Parsons, Hinsdill; Papers apap293

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English
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Summary Information

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository:</th>
<th>M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections &amp; Archives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Creator:</td>
<td>Hinsdill Parsons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>Hinsdill Parsons Papers</td>
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<tr>
<td>ID:</td>
<td>apap293</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]:</td>
<td>1890-1912</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Description:</td>
<td>2 cubic ft.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical Location:</td>
<td>The materials are located on site in the department.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language of the Material:</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>Language of the Material:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Abstract:</td>
<td>Hinsdill Parsons, Esq. was born on February 10, 1864 in Hoosick Falls, New York, the son of J. Russell Parsons.</td>
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</table>

Preferred Citation

Preferred citation for this material is as follows:

Identification of specific item, series, box, folder, The Hinsdill Parsons Papers, 1890-1912. M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University at Albany, State University of New York (hereafter referred to as the Hinsdill Parsons Papers).

Biographical History

Hinsdill Parsons, Esq. was born on February 10, 1864 in Hoosick Falls, New York, the son of J. Russell Parsons. One of five sons, he attended Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut, graduating in 1884. While in college, Parsons joined Phi Beta Kappa and Delta Psi fraternities. He attended Albany Law School and graduated in 1885; he was admitted to the New York State Bar in the same year. In September 1889, he married Jessie Mary Burchard in Hoosick Falls, NY. In the same year, Parsons also became patent attorney for the Walter A. Wood Harvester Company in Hoosick Falls, of which his father was an incorporator. He worked there until he left for Schenectady to serve as General Counsel for the
General Electric Company in 1894. In May, 1901, he was given control of General Electric's legal affairs and was elected vice-president of the company. At this time, Parsons was also elected President of the Schenectady Railroad Company. During his tenure with General Electric, Parsons was involved with various company anti-trust legal issues.

Parsons served on the board of directors for the Electric Bond and Share, the Washington Water Power, and the Knickerbocker Trust Companies, as a trustee for the General Electric Investment Club, as co-president of the Bully Hill Copper Mining & Smelting Company, and was a member of the University Club and the American Academy of Political and Social Science.

In a letter dated November 22nd, 1897, Parsons divulges to Mr. W. V. Baker of the Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company that his two life insurance policies held by Northwestern state differing birthdates because he is unsure of his age. No mention of his mother has been found in either Parsons records or in research materials. On April 28th, 1912, Parsons died in a car accident. He is buried in Vale Cemetery in Schenectady, NY.

Scope and Contents

The Hinsdill Parsons collection contains 2 cubic feet of paper records from Parsons employment at General Electric, as well as personal and financial papers. The majority of the collection is comprised of correspondence between Parsons and various professional and personal contacts, but the collection also includes financial reports and spreadsheets from General Electric and other companies on which Parsons served as a board member or trustee. Other areas of particular interest include records of stock and bond transactions both professional and personal and several maps of areas affected by GE-affiliated railway or utilities companies.

This collection covers the years between 1890 and 1912, with the bulk of the documents dating from 1900-1912. The General Electric and other financial documents deal primarily with investments in the United States; the majority of the documents are related to upstate New York matters, although interests in other locations include Pennsylvania, Colorado, and Oregon. General Electric and Parsons were also involved in activities in Europe and Mexico. Parsons also kept records of the various clubs and organizations of which he was a member, including meeting minutes and dues records. Other personal documents include legal documents such as insurance papers and estate records, as well as general correspondence with and financial advice given to friends and family members.

These documents were discovered in the Parsons' previous residence at 21 Front Street, Schenectady. Upon the death of Hinsdill Parsons' wife, Jessie Burchard Parsons, in 1951, this residence and its contents were bequeathed to Saint George's Episcopal Church, 28 North Ferry Street, Schenectady. Saint George's sold the house in 1989, and in 2000, a Mr. Kevin Decker wrote Dr. Gerald Zahavi, University at Albany Professor of History, to inform him of the existence of these documents.

The collection is divided into three series. All three series are arranged alphabetically by subject name and are generally in reverse chronological order within each folder. Series 1: General Electric, Oct. 1900-
April 1911, contains correspondence, financial records, and company reports relating to GE business matters. Series 2: Financial Investments, April 1895-April 1912, contains documents regarding Parsons personal financial matters. Series 3: Personal, June 1890-April 1912, contains all other material of a personal nature not included in Series 2. Subjects in this series include family correspondence, property rights and deeds, Parsons involvement in committees and clubs, and personal investment advice. Two significant subjects in this series involve Parsons automotive interests and family estate communications.

Arrangement of the Collection

The collection is organized into the following series: Series 1- General Electric, 1900-1911, Series 2- Financial Investments, 1985-1912, and Series 3- Personal, 1890-1912

Administrative Information

Publication Statement

M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections & Archives

Revision Description

EAD file created Encoded in EAD by Encoded with EADMachine by Melissa McMullen 2016 2016 December

Processing Information

Processed in 2009 by Michelle Scott.

Access

Access to these records is unrestricted.

Copyright

The researcher assumes full responsibility for conforming with the laws of copyright. Whenever possible, the M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives will provide information about copyright owners and other restrictions, but the legal determination ultimately
rests with the researcher. Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be discussed with the Head of Special Collections and Archives.

**Acquisition Information**

These documents were discovered in the Parsons' previous residence at 21 Front Street, Schenectady. Upon the death of Hinsdill Parsons’ wife, Jessie Burchard Parsons, in 1951, this residence and its contents were bequeathed to Saint George’s Episcopal Church, 28 North Ferry Street, Schenectady. Saint George’s sold the house in 1989, and in 2000, a Mr. Kevin Decker wrote Dr. Gerald Zahavi, University at Albany Professor of History, to inform him of the existence of these documents. All items in this manuscript group were transferred to the University Libraries, M.E. Grenander Department of Special Collections and Archives, in 2006.

**Access**

Access to this record group is unrestricted.

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**Controlled Access Headings**

- Business and Industry
- Albany, New York
- Parson, Hinsdill

**Collection Inventory**

**General Electric, 1900-1911**

- **Date [inclusive]:** 1900-1911
- **Physical Description:** 0.33 cubic ft.

**Arrangement**

Arranged Alphabetically.
**Scope and Contents**

This series contains correspondence, financial records, and company reports relating to GE business matters. This series includes administrative correspondence within the company, as well as correspondence with other GE affiliates and outside corporations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]: 1901 May- June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Instances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Box 1 (1-General Electric)</td>
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<td>Folder 1</td>
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</table>

| Binghamton General Electric Bonds sales & communications. |
| Date [inclusive]: 1901 December- 1902 January |
| Instances |
| Box 1 (1-General Electric) |
| Folder 2 |

| Culver, A. I. Phone conversation memorandum re: Railroad Rate Regulating Commission |
| Date [inclusive]: 1905 May 16 |
| Instances |
| Box 1 (1-General Electric) |
| Folder 3 |

| Chicago City Railway Company. GE rebate contracts; correspondence re: contracts, Chicago mayoral bookkeeping investigation/audit, Chicago co. personnel issues; newspaper clippings re: audit, contract cancellations. |
| Date [inclusive]: 1907 February- 1909 May |
| Instances |
| Box 1 (1-General Electric) |
| Folder 4 |

| Chicago Edison Company. Royalty contract memorandum/ clarification |
| Date [inclusive]: 1904 July 16 |
| Instances |
| Box 1 (1-General Electric) |
| Folder 5 |

| Electric Properties Company. Confidential advance copy of prospectus of new Westinghouse Company |
| Date [inclusive]: 1906 April |
| Instances |
| Box 1 (1-General Electric) |
| Folder 6 |

| Electric Undertakings Company. Prospectus. |
| Date [inclusive]: Undated |
| Instances |
| Box 1 (1-General Electric) |
| Folder 7 |

| The Egyptian Petroleum Company, LTD. Annual general meeting report |
| Date [inclusive]: 1908 December 30 |
| Instances |
| Box 1 (1-General Electric) |
| Folder 8 |

| GE Finances. Audit, collections/delinquent accounts, company expense statements, P&L reports, communications re: delinquent companies accounts & personnel issues, executive committee report. |
| Date [inclusive]: 1905 February- 1910 February |
| Instances |
| Box 1 (1-General Electric) |
| Folder 9 |

| GE Investment Club. Correspondence, financial reports/ summaries, stock/bond purchases, minutes |
| Date [inclusive]: 1904 April- 1911 April |
| Instances |
| Box 1 (1-General Electric) |
| Folder 10 |

<p>| Greene Copper. Business transactions |
| Date [inclusive]: 1901 December- 1904 November |</p>
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<td>Date [inclusive]: 1904 May-June</td>
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<td>Houston Municipal Plant. Letter re: proposed municipal plant</td>
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<td>Hudson River Telephone Company. Proposed ordinance</td>
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<td>Magee, Louis J. Business correspondence, foreign companies</td>
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<td>Date [inclusive]: 1906 May- 1907 April</td>
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<td>Manhattan Railway Company. Bill cancellation</td>
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<td>Niagara County Irrigation &amp; Water Supply Company. Legislative monitoring expense</td>
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<td>Nicholls, William S. Personal contact, business communications.</td>
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<td>Peabody, George Foster. The Otis Inclined Railway</td>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Schenectady Railway Company. Financial statements, trolley line, bonds</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]: 1903 August- 1912 January</td>
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Special Collection Department. GE customer debt collection
Financial Investments, 1895-1912

Date [inclusive]: 1895-1912

Physical Description: 1.12 cubic ft.

Arrangement

Arranged Alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains documents regarding Parsons personal financial matters. In some cases, the demarcation between Parsons personal and professional financial involvement is blurred, and a number of the financial documents in this series involve colleagues at General Electric. The series contains correspondence relating to personal loans and debts, stock and bond transactions, cancelled checks and receipts, insurance and tax information, property rights information, and various companies financial statements and plans.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Gas &amp; Electric Co./Electric Bond &amp; Share Co. Stock shares communication, purchase agreements, plan &amp; reports. Railroad rights/ eminent domain.</td>
<td>Box 2 (2-Financial Investments) Folder 1</td>
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<td>Date [inclusive]: 1906 December- 1912 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brooklyn City Railroad. Stock purchases &amp; communications</td>
<td>Box 2 (2-Financial Investments) Folder 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]: 1910 July- 1911 July</td>
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<td>Cohoes Gas Light Company. Stock purchase, communication with brother Willard P. Parsons, Anson Burchard</td>
<td>Box 2 (2-Financial Investments) Folder 3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]: 1910 February- 1911 January</td>
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<tr>
<td>Central Colorado Power Company. Purchase agreements, financial plans, annual reports, collections letters. Financial insolvency, Knickerbocker Trust Company</td>
<td>Box 2 (2-Financial Investments) Folder 4</td>
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<td>Date [inclusive]: 1906 October- 1912 March</td>
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<td>Date [inclusive]: 1905 March- 1912 April</td>
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<td>1909 January- 1910 December</td>
<td>Box 2 (2- Financial Investments) Folder 6</td>
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<td>United States Mortgage &amp; Trust Company.. Charles Coffin investments, IOUs, receipts. Date [inclusive]: 1903 March- 1910 November</td>
<td>Box 2 (2- Financial Investments) Folder 7</td>
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<td>Chicago &amp; Milwaukee Electric Railroad Company.. Stock shares. Date [inclusive]: 1905 March-April</td>
<td>Box 2 (2- Financial Investments) Folder 8</td>
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<td>Chesapeake &amp; Ohio Company.. Stock shares. Date [inclusive]: 1899 July- 1900 November</td>
<td>Box 2 (2- Financial Investments) Folder 9</td>
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<td>Fisher, A.M. Debt correspondence, IOU. Date [inclusive]: 1908 August- 1911 February</td>
<td>Box 2 (2- Financial Investments) Folder 10</td>
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<td>F.J.&amp;G. (Fonda, Johnstown &amp; Gloversville Railroad Company). Stock &amp; bonds. Date [inclusive]: 1903 April- 1904 January</td>
<td>Box 2 (2- Financial Investments) Folder 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Great Northern Power Development Company. Underwriters agreements, subscription correspondence, invoice letters. Date [inclusive]: 1904 December- 1908 May</td>
<td>Box 2 (2- Financial Investments) Folder 12</td>
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<td>Grenfell Syndicate. Subscription; Grenfell Mexican Exploration Co. (copper mine). Date [inclusive]: 1906 May-August</td>
<td>Box 2 (2- Financial Investments) Folder 13</td>
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<td>Guanajuato Power and Electric Company. Stockholder reports, banking &amp; loan documentation, subscription/stock communication. Stone Canon Consolidated Coal Company of Maine stocks. Date [inclusive]: 1899 December- 1910 November</td>
<td>Box 2 (2- Financial Investments) Folder 14</td>
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<td>Golf Club Realty Company. Stock communications. Date [inclusive]: 1907 January</td>
<td>Box 2 (2- Financial Investments) Folder 15</td>
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<td>Huston, Ernest. Loan correspondence. Date [inclusive]: 1906 November- 1908 September</td>
<td>Box 2 (2- Financial Investments) Folder 17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home insurance policies, tax bills. Receipts &amp; correspondence. Date [inclusive]: 1903 May- 1912 July</td>
<td>Box 3 (2- Financial Investments) Folder 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Home electrical inspection. Reports, correspondence.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Box 3 (2-Financial Investments)</th>
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<td>Hyatt, Marshall.</td>
<td>Loan correspondence.</td>
<td>1909 November- 1911 May</td>
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<td>Lindsay, Charles.</td>
<td>Handwritten paid note.</td>
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<td>Box 3 (2-Financial Investments)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Citizens Lighting Company of</td>
<td>Stock/bond communications.</td>
<td>1901 July- 1903 March</td>
<td>Box 3 (2-Financial Investments)</td>
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<td>Louisville.</td>
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<td>Miller, Elmer A.</td>
<td>Bank note communication, Schenectady Trust Company.</td>
<td>June 3rd 1908</td>
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<td>Miller, John H.</td>
<td>Loan communications.</td>
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<td>Box 3 (2-Financial Investments)</td>
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<td>National Commercial Bank.</td>
<td>Payments/deposits.</td>
<td>1911 June- 1912 February</td>
<td>Box 3 (2-Financial Investments)</td>
<td>Folder 8</td>
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<td>Pennsylvania Water &amp; Power</td>
<td>Stock communications.</td>
<td>1911 October- 1912 April</td>
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<td>Company.</td>
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<td>Parsons, Hinsdill (A).</td>
<td>Assorted financial reports, communications, cancelled checks, receipts.</td>
<td>1895 April- 1908 October</td>
<td>Box 3 (2-Financial Investments)</td>
<td>Folder 11</td>
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<td>Parsons, Hinsdill (B).</td>
<td>Assorted financial reports, communications, cancelled checks, receipts.</td>
<td>1895 April- 1908 October</td>
<td>Box 3 (2-Financial Investments)</td>
<td>Folder 12</td>
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<td>Date [inclusive]</td>
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<td>1904 March- 1909 December</td>
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<td>Portland-Salem (Oregon) Electric Railway Company Syndicate</td>
<td>Syndicate shares communications</td>
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<td>Date [inclusive]: 1905 December- 1910 February</td>
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<td>Date [inclusive]: 1902 April-1912 March</td>
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<td>Security Savings &amp; Trust Company</td>
<td>Stocks.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date [inclusive]: 1911 June- 1912 April</td>
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<td>Southern California Edison Company</td>
<td>Stock purchase &amp; communication. Annual report.</td>
<td>Box 4 (2-Financial Investments)</td>
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<td>Date [inclusive]: 1911 January- 1912 April</td>
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<td>Date [inclusive]: 1905 September- 1912 April</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Tehuantepec Rubber Culture Company</td>
<td>Mortgage bonds, life insurance. Rubber plantation investment.</td>
<td>Box 5 (2-Financial Investments)</td>
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<td>Date [inclusive]: 1901 August- 1904 November</td>
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<td>Syndicate subscription.</td>
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Date [inclusive]: 1909 January- 1912 April

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Personal, 1890-1912

Date [inclusive]: 1890-1912

Physical Description: 0.55 cubic ft.

Arrangement

Arranged Alphabetically.

Scope and Contents

This series contains all other material of a personal nature not included in Series 2. Subjects in this series range from family correspondence to property rights and deeds to Parsons involvement in committees and clubs, to personal investment advice. Two significant subjects in this series involved Parsons automotive interests and family estate communications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title/Description</th>
<th>Instances</th>
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