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**Nicholas Tillinghast Collection,
1840 - 2008
(UA-100.01.01)**



*Finding Aid Compiled by
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Nicholas Tillinghast Collection Biographical Sketch

Nicholas Tillinghast (1804-1856) was the first principal of the State Normal School at Bridgewater, serving from the school's opening in September 1840 until failing health compelled his resignation in July 1853. His term saw the successful transition from the experimental status of the state normal schools in Massachusetts to their status as permanent State institutions. This was exemplified by the dedication in 1846 of the first State Normal School Building in America. The school, under Tillinghast, was based upon the "fine art of teaching," not the "lecture-examination" or "recitation-examination" model common at the time.

Scope and Content Note

The collection has two main categories. Box 1 contains all original material dating to the life of Nicholas Tillinghast—primarily correspondence and business related records of the early days of the Bridgewater Normal School. Box 2 is all secondary sources relating to the life of Tillinghast—biographical information, past research material including genealogy, copies of parts of past publications containing content on Tillinghast, and copies of the two books that he authored. Student records from the years he was principal are not included. Images of Tillinghast can be found in Bridgewater State Normal School and College Principals and Presidents (VMC001) and the Bridgewater State Principals and Presidents Image Gallery.

Related collections include the Tillinghast Family Collection and a number of collections in University Archives pertaining to the early years of Bridgewater Normal such as Building and Grounds and other principals/presidents.

Nicholas Tillinghast Collection

Box and Folder List

Box 1

Folder

1. Letter from N. Tillinghast to Edward A.H. Allen, Dec. 18, 1847
2. Letter from N. Tillinghast to Charlotte R. Brown, Sept. 15, 1848
3. Letter of recommendation from N. Tillinghast on behalf of Albert G. Boyden, Jan. 3, 1850
4. Letter from N. Tillinghast to Albert G. Boyden, June 20, 1850
5. Letter from N. Tillinghast to Albert G. Boyden, June 28, 1850
6. Letter of recommendation from N. Tillinghast on behalf of Robert C. Metcalf, Jan. 1851
7. Receipt and letter from N.B. Chamberlain to N. Tillinghast, Feb. 1, 1853
8. Letter from N. Tillinghast to Albert G. Boyden, July 22, 1853
9. Letter from N. Tillinghast to Albert G. Boyden, Aug. 2, 1853
10. Letter from N. Tillinghast to Albert G. Boyden, Oct. 23, 1853
11. Letter from N. Tillinghast to Albert G. Boyden, Jan. 9, 1854
12. Letter from N. Tillinghast to unknown person at Bridgewater Normal, Dec. 15, 1854
13. Receipts of N. Tillinghast for school books from Burnham's Book Store in Boston, 1840-1843
14. Receipts of N. Tillinghast for school books and other publications, 1850-1851
15. Advertising receipts of N. Tillinghast for the Normal School in newspapers, 1841-1853
16. Receipts of N. Tillinghast for painting and other similar work done at the Normal School by J.S. Alden, 1842-1853
17. Receipts of N. Tillinghast from J. E. Crane, 1851-1853
18. Receipts of N. Tillinghast from Richard Edwards Jr., 1848-1850
19. Receipts of N. Tillinghast from Willard W. Fobes, 1851-1853
20. Receipts of N. Tillinghast from Ebenezer Gay, 1850-1853
21. Receipts of N. Tillinghast from Philo Leach, 1849-1850
22. Receipts of N. Tillinghast for transportation (by railroad), 1850
23. Receipts of N. Tillinghast for miscellaneous Normal School expenses, 1840-1853
24. Lithograph of N. Tillinghast, undated

Box 2

Folder

1. "Educational Worthies: Nicholas Tillinghast," part of *National Teachers' Monthly*, Vol. 1 No. 4, Feb. 1875 [based on Richard Edwards' eulogy of Tillinghast from 1856]
2. Research done on N. Tillinghast by Marcia Wakeling, 2005
3. BSU write ups on N. Tillinghast, including his family tree, 2005-2008
4. Copy of N. Tillinghast's obituary from the *Namasket Gazette* [Middleboro], May 2, 1856
5. Copies of N. Tillinghast's Will and biography; originals held by the Old Bridgewater Historical Society, 1851
6. Photocopies of material pertaining to N. Tillinghast's last Will and possessions, 1856

7. Information on the house owned by Philo Leach that N. Tillinghast lived in while at Bridgewater, taken from house survey done by the Massachusetts Historical Commission in 1984.
8. Copies of biographical information on N. Tillinghast from past BSU publications
9. Copies of parts of publications mentioning N. Tillinghast
10. Copy of page from Robert E. Lee's biography mentioning N. Tillinghast while at West Point, published in 1945.
11. Information on N. Tillinghast portrait owned by BSU
12. Photocopied version of *Elements of Plane Geometry, For the Use of Schools*, by Nicholas Tillinghast, 1844
13. Photocopied version of *Prayers for Schools*, by Nicholas Tillinghast, 1852
14. Research on N. Tillinghast's military career
15. Research on the English High School in Boston where N. Tillinghast worked in the late 1830s
16. In depth genealogy research on N. Tillinghast and his family members