



The New York Public Library  
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

**Chelsea Fire Club record book**

1788-1796

MssCol 638

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Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2015

## Summary

**Creator:** Chelsea Fire Club

**Title:** Chelsea Fire Club record book

**Date:** 1788-1796

**Size:** .2 linear feet (1 volume)

**Source:** Donated by J. Pierpont Morgan, 1899, as part of the Ford collection

**Abstract:** The Chelsea Fire Club of Norwich, Connecticut was a voluntary association instituted on December 11, 1788 to protect the waterfront district of Chelsea, or Norwich Landing, from fire. The Club's first elected officers were Ebenezer Whiting, chairman, and Ebenezer Huntington, secretary. Participants included Jabez Huntington, Levi Huntington, and members of the Coit, Howland and Perkins families, among others. The Chelsea Fire Club record book, dated 1788 to 1796, contains the Club's by-laws, meeting minutes, and an account of fines paid by members. Minutes dated 1788 December 11 to 1796 May 6 concern attendance, membership, and the election of officers; Club regulations; maintenance of fire-fighting equipment; procedures for fire alarms; and petitioning local government for support. The possible dissolution of the Club was raised at the annual meeting of December 22, 1795, and on May 6, 1796 the Club voted to transfer the care of its fire engine, engine house and apparatus to Norwich's Second Ward fire company.

**Access:** Advance notice required.

**Preferred citation:** Chelsea Fire Club record book, Manuscripts and Archives Division, The New York Public Library

**Processing note:** Compiled by Susan P. Waide, 2015

**Related Materials:**

Forms part of [Ford collection](#)

## **Key Terms**

### **Genre/Physical Characteristic**

Bylaws (administrative records)  
Minutes (administrative records)

### **Subjects**

Fire clubs (Cooperative societies) -- Connecticut -- Norwich  
Fire prevention -- Connecticut -- Norwich

### **Occupations**

Fire fighters

### **Geographic Names**

Norwich (Conn.) -- History -- 18th century