

Collins, Porter papers

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Description is written in: English.

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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:	Collins, Porter Allen
Title:	Porter Collins papers
ID:	2021.13
ID [aspace_uri]:	/repositories/21/resources/1108
Date [inclusive]:	1825-2014
Physical Description:	0.71 Cubic Feet
Language of the Material:	English .
Abstract:	The Porter Collins papers, 1825-2014, consist of materials compiled by South Windsor town historian Porter Collins, documenting the history of South Windsor and the Collins family.

Preferred Citation

[Identification of item], Porter Collins papers (2021.13), Wood Memorial Library and Museum, South Windsor, CT.

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Biographical / Historical

Porter Allen Collins was born in Manchester, CT, on November 22, 1923 to Asher and Madelyn (Barnes) Collins. Porter attended grammar school at Wapping Five Corners, graduated from Ellsworth High School (South Windsor), and attended the University of Connecticut.

Porter worked several jobs over his life, including operating his family farm, Sunnyside Farm; as a school bus driver; as a supervisor at the McCormick Tobacco Company; and as a gift shop and Christmas tree farm owner. He taught adult education courses in history and floral design in Rockville, Manchester, East Windsor, and South Windsor. He was on the Bank of Rockville's advisory board and had been a courier for the South Windsor Board of Education.

Porter was an avid local historian. He served on the South Windsor Historic Commission, was a member of the South Windsor Historical Society, and wrote newspaper articles about South Windsor history. Porter was sexton of South Windsor's Wapping Cemetery for 45 years and served on the Cemetery Association's board of directors. In 1992, South Windsor appointed Porter its first town historian.

Porter married Catherine Smyth in 1949. Together they raised two children.

Porter was a lifelong resident of South Windsor. He passed away on December 9, 1994.

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Scope and Contents

The Porter Collins papers, 1825-2014, consist of materials compiled by South Windsor town historian Porter Collins, documenting the history of South Windsor and the Collins family. The collection contains research files, which include newspaper clippings, photographs, and documents; a scrapbook; historical manuscripts, and histories of South Windsor and the Collins family.

Series 1. Historical research files (1850-1994) contains historical research files bearing on South Windsor history, Connecticut history, and U.S. history. Research files include newspaper clippings, photographs, and documents. We have preserved the original order of materials within files and arranged files chronologically.

Series 2. Collins family history (1825-2014) includes historical manuscripts, such as educational records, account books, a South Windsor bill, and a historical marriage certificate; and a history of the Collins family written after Porter's death.

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Arrangement

The collection is arranged in two series: Series 1. Historical research files; Series 2. Collins family history.

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Administrative Information

Publication Statement

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Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions on access to the collection for research use. Particularly fragile items may be restricted for preservation purposes.

Conditions Governing Use

Requests for permission to publish should be directed to the Wood Memorial Library archives staff. It is the responsibility of the researcher to identify and satisfy the holders of all copyrights.

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Controlled Access Headings

- South Windsor (Conn.)
- Photographs
- Scrapbooks
- Research Notes
- South Windsor (Conn.)--History
- South Windsor (Conn. : Town)--Genealogy
- Schools--Connecticut—South Windsor

Collection Inventory

Series 1. Historical research files, 1850-1994

Title/Description	Instances	
Receipts and writing practice, 1850-1856	box Collins 1	folder 1
Welcome to South Windsor scrapbook (1 of 2), 1853-1979	box Collins 1	folder 2
Welcome to South Windsor scrapbook (2 of 2), 1853-1979	box Collins 1	folder 3
Pleasant Valley first school, 1862	box Collins 1	folder 4
Wapping, 1863-1993	box Collins 1	folder 5
Excerpts from the History of South Windsor by Judge Ralph M. Grant, plus supplemental files, Circa 1880-1985	box Collins 1	folder 6
Folder titled Porter [South Windsor history], 1920-1985	box Collins 1	folder 7
South Windsor and South Windsor people (1 of 2), 1944-1994	box Collins 1	folder 8
South Windsor and South Windsor people (2 of 2), 1944-1994	box Collins 1	folder 9
History of U.S. executive branch, 1945	box Collins 2	folder 1
Biographies and Legends of the New England Indians, by Leo Bonfanti, 1968-1970	box Collins 2	folder 2
The South Windsor story [local history writeup], Circa 1970	box Collins 2	folder 3
Native Americans in Connecticut, 1970	box Collins 2	folder 4
Untitled folder [primarily South Windsor], 1986-1994	box Collins 2	folder 5
Town of South Windsor 150th anniversary calendar dedicated to Porter Collins, 1995	box Collins 2	folder 6
Connecticut witches, Undated	box Collins 2	folder 7
Windsor area cemetery listings, Undated		

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	box Collins 2	folder 8
South Windsor: The History of Your Town, by Ann Cravin, Undated	box Collins 2	folder 9

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Series 2. Collins family history, 1825-2014	box Collins 2	folder skip
Title/Description	Instances	
Collins family, 1825-Circa 1970	box Collins 2	folder 10
Bill of the 8th School District, South Windsor, by District Commissioner Collins, 1857	box Collins 2	folder 11
James Barber - Elizabeth Collins marriage certificate, 1886	box Collins 2	folder 12
Collins account book, 1916-1922	box Collins 2	folder 13
Collins account book, 1927-1929	box Collins 2	folder 14
The Collins Family of South Windsor, 1575-2010, by Sherrill S. Collins, 2014	box Collins 2	folder 15

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