multiple articles written by Hiram F. Mills. There is one book that predates the creating of the Essex Company. *The Massachusetts Register and United States Calendar* from 1804 contains information on the Massachusetts government, the military, businesses in Massachusetts, and holidays. There is also a pamphlet containing the history of the Essex Company, which was written in 1947. The newspapers in the collection are the Lawrence Daily Journal (January 14, 1862 to February 8, 1862), the Boston Morning Journal (August 31, 1860 to October 31, 1860), and the Lawrence Courier (January 28, 1858 to December 23, 1858, January 3, 1861 to December 5, 1861, and January 4, 1856 to December 29, 1856.). There are some significant gaps in the newspaper holdings. The books have been removed to the Library, and the newspapers are located in box 5 of the collection, and are arranged by newspaper title and date.

## **VII. Scrapbooks, 1857-1965**

### **Box 3**

This series is composed of three scrapbooks filled mostly with newspaper clippings. The subjects of the newspaper clippings include the goings-on of the mills in Lawrence, sewage and street issues, drownings, railroads, water power, the water supply, the canals, the dam, the Merrimack River, Den Rock, the goings-on in Lawrence, golf, and the building and maintaining of bridges. Other materials in the scrapbooks include signs made by the Essex Company, statistics on manufactures, regulations, reports, maps, plans, advertisements for water power by the Essex Company, and correspondence. The majority of the materials in the scrapbooks date from 1857 to 1913. There is only one article that goes beyond that year, which is from 1965.

## **VIII. Objects, Undated**

### **Box 4 and the Carpenter Shop**

This series is composed of various objects used by Essex Company employees. The items include a large saw, brass and copper numbers probably used for numbering houses, a small scale, employee time sheet booklets, file cases, thermometers, metal tags with numbers on them, keys, cogs, and a bottle of pounce. The materials are undated but many seem to be fairly old. The copper numbers are covered with patina, and the keys are rusted. The scale has been broken and appears to have pieces missing. However, the large tools are in excellent condition, as is the cog.

## **IX. Images, 1893?-1985?**

### **Image Collection, Framed Photograph Room, and Box 3**

The types of images in this series varies widely, including framed signs, framed blueprints of machinery, posters, postcards, and photographs. The subjects of the materials also vary. The majority of the materials are photographs contained in two photograph albums. These photographs depict such things as the replacement of equipment in the dam, the head gate house on the North Canal, the canals in various states (including drained, filled with ice, and being repaired), the lock gate at the lower locks, the dam itself, and water power machinery. These images date from approximately 1893 to 1915. There are also images outside of these photograph albums. They include photographs of the second Essex Company main building and the dam, postcards and photographs of the theaters in Lawrence, a drawing of the Lawrence Poor Farm (almshouse), posters of Lawrence mayors, and signs warning people of the rules for entering Essex Company and Pemberton Company-owned land. These items date between approximately 1900 and 1985. The photograph albums are located in box 3 of the collection, the framed images are located in the framed photograph room, and the remaining loose images have been placed in the photograph collection. Copies of the loose images have been left in box 2.