Robert Parker Fondes papers
3.25 linear feet; 4 half-manuscript boxes, 1 quarter manuscript box, 1 drop-top box
1849-1997, bulk 1920-1955

Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University,
Salisbury, Maryland

Finding aid written by Hallie Kroll, March 2015.

Accession Number: 1990.036

Creator: Parker-Fondes Family

Acquisition: The Robert Parker Fondes papers were donated to the Nabb Research Center by Robert Parker Fondes through a series of donations from 1990-2004.

Language: Material entirely in English.

Use: Records are open for research. Copyright, including literary rights, belongs to the author(s) or their legal heirs.

Citation Style: “Item, Robert Parker Fondes papers, Box [#], Folder [#], Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture, Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland.”

Related Materials: Sciscenti photograph collection, 2005.087
Stewart J. Pomeroy papers, 2013.023
Wilmer Lankford collection, 1984.011

Separated Materials: Oversize materials have been placed in the Nabb Research Center’s flat file system.

Library materials have been cataloged and added to the Nabb Research Center’s non-circulating collection.

Artifacts have been housed in the Nabb Research Center’s three-dimensional object storage.
Biographical History: Robert Parker Fondes was born in Parsonsburg, Maryland in 1927 to James and Tabitha Parker Fondes. His mother’s family, the Parker’s, can trace their roots to the seventeenth century in Maryland. His mother Tabitha received her nursing degree from Mercer Hospital Nursing School in New Jersey before returning to Parsonsburg and marrying James Fondes. The couple settled in Philadelphia, where Robert grew up. Robert’s cousins Walter and Van Parker died as a result of combat in World War II. Their parents, Clifford and Maude Parker were farmers in the Parsonsburg area in the early twentieth century. They bequeathed their home to Robert Fondes at their death.

Citation: From the Attic to Military Museums, Robert Parker Fondes, 2001

Scope and Content Note: The Robert Parker Fondes papers document the lives of the Fondes-Parker family from 1849-1997 in Parsonsburg, Maryland and the surrounding Mid-Atlantic region. Documenting materials include financial records of the Parker family, family heirlooms, photographs, and newspaper articles on Robert Parker Fondes’ genealogical research. The bulk of the materials span from 1920-1955, documenting the farming business and personal lives of Clifford and Maude Parker. Correspondence pertaining to family events is also included.

Arrangement Statement: The Robert Parker Fondes papers have been arranged into two series, FAMILY PAPERS and RESEARCH PAPERS. Family papers document the lives of the Fondes-Parker family. It is further divided into three sub-series, Financial Records, Correspondence and Ephemera. Financial records document the transactions and banking methods of Clifford and Maude Parker, as well as other records relating to land, personal property, and health. Correspondence documents the relationships the family had with each other and the community. The Ephemera series encapsulates the family mementos such as photographs, school papers, and a vintage comic book. Research papers document the genealogical as well as local history research completed by Robert Parker Fondes. Family history papers, newspaper articles, and local history pamphlets are included in this series.

Folders are listed by their location in each box; any given subject may be dispersed throughout the entirety of the collection.
Subject Terms:

**General Terms**
- Agriculture
- Court records
- Domestic life
- Family history
- Farmers
- Farming
- Genealogy
- Historic preservation
- Parsonsburg, Md.
- World War II

**Corporate Names**
- C. R. Disharoon
- E. R. Ennis & Bro.
- E. S. Adkins & Co.
- Farmers & Merchants Bank
- Farmers and Planters Co.
- J. E. Shockley & Co.
- John A. Price
- Junior Order of the United American Mechanics
- Long Lumber Co.
- L. W. Gunby Co.
- Parsonsburg Volunteer Fire Company, Inc
- Sons & Daughters of Liberty

**Personal Names**
- Fondes, Robert Parker
- Fondes, Tabitha Parker
- Fondes, James
- Parker, Clifford
- Parker, Maude
- Parker, Walter
- Parker, Van
Series I: Family Papers

Sub-Series A: Financial Records

Box 1

1. Receipts from Various Vendors, 1914-1950
2. Receipts, Life Insurance Policy, 1920-1943
3. Receipts, Dry Goods Stores, 1907-1950
4. Receipts, Fertilizer Companies, 1907-1948
5. Receipts, US Postage Box, 1947-1982
6. Receipts, Produce Commissioners, 1907
7. Receipts, Automobile and Home Insurance, 1930-1985
8. Receipts, Funeral Arrangements, 1919-1961
10. Receipts, Electrical Companies, 1947-1954
12. Receipts, Dorman & Smyth Hardware Co., 1904-1913
14. Receipts, Farmers Supply Companies, 1918-1947
15. Receipts, Farmers and Merchants Bank, 1907-1957
17. Receipts, Kennerly-Shockley Co., 1908-1914
18. Receipts, R.E. Powell & Co., 1906-1924
20. Receipts, Marvel Package Co., 1932-1941
22. Receipts, the Baugh & Sons Co., 1930-1942
24. Receipts, John M. Gressitt Co., 1907
25. Receipts and Repair Records, Radio, 1929-1940
26. Farming Certifications, C. E. Parker, 1918-1947
27. Automobile Sale Contracts, 1923-1951

Box 2

1. Receipts, Automobile Repairs, 1948-1957
2. Receipts, Appliance Repairs, 1948-1956
4. Receipts, Membership, Sons & Daughters of Liberty, 1917-1938
5. Receipts, Membership, Junior Order of United American Mechanics, 1918-1957
7-9. Checks and Balances, Clifford and Maude Parker, 1927-1957
10. Checks and Balances, Clifford Parker, 1982-1985

Box 3

1. Loans to C.E. Parker, 1924-1935
2. Land Records, 1911-1948
3. Tax Records, 1906-1957
4. Medical Records, 1910-1985
5. Military Service Records, 1917-1942
7. Legal Documents, Guardianship of Clifford Parker, 1979-1985
8. Nursing Home Documents, Clifford Parker, 1982
9. Deed, Gravesite of Clifford Parker, 1943

Sub-Series B: Correspondence

10. Correspondence, From Various People, To Clifford and Maude Parker, 1930-1957
11. Correspondence, From Various People, To Maude Parker, 1957
12. Correspondence, From Various People, To Tabitha Parker Fondes, 1912-1985
13. Correspondence, From “Jimmy” Fondes, To Helen Fondes, 1963 March 3

Box 4

1. Postcards, From Various People, To the Parker Family, 1954-1984
2. Correspondence, From Various People, To Walter Parker, 1942-1943
3. Correspondence, From Various People, To Robert Parker Fondes, 1989-1997

Sub-Series C: Ephemera

4. Contents of Walter Parker’s Wallet, 1940-1946
5. Photographs, Parker-Fondes Family, 1900-1970
6. Photograph Book, Tabitha Parker Fondes, 1910-1915
7. Ephemera, Walter Parker in High School, 1936-1937
8. Report Cards, Tabitha Parker, 1904-1906
10. Photocopies of Tabitha Parker’s Nursing School Notes, undated
11. Ephemera, Robert Parker Fondes in High School, 1941-1943
13. Grammar Book, 1867
14. Grade Book, Martha E. Jackson, 1870
15. Autograph Book, Tabitha “Bessie” Parker, 1908

Series II: Research Papers

Box 5

1. Genealogical Research, Parker Family, undated
5. Research on Delmarva Indians, 1994-1995

Box 6
1. Grammar Book, 1867
2. Scrapbook, 1968
3. Account Book, 1932-1940

Oversize
1. Photocopied Death Records of James and Tabitha Fondes, undated
2. Charcoal Portrait, Grandparents of Tabitha Fondes, circa 1915
3. Oversize Valentine’s Day Card, From Mary Emily to Unknown, undated
4. Oversize Valentine’s Day Card, From Helen Fondes to Unknown, undated
5. Marriage Record, Clifford and Maude Parker, 1918 November 27
6. Joke Card, Golden Slipper Restaurant, undated
7. Trailways Eastern Shore Bus Schedule, 1956
9. Elementary School Graduation Certificate, Walter Parker, 1933 June 1
10. High School Diploma, Walter Parker, 1937 June 1

Library Materials
1. From the Attic to Military Museums, Robert Parker Fondes, 2001

Artifacts
1. Radio, 1990.036.001
3. Key, 1990.036.003
4. Shoes, 1990.036.004
5. Shoes, 1990.036.005
7. Dress, 1990.036.007
8. Child’s Shirt, 1990.036.008
9. Child’s Shirt, 1990.036.009
10. Shirt, 1990.036.010
15. Fan, 1990.036.015
17. Doily, 1990.036.017
18. Doily, 1990.036.018
22. Doily, 1990.036.022
23. Children’s Boots, 1990.036.023
24. Doily, 1990.036.024