

Guide to the Papers of William Barton Rogers
MC.0001
1804-1950

Finding aid prepared by Karen T. Lynch

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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Summary Information

Repository	Institute Archives and Special Collections
Creator	Rogers, William Barton, 1804-1882
Title	William Barton Rogers papers
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1834-1882
Date [inclusive]	1804-1950
Extent	5.0 cubic feet (14 manuscript boxes, 1 flat box, 1 oversize enclosure)
Language	English
Abstract	<p>This collection contains the personal correspondence of William Barton Rogers, the founder of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Family and professional correspondence, notes, articles, lectures, clippings, and drafts of articles on scientific topics, documents relating his philosophy on science and technology education, and many antecedent documents relating to the establishment and early years of MIT are included. An important part of the collection is drafts of documents prepared during Rogers's efforts to establish a new kind of scientific Institute and to organize the Massachusetts Institute of Technology which was formally incorporated on April 10, 1861, in Boston, Massachusetts. Later documents relate to the development of the educational curriculum, finances, faculty, and facilities of the Institute. There are also papers relating to Rogers' term as president of the National Academy of Sciences, and his involvement with the American Social Science Association and the American Association of Geologists and Naturalists (later the American Association for the Advancement of Science).</p>

Citation

William Barton Rogers papers, MC 1, box X. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Institute Archives and Special Collections, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Historical note

Founding of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

1846 March 13	William B. Rogers in a letter to his brother outlines a "Plan for a Polytechnic School in Boston."
1859 March 30	A memorial is written by Dr. Samuel Kneeland petitioning the 1859 Massachusetts legislature for a grant of land for a Conservatory of Art and Science. Issued as House document no. 260, it is not approved.
1859 summer	William B. Rogers on behalf of a committee representing various associations prepares a memorial for the 1860 Massachusetts legislature setting forth a plan for an Institute of Technology. It is issued as House document no. 13, but is not approved.
1860 summer	William B. Rogers is asked again to prepare a plan, resulting in the document <i>Objects and Plan of an Institute of Technology</i> . <i>Objects and Plan</i> is accepted by the Committee of Associated Institutions, read at a meeting of the Boston Board of Trade, and submitted to the Massachusetts legislature.
1861 January 7	Circular letter announces a meeting for the purpose of organizing the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
1861 January 11	Per circular letter and led by William Barton Rogers, a meeting of persons interested in establishing an Institute of Technology is held in Boston. An "Act of Association" is adopted.
1861 March 19	Report of the Joint Standing Committee on Education of the Massachusetts legislature on the

	Memorial of the Associated Institutions is issued as House document 171. William B. Rogers prepared the report.
1861 April 10	The Massachusetts legislature passes and Governor John Andrew signs "An Act to Incorporate the Massachusetts Institute of Technology" (Acts 1861, chapter 183).
1861 April 12	Civil War begins.
1861	<i>An Account of the Proceedings Preliminary to the Organization of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology</i> is published.
1862 April 8	An initial meeting is held to accept the charter, adopt bylaws, and choose officers to serve until the Government of the Institute is formally elected.
1862 December 17	First public meeting of the Society of Arts, one of three branches of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology proposed in the charter
1864 May 30	<i>Scope and Plan of the School of Industrial Science of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology</i> is adopted by the Corporation as the foundation of the Institute's educational philosophy, and the document is published.
1862 May 6	The Government (later known as the Corporation) of MIT is formally elected at the first Annual Meeting of the 54 incorporators. William Barton Rogers is elected president.
1865 February 20	First course of instruction begins with fifteen students. Classes are held at the Mercantile Building, Summer Street, Boston.
1868	First class of students graduates.

Biography

Rogers family chronology

1802 February 11	James Blythe Rogers (brother) is born.
1804 December 7	William Barton Rogers is born.
1808 August 1	Henry Darwin Rogers (brother) is born.
1812	The Rogers family moves to Baltimore, Maryland.
1813 March 29	Robert Empie Rogers (brother) is born.
1819	Patrick Kerr Rogers (father) is appointed professor of natural history and chemistry at the College of William and Mary, and the family moves to Williamsburg.
1819-1824	William Barton Rogers attends the College of William and Mary. It is unclear whether he ever actually graduated from the college.
1820	Hannah Blythe Rogers (mother) dies.
1822	James Blythe Rogers receives the MD degree from the University of Maryland and begins practicing medicine in Pennsylvania.
1825	William Barton Rogers and Henry Darwin Rogers move to Baltimore.
1826	William Barton Rogers and Henry Darwin Rogers open a school in Windsor, Maryland. Their brother Robert is among their pupils.
1827	James Blythe Rogers becomes professor of chemistry at Washington Medical College, Baltimore.
1827	William Barton Rogers gives a course of lectures at the Maryland Institute in Baltimore.
1828	Patrick Kerr Rogers dies. William Barton Rogers is chosen to fill his father's position as professor of natural philosophy and chemistry at the College of William and Mary.
1830	James Blythe Rogers marries Rachel Smith of Baltimore.

1830	William Barton Rogers assumes teaching duties in mathematics in addition to his other duties at the College of William and Mary.
1830	Henry Darwin Rogers becomes professor of chemistry and natural philosophy at Dickinson College in Pennsylvania. While at Dickinson, he also edits a periodical entitled "The Messenger of Useful Knowledge."
1832-1833	Henry Darwin Rogers spends the winter in London, where he becomes acquainted with members of the Geological Society of London and other scientists. His impressions of the development of science in Europe are communicated in letters to his brothers.
1833	William Barton Rogers is elected a correspondent of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.
1833 December 17	William Barton Rogers II is born (nephew of William Barton Rogers, son of James Blythe Rogers).
circa 1833-1835	Henry Darwin Rogers lectures on geology for the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia.
1834	William Barton Rogers writes his first important scientific publications, the results of his observations of Virginia's greensand and marl.
1835	William Barton Rogers is chosen as a member of the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.
1835	William Barton Rogers is elected a member of the Virginia Historical and Philosophical Society of Richmond.
1835	William Barton Rogers is appointed to the chair of natural philosophy at the University of Virginia and moves to Charlottesville. Most summers are spent in fieldwork for the geological surveys.
1835-1839	James Blythe Rogers is professor of chemistry in the Medical Department of the University of Cincinnati.

1835-1840	Henry Darwin Rogers leads the New Jersey Geological Survey and publishes a report and a map of the state.
1835-1846	Henry Darwin Rogers is professor of geology and mineralogy at the University of Pennsylvania.
1835-1848	William Barton Rogers serves as state geologist of Virginia. He is assisted in fieldwork by his brothers.
1836	Robert Empie Rogers graduates from the Medical Department of the University of Pennsylvania.
1836-1856	Henry Darwin Rogers is head of the Pennsylvania Geological Survey.
1840	William Barton Rogers, Henry Darwin Rogers, and Robert Empie Rogers participate in founding the Association of American Geologists and Naturalists, the parent organization of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
1840	James Blythe Rogers moves to Philadelphia, where he assists William Barton Rogers in field and lab work and lectures on medicine.
1841	James Blythe Rogers is appointed professor of chemistry at the Medical Institute of Philadelphia.
1842	William Barton Rogers and Henry Darwin Rogers present a paper on their theory of the structure of the Appalachian Mountain chain before the third annual meeting of the Association of American Geologists and Naturalists in Boston.
1842	William Barton Rogers and Henry Darwin Rogers are elected honorary members of the Boston Society of Natural History.
1842	Robert Empie Rogers becomes professor of applied chemistry and materia medica at the University of Virginia.
1843	Robert Empie Rogers marries Fanny Montgomery.
1844	William Barton Rogers and Henry Darwin Rogers are elected foreign members of the Geological Society of London.

1844	William Barton Rogers is elected a member of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries, Copenhagen.
1844-1845	William Barton Rogers serves as chairman of the faculty of the University of Virginia.
1844-1847	James Blythe Rogers is professor of chemistry at the Franklin Institute.
1845	William Barton Rogers is elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
1846	In response to Henry Darwin Rogers's request, William Barton Rogers writes A Plan for a Polytechnic School in Boston, a plan the brothers hoped would be funded by the Lowell Institute. The terms of the Lowell will did not allow the plan to be funded.
1846	Robert Empie Rogers publishes a textbook on chemistry.
1847	James Blythe Rogers becomes professor of chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania.
1848	William Barton Rogers receives an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Hampden-Sidney College in Virginia.
1849	James Rogers, uncle of the Rogers brothers, dies.
1849	William Barton Rogers marries Emma Savage of Boston, and the couple take a honeymoon trip to England, Scotland, and Switzerland, then return to Charlottesville in October.
1850	William Barton Rogers II (nephew) enters the University of Virginia.
1852	James Blythe Rogers dies in Philadelphia. His position as professor of chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania is filled by Robert Empie Rogers. William Barton Rogers II returns to Philadelphia; he never resumes his study at the University of Virginia
1852-1857?	William Barton Rogers II (nephew) works as an assistant on the Geological Survey of Pennsylvania.

1853	William Barton Rogers resigns his professorship at the University of Virginia and moves to Boston, where he delivers several courses of public lectures.
1854	Henry Darwin Rogers marries Eliza Lincoln, a half-sister of Emma Savage Rogers.
1856	Robert Empie Rogers is elected dean of the medical faculty at the University of Pennsylvania.
1857	Henry Darwin Rogers is awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by the University of Dublin.
1857	William Barton Rogers travels to Great Britain for his health and attends a meeting of the British Association in Dublin.
1857	Henry Darwin Rogers becomes Regius Professor of Natural History at the University of Glasgow, Scotland.
1859	William Barton Rogers receives an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the College of William and Mary.
1861	William Barton Rogers is appointed state inspector of gas meters and gas for the state of Massachusetts.
1861 April 10	The "Act to Incorporate the Massachusetts Institute of Technology" is passed by the legislature and approved by Governor Andrew.
1862 May 6	At the first Annual Meeting of the Government of the Institute, William Barton Rogers is elected president of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
1862 December	William Barton Rogers II is appointed treasurer of the Saving Fund Society of Philadelphia.
1862-1863	Robert Empie Rogers serves as acting assistant surgeon at West Philadelphia Military Hospital.
1863	William Barton Rogers attends the organizational meeting of the National Academy of Sciences. Although he was a charter member of the Academy, he was dropped for lack of attendance and later reinstated.

1863-1869	William Barton Rogers serves as corresponding secretary of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.
1864	Robert Empie Rogers and others found the Humboldt Oil Company, which fails in 1873.
1864	William Barton Rogers resigns his office as state inspector of gas meters and gas.
1864-1866	Henry Darwin Rogers serves as president of the Philosophical Society of Glasgow.
1865	William Barton Rogers is elected first president of the newly-organized American Social Science Association.
1866	Robert Empie Rogers marries Delia Saunders.
1866	Henry Darwin Rogers dies in Scotland.
1866	Harvard University confers an honorary Doctor of Laws degree on William Barton Rogers.
1867	William Barton Rogers is appointed commissioner to represent Massachusetts at the Universal Exposition at Paris.
1868	Due to ill health, William Barton Rogers retires from teaching physics at MIT. Professor John Daniel Runkle is appointed as acting president to serve until William Barton Rogers is well enough to resume his administrative duties.
1869	The Rogers Laboratory of Physics is established by E. C. Pickering and named in honor of William Barton Rogers.
1870	The first proposals of a union of MIT and Harvard are made. William Barton Rogers was consistently opposed to the proposed union.
1870 May 17	William Barton Rogers resigns the presidency of MIT because of his poor health.
1870 September	William Barton Rogers II becomes a member of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.
1870 October 3	John D. Runkle becomes second president of MIT

1872-1875	Robert Empie Rogers does research aimed at improving metal refining techniques in the US Mint.
1873	James Savage, William Barton Rogers's father-in-law, dies.
1875-1879	Robert Empie Rogers serves as president of the Franklin Institute.
1876	William Barton Rogers is elected president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
1877	Robert Empie Rogers becomes professor of medical chemistry and toxicology at Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia.
1878 June 12	John D. Runkle resigns as MIT president
1878 February	William Barton Rogers II is appointed vice president of the Saving Fund of Philadelphia.
1878-1887	William Barton Rogers II is a member of the Board of Directors of the Mercantile Library Company.
1879-1882	William Barton Rogers serves as president of the National Academy of Sciences.
1879 December 10	William Barton Rogers begins a second term as MIT president
1880	The American Association for the Advancement of Science meets in Boston, and William Barton Rogers serves as host chairman.
1880	William Barton Rogers II is chosen a member of the American Philosophical Society.
1881 May	Francis Amasa Walker is formally elected to succeed William Barton Rogers as president of MIT.
1881 November 10	Francis A. Walker takes office as president of MIT.
1882 May 30	William Barton Rogers dies in Boston.
1882 October	William Barton Rogers II is elected one of the Board of Managers of the Saving Fund Society of Philadelphia.
1883	Robert Empie Rogers receives an honorary Doctor of Law degree from Dickinson College in Pennsylvania.

1883	The original building of the Institute is renamed the Rogers Building in honor of William Barton Rogers.
1883	The highest mountain in Virginia is named Mt. Rogers in honor of William Barton Rogers.
1884	Robert Empie Rogers dies.
1887	William Barton Rogers II becomes a member of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.
1893 January	William Barton Rogers II is elected one of the Board of Trustees of the Building Fund of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and secretary of the Board.
1893 March 15	William Barton Rogers II dies.
1896	<i>Life and Letters of William Barton Rogers</i> , edited by Emma Savage Rogers with the assistance of William Thompson Sedgwick, is published.
1911	Emma Savage Rogers dies.

William Barton Rogers was one of four sons of Patrick Kerr Rogers and Hannah Blythe Rogers. The eldest of his brothers, James Blythe Rogers, was trained as a physician, but spent most of his life as a professor of chemistry. Henry Darwin Rogers made his primary scientific contributions in the field of geology, and the youngest brother, Robert Empie Rogers, was a professor of chemistry and physician. Throughout their lives, the four brothers worked in close conjunction in their scientific endeavors, with the result that a description of one brother's achievements is incomplete without some account of the others' activities.

Best known as founder and first president of MIT, William Barton Rogers began his career as professor of natural philosophy and chemistry at the College of William and Mary and later taught natural philosophy at the University of Virginia. He also served as state geologist of Virginia and led the first Geological Survey of the state. At about the same time, Henry Darwin Rogers was state geologist of New Jersey and state geologist of Pennsylvania. Although Willam Rogers taught many facets of natural philosophy and chemistry, he made significant contributions in geology, and his articles were often co-authored by his brother Henry. In 1849, William Rogers married Emma Savage of Boston, and in 1853 the couple moved to Boston. Supported by the scientific community of Boston, Rogers brought to life his conception of a dual theoretical and technical scientific education, and largely through his efforts, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was incorporated in 1861. William Barton Rogers served as President of MIT from the first meeting of the incorporators in 1862 until 1870, then served a second term as president from 1879 until 1881. He died in 1882 and is buried in the James Savage plot in Mount Auburn Cemetery, Cambridge, Massachusetts.

The youngest of the Rogers family members represented in this collection of papers is William Barton Rogers II, who was a son of James Blythe Rogers and was named in honor of his uncle. William B. Rogers II, was exposed early to the scientific activities of his father and uncles, who encouraged him to seek a career in science. Although he maintained an amateur interest in science, William B. Rogers II, turned to a career in banking and served the Western Savings Fund Society of Philadelphia for thirty years.

Scope and contents of the collection

The William Barton Rogers manuscript collection consists primarily of family and professional correspondence, but also includes notes, drafts of speeches and legislative petitions, documents relating to the founding of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, scientific publications, and biographical material collected after his death in 1882. There is also correspondence between his wife, Emma Savage Rogers, and his colleagues, particularly when he was ill, as well as her own correspondence after his death.

Two volumes of selected letters of William Barton Rogers and other members of his family were published in 1896. These volumes, titled *Life and Letters of William Barton Rogers*, were edited by his widow and they constitute an important source of information about the family. The relationship between the published volumes of letters and the manuscript collection is unclear. Not all the letters that appear in *Life and Letters* still exist in the Rogers papers. At the same time, there are letters in the manuscript collection that were not published in *Life and Letters*.

Family and scientific correspondence

The strength of the collection is the extensive family and professional correspondence represented in it. For the years 1821 to 1851 the papers that have been preserved are primarily family correspondence. In the case of the Rogers family, since all four of the Rogers brothers were noted scientists, family correspondence often doubled as scientific correspondence. Each brother corresponded with the others about his own personal and professional activities, new techniques in experimentation, issues in scientific inquiry, and news of other members of the family.

In addition, the brothers all corresponded with their colleagues on scientific topics, and the collection includes letters to and from such noted scientists as James D. Dana, Charles H. Hitchcock, John L. LeConte, F. B. Meek, J. S. Newberry, H. C. Williams, Charles Daubeny, William C. Redfield, Louis Agassiz, Edward Hitchcock, William Gregory, W. C. Bond, Ogden Rood, Eben Coffin, E. S. Snell, George Brush, John A. Tobin, John Rodgers, J. W. Mallett, C. W. Jenks, James Orton, William J. McAlpine, Matthew F. Maury, Asa Gray, William R. Galt, Andrew H. Russell, Wolcott Gibbs, T. H. Huxley, James Mcfarlane, and Henry Wadsworth.

Geology

During his years as a teacher at the College of William and Mary and later at the University of Virginia, William Barton Rogers lectured on a variety of subjects, including physics, chemistry, astronomy, geology, and natural history. His professional interest in geology seems to date from Henry Darwin Rogers's first trip to England during the winter of 1832-33. Having secured positions as leaders of state geological surveys, William Barton Rogers in Virginia and Henry Darwin Rogers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, the two brothers worked closely for several years.

Their combined efforts in fieldwork and interpretation of data led to their theory of the origin of the Appalachian Mountains, first articulated at the meeting of the American Association of Geologists and Naturalists in 1842. The theory was controversial from the moment of its presentation to the scientific community, and modern geologists have completely rejected it.

Although the Rogers theory failed to gain acceptance, their meticulously accurate fieldwork is still recognized as a major contribution to geology, and the controversial theory, along with the fieldwork, made the Rogers brothers well-known among geologists of the nineteenth century. In this light, the almost complete lack of field notes in the Rogers papers is disappointing.

Scientific papers in the collection include William Barton Rogers's notes on published articles on various topics, drafts of his own articles, and a draft of a textbook, as well as correspondence with other scientists. The scientific papers are more substantial after about 1858, by which time William Barton Rogers had settled in Boston. After *Life and Letters* had been published, Rogers widow, Emma Savage Rogers, donated letters and books on geology relating to the state geological survey to the Virginia State Library.

Scientific Societies

In addition to strictly scientific activities, William Barton Rogers's correspondence and other papers reflect his involvement with developing scientific societies, among them the National Academy of Sciences, the American Social Science Association, and the American Association of Geologists and Naturalists, which later became the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Rogers served terms as president of the American Association of Geologists and Naturalists in 1847, president of the American Social Science Association beginning in 1865, and president of the National Academy of Sciences from 1879 to 1882. Because of his involvement with these and other scientific societies, Rogers's papers include correspondence with Alexander Dallas Bache, Spencer Fullerton Baird, O. C. Marsh, Simon Newcomb, H. C. Williams, F. W. Putnam, James Hall, F. B. Sanborn, Joseph Henry, J. S. Newberry, Gamaliel Bradford, Otto Struve, Edward Burgess, Weir Mitchell, and Samuel Scudder. The documentation of Rogers's term as president of the National Academy of Sciences is particularly complete, and includes notes for meetings, drafts of proceedings, copies of committee reports, and circular letters as well as general correspondence.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

From 1860 to 1870, and again from 1875 until William Barton Rogers's death, the collection is dominated by papers relating to the foundation, organization, and administration of MIT. Documents relating to the initial organization of the school include lists of people to whom information about the new school should be sent, subscription records of donors, informal memoranda on meetings, drafts of the memorials to the legislature, and correspondence among those in the community who supported the development of the school. The book *Mind and Hand: The Birth of MIT*, by Julius A. Stratton and Loretta Mannix, as well

as *Life and Letters of William Barton Rogers*, will enhance understanding of the finding aid and the collection.

Rogers is recognized as the founder of MIT, and from 1862 until 1870, and again from 1879 until 1881, he served as president of the Institute. The collection includes correspondence with students, prospective students, faculty, and officials of the Institute. Because of Rogers's role as primary administrator, letters of application from prospective faculty members, letters of recommendation, bills, accounts, and student petitions also appear in the Rogers papers. Subseries C of series 2, Documents related to the founding of MIT is an important source of information about the early years of MIT. Drafts of reports and correspondence on these events are also found in series 1, which is arranged chronologically.

In 1870, Rogers retired from the presidency of MIT because of poor health. There are few papers dating from the 1870s, although Rogers's successor to the presidency, John Daniel Runkle, kept him informed of Institute affairs. In 1878, Runkle resigned and in December 1879 Rogers became president of MIT for the second time. Correspondence among Rogers, Runkle, and President Charles W. Eliot of Harvard on the subject of the proposed merger is extant in the collection. At the same time, MIT was searching for a successor to Rogers, who had agreed to serve only until a new president could be found. Francis Amasa Walker was chosen to succeed Rogers, and correspondence between the two men about the mechanics of the change of office is also in the collection.

Arrangement of collection

Organized into two series: Series 1. Correspondence and Notebooks, Series 2. Writings and Publications

Series 2 has been arranged into six subseries. A. Publications on geology and related sciences by William Barton Rogers, Henry Darwin Rogers, and Robert Empie Rogers; B. Geology publications by Henry Darwin Rogers; C. Documents of the founding of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; D. Publications of organizations; E. Sources for biography of William Barton Rogers; and F. Clippings.

Each series is arranged chronologically. The dated items in the collection are followed by undated items, which are grouped by type of document (correspondence, drafts, notes) insofar as they could be identified.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Institute Archives and Special Collections 1977

Revision Description

Revised by Erin Edwards and Elizabeth Andrews 2007, 2009

Access note

The collection is open for research.

Intellectual property rights

Access to collections in the Institute Archives and Special Collections is not authorization to publish. Separate written application for permission to publish must be made to the Institute Archives. Copyright of some items in this collection may be held by respective creators, not by the donor of collection.

Custodial history note

The collection is an aggregate of papers given to the MIT Libraries between 1941 and 1978, and a small number of items donated or transferred to the Institute Archives and Special Collections since 1978. It is probable that most of the Rogers papers were given to the MIT Libraries by Emma Savage Rogers after the 1896 publication of *Life and Letters*, two volumes of selected letters of William Barton Rogers that she edited with the assistance of William T. Sedgwick. Many of the documents bear editorial markings, and some typed manuscripts of letters, annotated in Emma Savage Rogers's hand are also among the papers. Additional items were initially cataloged into the Libraries book collection, and were relocated and placed with this collection when it was formally processed in 1978 and 1979.

Location of originals

The original charter (Act to Incorporate the Massachusetts Institute of Technology) is located at the Massachusetts State Archives.

Related Materials

Related archival materials

COLLECTIONS AT MIT

MC 2

Rogers family papers, 1811-1904

MC 3

William Barton Rogers II papers, 1817-1919

MC 7

John D. Runkle papers, 1853-1880

AC 278

MIT Corporation minutes, 1862-

COLLECTIONS AT OTHER INSTITUTIONS

The Libria of Virginia

Virginia Geological Survey Records, 1836-1842

Historical Society of Philadelphia

papers

National Academy of Sciences Archives

records

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- Association of American Geologists and Naturalists.
- Committee of Associated Institutions of Science and Arts. (Boston, Mass.)
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Alumni Association.
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Society of Arts.
- National Academy of Sciences (U.S.).

Personal Name(s)

- Agassiz, Louis, 1807-1873
- Andrew, John A. (John Albion), 1818-1867
- Atkinson, Edward, 1827-1905
- Crafts, J.M. (James Mason), 1839-1917
- Crosby, William Otis, 1850-1925
- Cross, Charles R. (Charles Robert), 1848-1921
- Dalton, Charles Henry
- Eliot, Charles William, 1834-1926
- Hilgard, J.E. (Julius Erasmus), 1825-1891
- Hitchcock, Edward, 1828-1911
- Holman, Silas W. (Silas Whitcomb), 1856-1900

- Kneeland, Samuel, 1821-1888
- Lanza, Gaetano, 1848-1928
- Newcomb, Simon, 1847-1886
- Nichols, Wm. Ripley (William Ripley), 1847-1886
- Ordway, John M. (John Morse), 1823-1909
- Richards, Ellen H. (Ellen Henrietta), 1842-1911
- Richards, Robert H. (Robert Hallowell), 1844-1945
- Rogers, Emma (Emma Savage)
- Rogers, Henry D. (Henry Darwin), 1808-1866
- Rogers, James B., 1803-1852
- Rogers, Robert (Robert Empie), 1813-1884
- Rogers, William Barton, 1804-1882
- Ross, M. Denman
- Runkle, John D. (John Daniel), 1822-1902
- Storer, Frank H. (Frank Humphreys), 1832-1914
- Tappan, Lewis, 1788-1873
- Webb, Thomas H. (Thomas Hopkins), 1801-1866

Subject(s)

- Boston (Mass.) -- History -- 19th century
- College presidents -- Massachusetts --Biography
- Education, Higher -- Massachusetts -- Boston
- Education, Higher -- Massachusetts -- Cambridge
- Engineering --Study and teaching--United States -- History
- Geologists -- United States -- Biography
- Massachusetts Institute of Technology -- History
- Science--Study and teaching (Higher) -- United States --History
- Scientists -- United States -- Biography

Bibliography

Life and Letters of William Barton Rogers, edited by his wife with the assistance of William T. Sedgwick, in two volumes. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Company, 1896.

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Angulo, Alex J. *William Barton Rogers and the Idea of MIT*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University, 2008.

Stratton, Julius A. "The New Academy of Engineering" *Technology Review* 67 (9): 41-44, 1965.

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology: A Brief Account of its Foundation, Character, and Equipment. Boston, Mass.: published by the Institute for use at the St. Louis Exposition, 1904.

Index of Correspondents

Corporate Name(s)

- (Texas) Agricultural College, College Sta., TX folder 81
- Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia folder 59
- Albemarle Free School Association folder 21
- Alumni Association folders 72, 74, 75, 82, 84
- American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Boston folder 104
- American Almanac folder 11
- American Association for the Advancement of Science folders 71, 74, 82, 104, 105, 128
- American Institute folder 60
- American Philological Association folder 128
- American Social Science Association folders 58, 59, 70, 71, 72
- American Society of Civil Engineers folder 94
- American Society of Mechanical Engineers folder 122
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- Boston Board of Trade folder 35
- Boston City Hospital folder 61
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- Committee on Buildings and Grounds folder 78

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- Institute of Civil Engineers, London folder 61
- Lowell Institute, Boston folder 53
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- Maryland Institute for the Promotion of the Mechanic Arts, Baltimore folder 5
- Maryland University folder 2
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- National Association of Wool Manufacturers folder 73
- National Board of Trade folder 74
- New England Society for the Promotion of Manufacturers and the Mechanic Arts folder 35
- New Hampshire Historical Society folder 7
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Correspondence and Notebooks

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Macfarlane, James. "Geologists' travelling hand-book, or American geological railway guide." New York: D. Appleton and Co. 1879	11	175
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Rogers, William Barton. "Address on the scientific work and character of Joseph Henry, delivered in the Hall of Representatives, Washington, D. C." printed by order of Congress. 1880	11	176
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General Note

In the first edition of this book, William Barton Rogers wrote the section on Virginia and West Virginia. In the second edition, the section on West Virginia has been revised, but William Barton Rogers' article on Virginia has been retained.

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Rogers, Henry Darwin. "Description of the geology of the state of New Jersey, being a final report, by Henry Darwin Rogers, State Geologist." Philadelphia: C. Sherman and Co., printers, 1840. 301 pages. "Report on the coal lands of the Mahanoy and Shamokin Improvement Company." Boston: Thurston, Torry and Co., printers. 1840-1850	12	179
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Rogers, Henry Darwin. "Reports of Professor H. D. Rogers on Wheatley, Brookdale, and Charlestown Mines, Phoenixville, Chester County, Pennsylvania." Philadelphia: T. K. and P. G. Collins, printers. 1853	12	181
Rogers, Henry Darwin. "A few facts regarding the geological survey of Pennsylvania, exposing the erroneous statements and claims of J.P. Lesley". 1859	12	181a

Subseries C. Documents of the founding of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology**Historical note**

Note is excerpted from *Geology at M.I.T., 1865-1965*, by Robert R. Shrock. MIT Press, 1977, pages 205-207.

The earliest of the documents pertaining explicitly to the precursor of MIT was a memorial drawn up by Dr. Samuel Kneeland petitioning the 1859 Massachusetts legislature for a grant of state land in Back Bay for a Conservatory of Art and Science. It was presented to the legislature on March 30, 1859 as House Document No. 260 but was not approved.

Documents of the founding of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology

William B. Rogers's name appears in the list of petitioners but he seems to have taken little part in the effort, probably because he was away from Boston. However, when the decision was made to submit another petition, this time to the 1860 legislature, William was asked to prepare a new memorial. This he did during the summer of 1859 and it was presented to the legislature as House Document No. 13. As before, this was not approved.

A subcommittee of the Association of Institutions was charged with another effort and Rogers was asked to prepare the requested plan which he did in the summer of 1860. The resulting document was his *Objects and Plan of an Institute of Technology*. This document is commonly referred to in discussions of the beginning of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology as the founding document.

Objects and Plan was accepted by the Committee of Associated Institutions, read at a public meeting at the Boston Board of Trade on October 5, 1860, and submitted soon after to the Massachusetts legislature.

Action came swiftly from the legislature in the form of a joint standing committee, and again Rogers was asked to prepare a report, which appeared in March 1861 as Report of the Joint Standing Committee of the Massachusetts legislature of 1861 on the Memorial of the Associated Institutions of Science and Art. House Document 171, March 19, 1861.

On April 10, 1861 (two days before the start of the Civil War) the legislature passed and Governor John Andrew signed An Act to incorporate the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Acts 1861, chapter 183) which provided for a square of Back Bay land between Newbury and Boylston streets. The many activities centering around the memorials and reports to the Massachusetts legislature regarding the Back Bay land and the chartering of MIT are related by Rogers in an 1861 account titled *An Account of Proceedings Preliminary to the Organization of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology* (Boston, 1861).

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[\[http://libraries.mit.edu/mithistory/pdf/account.pdf\]](http://libraries.mit.edu/mithistory/pdf/account.pdf)

"Objects and plan of an institute of technology, including a society of arts, a museum of arts, and a school of industrial science, proposed to be established in Boston." Prepared by William Barton Rogers by direction of the Committee of Associated Institutions of Science and Arts. Boston: printed by John Wilson and Son. 1860

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"Objects and plan of an institute of technology, including a society of arts, a museum of arts, and a school of industrial science, proposed to be established in Boston." Prepared by William Barton Rogers by direction of the Committee of Associated Institutions of Science and Arts. Boston: John Wilson and Son, printers, 1860., 1860

[\[http://libraries.mit.edu/archives/mithistory/pdf/objects-plan.pdf\]](http://libraries.mit.edu/archives/mithistory/pdf/objects-plan.pdf)

"Report of the Joint Standing Committee of the Massachusetts Legislature of 1861 on the memorial of the Associated Institutions of Science and Art." House document number 171." 1861 March 19

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"An account of proceedings preliminary to the organization of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology." Boston: printed by John Wilson and Son. 1861

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"An account of proceedings preliminary to the organization of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology." Boston: John Wilson and Son, printers, 1861, 1861

[\[http://libraries.mit.edu/archives/mithistory/pdf/account.pdf\]](http://libraries.mit.edu/archives/mithistory/pdf/account.pdf)

"Addition to the act to incorporate the Massachusetts Institute of Technology." Massachusetts Legislature: Senate document number 226. 1865 May 1

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Hall, James. "Memorial of James Hall, State Geologist, to the legislature of the state of New York." State of New York number 80. New York, 1882. 5 pages; Committee on Printing. "Report of the Committee...relative to continuing the publication of the work on the palaentology of the state." State of New York number 88. New York. Bound together. 1882	12	190
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Shrock, Robert R. *Geology at MIT, 1865-1965. Appendix B. Biographies, Biographical References, and Other Sources of Information reWilliam Barton Rogers (1804-1882)*, 1977

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Roberts, J. K. "William Barton Rogers and his contributions to the geology of Virginia, read before the National Academy of Sciences at the University of Virginia Meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 1935." American Philosophical Society. <i>Miscellanea</i> , photocopy. 1/2: 65-68. 1936	13	227
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