

Guide to the David R. Proper Research Collection PVMA Library

In 1969, David Ralph Proper (1933-2014) became the first professional librarian of the Heritage Foundation (now Historic Deerfield) in Deerfield, Mass., having previously worked at the Essex Institute and Keene State College libraries. David was instrumental in organizing the libraries of Historic Deerfield and the Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association into the Memorial Libraries, the umbrella term for the two collections housed adjacent to PVMA's Memorial Hall Museum. He served as librarian for the two organizations until his retirement in Dec. 1995. David spent most of his life in Keene, NH, and was the author of more than 2,000 articles on local history for the *Keene Sentinel* that were later published as two volumes. David's interests in history, clocks, genealogy, Shakers, and early band music are reflected in the holdings of the Historic Deerfield Library, and in his research projects.

Container List:

Box 1

Small binder of correspondence; research notes; clippings; program announcements

Folder 1: Correspondence regarding research on Lucy Terry Prince; publication of articles on Prince, and Lucy Terry Prince, Singer of History, 1975-1997

Folder 2: Correspondence regarding Lucy Terry Prince postage stamp

Folder 3: General correspondence, 1973-1997 and undated

Folder 4: Notes regarding Lucy Terry Prince

Folder 5: Published newspaper columns

Folder 6: Miscellaneous – clippings; announcements of lectures & workshops; various notes; commendations; obituaries

Box 2

Folder 1: Unpublished writings

Folder 2: Articles printed in the *Historic Deerfield Quarterly*, *Magazine Antiques*, and other publications

Folder 3: Lectures and presentations

Folder 4: Unpublished research papers

Folder 5: Research on fireplaces later published in the *Proceedings of the Dublin Seminar for New England Folklife*

Folder 6: Research on clocks