THE WALDEN WOODS PROJECT

# STEPHEN F. ELLS COLLECTION

A GUIDE TO THE COLLECTION

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THE STEPHEN F. ELLS PAPERS

**Creator:** Stephen F. Ells
**Title:** The Stephen F. Ells Collection
**Extent:** 14 linear feet
**Call number:** WWP.013
**Abstract:** This collection consists of material from Stephen F. Ells' lifelong devotion to Henry David Thoreau, Concord, Lincoln, Walden Woods, Estabrook Woods, land conservation, and ornithology.
**Access and Use:** This collection is open to the public.
**Language:** Materials are entirely in English.
**Source of Acquisition:** Donated by the Family of Stephen F. Ells to The Walden Woods Project in 2009

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**Permission to Publish:** Requests for permission to publish material from the collection should be directed to the Curator: curator@walden.org
**Preferred Citation:** The Stephen F. Ells Collection at The Walden Woods Project

## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

Stephen F. Ells (1935-2008) served in the US Navy as Lieutenant Commander in Naval Intelligence aboard the USS Midway. He earned his BA in English literature and language at Harvard University, class of 1956, graduating *magna cum laude*, and his JD from Harvard Law, Class of 1962. His career included acting as Chief legal counsel to Massachusetts Governor, Frank Sargent (in office 1969-1975), Choate, Hall, and Stuart Law Firm; Chairman of Conservation Law Foundation, Massachusetts Department of Natural Resources; Massachusetts Area Planning Council; and as Director of Environmental Review for the EPA (New England) until retiring in 1999.

Ells was equally dedicated to his family, nature conservation, Thoreau, and birds. He worked diligently to protect Estabrook Woods from development by petitioning boards and local and state legislatures. As a result of his efforts, Ells became a local historian for Estabrook Woods. His extensive collection of articles, newspaper clippings, petitions, and data gathering traces the local efforts to preserve and protect this land which Thoreau called a "paradise for walkers." Ells' passion for nature, and the protection of land and different bird species, contributed to Massachusetts Audubon Society's data for Important Bird Areas (IBA), specifically Flint's Pond in Lincoln and

Walden Pond on the Concord and Lincoln line. The Estabrook Council, mostly private landowners of tracts of Estabrook Woods, notes 76% of the lands Ells fought to protect are privately owned and only 6% are classified as public land. Harvard University and Middlesex School own 49% of the woods. He was involved in attempts to reduce or prevent the Middlesex School expansion in Estabrook Woods, with particular concern to the ecological impacts and effects on the wildlife that live within the woods, including the critically imperiled Henslow's Sparrow and vulnerable Bobolink.

Stephen Frank Ells died June 30, 2008, in Lincoln, Massachusetts, and is buried in Burr Cemetery, Freeport, Maine.

Selected Ells' Publications:
*A Bibliography of Biodiversity and Natural History in the Sudbury and Concord River Valley including the Great Meadows, Estabrook Woods, and Walden Woods* (2002).
*Seasons in Estabrook Country* (1999).
"The Estabrook Country: A Rediscovered Wild Tract." *Appalachia*. (Dec. 15, 2000).
"Walking Notes to Estabrook Woods." The Walden Woods Project. (Sept. 3, 2001).
"The Seasons in Estabrook Country." (Sept. 3, 2001). Map.
"Bobolink Protection and Mortality on Suburban Conservation Lands." *Bird Observer*, Vol. 23, No. 2. (April 1995)
"A Sad Tale of How a Piece of Concord's History Has Been Lost." (2001)
"The Estabrook Woods." (Sept. 1999). Map and Walking Notes.
Pine Hill-Flint's Pond IBA Nomination Species Data (2002). N. Levey and S. Ells. 2002. (https://www.massaudubon.org/our-work/birds-wildlife/bird-conservation-research/massachusetts-important-bird-areas/iba-sites/sudbury-concord-river-valley)

**Scope and Content**
The Stephen F. Ells Collection contains conservation information, research, correspondence, maps, and articles relating to local conservation efforts. In addition, as a longtime member of The Thoreau Society (now Thoreau Alliance), Ells accumulated research, literature, and copies of lectures and talks given by the historied organization.

The material is arranged by series. Oversized folders are marked with an asterisk (*); these folders have been housed separately from the rest of the collection.

**Organization:**
The Stephen F. Ells Collection is organized into the following series:

I. Middlesex Expansion
II. The Thoreau Society and Related Organizations
III. Research and Publications
IV. Conservation and Ornithology
V. Water Conservancy Educational Material

KEY

| | |
|---|---|
| AMC | APPALACHIAN MOUNTAIN CLUB |
| CFS | CONCORD FIELD STATION, HARVARD UNIVERSITY |
| CFPL | CONCORD FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY |
| CHC | CONCORD HISTORICAL COMMISSION |
| CoMA | COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS |
| DEP | DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION |
| E | EXCERPT |
| EPA | U. S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY |
| IBA | IMPORTANT BIRD AREA |
| JHA | JOURNAL OF HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY |
| LLCT | LINCOLN LAND CONSERVATION TRUST |
| MADEM | MA DEPT. OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT |
| MCZ | MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY (HARVARD UNIVERSITY) |
| NRHP | NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES |
| NHESP | NATURAL HERITAGE AND ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM |
| NPS | NATIONAL PARK SERVICE |
| PAL | THE PUBLIC ARCHAEOLOGY LABORATORY, INC. |
| R | READER'S NOTES |
| SE | STEPHEN ELLS |
| USDA | U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE |
| USGS | U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY |

**Series I. Middlesex Expansion**

Box 1

1. Board of Trustees Correspondence (1992-2001)
2. Correspondence (1993-1998)
3. Middlesex School Correspondence
4. Alumni Against Expansion
5. Common Sense and Estabrook Woods
6. Middlesex School Magazine
7. "In Our Own Words"
8. Middlesex School Board of Trustees Meeting, May 6-7, 2005
9. Middlesex Graduates for Estabrook
10. Middlesex Alumni Directories
11. Notes, Questions, and Updates
12. Middlesex School Conservation Restrictions (1995-1997)
13. Mediation
14. Conservation Efforts Correspondence
15. Emerson, Dave
16. Deed Research
17. Estabrook Lawsuit (1999-2000)
18. Correspondence About Estabrook Woods
19. League of Women Voters
20. Concord's Natural Resource Commission (NRC)
21. MA Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) Petitions
22. US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Correspondence
23. Thoreau Country Conservation Alliance (TCCA) Alternatives Study
24. TCCA Correspondence
25. Phonathon Map (1995)
26. Publications
27. Morris Fiorina
28. Notes and Correspondence (1996-1998, n.d.)
29. Maps
30. Oversized Maps

Box 2

1. Estabrook Development Map
    a. Middlesex School Project Engineering Drawings, January 2005, in color and black and white, with photocopied enlargements
    b. Untitled and undated plans of Middlesex School proposed building plans
    c. Email correspondence between SE and CFS seeking corrections to the 1974 Middlesex School map, dated February 14, 1996

d. Five photocopied maps of Middlesex School proposed development dated between March 9, 1996 and November 1998
e. Box 3, Folder 6 Aerial Photography of Estabrook Woods and Middlesex School Campus
f. Several photocopies of aerial photographs of Estabrook Woods and the Middlesex School campus (undated)

2. Geological Survey Map
3. Field Station Estabrook Map
4. Concord Area Conservation
5. Museum of Comparative Zoology (MCZ) Biological Overview
6. Ecological Study Area – Estabrook
7. MCZ Resource Guides
8. Natural History Collections of the Concord Field Station
9. Huggins Property
10. Carlisle Mosquito
11. Schevill Oral History
12. Bemis Letter to the Editor
13. Mary Fenn
14. Burnes to Mayr (1999)
15. Ells and Mayr Correspondence
16. Ells Conversation with Mayr (1999)
17. Mayr Lecture Notes
18. Mayr Correspondence
19. Ells Emails
20. A Call for Stewardship Drafts
21. E. O. Wilson Correspondence and Lecture Notes
22. Harvard MCZ (1960s-1970s)
23. Middlesex School Notice of Intent (1992)
24. Order of Conditions (1992)
25. Ells Correspondence (1993)
26. Opposing Middlesex Development
27. Permit Review (1994)
28. Middlesex Revised Plan
29. East Field Site Plans
30. East Field Site Plan Notice of Intent (1994)
31. East Fields Expansion Project Narrative
32. East Fields Supplemental Narrative
33. Concord NRC: Alternative Development Scenarios
34. NRC Chair Correspondence
35. Middlesex School Driveway Access Correspondence
36. Sanford Ecological Services
37. NRC Denial (1995)
38. TCCA Appeal to MA DEP

39. Middlesex School Superseding Order Application
40. Mediation Correspondence
41. Proposed Mediation Plan Maps
42. DEP Correspondence (1997)
43. Citizen Failsafe for MEPA (1998)
44. Oil Spill
45. Gale Subsurface Investigation (1997)
46. Petition Against East Fields
47. Draft Letter to DEP for Petition
48. DEP Draft Letter Attachments
49. Deposition (2001)
50. Correspondence RE: Middlesex School Petition
51. DEP Estabrook Visits Correspondence
52. EcoTec Correspondence (1997)
53. McGregor & Shea Correspondence
54. Wescott Supplemental Narrative
55. DEP to Middlesex RE: Superseding Order of Conditions (1999)
56. Response and Opposition, Middlesex
57. Motion to Compel, Endangered Species (2000)
58. Petitioner's Conference Report
59. Subsurface Disposal Letter (1971)
60. Discharge Permit (1976)
61. Superseding Permit (1982)
62. Letter to Concord Health Officer (1985)
63. Inspection Reports (1992-1993)
64. Inspection Data Sheet (1995)

Box 3

1. EPA Stormwater Guidelines
2. October 1995 Discharge Monitoring Report
3. Letter to McRoberts & Roberts
4. EPA Visit to Plant – 2000
5. Buerger: Thoreau Importance in Estabrook
6. Estabrook Maps and Conservation
7. Maps: At-risk wildlife/sites
8. Woods Awareness at Middlesex
9. Ecological Inventory and Conservation Management Plan
10. Wilbraham Conservation Commission
11. Wilbraham
12. Steve's 401 Notes
13. Estab.-Specific Articles Pre-Middlesex Expansion
14. Estabrook Articles Post-expansion
15. Assorted Conservation Articles

16. Jonathan Regosin Deposition 25 Apr 2001 Affidavit 20ish June 2001
17. 6 Jul 2001: Pre-filed Testimonies from Nylen; Letter from Roberts
18. Pre-filed Testimony: Gary R. Sanford
19. Pre-filed Testimony: Alan Richmond
20. Pre-filed Testimony: Brian Butler
21. Pre-filed Testimony: John Rockwood
22. Pre-filed Testimony: Richard Westcott
23. Series I: Middlesex Expansion Estabrook Woods
24. Leaf Sample (Not an American Chestnut)
25. Items not directly relating to Estabrook conservation
26. NPDES Permit + Letter from Beede
27. Middlesex School East Fields Site Plan (1994)
28. Recommended Final Decision, 31 Dec 2002; DEP Response 8 Jan 2003
29. Charles W. Rusch: "Abstract: Educating for Sustainability: Letters from an Alum"
30. Middlesex Plans/Maps: Proposed + Existing
31. Aerial Photographs
32. Land Allocation: Middlesex Property
33. Estabrook Woods, Conservation Contextual Maps
34. Concord Field Station – History
35. MCZ – History
36. Forest Stewardship Plan Putnam Forestry Services, 1997
37. Forest Legacy
38. Estabrook Friends
39. Summaries of Documents Supporting the Original Concept that the Inner Area at Estabrook Should Remain Untouched
40. Town of Concord Pre-1993 Documents on Space Planning
41. Correspondence: Andrew A. Biewener
42. Town of Concord Natural Resource Commission
43. Correspondence: Herbert (Herb) Pratt
44. Thoreau Museum of Natural History Building
45. Estabrook Bird Census, Vegetation + Wildlife Habitat Assessment
46. "East Fields" or Estabrook Woods?

**Series II. The Thoreau Society and Related Organizations**

Box 4

1. Walden Woods Project
2. Walden Woods IBA
3. Correspondence with Barksdale Maynard, Walden Pond: A History
4. Walden Pond, A History M.S. by W. Barksdale Maynard
5. Walden Articles
6. Clippings Route 2/126
7. Walden Boundary: Hales' Maps

8. Walden Boundary
9. Walden Boundary: Maps, documents, correspondence

**Series III. Research and Publications**

Box 4

10. Thoreau Bibliographies
11. Thoreau + Science
12. Thoreau + Economic Man
13. Thoreau and Prophetic Tradition
14. Thoreau's Philosophy of Life
15. Thoreau's Spirituality
16. Thoreau and Ecology
17. Thoreau's Literary Landscape
18. Transcendentalist Thought
19. Thoreau and the Environment
20. Ancient Mythology and World Religion in Thoreau's Writing
21. Thoreau on Politics and Society
22. Morning Star
23. The House at Walden
24. MA Resolutions Honoring HDT
25. Sanborn (1917)
26. Correspondence w/HGO Blake
27. Selections from Thoreau, World Traveler (Christie)
28. Thoreau, Literary Criticism of Thoreau
29. Correspondence concerning Thoreau's Manuscripts
30. Thoreau Museum (Howe)
31. Annotated Course Materials for a Seminar on Thoreau's Correspondence with Emerson and Blake
32. Blanding Lectures on Thoreau's political, antislavery + reform essays
33. Thomas Blanding program of seminar on Thoreau's Walden
34. Annotations on Thoreau: People, Principles, and Politics (Meltzer)
35. "True Reformer" Trans. by Thomas Blanding (1975 – 76)
36. Blanding 4
37. Lecture July 8, 1997
38. Saunterer Presentation

Box 5

1. Thoreau Society (1A)
2. Thoreau Society (1B)
3. Paul Brooks and Thoreau Society Medal
4. Thoreau Society Bulletin #1-100
5. TS Bulletin #101-150
6. TS Bulletin #151-175

7. TS Bulletin #176-200
8. TS Bulletin #201-215
9. TS Bulletin #216-230
10. TS Bulletin #231-245
11. TS Bulletin #246-255
12. Concord Saunterer
13. Concord Saunterer (New Series) A
14. Concord Saunterer (New Series) B
15. Thoreau Journal Quarterly
16. Walden Woods Project
17. Misc. Pamphlets
18. Excerpts from Thoreau (selected by SE)

Box 6

1. Seasons
2. Seasons 2
3. Seasons (Draft)
4. Biodiversity in Concord
5. Saunterer Draft
6. Appalachia Article
7. Adams, Raymond
8. Arnold, Peter
9. Bacon, Edwin
10. Billy, Ted
11. Brewster, William
12. Campbell
13. Channing, William Ellery
14. Clark (family)
15. Dwight, John S.
16. Emerson 1
17. Fitzgerald
18. Hall, Sarah
19. Harding, Walter
20. Muir, John
21. Roof, Chris
22. Quadrupeds
23. Native Americans
24. Harmony
25. Paul Adams House
26. Site(s) of Thoreau's Cabin after Removal from Shores of Walden
27. Minot Pratt Spring
28. Elm at Boulder Field
29. Estabrook/Kibby Land

30. Thoreau and Forest History
31. Hilo, Gleason (photographer and environmentalist)
32. N. C. Wyeth (artist)
33. Maps of Concord
34. Maps and other information, Humphrey Hunt Property
35. Concord Reports
36. Middlesex County Map and Information
37. Raymond Emerson Map of Estabrook Woods (1950)
38. Mapping Estabrook Woods
39. Estabrook Woods Land Use Chronology
40. Correspondence, Memoranda, and Interviews concerning Estabrook Woods
41. Pamphlets for Thoreau-related societies and sites
42. SE Notes on Thoreau's Works
43. Notes on Estabrook Woods (Primarily Geographic)
44. SE Notes on Alcott + Emerson
45. SE Notes on Estabrook Plants
46. Slides
47. Slides Mar-April 1998 and 1999

Box 7

1. The Estabrook Journal of Henry Thoreau
2. Estabrook Woods Maps
3. Estabrook Woods Orienteering Map
4. SE Correspondence with Concord Field Station
5. Ernst Mayr and the "Biological Species Concept"
6. Introduction (draft) to HDT's Wild Fruits
7. Ells – Research materials for "Saunter…"
8. Ells: Pre-publication Corrections for "Saunter…"
9. Research on Place Names and Locations ("The Seasons")
10. SE Correspondence with R. W. Hoag of the Concord Saunterer
11. Copyright and Permissions
12. "Thoroughly Thoreau"
13. Working Notes (SE) The Seasons in Estabrook Country
14. The Seasons in Estabrook Country (binder)

**Series IV. Conservation and Ornithology**

Box 7

15. SE Birding Lists
16. Developing Bird Count Checklist
17. Bird CENSUS TECHNIQUES
18. Concord Christmas Bird Count
19. Lincoln Land Conservation Trust – Bird Counts
20. Birds and Birding

21. Birding + Nature Publications #1
22. Birding + Nature Publications #2
23. Birding + Nature Publications #3
24. Birds of MA/NE
25. MA Wildlife (journal)
26. MA Endangered Species (Middlesex)
27. Elderberry Borer Beetle (MA Rare and Endangered)
28. Boghaunter Dragonfly (MA Rare and Endangered)

Box 8

1. Elderberry Borer Beetle AND Boghaunter Dragonfly
2. Spiders and Wasps
3. Spotted Turtles
4. Blue-spotted Salamander + other amphibians
5. Other Amphibians and Reptiles
6. Crustaceans + Mollusks
7. Forest Management
8. Birds. Estabrook Woods
9. Flora & Vegetation
10. Trees
11. Invasive Plant Species and Poisonous Plants
12. Aldo Leopold
13. Lincoln Area, Beech Spring – (Baker Farm)
14. Mammals
15. New England Mammals
16. IBA
17. WWP Brister's Hill
18. Thoreau's Cairn
19. Processing Notes (before 2019)
20. Geohydrology and Geology, Walden, (+ Ecology)
21. Ecology/Biology of Estabrook Woods
22. Richard Forman: Info on Wildlife Passages and Roads
23. Biodiversity Day Concord & Lincoln, Mass. July 4, 1998 Final Report
24. Birds in Forested Landscapes/Bird Research Census
25. Maps
26. Maps
27. Town Boundaries
28. Estabrook Maps

Box 9

1. Middlesex
2. Maps
3. Middlesex

4. Estabrook
5. Middlesex
6. Deep Woods
7. Carlisle Wilkins, Bull Lapham
8. Summaries of 60s docs
9. Middlesex
10. Langton, Jane
11. Estabrook
12. Estabrook Woods/Middlesex
13. Open Space Acquisitions in Esta $
14. Harvard
15. Ecology/Biology
16. CLCT + TTOR
17. NEPA-in-Esta
18. Estabrook
19. Concord Planning Board
20. Text + Photos
21. Master for Plain Vanilla
22. Kirvan Report
23. Estabrook Woods/Middlesex
24. Middlesex School's development of the Estabrook Woods
25. 1/4/95 NRC statement
26. Estabrook Woods Chronology
27. 7/95 Small Fields Ltr.
28. Estabrook Country

Box 10

1. 1960 from CNRC office
2. Spare originals, graphics, etc.
3. Newspaper Articles
4. Mosquito 12/94
5. Sierra Club
6. More overviews, photos, maps of the pond
7. Newsletters & Articles
8. Graphics
9. H.W. Gleason's "Thoreau's Country"
10. Emerson in Concord: 200th
11. Scrap Notes
12. Newspaper Articles
13. Misc. Index
14. Thoreau's "Indian Hills"
15. Thoreau Quotes
16. Passenger Pigeon

17. Emerson abt Swamps
18. Thoreau Quotes
19. Research – Misc.
20. Thoreau Texts etc.
21. Natural History Essays better text
22. Chestnut
23. FairHaven & Trail
24. Nessmuk
25. Noah's Dove
26. Thoreau's Sketches
27. New CFPL Survey uploads
28. Thrush & Henry
29. Hg CEQ Documents Uphaus
30. Uphaus
31. Uphaus & HT
32. Uphaus: Commitment

Box 11

1. "Images of America: Lincoln"
2. Cell Tower
3. HT Birthplace
4. MHC North Quarter Concord
5. Newspaper Articles
6. Newspaper Articles
7. Newspaper Articles
8. Thoreau Society
9. Articles & Pamphlets
10. Estabrook Woods

Box 12

1. Gleason Photo Index
2. Bateman's Pond
3. Saunterer Illustrations Stuff
4. Gleason Prints
5. Schwie MS
6. Estab. Cellar
7. TCCA
8. Reimbursement – TCCA
9. Endnotes needing substantive update, none of which can be done "in place" w/o changing pagination
10. Reprints Esta Harlow & Kasegawa
11. Estabrook Woods – Articles & Letters
12. Bio/ecol

13. Miscellaneous Harvard Alum: Library Handouts
14. Publications, Mailers, Programs, Flyers
15. Maps, Carlisle
16. "Honor Estabrook Woods" buttons (in 3 VHS boxes)
17. An Evening Discussion with Prof. Ernst Mayr (VHS)
18. "Honor Estabrook Woods" canvas totes (2)

Box 13

1. Concord History
2. Pine-Hill Flint Pond IBA
3. Bateman's Pond
4. Kibbe
5. Mountains
6. Mink Pond Stump Pond
7. Pratt Elm
8. Punkatasset
9. Stone Circles
10. Estabrook/Middlesex
11. Estabrook Conservation Efforts (Correspondence & Other Documents – Middlesex School)
12. Estabrook: National Register of Historic Spaces
13. Rural Hist. Landsc.
14. MX Bridge
15. Estabrook/Middlesex
16. MHC on Middlesex School
17. Concord Historical Society
18. Archaeology Report 8/95
19. Paul Adams Place
20. Corn Hills (Paul Adams Place)
21. Bullock's Wigwam
22. Harvard Field Station in Concord
23. Ells' article – Appalachia (Estabrook Woods)
24. Mark Strohmeyer
25. Crosby's Corner
26. Biodiversity
27. Native Americans
28. Painting of Man Building Field Stone Wall
29. Indians Penobscot Tribe Misc.
30. Esta Minuteman Trail
31. Upernavik

**Series V. Water Conservancy Educational Material**

Box 13

32. That Magnificent Ground Water Connection
33. New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission
34. Urban Ecology
35. Watershed Resource Guide
36. Water – Every drop counts
37. A River Runs Through It
38. Mass. M. E. E. S. Observer
39. Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment
40. USGS Hydrology and Trophic Ecology of Walden Pond, Concord, MA (3)

Box 14

1. Safeguarding Your School's Drinking Water Supply (3 binders)

Box 15 *The Writings of Henry David Thoreau* (1906)

I. *Concord And Merrimack Rivers*
II. *Walden*
III. *The Maine Woods*
IV. *Cape Cod And Miscellanies*
V. *Excursions And Poems*
VI. *Familiar Letters Index*
VII. *Journal I*
VIII. *Journal II*
IX. *Journal III*
X. *Journal IV*
XI. *Journal V*
XII. *Journal VI*
XIII. *Journal VII*
XIV. *Journal VIII*
XV. *Journal IX*
XVI. *Journal X*
XVII. *Journal XI*
XVIII. *Journal XII*
XIX. *Journal XIII*
XX. *Journal IV Index*

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