

Timeline – Robert H. Goddard & WPI

Abbreviations

GP-Papers of Robert Goddard

HM-This Highman:The Life of Robert H. Goddard / by Milton Lehman

RHG-Robert H. Goddard

RM-Rocket Man: Robert H. Goddard & the Birth of the Space Age / by David A. Clary

WPI-Robert & Esther Goddard Collection [MS 14]

1882

October 5, RHG born in Worcester

1904

RHG graduates from South High School Worcester

September 14, RHG enters WPI at the age of 22

September 15, RHG Diary, “Went to Tech in morning and afternoon. Studied in evening.”[GP]

September 17, RHG Diary, “Went to Tech in morning. Wrote graphic algebra in afternoon. Went to '08 reception in evening.” [GP]

November 22, RHG English Paper, “Who Am I and Why I Came to the Institute.” [GP]

1905

January 31, RHG elected Vice President of Class of '08 [GP]

January-April, Took course on Descriptive Geometry [WPI]

1906

January 5, RHG elected Class President [GP]

January 5, RHG Student Experiment – The Torsional Pendulum, Experiment No. XXVIII [WPI]

February 17, RHG pledges for Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity [GP]

June, RHG Student Experiment – Gyroscope, Experiment No. 30 [WPI]

November 7, RHG Student Experiment – Errors in Weights, Experiment No. 2 [WPI]

November 8, RHG Student Experiment – Mohr’s Specific Gravity Balance, Experiment No. 4 [WPI]

December 10, RHG Student Experiment – Acceleration of Gravity by Pendulum [WPI]

December 18, RHG Student Experiment – Pressure of Water Saturated Vapor, Experiment No. 20 [WPI]

1907

January 24, RHG Student Experiment – Electrical Engineering – Siemens Electro-Dynamometer, Experiment No. 7 [WPI]

January 31, RHG Student Experiment – Self and Mutual Induction & Capacity, A.C., Experiment No. 55 [WPI]

February 1, RHG Student Experiment – Photographic Lab – Wave Length of Light by Diffraction Grating, Experiment No. 31 [WPI]

February 5, RHG Student Experiment – Electrical Engineering – Preliminary Power Measurements, Experiment No. 9 [WPI]

February 7, RHG Student Experiment – Measurement of Very High Resistance (2) [WPI]

February 12, RHG Student Experiment – Electrical Engineering, Inductive & Capacity, Experiment No. 13 [WPI]

February 15, RHG Student Experiment – Calibration of Ammeter, Experiment No. 49 [WPI]

February 18, RHG Student Experiment – Electrical Engineering – Experimental Study of the Electrical Arc, Experiment No. 14 [WPI]

February 19, RHG Student Experiment – Electrical Engineering – First Work with A.C. Transformer, Experiment No. 17 [WPI]

February 25, RHG Student Experiment – Electrical Engineering – The Series Transformer [WPI]

March 7, RHG Student Experiment – Physics – Thermo-Electrical Current [WPI]

March 8, RHG Student Experiment – Physics – Comparison of Capacities of Condensers [WPI]

March 12, RHG Student Experiment – Physics – Coefficient of Self-Induction [WPI]

March 15-21, RHG Student Experiment – Front Physics – Permeability [Magnetic] [WPI]

March 21, RHG Student Experiment – Back Physics – Measurement of Low Resistances [WPI]

March 25, RHG Student Experiment – Back Physics – Measurement of Very High Resistance [WPI]

May 9, RHG Student Experiment – Rear Physics – Hysteresis [WPI]

May 10, RHG Student Experiment – Back Physics – Comparison of Resistance by the Carey-Foster Method [WPI]

May 16, RHG Student Experiment – Back Physics – Battery Resistance by Mance's Method [WPI]

June, RHG Student Experiment – Physics – Melting Point of Alloys [WPI]

October 14, RHG Student Experiment – Calorimeter Lab – Heat of Neutralization [WPI]

November 19, RHG Student Experiment – Phys. Chem. – Effect of Concentration on E.M.F. [WPI]

December 3, RHG Student Experiment – Phys. Chem. – Study of Electrolytic Conduction [WPI]

December 17, RHG Student Experiment – Phys. Chem. – Velocity of Ions [WPI]

1908

RHG writes class song “Old Tech”

May 17, RHG Student Experiment – Back Physics – Calibration of A Volt Meter [WPI]

June 3, RHG elected to WPI chapter of Sigma XI [GP]

June 3, RHG Student Experiment – Back Physics – Horizontal Component of the Earth Magnetism [WPI]

June 3, RHG Student Experiment – Back Physics – The Mechanical Equipment of Heat by the Electrical Method [WPI]

June, RHG Student Experiment –Melting Point of Alloys [WPI]

June 4, RHG submitted Senior Theses “The Electrical Resistance of Selenium and other Anomalous Conductors” [WPI]

June 11, RHG graduates with BS in General Science [WPI]

June 28, RHG's article “The Use of the Gyroscope in the Balancing and Steering of Planes” accepted by Scientific American [GP]

October 2, RHG's article “On the Possibility of Navigating Interplanetary Space” rejected by Popular Mechanics [GP]

November, RHG publishes article in WPI Journal “On Some Anomalous Electrical Conductors” [WPI]

RHG instructor of Physics at WPI (1908-1909) [RM]

1917

Spring, RHG granted permission to use Magnetic Lab for experiments [HM]

1917-18 – Developed tube-launched infantry rockets under contract to Signal Corps, at WPI, Clark University, and Mount Wilson Observatory

June 9, RHG Diary, tube rocket experiment explodes at WPI [GP]