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Laurence B. Gardiner collection finding aid

Title: Laurence B. Gardiner collection

Collection No: MSS.0167

Extent: 1.25 cubic feet

Inclusive Dates: 1904-2001

Abstract: This collection compromises photographs, programs, letters, telegrams, postcards, booklets, and books collected by and given to cattle breeder Laurence B. Gardiner (1906-1994) of Memphis, Tennessee.

Processed by: Grace Neeley, 2022.

Access: Open to all researchers.

Language: English

Preferred Citation: Laurence B. Gardiner collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis

Publication date: 2022 November

Biographical Information

Laurence Bridges Gardiner was born July 21, 1906, in Memphis, Tennessee. Gardiner was the longest-serving member of the Mid-South Fair board, cattle expert, genealogist, philanthropist, and civic leader. From the time he was a teenager, the born-and-bred city boy was interested in agriculture, particularly dairy cattle. He spent several years as a field man for the American Jersey Club before starting his highly successful cattle-breeding business, Pure Bred Jersey Sales Nationwide, from which he retired.

Gardiner was also known as an expert genealogist and was a member of the Tennessee Genealogical Society, the Downtown Kiwanis Club, and a former director of the American Jersey Cattle Club. A graduate of the University of Tennessee (UT), Knoxville, Gardiner was a member of Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, the UT Development Council, the UT Benefactors Society, the Memphis Chancellor's Roundtable, and the UT President's Club. He served as president of the Elmwood Cemetery Association and was elected its first president emeritus. Gardiner was a member of the Huguenot Society, the Memphis Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, the Jamestown Society and First Families of Virginians. Gardiner passed away on 1994 October 2, at the age of 88.

Scope and contents

This collection compromises photographs, programs, letters, telegrams, postcards, booklets, and books collected by and given to Laurence B. Gardiner. Some items are related to the Gardiner family, while others are directly personal items regarding Gardiner's life-long service commitments, leadership roles, awards, memberships, philanthropy, etc.

Subject terms

Gardiner, Laurence B.
Mid-South Fair (Memphis, Tenn.)
Philanthropy and society
Tennessee--History.

Inventory

Box 1 Folder

- 1 Photograph: Idlewild Elementary School class, 1921 January 19. Includes Gardiner.
- 2 Photographs: Higbee School, Memphis, Tenn., 1911, (20).
unfolded Binder scrapbook: "Laurence B. Gardiner" name plate mounted on the front.
The contents were placed in Folder 3.
- 3 Birthday card; map: J. Foster Ashburn's Map of Memphis; programs: Mid-South Fair for Laurence Bridges Gardiner Day, 1977 September 28 (2); letters (29), telegrams (2) congratulating Gardiner for his award for 60 years of participation and dedicated service to

- the Mid-South Fair, 1977; photographs: Gardiner accepting his award at the Mid-South Fair, 1977 (4).
- 4 Postcards: Memphis, Tenn., one is dated 1938 July 29 (12); Tennessee Valley Authority's Norris Dam, Anderson County and Campbell County, Tenn., 1938 (?) (6); Jackson, Tenn., undated (2); Trenton, Tenn., undated; Savannah, Tenn., undated; Clinch River Bridge on Highway No. 33, undated; Humboldt, Tenn., undated (3); Columbia, Tenn., undated; Nashville, Tenn., undated (4).
 - 5 The United Daughters of the Confederacy, Mary Latham Chapter No. 474, Memphis, Tenn., 1924-1925, 1982-1984.
 - 6 Brooks Art Gallery League, Memphis, Tenn., 1983-1984, 2000-2001.
 - 7 The Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin in the Colony of Virginia, Tennessee Branch, Forty-first Annual Assembly, 1972 May 29-31, Sixty-fifth Annual Assembly, 1992 September 11-12.
 - 8 "Third Zionist War" by Geo. W. Armstrong, 1951 March 1.
 - 9 Telephone directory: Gibson County, Tenn., 1958 June.
 - 10 "Pretty Privies of The Ozarks, Actual Photographs of Vanishing Americana" by Mahlon N. White, published by Democrat Publishing Company, Clinton, Missouri, undated.
 - 11 "Tyranny at Oak Ridge" published by The Tennessee Federation for Constitutional Government, Nashville, Tenn., 1956; "Tennessee and Mississippi, Where the Old South Meets the New" compiled by David J. Harkness, Knoxville, Tenn., Vol. XLII, No. 1, 1967 May.
 - 12 Chapter of *The Heraldic Journal* No. XXIII, 1868, regarding The Gardiner Family.
 - 13 Pledge manual, Kappa Alpha Order, published by The National Administrative Council, Atlanta, Georgia, 1957;
 - 14 "The History of The State Capitol Building", Nashville, Tenn., 1950 January 20; The English Speaking Union, The United States of America, Memphis Branch, 1997-1998 with blank membership applications (2), Tennessee Federation for Constitutional Government, undated, letter: Tennessee Federation for Constitutional Government announcing the publication of "Tyranny at Oak Ridge", 1956 April 18.

Box 2

Publications:

"'Tis so, Negro Folk Tales of the Old South including Negro Dialect" by Sam B. Short, Claitor's Publishing Division, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 1972.

Elmwood Cemetery, List of Lot Owners, 1904 March 31.

Leather photo album, photographs of the Gardiner family and friends (?), most photographs were taken in Memphis, Tenn., while a few were taken in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, and Mobile, Alabama, (46).

Separated materials

The following material was separated from the collection and disposed of as follows:

"The Secrets of the Hopewell Box" by James D. Squires. New York, New York, Times Books, 1996.

"Tennessee Old and New, Sesquicentennial Edition 1796-1946", Vol. II, by Tennessee State Historical Commission, Kingsport Press, 1946.

“The Nashville I Knew” by Jack Norman, Sr., Nashville, Tenn., Rutledge Hill Press, 1984.

“North Carolina Land Grants In Tennessee 1778-1791” copyright 1958 by Gardiner-Cartwright, Memphis, Tenn., printed by Nortex Offset Publications, Inc. Quanah, Texas.

“Our Valley: Happy and Cadron Valleys, Faulkner County, Arkansas” by Carnella “Connie” Hall Weir, 1991.

Separated to Special Collections book collection.