

# PARSONS, SARA MITCHELL, 1912- Sara Mitchell Parsons papers, 1933-2002

Emory University  
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## Descriptive Summary

**Creator:** Parsons, Sara Mitchell, 1912-  
**Title:** Sara Mitchell Parsons papers, 1933-2002  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 946  
**Extent:** 1.5 linear ft. (3 boxes) and 2 oversized bound volume (OBV)  
**Abstract:** Papers of activist and author Sara Mitchell Parsons including correspondence, photographs, printed material, a scrapbook, and writings by Parsons.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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## Administrative Information

### Restrictions on access

Unrestricted access.

### Terms Governing Use and Reproduction

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

### Source

Gift, 2003.

### Citation

[after identification of item(s)], Sara Mitchell Parsons papers, Manuscript, Archives and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

### Processing

Teresa Burk, September 2003.

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## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

Sara Bedell Perry was born April 18, 1912 in Canton, Georgia, Cherokee County. After her parents divorced, Sara moved to Atlanta with her mother and spent her high school years here. Sara married George Raymond Mitchell in June of 1933 and had two children: Ray Mitchell Jr. and Susan Rogers Perry Mitchell. She served as president of the League of Women Voters of Atlanta from 1958-1963, and was awarded Atlanta's Good Neighbor of the Year 1965. She divorced in 1965 and married Thomas S. Parsons a Humboldt State University professor in December of 1968. She continued her social activism in Humboldt County, California until 1986 when she returned to Atlanta, Georgia. She was named 1994 Role Model of the Year by the Older Women's League in Atlanta. She published her memoir, *From Southern Wrongs to Civil Rights* in 2000.

### Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the papers of Sara Mitchell Parsons from 1933-2002. The papers include correspondence, photographs, printed material, a scrapbook, and writings by Parsons. The bulk of the correspondence is from the late 1990s through 2002 and relates to her book, *From Southern Wrongs to Civil Rights*, and its publication. Notable in the correspondence are letters from the King family, including Martin Luther King Jr. The printed material, mostly newspaper clippings, documents education, segregation and the Civil Rights movement among others. Also in the collection are a small number of photographs, Sara Mitchell Parson's diaries from 1964 and 1970 and scrapbooks from her 1961 campaign for election to Atlanta Board of Education and a subsequent scrapbook about that election and service to the board through 1969

### Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type.

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## Container List

### Correspondence, 1961-2002

Box	Folder	Content
1	1	Atlanta School System, 1961, 1963, 1968, 1983, undated
1	2	Book: <i>From Southern Wrongs to Civil Rights</i> , 1980s
1	3	Book: <i>From Southern Wrongs to Civil Rights</i> , 1990s
1	4	Book: <i>From Southern Wrongs to Civil Rights</i> , 2000-2002, undated
1	5	Fan Mail, 2000-2001
1	6	Fan Mail, 2002, undated
1	7	High School Football, 1963, 1968
1	8	Martin Luther King Jr. and family, 1963-2001
1	9	Miscellaneous, 1963-1964, 200-2002

### Photographs, 1933, 1953, 1965, 1969

1	10	Family and others, some undated
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### Printed Materials, 1956-2002

2	1	Atlanta School System, 1960-1969, 1999, undated
2	2	Book Research, <i>From Southern Wrongs to Civil Rights</i> , 1963-1997, undated
2	3	Book Reviews and Publicity, 2000-2002, undated
2	4	California Years, 1981, 1987, undated
2	5	Civil Rights Movement, 1960-2000, undated
2	6	High School Football, 1963, 1983, 1987, undated
2	7	Ku Klux Klan, 1976, 1983, 1988, 2000, undated
2	8	Liberalism, 1978, 1981, 2001, undated
2	9	Martin Luther King Jr. Center, 1980-2002, undated
3	1	Martin Luther King Jr. and Family, 1960s-1970s
3	2	Martin Luther King Jr. and Family, 1980s-1990s, undated
3	3	Segregation- Churches and Schools, 1956-1996, undated

### Scrapbook, 1961

OBV1-	Campaign for Atlanta Board of Education, 1961
OBV2-	Atlanta Board of Education, 1961-1969

### Writings, 1964-2002

3	4	Diary, 1964
3	5	Diary, June 24, 1970- January 6, 1981
3	6	Diary Entries, 1962, 1972, 1981, 1992, undated
3	7	Drafts and Research Notes for <i>From Southern Wrongs to Civil Rights</i> , undated

3 8      Speeches and Editorials, 1973, 1983, undated

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