



BHC-MSS 0067

## Guide to the Truman Parsons Collection

By Meg Rinn, February 2020

### **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Truman Parsons, Barbara Hudgins

**Title:** Truman Parsons Collection

**Dates:** 1908-1942 [bulk 1934-1942]

**Quantity:** ½ manuscript box

**Abstract:** A veteran of the Civil War, Truman Parsons lived the second half of his life in Stratford, Connecticut and was a heavily active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, Elias Howe Post No. 3 in Bridgeport. This collection documents Parson's G.A.R. participation and the end of his life in Fairfield County.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** Bridgeport History Center

### **Biographical History**

Born in East Hampton, Truman parsons enlisted at the age of 17 in 1861. Lying about his age by a year, he was a part of Connecticut's Company G, First Volunteer Heavy Artillery. Parsons served as a part of the Union army for three years after his enlistment, seeing action at major battles such as that of Fredericksburg.

Following the war, Parsons was an active member of the Grand Army of the Republic, a veterans organization formed in 1866. Parsons did not move to Bridgeport until 1913, but when he did, he was a highly active member of the local GAR Post - #3, named for Elias Howe Jr. The Bridgeport post participated in local memorial events, members gave speeches, and they interacted with the state and national level events every year.

Parsons served as the state commander of Connecticut's G.A.R., and as a national Patriotic Instructor. He moved to Stratford in 1918, and remained there until he passed in 1942. He was the very last Civil War veteran in Stratford to die.

His family carried on his legacy, understanding the value of his service and involvement with the Grand Army of the Republic after the war. Much of Parson's material was donated to the Museum of Connecticut History at the Connecticut State Library, with some of his things residing at the Bridgeport History Center.

### **Scope and Content note:**

The material within focuses on the end of Parson's life. This includes a testimonial reception for him held by the Grand Army of the Republic, along with a scrapbook of clippings about Parsons. As he was the last Civil War veteran to die in Stratford, the clippings are a rich biographical source for both him and the other vets that remained in the 1930s into the 1940s.

**Arrangement Note:**

There are no series in this collection. General information about Parsons has been placed first, followed by scrapbooks and clippings, and then additional material related to the Grand Army of the Republic.

**Administrative information:**

**Provenance** Donation of Barbara Hudgins.

**Other locations**

Physical objects have been donated to the Museum of Connecticut History at the Connecticut State Library.

**See also**

Records of Elias Howe Jr. Post #3 Grand Army of the Republic (BHC-MSS 0038), Bridgeport Public Library.

**Preferred Citation:**

Truman Parsons Collection (BHC-MSS 007) Bridgeport History Center, Bridgeport Public Library.

**Names and Subject Tracings***Personal names*

Parsons, Truman N.

*Corporate names*

Grand Army of the Republic

*Subject tracings*

Bridgeport, Conn.

United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865

**Detailed box and folder listing**

## Box 1

1. Timeline of Parson's life, undated
2. Program of testimonial reception for Truman Parsons, 1939
3. Reproduction photograph of Parsons in G.A.R. uniform, undated
4. Photograph of Parsons, 1942
5. Scrapbook, 1934-1942
6. Newspapers stuffed into scrapbook, 1934-1942
7. Clippings, 1938-1962
8. Roster of Elias Howe Jr. post #3, 1908
9. GAR stationary, undated

## Oversize

Photograph of Grand Army of the Republic at the Stratfield Hotel, 1936