



City of Manchester Archives  
One City Hall Plaza  
Manchester, NH 03101  
603.624.6455 – [mintranuovo@manchesternh.gov](mailto:mintranuovo@manchesternh.gov)  
[www.manchesternh.gov/archives](http://www.manchesternh.gov/archives)

### ***Collection Summary***

**Repository:** Manchester City Archives. Office of the City Clerk. City of Manchester, NH.

**Creator:** Police Department. City of Manchester, NH.

**Title:** Complaint Records

**Collection Number:** 0412.006

**Accession Number:** 2002.20

**Dates:** 1868-1925

**Volume:** 9 bound volumes; 8 oversized boxes

**Languages:** Collection materials are in English.

**Access:** Access to collection is open to the public. Please contact the archives for an appointment to view materials. Cite the collection number when making an appointment.

**Digital Note:** Materials are not accessible online at this time.

**Conservation Notes:** Not applicable.

**Finding Aid Prepared by:** Kathy Gardner, 2001; Mike Intranuovo, 2015.

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### Historical Note

The City of Manchester's Police Department has existed since 1846. According to an ordinance from the same year, the department exists to "preserve the public peace, and prevent all riots, disorders and unlawful practices within the City." Early responsibilities of the department included administering the City's ambulance services, observing defects in highways and streets, and reporting all causes of sickness and sources of filth. The department has worked throughout its history to serve the greater good by protecting life, property, and the liberties of Manchester's residents and the community at large.

### Collection Description

This collection consists of nine handwritten bound volumes created by the Police Department. The volumes are daily logs of complaints received by the department from residents and visitors of Manchester. Each entry includes a date, a description of the complaint, and some include an abridged complaint description along the left hand column. Names of people and addresses are often included in descriptions; names of police officers are infrequently recorded. Entries in the volumes are in chronological order.

Entries in the volumes were often reports of crimes committed, but other times they were only complaints of non-criminal activity, such as losing personal property. The department also operated the ambulance service during this time, so there are entries regarding accidents and attempted suicides. Crimes in the earlier volumes frequently include drunkenness, larceny, assault, and fornication. Other entries documented reports of runaways and escapees from prisons, insane asylums, orphanages, and other institutions. Other events included an account of the Kennard building fire (1902-01-14) and a murder occurring at the Amoskeag Corporation (1902-01-09). Later volumes reflect changes in society such as accidents involving automobiles and children running into them, as well as accidents between automobiles and horse-drawn carriages.

<b>Volume Title</b>	<b>Box Number</b>
October 01, 1868 – September 07, 1874	1
August 01, 1900 – December 31, 1902	2
January 01, 1903 – November 30, 1904	3
December 01, 1904 – September 21, 1906	4
October 01, 1908 – October 03, 1910	5
October 04, 1910 – July 01, 1912	1
January 01, 1914 – August 09, 1915	6
July 25, 1917 – July 28, 1919	7
November 10, 1924 – December 31, 1925	8