

## Guide to the Conant's Steam Laundry Account Books, 1886-1911

### Administrative Information

**Title and Dates:**

Conant's Steam Laundry Account Books, 1886-1911

**Repository:**

New Hampshire Historical Society  
30 Park Street  
Concord, NH 03301  
603-228-6688  
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

**Collection Number:**

2019.042

**Author of Finding Aid:**

Jason Lewis

**Creator:**

Conant's Steam Laundry

**Language:**

The materials in this collection are in English.

**Extent:**

22 volumes, and 1 oversized folder ; 2.13 linear feet

**Abstract:**

Henry Estes Conant was born in Barre, Massachusetts, in 1843. He was a resident of Concord, New Hampshire, for 32 years. He opened and operated Conant's Steam Laundry at 11 Depot Street in Concord in 1884. The collection's account books document the company's activities from 1886 to 1900; included are papers of Conant from 1898 to 1911.

## Access and Use

### **Acquisition Information and Provenance:**

Conant's Steam Laundry Account Books were a gift of Anne Q. Hartshorn in July 2019.

### **Processing Information:**

This collection was processed by Jason Lewis in December 2019. The finding aid was written by Jason Lewis in December 2019. This finding aid follows the standards set forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

### **Access Restrictions:**

Available for research.

### **Location:**

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

### **Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:**

Due to the fragility of this collection, this collection requires library supervision when used.

### **Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:**

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

### **Preferred Citation:**

Item title, Conant's Steam Laundry Account Books, 2019.042. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

## Collection Overview

### **Administrative Information:**

Henry Estes Conant was born in Barre, Massachusetts, on May 24, 1843 to George W. and Laura (Cheney) Conant. He served in the 21st Massachusetts Volunteers with the 9<sup>th</sup> Army Corps during the Civil War from July 1861 to July 1865. He married Josephine E. Huntley (1848-1915) of Topsham, VT, in Manchester, NH, on May 1, 1878. She was born December 3, 1848 at Topsham, the daughter of Augustus D. and Mehitable Jane (Perkins) Huntley. Josephine had one child: Laura Cheney Conant (1891-1987). Conant moved to Concord, NH, in 1879 where he was employed with the Concord Steam Laundry. After working there for five years, he started his own laundry service, Conant's Steam Laundry, at 11 Depot Street in 1884, which served both households and commercial establishments.

Conant's Steam Laundry operated on the first floor and the basement of 11 Depot Street in Concord, as well as on one floor of the building across the street. The company had thirty-five employees and in 1887 included the following steam powered machinery: two washing machines, one collar ironer, and a shirt ironer. By 1900, Conant's Steam Laundry was doing business throughout New Hampshire and Vermont.

A popular man, Conant was a resident of Concord for 32 years. He served on the Board of Alderman, 1895-1898; served in the State House of Representatives in 1899; was a City Water Commissioner, 1900-1911; and was a member of the Grand Army of the Republic, the Masonic Order, and the Odd Fellows Society. Henry Conant died in Concord on July 27, 1911. Josephine died there on July 8, 1915.

**Collection Scope and Content Note:**

Conant's Steam Laundry Account Books document the activities of the Conant's Steam Laundry company of Concord, NH, from 1886 to 1900. The collection is comprised of twenty daybooks dating from 1886 to 1899 and two journals, one dated 1889 to 1890 and one dated 1899 to 1900.

Other materials included in this collection are a portrait of Henry E. Conant; three certificates of Henry Conant, two from the Grand Army of the Republic and one from the Society of the Army of the Potomac, dating from 1898 to 1911; and a photograph of the engineers of the Concord and Montreal Railroad. See "Separated Materials" for more information.

**Arrangement:**

The materials in this collection are organized chronologically.

**Contents List**

- Volume 1 Daybook, 1886 July 22-December 8
- Volume 2 Daybook, 1886 December 8-March 2
- Volume 3 Daybook, 1887 March 2-May 17
- Volume 4 Daybook, 1887 May 17-July 7
- Volume 5 Daybook, 1887 July 8-August 19
- Volume 6 Daybook, 1887 August 22-October 5
- Volume 7 Daybook, 1887 November 28-1888 March 5
- Volume 8 Daybook, 1888 March 5-June 1
- Volume 9 Daybook, 1888 June 4-August 17
- Volume 10 Daybook, 1888 August 20-November 8
- Volume 11 Daybook, 1888 November 8-1889 February 5
- Volume 12 Daybook, 1889 May 1-July 17
- Volume 13 Daybook, 1889 July 17-October 3
- Volume 14 Journal, 1889-1891
- Volume 15 Daybook, 1890 July 18-October 22
- Volume 16 Daybook, 1891 October 22-February 3
- Volume 17 Daybook, 1891 February 3-May 13
- Volume 18 Daybook, 1891 May 13-August 12
- Volume 19 Daybook, 1891 August 12-November 20
- Volume 20 Daybook, 1892 March 2-June 7
- Volume 21 Daybook, 1898 December 5-1899 July 11
- Volume 22 Journal, 1899-1900

**Separated Materials:**

The following items have been moved to Oversize Manuscripts Box "C":

Society of the Army of the Potomac certificate, undated. 8" x 10.5"  
Grand Army of the Republic certificate, 1898 December 1. 16.5" x 21.5"  
Grand Army of the Republic certificate, 1911 February 3. 16.5" x 21.5"  
Engineers Concord & Montreal Railroad photograph, undated. 14.75" x 17"

The following item was moved to the Photograph Collection – People – Conant folder:  
Henry E. Conant photograph, 1907. 7" x 10"

## Subject Terms

### **People:**

Conant, Henry E., 1843-1911

### **Organizations:**

Conant's Steam Laundry  
Concord and Montreal Railroad Company  
Grand Army of the Republic  
Society of the Army of the Potomac

### **Subjects:**

Account books  
Bookkeeping  
Laundry, Steam  
Portrait photography

### **Locations:**

Concord, NH

### **Occupations:**

Engineers  
Laundry industry

## Related Materials

### Archives

City Steam Laundry, 1891. George W. Perry Scrapbooks, 1974.045

### Museum

Shadow box containing 33 veterans', fraternal, and commemorative badges, ribbons, and pins, mostly from conventions and reunions, 1888-1900 collected and displayed by Henry E. Conant (1843-1911), 2018.044