



## **Guide to the Manchester School Register Collection at the Manchester Historic Association**

This document contains a complete list of all Manchester school attendance registers that are within the Manchester Historic Association's collection. The collection consists of 575 bound volumes of registers dating from the mid-1800s to the late 1960s for most Manchester public schools. These volumes are available for viewing at the MHA's Research Library at 129 Amherst Street, Manchester, NH. The collection was given to the Manchester Historic Association by the City of Manchester in two donations (2009.L044 and 2015.030). It is believed that a small number of volumes were separated from the collection and this document indicates gaps of years not found in the collection. One such volume that was separated from the collection was purchased from an antique dealer and given to the MHA by a private individual in 2015 (2015.038).

The Manchester school system began with a loose, four district system in 1783. By 1868 it had evolved into an eleven district, fifty-two school system with approximately forty-five hundred students. At this point the city assumed control of grading and administering the schools and eliminated the old district system. They then formed a more uniform system of primary, middle, and grammar schools which could be regulated according to standards set by the school board, with members from each ward of the city. Schools farther outside the center of the city were called first "rural," then "suburban," and finally "ungraded." As these areas developed, some became "partially graded" and some established their own graded schools. There were also schools with partial grading, more centrally located to accommodate students who could not attend regularly or during regular hours. Before 1886, numbers were used for identifying the primary, middle, and suburban schools, while the grammar schools, fewer in number, were identified by name. With growth and constant reorganization, the number system was officially dropped that year, except for the suburban schools. The teachers keeping the registers in this collection continued using their "numbers" for various periods after; some for years.

The register booklets themselves contain a vast amount of information valuable to research in genealogy, ethnography, Manchester history, education history, and much more. Each teacher recorded his or her own name, and every student's name and age that was actually registered for any class, whether they completed the course or not. Most of the later registers also contain student addresses. Each record contains a visitors log, absence/tardy log, cancellations and delays, honor roll, grades, and general comments. It is useful to examine the teacher comments, as many have interesting things to say about life in the school house, and the visitors log records every city or school official/VIP/etc. that walked through the doors. Cancellations corresponding to national and local events or storms, etc. can also be useful for

study. It is also interesting to follow a teacher's name from the "training school" to various other schools in the city, or track the movements of any particular educator as the system itself evolved. As the years go on, the booklets themselves (published by Superintendent W.E. Buck) improve and the teachers begin to write more legibly and completely, but the information is generally the same. There is much to be discovered in this collection.

This document was prepared by MHA Librarian Assistant Daniel Peters and James Skinner, a graduate student intern from the University of New Hampshire, during the fall of 2010. If there are any questions about this document or collection, please contact the MHA staff for further assistance.

| <u>School Name</u>                              | <u>Years Available</u> | <u># of Volumes</u> | <u>Gaps in Years</u>   |
|---|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Amoskeag  | 1875-1964              | 10                  | None                   |
| Ash   | 1874-1967              | 26                  | None                   |
| Bakersville                                     | 1875-1968              | 31                  | 1934-1937              |
| Beech Street and Bridge Street                  | 1879-89, 1876-77, 1882 | 1                   | 1878-1881 (Bridge St.) |
| Blodget   | 1877-1897              | 2                   | None                   |
| Brown   | 1912-1968              | 15                  | None                   |
| Brown Evenings                                  | 1920-1930              | 1                   | None                   |
| Central High School                             | 1883-1970              | 35                  | 1960-1961              |
| Central Evenings                                | 1911-1955              | 9                   | 1931-1933, 1939-1940   |
| Chandler  | 1906-1967              | 16                  | 1954-1961              |
| City Hall/ Elm Evenings and Hallsville Evenings | 1893-1900 & 1919-1922  | 1                   | 1900-1919              |
| Evening Drawing                                 | 1888-1910              | 2                   | None                   |
| Franklin  | 1877-1967              | 33                  | None                   |
| Franklin Evenings                               | 1897-1925              | 2                   | 1912-1914              |
| Goffe's Falls                                   | 1864-1964              | 9                   | None                   |
| Gossler Park                                    | 1956-1970              | 9                   | None                   |
| Green Acres                                     | 1963-1967              | 4                   | None                   |
| Hallsville                                      | 1864-1968              | 32                  | None                   |
| Harvey District                                 | 1864-1950              | 4                   | None                   |
| Highland  | 1903-1967              | 13                  | None                   |
| Jewett  | 1955-1969              | 10                  | None                   |
| Lincoln   | 1876-1967              | 26                  | 1954-1961              |
| Lincoln Evenings                                | 1910-1922              | 1                   | None                   |

| <u>School Name</u>                 | <u>Years Available</u>    | <u># of Volumes</u> | <u>Gaps in Years</u> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Lowell                             | 1886-1902                 | 2                   | None                 |
| Main                               | 1875-1956                 | 17                  | 1911-1914            |
| Manchester                         | 1875-1885                 | 1                   | None                 |
| Maynard                            | 1911-1968                 | 16                  | 1949-1961            |
| Maynard Evenings                   | 1917-1933                 | 2                   | None                 |
| Memorial High School               | 1960-1969                 | 9                   | None                 |
| Merrimac (Primary Training)        | 1875-1911                 | 6                   | None                 |
| Miscellaneous Evenings             | 1878-1931                 | 1                   | None                 |
| Mosquito Pond or<br>Crystal Lake   | 1864-1932                 | 2                   | 1897-1911            |
| No. 6 Suburban School<br>or Center | 1876-1885 & 1870-<br>1890 | 1                   | None                 |
| Parker                             | 1875-1970                 | 24                  | None                 |
| Pearl                              | 1894-1964                 | 10                  | None                 |
| Rimmon                             | 1894-1924                 | 7                   | None                 |
| Rimmon Evenings                    | 1895-1924                 | 2                   | 1912-1914            |
| Smyth Road                         | 1955-1967                 | 7                   | None                 |
| Southside Junior High              | 1967-1971                 | 4                   | None                 |
| Spring                             | 1875-1935                 | 12                  | None                 |
| Spring Evenings                    | 1883-1924                 | 3                   | 1896-1900            |
| Stark District                     | 1864-1932                 | 2                   | None                 |
| Straw                              | 1897-1967                 | 20                  | None                 |
| Varney                             | 1891-1969                 | 26                  | None                 |
| Webster                            | 1882-1969                 | 29                  | None                 |
| Webster Mills                      | 1867-1930                 | 2                   | None                 |
| West High                          | 1922-1969                 | 14                  | None                 |
| West High Evening                  | 1919-1956                 | 6                   | None                 |

| <u>School Name</u> | <u>Years Available</u> | <u># of Volumes</u> | <u>Gaps in Years</u> |
|--------------------|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Weston             | 1921-1971              | 12                  | None                 |
| Wilson             | 1895-1970              | 27                  | None                 |
| Wilson Evenings    | 1920-1930              | 1                   | None                 |
| Wilson Hill        | 1878-7896              | 1                   | None                 |
| Youngsville        | 1864-1968              | 14                  | None                 |

**Over Sized Registers**

|                              |           |   |      |
|------------------------------|-----------|---|------|
| Franklin or South<br>Grammar | 1846-1876 | 3 | None |
|------------------------------|-----------|---|------|