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## Martha R. Whitmore Diaries

ca.1937-1962

6 vols. (0.25 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 807



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Shortly after graduating from college in 1920, Martha Richardson married Philip F. Whitmore, a market gardener from Sunderland, Mass., and 1915 graduate of Massachusetts Agricultural College. As a housewife and mother of three, Martha supported Philip, who became a Trustee of his alma mater and a representative in the State House (1950-1962). Philip Whitmore died in 1962, with Martha following nineteenth years later.

This small collection includes six scattered diaries of Martha Whitmore, kept somewhat irregularly during the years 1937, 1947, 1950, 1953, 1957, and 1962. Largely personal in nature, they are centered on home and family life, husband and children, and Martha's love of nature, but they include occasional references to Philip Whitmore's political activities and the University of

Massachusetts.

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## Background on Martha R. Whitmore

Martha Hubbard Richardson was born on Aug. 26, 1897, the daughter of Mary "Mollie" Morse Richardson and Dr. William S. Richardson of Marlboro, Mass. Following in her mother's footsteps, Richardson entered Wellesley College and excelled, graduating with honors in the class of 1920. That October, she married Philip Ferry Whitmore in the college's Shakespearean Society House, settling soon thereafter in his hometown of Sunderland. The couple raised three children: Mary (1921-2013), wife of Frank McClintock and a 1942 graduate of Wellesley; Carolyn (1924-2013), wife of G. David Shilling; and William R. (Bill) Whitmore.

Philip (1892-1962), Martha's husband, was a graduate of the Massachusetts Agricultural College (1915) and successful market gardener, but is remembered as a major contributor to the growth and development of his alma mater. From the time of his graduation to his death, he served the university in several capacities, including as class president, instructor in dairying, President of the Alumni Association (1927-1928), and Trustee (1929-1962). Whitmore was also an influential politician in western Massachusetts, serving as Sunderland town moderator for 38 years and for twelve years, as a Republican State Representative (1950-1962). During the protracted political struggle over fiscal autonomy for the university in the late 1950s and early 1960s, Whitmore emerged as a key supporter for the university and for the so-called Freedom Bill that allowed UMass to hire faculty and set salaries without interference from the legislature. Whitmore Hall, the central administration building at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, was named in his honor.

Philip Whitmore died in June 1962, while Martha died in Waltham, Mass., on June 5, 1981. She is interred in the North Sunderland Cemetery.

## Scope of collection

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Acquired from Eugene Povirk, Jan. 2014.

### Processing Information

Processed by I. Eliot Wentworth, Jan. 2014.

### Language:

English

### Copyright and Use (More information )



Phil Whitmore and grandchildren, July 1960

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## Search terms

### Subjects

Sunderland (Mass.)--History

University of Massachusetts at Amherst--Trustees

Whitmore, Philip F.

### Contributors

Whitmore, Martha R. [[main entry](#)]

### Genres and formats

Diaries

Photographs

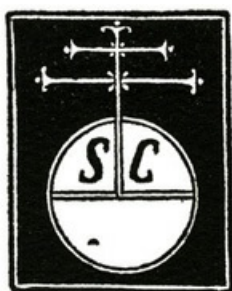
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