

Priest, Norman 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:	Priest, Norman
Title:	Norman Priest collection
ID:	1998.30
Date [inclusive]:	1877-1926
Physical Description:	0.417 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Norman Priest Collections (1998.30) consists of materials related to the history of South Windsor, CT, collected by Norman Priest (1912-1998) and Edna Canham Priest (1914-2006). The collection includes wedding and anniversary invitations sent to the Wilbur Hills family dated 1877-1926; an autograph book belonging to Emily Clark; ledgers from the Wapping Creamery; Henry Stoughton's account book dated 1846; various agreements, handbills and inventories, and numerous family photographs and daguerreotypes.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Norman Priest collection (1998.30), Wood Memorial Library and Museum, South Windsor, CT.

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Biographical / Historical

Norman Priest was born June 26, 1912 in the Wapping Section of South Windsor, Connecticut. He was the son of Abby Hills Priest and John Paul Arthur Priest. Norman was an only child. He grew up in the family homestead located at 1407 Sullivan Avenue, Wapping, Connecticut, built in 1823 by Lawrence Stoughton, uncle of Normans grandfather, Wilbur Hills. Norman's uncle, Norman Hills, ran a dairy and tobacco farm at the homestead while Norman's father "Paul"

Priest was postmaster of the Wapping Post Office, which was housed in Mr. Priest's General Store located in Ellington Road, Wapping, Connecticut.

Norman graduated from Wapping Elementary School and Manchester High School. He went on to graduate from Bates College, Lewiston, Maine in 1934 with a B.S. Degree.

Following graduation he returned home to work with his uncle on the farm. Norman eventually managed the farm until 1970 when he sold all the cows.

Norman was an avocational horticulturist and earned a reputation among his peers of being an expert in plant identification. He developed extensive flower gardens at his home where he grew many rare and unusual plants. His specialities were rock gardens and rhododendrons. Norman was a member of the Connecticut Horticultural Society as well as several other gardening societies.

In 1955 he married Edna Canham, a school teacher from Auburn, Maine. They met through Norman's visits to Edna's mother's gardens twenty years before, and they were married in her mother's garden in Auburn. Following their marriage they travelled extensively visiting gardens in England, the Northwest, Canada and elsewhere. The couple had no children.

Norman died March 16, 1998 after a brief illness. Edna, born in 1914, died in 2006.

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Scope and Contents

The collection includes wedding and anniversary invitations sent to the Wilbur Hills family dated 1877-1926, an autograph book belonging to Emily Clark, ledgers from the Wapping Creamery, Henry Stoughton's Account Book dated 1846, and various agreements, handbills and inventories. The collection also included numerous family photographs and daguerreotypes.

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Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

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Conditions Governing Use

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