

G. Edward Prentice Railroad Collection

Overview of the Collection

Repository: South County History Center 2636 Kingstown Road Kingston, Rhode Island 02881

Tel: 401.783.1328, website: southcountyhistorycenter.org

Title: G. Edward Prentice Collection

Dates: 1887 – 2022

Media: Papers, Photographs

Quantity: 2 boxes, 1 linear foot

Identification: 2013.006.0172

Language: English

Biographical Note

George Edward “Hap” Prentice (1909-1986) was a railroad enthusiast, historian and collector. A life-long Rhode Island resident, Prentice authored several newspaper articles and books on the Narragansett Pier and Sea View railroads. His father, George L. Prentice Jr. (1882-1958), worked in the electrical trade and started his career as an employee of the Sea View Railroad Company.

Scope and Content

The G. Edward Prentice Collection includes newspaper clippings, maps, papers, photographs, and records. The collection is largely comprised of materials from three scrapbooks created by Prentice and donated to the South County History Center in 1986 by John (Jack) Holland Jr. The scrapbooks focused on the history of the Narragansett Pier Railroad Company and the Sea View Railroad Company. Prentice assembled the scrapbooks in the early 1980s, and they contained materials from as early as 1875. To best preserve these materials, the scrapbooks were digitally photographed and disassembled in 2022. The series is organized as follows:

Series I: Scrapbook Digital Surrogates 2022

Series II: Narragansett Pier Railroad 1875 – 1984

Subseries I: Records 1875 – 1984

Subseries II: Photographs 1876 – 1983

Series III: Sea View Railroad 1898 – 1983

Subseries I: Records 1899 – 1983

Subseries II: Photographs 1989 – 1982

Series IV: Related Materials 1887 – 1983

Administrative Information

Access: Any qualified person doing personal or scholarly research is permitted to utilize materials in the South County History Center collections.

Preferred Citation: G. Edward Prentice Collection, South County History Center

Provenance: This collection was donated to the South County History Center in 1986 by John Holland Jr.

Processed by: Caleb Goodhouse, with the generous support of Shantia Anderheggen, Scott Kisilywicz, Ted Meleney, and Stephen White.

Subject Terms

Narragansett Pier Railroad Company; New York, New Haven, and Hartford Railroad Company; Railroads--Rhode Island--History; Sea View Railroad Company

People

Prentice, G. Edward, 1909 – 1986

Prentice, George L. Jr., 1843 – 1930

Related Materials

Researchers interested in this collection may also wish to consult the following sources in the South County History Center holdings:

“An Early Stroll Down Main Street around 1920” by G. Edward Prentice

Friends of Kingston Station Collection

G. Edward Prentice Slide Collection

Sea View Railroad Construction Maps

Contents Listing

Series I: Scrapbook Digital Surrogates, 2022 (Stored with the Center’s Digital Collections)

Description	Date
"Narragansett Pier Rail Road 1876-1981"	2022
"The Sea View R. R. History 1887-1921"	2022
"The SEA VIEW Rail Road 1887-1920 By G. Edward Prentice"	2022

Series II: Narragansett Pier Railroad 1875 – 1984

Subseries I: Records, 1875 – 1984

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	1	Narragansett Pier Railroad Company Charter and By-Laws	1875
1	2	Narragansett Pier Railroad Company Tickets	1926 – 1966

1	3	Narragansett Pier Railroad Right of Way Map	1982
1	4	Compiled data on Narragansett Pier Railroad	1980
1	5	Newspaper Clippings	1955 – 1984
1	6	Published works by G. Edward Prentice	1983

Subseries II: Photographs 1876 – 1983

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	7	Narragansett Pier Railroad Photographs	1876 – 1982
1	8	Narragansett Pier Railroad Photographs	1890 – 1950
1	9	Narragansett Pier Railroad Photographs	1966 – 1983

Series III: Sea View Railroad 1898 – 1983

Subseries I: Records, 1899 – 1983

Box	Folder	Description	Date
1	1	Sea View Railroad Operational Records	1906 – 1918
1	2	Sea View Timetables and Tickets	1905 – 1919
1	3	Sea View Railway Maps	n.d.
1	4	Records related to George L. Prentice Jr.	1899 – 1907
1	5	Compiled data on Sea View Railroad	1898 – 1983
1	6	G. Edward Prentice Manuscripts	1982 – 1983
1	7	“History of Sea View Railroads by G. Edward Prentice”	1977
1	8	Newspaper Clippings and Articles	1899 – 1979
1	9	Prints and Artwork	n.d.

Subseries II: Photographs, 1898 – 1982

Box	Folder	Description	Date
2	10	Photographs of Sea View Railroad Employees	1898 – 1918
2	11	Photographs of Sea View Railroad Cars and Stations	1898 – 1918
2	12	Photographs of Sea View Railroad Right of Way	1898 – 1982

Series IV: Related Materials, 1887 – 1983

This series contains additional railroad-related materials collected by Prentice and information about Prentice himself.

Box	Folder	Description	Date
2	1	Tickets – Various Railroads	1887 – 1947
2	2	Canonchet Railroad Company Stock Certificate	c. 1980
2	3	Correspondence and Press Release	1948, 1983
2	4	Photograph of Wood River Junction & Photograph of Newport Station	1900, 1984
2	5	Photograph of G. Edward Prentice	1983