

**John Robert
Parmenter Papers,
1905-1978**

1984:01.1-43



A Finding Aid for the John Robert Parmenter Papers
at the Goodnow Library

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Collection: #1984:01.1-43
John Robert Parmenter Papers, 1905-1978

Collection Overview

Extent: 1.5 linear feet

Creator: John Robert Parmenter

Dates: 1905-1978

Language: English

Reference Code: 1984:01.1-43

Abstract: A collection of diaries and ledgers that document the daily life of John Robert Parmenter in New England and Ft. Myers, Florida from his youth into his retired years.

Information for Users

Repository: Goodnow Public Library, Sudbury, MA 01776

Acquisitions History: Donated by John Robert Parmenter in 1984

Processed by: Elle Harms, May 2023

Updated by: Abi Smith, June 2025

Access and Use

Restrictions: Open for research.

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Subject Headings

The following terms from the Library of Congress Subject Headings suggest topics, persons geography, etc. interspersed through the entire collection.

- Parmenter, John Robert
- Diaries
- Ledgers
- Personal narratives

- Sudbury--Massachusetts
- Framingham—Massachusetts
- Ft. Myers -- Florida

Related Collections

Goodnow Library's Local History Vertical Files Collection: Biography – Local Citizens – Parmenter Family

- Documentation of the descendants and migration of Parmenter/Parmentier from England and France, respectively

Biographical Note

John Robert Parmenter was born in 1890 in Concord, Massachusetts to Franklin Parmenter and Mary Elizabeth Schott. In 1924 he married Sudbury resident Carrie Mildred Haynes, the daughter of Hiram Haynes and Carrie J. Bent. John Robert and Carrie had two sons, Gilbert and Wayne. Gilbert was born 1926. He lived most of his life in the Framingham area and owned the Colonial Auto shop in Sudbury. He retired to Stuart, Florida before his death in 1986. Wayne Parmenter was born in 1928 and died in 1946 at the age of 17. John and Carrie retired to Fort Myers, Florida. John died in 1976 and Carrie died two years later in 1978.

Scope and Content

John Robert Parmenter was consistent in his writing, having completed daily entries for the majority of his diaries. As he aged through the years, his entries became more detailed, including more thoughts and emotions about his daily life and activities. He was also strict in his accounting, keeping formal accounting books throughout his lifetime which tracked his working hours, expenses and bills owed and paid.

Arrangement

Series I Diaries 1905-1978

Series II Ledgers 1911-1965

Collection Contents

Series I Diaries 1905-1978

Extent: 1 carton

Scope note: The bulk of this series consists of notes about the weather and activities in the day to day life of John Robert Parmenter. His short entries included notes about his activities, people he saw or spoke with or animals he passed in the garden. The diary from 1905-1910 has detailed hand drawings of places in his life, and the small pocket diary from 1918 includes photos.

Arrangement: Items are arranged chronologically, in individual preservation covers

<u>Item Date</u>	<u>Carton</u>
1905-1910	1
1918	1
1920	1
1934-1935	1
1936	1
1937	1
1938	1
1939	1
1940	1
1941	1
1942	1
1943	1
1944-1948	1
1949	1
1950	1
1951-1955	1
1956-1960	1
1961-1965	1
1966-1967	1
1968-1969	1
1970-1971	1
1972-1973	1
1974-1975	1
1976	1

1977	1
1978	1

Series II Ledgers 1911-1965

Extent: 2 boxes

Scope note: The bulk of this series includes the time books, accounting records, expenses and bills of John Robert Parmenter covered year by year. The second ledger from 1927-1928 and the ledger from 1929 are specifically accounting records from wood sawing, and the ledger from 1931-1934 are accounting records from garden equipment with sales logs. The large ledger covers dates between 1946-1965 which includes vacation notes, activities, expenses, etc. along with newspaper clippings from the 60s and 70s in scrapbook style.

Arrangement: Items are arranged chronologically, in individual folders

<u>Item Date</u>	<u>Box : Folder</u>
1911-1916/1919-1923/1927	1 : 1
1924	1 : 2
1927-1928	1 : 3
1927-1928	1 : 4
1929	1 : 5
1931	1 : 6
1931-1934	1 : 7
1935	1 : 8
1936	1 : 9
1937-1938	2 : 1
1939	2 : 2
1940	2 : 3
1942	2 : 4
1943	2 : 5
1945-1946	2 : 6
1956	2 : 7
1946-1965	2 : 8

