

## Special Collections and University Archives

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# Hollis A. Smith Papers

1910-1940 (*Bulk:* 1929-1931)

1 box (0.5 linear feet)

Call no.: MS 965



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[Credo digital](#)

[Scope](#)

[Inventory](#)

[Admin info](#)

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A native of Haverhill, Mass., and graduate of the University of Maine (BF, 1925) and Harvard (MF, 1927), Hollis A. Smith attempted to establish a career in forestry in the late 1920s. Working as superintendent of the new Martha's Vineyard State Forest and as a consulting forester associated with the Harvard Forest in Petersham, Smith worked with clients to develop planting and harvesting plans and to care for the trees. With his practice languishing, Smith settled in Martha's Vineyard and worked as a surveyor and other positions.

This collection contains correspondence, job reports, and ephemera from Hollis Smith's relatively brief career as a consulting forester in Massachusetts, nearly all concentrated in the years 1929-1931. Nearly half of the collection consists of correspondence with clients (or potential clients), with a few interesting reports on properties.

## Background on Smith, Hollis A.

Hollis Ayer Smith was born in Haverhill, Massachusetts, on March 14, 1903, the son of Bertha (Charlestown) Smith and Fred A. Smith, a manufacturer of leather counters for the shoe industry. After graduating from the University of Maine in 1925 and earning a Masters of Forestry from Harvard (1928), Smith set out to build a career as a forester. After the Martha's Vineyard State Forest was established in 1925, he was appointed forest superintendent, overseeing work on planting and fire line construction, but in 1927, he became a student again, working under A. C. Cline at the Harvard Forest in Petersham, Mass. On the side, he maintained a private consulting business, with clients from Cape Cod to New Hampshire.

Smith's business, however, never really prospered. By 1930, he informed a friend, Lawrence Rathbun, that with consulting work drying up, he would return to the Vineyard to focus on surveying, keeping forestry as a sideline. By the time of the 1940 federal census, Smith was recorded as living in Tisbury and working as a manager of a golf course. He died in Tisbury on February 6, 1988.

## Scope of collection

This collection contains correspondence, job reports, and ephemera from Hollis Smith's relatively brief career as a consulting forester in Massachusetts. Nearly half of the collection consists of correspondence with clients (or potential clients), with a few interesting reports on properties: detailing the space, planting proposals, plans for maintaining the condition of the property, and concerns for dealing with insect or fungal infestation.

Smith's clients included both private landowners and organizations such as the Central New England Sanatorium in Rutland, Mass., with the majority located in the Cape and Islands, central Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. The collection also includes some correspondence and ephemera relating to meetings of professional forestry associations in the early 1930s.

## Inventory

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Booklets and  
1928-1938

Box 1: 1

Describing and documenting soil conditions. Washington, D.C. : US Department of Agriculture  
undated

Mulford, Furman Lloyd, Trees for roadside planting. Washington, D.C. : US Department of Agriculture  
1928

Shea, H. J., Lectures in geodesy. S.I. : s.n.  
ca.1927

Thompson, A. Robert, Tree bracing. Washington, D.C. : US Department of the Interior  
1938

Time book [record of work, with hours and description of the job]  
1927

Canadian Society of Forest Engineers  
1930

Box 1: 2

Clive, A.C.  
1930-1932

Box 1: 3

Consulting work: Barraclough, K.E.  
1929

Box 1: 4

Consulting work: Biglow, R.L.  
1931

Box 1: 5

Consulting work: Braley, Abner L.  
1931

Box 1: 6

Consulting work: Carpenter, Irving F.  
1929

Box 1: 7

Consulting work: Cleveland, Mather, with report on the Colby Homestead Farm, New London, N.H.  
1929-1930

Box 1: 8

Consulting work: Crane, Bayard T.

1928-1932

Box 1: 9

Consulting work: Crane, Bayard T. with report on the Central New England Sanatorium

ca.1929-1932

Box 1: 10

Consulting work: Crane, W. C.

1930

Box 1: 11

Consulting work: Fisher, Georgina P., with report on the Franklin lot of Georgina Fisher, Petersham, Mass.

1930

Box 1: 12

Consulting work: Freemont, N.H. (town)

1930

Box 1: 13

Consulting work: Gregg, Harry A.

1929

Box 1: 14

Consulting work: Hatch, Horace, with report on property of Joseph Higgins, Barre, Mass.

1929

Box 1: 15

Consulting work: Kinnicutt, Roger

1929-1932

Box 1: 16

Consulting work: Makepeace, John

1930

Box 1: 17

Consulting work: Mixter, Charles G.

1929-1930

Box 1: 18

Consulting work: Morse, Charles L.

1930-1931

Box 1: 19

Consulting work: Pratt, Ernest

1930

Box 1: 20

Consulting work: Putnam, Tracy J., with report on the Washburn estate, Middleboro, Mass.

1929-1931

Box 1: 21

Consulting work: Taft, Clarence M.

ca.1930

Box 1: 22

Consulting work: Windsor, Frederick

1929 Oct-1931

Box 1: 23

Consulting work: Whittlemore, Lewis

1931

Box 1: 24

Cook, H.O.

1931-1932

Box 1: 25

Correspondence

ca.1929-1932

Box 1: 26

DePont de Nemours and Company

1930

Box 1: 27

Essex National Bank

1928-1930

Box 1: 28

Fisher, R.F.  
1929-1932  
Box 1: 29  
Herr, Clarence S.  
1929  
Box 1: 30  
MacAloney, H.J.  
1930-1932  
Box 1: 31  
Miller, Paul J.  
1931  
Box 1: 32  
Newspaper clippings  
ca.1930  
Box 1: 33  
Nurseries: miscellaneous ephemera  
ca.1930  
Box 1: 34  
Nurseries: prices  
1928-1933  
Box 1: 35  
Nurseries: shipping notices  
1931-1932  
Box 1: 36  
Paramenter, R.B.  
1910 Oct-1942  
Box 1: 37  
Rathbun, Lawrence W.  
1929-1930  
Box 1: 38  
Reynolds, Harris  
1929-1930  
Box 1: 39  
Society of American Foresters  
1929-1931  
Box 1: 40  
Society of American Foresters: New England section  
1928-1933  
Box 1: 41  
Society of American Foresters: reports  
1929-1932  
Box 1: 42

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## Administrative information

### Access

The collection is open for research.

### Provenance

Acquired from the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Archives, Sept. 2016.

The Smith collection was discovered by Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation staff person in June 2016 at the Correllus State Forest facility on Martha's Vineyard (formerly the Martha's Vineyard State Forest, est. 1925). The collection was considered out of scope for the DCR and transferred to SCUA.

### Processing Information

Processed by Daniel Cronin, March 2017.

### Language:

English

### Copyright and Use (More information )

*Cite as:* Hollis A. Smith Papers (MS 965). Special Collections and University Archives, University of Massachusetts Amherst Libraries.

## Search terms

### Subjects

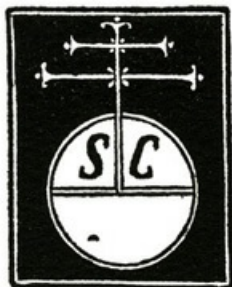
Foresters--Massachusetts

Sharon (Mass.)--Economic conditions--19th century.

### Contributors

Smith, Hollis A. **[main entry]**

Smith, Hollis A.



Special Collections & University Archives

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