

**Collection:** Robert P. Brooks Collection

**Accession Number:** 2013.008

## Finding Aid

**Date Range:** March 3, 1926- October 1, 1976

**Bulk Date:** 1926-1976

**Creator:** Robert P. Brooks

**Containers:** 2 Flip-top document boxes

**Size:** 10 ¼ x 12 ¼ x 5 (each box)

**Storage Location:** PCHS Library and Archives

**Aid Created By:** Anthony Guido, intern (completed February 20<sup>th</sup> 2013)

### **Biographical Information:**

Robert P. Brooks was born in Colorado on August 8, 1887, the third child of William Gillman and Sarah Woodruff Brooks. His parents were natives of Cumberland County, New Jersey, where he spent his childhood. He graduated from New York University with an undergraduate degree in pedagogy (education) in 1912 and the teachers college at Columbia University with a Masters of Arts degree.

At age eighteen Brooks began a career as a teacher in Cumberland County. He then went on to become Principal of several different schools throughout his career, including Wayne Township (Passaic County), Raritan Township(Middlesex County) and in Ridgewood (Bergen County). In 1913 he began working for the Paterson school system, for which he worked until his retirement in 1945.

Brooks belonged to several different associations such as, Principles Round Table, the N.Y. Schoolmasters Club, New Jersey Schoolmasters Club and several other fraternal organizations. He was also one a five charter members to organize the Passaic County Historical Society in 1926. Brooks would serve on the board of trustees from 1926-1968, being appointed an honorary member in 1969. On the board he served in several offices including the Society's vice president (1926-1928), treasurer (1928-1931), historian (1950-1960) and chair the publications committee (1950-1964).

After retiring from the Historical Society, Brooks moved to Denville Pennsylvania, where he would still contribute to the Society as much as he could. He has three children and eight grandchildren. Robert Brooks died in September 1976.

**Scope Note and Content:**

The majority of the documents in this collection relate to Brooks' dealings with the Passaic County Historical Society. Items include letters to other members of the Passaic County Historical Society, and some personal letters. The collection also includes newsletters, essays, research notes and some photographs. The photographs in the collection are mostly of historic houses around Passaic County.

The collection also contains some newspaper clippings and receipts from items purchased for the Passaic County Historical Society. The newspaper clippings seem to be related to the history of Passaic County, specifically the city of Paterson.

**Series:**

The collection is organized into folders by subject matter. At the writing of this finding aid, the collection had already been organized topically. There was no evidence to suggest that this collection is in the original arrangement designated by Robert Brooks.