

Raymond, Hildred collection

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Description is written in: English.

Friends of Wood Memorial Library and Museum

783 Main Street

P.O. Box 131

South Windsor, CT 06074

Business Number: 860-289-1783

archives@woodmemoriallibrary.org

URL: <https://woodmemoriallibrary.org/>

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Summary Information

Repository:	Friends of Wood Memorial Library and Museum
Creator:	Raymond, Hildred Sperry
Title:	Hildred Raymond collection
ID:	1993.24
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/21/resources/788
Date [inclusive]:	1850-1992
Physical Description:	3.3 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	Hildred Sperry Raymond (1907-1992) lived in South Windsor, CT, and was an avid collector of local history materials. The collection consists of catalogues, memorabilia, information on the Watson House (which she owned), and photographs.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Hildred Raymond collection (1993.24), Wood Memorial Library and Museum, South Windsor, CT.

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Biographical / Historical

Hildred Sperry Raymond was born in New Britain, CT, March 6, 1907, and died in 1992. Her father, an early electrical engineer, was Ellsworth Sperry, a nephew of William Wood, who built Wood Memorial Library and Museum in South Windsor, CT, as a tribute to his parents. She had lived in the Wood home at 1837 Main Street off and on as a child. The Wood family had a strong interest in local history.

As a young woman, Raymond learned to fly and was involved in airshows along with the slightly older Amelia Earhart. Both were among a handful of woman to engage in the new activity. At those airshows, she also befriended Robert F. Raymond, a pilot who had been shot down and imprisoned by Germans during Word War I. One of his flying partners was James

Doolittle, who continued his air exploits in World War II. Between the wars, the two men were involved in southwestern oil exploration.

Sperry and Raymond married in March 1929 and lived in Boston, where the World War I veteran helped in the beginnings of Logan Airport. He then joined the Federal Housing Administration as a real estate appraiser, becoming a division chief in Hartford just before the Depression.

The couple began farming in the Hartford area and soon had two children, Carol, born in 1930, and Robert, born in 1933. By 1946, the family took up permanent residence in the Wood family home in South Windsor.

Raymond's interest in Wood Library grew and she served for many years as a trustee. She was also a member of the South Windsor Historical Society. She was an avid collector of local historical materials. Writers and researchers frequently called upon her expertise in Tobacco Valley lore. When she died at the age of 85 in 1992, the collection went to her daughter, Carol Birden, also of South Windsor's Main Street, and her son Robert, who split his time between Florida and Vermont.

Among the books is "A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections in Three Parts," a 1787 book by the leading 18th century theologian Jonathan Edwards, also a South Windsor native. Others are Cothren's "History of Ancient Woodbury," "Maritime Connecticut During the American Revolution," and "Indian Tribes of the United States."

Most of the photographs are South Windsor scenes between 1850 and 1940 and depict Main Street sites, townspeople, tobacco farm operations, the Bissell Ferry, and other Connecticut River activities.

[Biographical Notes written by Michael Salvatore, reporter for the Manchester Journal Inquirer.]

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Scope and Contents

The Hildred Raymond Collection includes a collection of catalogues, memorabilia, information on the Watson House (which she owned), and photographs.

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Conditions Governing Use

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Controlled Access Headings

- South Windsor (Conn.)