
ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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**MS 1115
Gardiner Family Papers
1882 – 1972 (Bulk 1920 – 1950)**

DESCRIPTION

Collection consists of correspondence, diaries and writings, ephemera and photographs relating to the Gardiner family of Tucson, and John H. Gardiner's service in World War I and his work as an engineer with the U.S.G.S. water survey. Photographs depict family, friends, Tucson views, and various Arizona cities and towns in the 1920s.

19 Boxes, 12 linear feet

ACQUISITION

Collection was donated by Beverly Rutter, conservator for Christine Ramsey Gardiner, 1992.

ACCESS

There are no restrictions on access to this collection.

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Requests for permission to publish material from this collection should be addressed to the Arizona Historical Society, Tucson, Archives Department.

PROCESSING

The collection was processed by Merideth Jenson-Benjamin, under the supervision of Kim Frontz, December 1998.

ARRANGEMENT

Arranged into four series: Correspondence 1882 – 1972 (Bulk 1920 –1950); Personal Material 1891 -1990; Ephemera 1881-1956; Photographs 1890's – 1950's.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

John Gardiner, Sr. (1846-1930) was a prominent civil engineer and Tucson resident since 1881. John Gardiner, Sr. was superintendent engineer for the Philadelphia centennial in 1876, and deputy mineral surveyor for the Arizona Territory, 1882 –1884. After coming to Tucson he formed Gardiner, Worthen and Gross Iron works, which was one of the pioneer manufacturing plants in Arizona.

Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner (1857-1938), was the wife of John Gardiner, Sr., Gretchen Gardiner had three sons and a daughter, three of whom died in childhood.

John H. Gardiner (1894-1956), son of John and Gretchen Gardiner, was the USGS Water Survey District Engineer for Arizona, and served as the Director of the American Society of Civil Engineers from 1945-1948. While attending the University of Arizona he enlisted and served with expeditionary forces in France during World War I. A district engineer in Ft. Smith, Arkansas from 1929-1938 he returned to Tucson in 1939. He died of cancer in 1956.

Edith Ramsey Gardiner (1901-1947), first wife of John H. Gardiner graduated teachers college in 1919, and married John in 1921. Believing she had cancer, Edith committed suicide in 1947.

Christine Ramsey Gardiner (1903 -), second wife of John H. Gardiner, worked as a secretary in Los Angeles from 1924 till 1947. She married John in 1948. Christine was still living as of 1996.

Fred Ramsey, father of Edith and Christine Ramsey Gardiner operated a farm in the Cortaro Irrigation project from 1919 – 1925. Most of his life was spent working as a manual laborer.

Ida Black Ramsey, mother of Christine and Edith Ramsey Gardiner separated from Fred Ramsey in 1919. After the separation she worked as domestic help, and died in 1921.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The collection consists primarily of correspondence from and to members of the Gardiner family, but includes personal materials, ephemera and photographs. One large group of correspondence is from John H. Gardiner to his parents during his training and deployment in the Medical Corps during World War I, this is interesting as it provides a picture of life for soldiers during this time. Another large section of personal correspondence is between John and Edith Gardiner during the course of their marriage. John's work as a district engineer for the USGS Water Survey required him to travel a great deal and much of his correspondence details his work at the time. Much of the other correspondence deals with the personal lives of the Gardiner family and friends. Of particular note is the correspondence of Christine Ramsey Gardiner, who lived as a single woman in Los Angeles for more than two decades. The small section of business correspondence also deals extensively with John H. Gardiner's military service and his work with the U.S.G.S. water survey.

The section of personal materials consists mainly of diaries, writings and autograph books which detail the day-to-day lives of members of the Gardiner family. Particularly interesting are the childhood diaries of Edith Ramsey Gardiner, whose family wandered quite a bit, and provided Edith with an interesting perspective. Another unique example of personal materials are the drawings of Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner. Gretchen was a talented artist, and examples of her work both in drawing and watercolors survive in the collection.

The ephemeral materials contain newspaper clippings, certificates and awards won by members of the Gardiner family. These pictures paint a picture of the family's public life, which makes an interesting contrast to the personal details related in their correspondence.

The photographs are perhaps the most interesting and valuable parts of the collection. Aside from photographs of Gardiner, Ramsey, Black and Kolbe family members, there are photographs of early Tucson homes, the San Xavier Mission, portraits from the Buehman Studio, as well as outdoor scenes photographed by Buehman and Hayne. Also, John photographed extensively while on his business trips and vacations, so there are several photographs of scenes of both Arizona and elsewhere. The collection also contains excellent examples of cabinet cards and carte de viste.

Three photograph albums are also part of the collection. Of particular note is the album of John H. Gardiner. The album features pictures of local excursions such as Sabino Canyon, Mount Lemmon, "A" Day 1916, and Yaqui ceremonies. The album also includes photographs of University of Arizona Students 1915 –1918 and World War I soldiers in Europe. Various engineering projects John was involved in are also represented, including the Coolidge dam construction and various small towns in Arizona.

BOX AND FOLDER LIST

Series I: Correspondence, 1893 – 1971

Personal Correspondence, 1893 – 1950 (Bulk 1920s – 1940s)

Box 1:

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|---|--------------------|
| 1) John Gardiner Sr. | 1895-1918 |
| 2) Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner | 1893 – 1934 |
| 3) To John and Gretchen Gardiner from John H. Gardiner | March 1918 |
| 4) To John and Gretchen Gardiner from John H. Gardiner | April 1918 |
| 5) To John and Gretchen Gardiner from John H. Gardiner | May – June 1918 |
| 6) To John and Gretchen Gardiner from John H. Gardiner | July – August 1918 |
| 7) To John and Gretchen Gardiner from John H. Gardiner | Sept. – Oct. 1918 |
| 8) To John and Gretchen Gardiner from John H. Gardiner | Nov. – Dec. 1919 |
| 9) To John and Gretchen Gardiner from John H. Gardiner | Jan. – Feb. 1919 |
| 10) To John and Gretchen Gardiner from John H. Gardiner | March – May 1919 |
| 11) To John H. Gardiner | 1918 – 1919 |

Box 2:

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|--|-------------|
| 12) To John H. Gardiner | 1920 – 1929 |
| 13) To John H. Gardiner | 1930 – 1939 |
| 14) To John H. Gardiner | 1940 – 1949 |
| 15) To John H. Gardiner from Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner | 1918 – 1919 |
| 16) To John H. Gardiner from Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner | 1920 – 1929 |
| 17) To John H. Gardiner from Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner | 1930 |
| 18) To John H. Gardiner from Edith Ramsey Gardiner | 1920-1928 |
| 19) To John H. Gardiner from Edith Ramsey Gardiner | 1929 |
| 20) To John H. Gardiner from Edith Ramsey Gardiner | 1930 – 1938 |
| 21) To John H. Gardiner from Edith Ramsey Gardiner | 1939 |
| 22) To John H. Gardiner from Edith Ramsey Gardiner | 1940 – 1945 |
| 23) To John H. Gardiner from Edith Ramsey Gardiner | 1946 – 1947 |

Box 3

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|--|-------------|
| 24) To John H. Gardiner from Christine Ramsey Gardiner | 1929 – 1948 |
| 25) From John H. Gardiner | 1902 –1946 |
| 26) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner | 1918 –1924 |
| 27) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner | 1925 –1926 |
| 28) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner | 1927 – 1929 |
| 29) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner | 1930 – 1934 |
| 30) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner | 1935 – 1939 |
| 31) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner | 1940 – 1944 |
| 32) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner | 1945 –1947 |
| 33) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner | undated |

Box 4

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|---|------------|
| 34) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner | 1920-1930 |
| 35) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from John H. Gardiner 1920 | |
| 36) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from John H. Gardiner | 1921 –1922 |

- 37) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from John H. Gardiner 1923 – 1924
- 38) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from John H. Gardiner 1925 – 1929
- 39) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from John H. Gardiner 1930 – 1939
- 40) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from John H. Gardiner 1940 – 1944
- 41) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from John H. Gardiner 1945 – 1947
- 42) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from John H. Gardiner undated
- 43) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from Christine Ramsey Gardiner 1920 – 1924

Box 5

- 44) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from Christine Ramsey Gardiner 1925 – 1929
- 45) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from Christine Ramsey Gardiner 1930 – 1939
- 46) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from Christine Ramsey Gardiner 1940 – 1947
- 47) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from Fred Ramsey 1920 – 1925
- 48) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from Fred Ramsey 1925 – 1929
- 49) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from Fred Ramsey 1930 – 1939
- 50) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from Fred Ramsey 1940 – 1947
- 51) To Edith Ramsey Gardiner from Fred Ramsey undated
- 52) To John and Edith Gardiner 1920 – 1929
- 53) To John and Edith Gardiner 1930 – 1934
- 54) To John and Edith Gardiner 1935 – 1939
- 55) To John and Edith Gardiner 1940 – 1947

Box 6

- 56) To John and Edith Gardiner undated
- 57) To Christine Ramsey Gardiner 1921 – 1950
- 58) To Christine Ramsey Gardiner from John H. Gardiner 1947
- 59) To Christine Ramsey Gardiner from John H. Gardiner 1948
- 60) From Fred Ramsey 1921 – 1927
- 61) To Fred Ramsey c.1910 – 1947
- 62) Correspondence regarding Mrs. Fred (Ida) Ramsey c.1919 – 1921
- 63) From E.A. Black 1859 – 1960

Box 7

- 64) Condolences on the death of John Gardiner Sr. 1930
- 65) Condolences on the death of Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner 1938
- 66) Condolences on the death of Edith Ramsey Gardiner 1947

Business Correspondence, 1899 - 1971

- 67) Correspondence regarding Army Corps of Engineers 1918
- 68) General Business Correspondence Gardiner Family 1919 – 1956
- 69) Correspondence regarding the USGS 1941 – 1942
- 70) Correspondence regarding the Western Helium Corporation 1963 – 1971
- 71) Legal Documents Certificates and Contracts 1899 – 1956

Series II: Diaries, Account Books, Scrapbooks

72) Diary: Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner	1891
73) Autograph Album: Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner	1887
74) Sketchbook: Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner (See Also Oversize)	1883
75) Account Book: Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner	188?
76) Album made by Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner Commemorating the deaths of her children	1901
77) Writings and Copybook: Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner	undated
78) Memorial Record of Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner	1938
79) Diaries: John H. Gardiner	1915-1518
80) Diaries John H. Gardiner	1937-1951
81) Account Books: John H. Gardiner	1926-1950
82) Diary: Edith Ramsey Gardiner, John H. Gardiner & Christine Ramsey Gardiner	1931-1990

Box 9

83) Copybooks: John H. Gardiner	1907
84) Writings: John H. Gardiner	1929-1946
85) Report Cards: John H. Gardiner	1907-1912
86) Diary: Edith Ramsey Gardiner	1914-1920
87) Diary: Edith Ramsey Gardiner	1922
88) Diary: Edith Ramsey Gardiner	1928
89) Autograph Book: Edith Ramsey Gardiner	1913
90) Account Book: Edith Ramsey Gardiner	1939-1942
91) Writings and Schoolwork: Edith Ramsey Gardiner	1914
92) Marriage Service of John and Christine Gardiner	1948
93) Daily Register: Ida Black Ramsey	1884
94) Diary: Edith Black	1904-1906
95) Wanderbuch (Travel and Work Journal) of D. Kolbe	1945-1948

Series III: Certificates, Calling Cards, Clippings

96) Certificates and Awards: John Gardiner Sr. (Also Oversized)	1881-1884
97) Certificates and Awards: John H. Gardiner (Also Oversized)	1912-1956

Box 10

96) Certificates and Awards: Edith Ramsey Gardiner (See Also Oversize)	1918-1921
97) Certificates and Awards: Christine Ramsey Gardiner	1922-1962
98) Calling Cards: Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner	undated
99) Calling and Identification Cards; John H. Gardiner	1928-1957
100) Personalized Christmas Cards: Gardiner Family	undated
101) Newspaper Clippings: John Gardiner Sr.	1890-1941
102) Newspaper Clippings: John H. Gardiner	1920-1956
103) Newspaper Clippings; Edith and Christine Gardiner	1937-1951

Series IV: Photographs

People

- | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 106) | John H. Gardiner Sr. | c.1900-1930 |
| 107) | Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner | c. 1890-1930 |
| 108) | Joseph K. Gardiner dates unknown | |
| 109) | Edmund Gardiner dates unknown | |
| 110) | John H. Gardiner with brothers | 1894-1911 |

Box 11

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|------|--|--------------|
| 111) | John H. Gardiner as infant and youth | 1894 –1910 |
| 112) | John H. Gardiner as an adult | c.1917-1956 |
| 113) | John H. Gardiner with Edith and
Christine Ramsey Gardiner (See Also Oversize) | 1921-1956 |
| 114) | Edith Ramsey Gardiner (See Also Oversize) | 1901 –1947 |
| 115) | Christine Ramsey Gardiner (See Also Oversize) | c1910 – 1956 |
| 116) | Fred Ramsey and Ida Black Ramsey | c1900's |
| 117) | Black – Grandparents of Christine and Edith Ramsey | c1900 |

Box 12

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|-------|---|----------|
| 118) | Sisters of Ida Black Ramsey | c1890 |
| 119) | Black Family Relatives | undated |
| 120) | Cramer Gardiner (brother of John Gardiner Sr.) | c1910 |
| 121) | Mr. & Mrs. D.W. Kolbe (parents of Gretchen Gardiner) | c.1880's |
| 122) | Sister of Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner name unknown | undated |
| 123) | Kolbe Family | undated |
| 124) | Kolbe Family album pages | undated |
| 125) | Gen. John J. Pershing | 1920 |
| 126a) | Women – 19 th C. – Unidentified (mostly cabinet cards) | |
| 126b) | Women – 19 th C. – Unidentified | |
| 127) | Men – 19 th C. – Unidentified | |

Box 13

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|-------|---|--|
| 128) | Infants – 19 th and 20 th C. – unidentified | |
| 129) | Children – 19 th C. – Male and Female – unidentified | |
| 130) | Children – 19 th C. – Male and Female – unidentified (2 or more) | |
| 131a) | Women – 20 th C. – unidentified | |
| 131b) | Women – 20 th C. – unidentified | |
| 132) | Men – 20 th C. – unidentified | |

Box 14

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|------|--|--|
| 133) | Children – 20 th C. – Female – Unidentified | |
| 134) | Children – 20 th C. – Male – Unidentified | |
| 135) | Children with parents and grandparents – unidentified | |
| 136) | Groups (3 or More) – Unidentified | |
| 137) | Beuhman Studio Portraits – Tucson | |

- 138) Studio Portraits – Ft. Smith AK.
- 139) Carte de Viste

Places

- 140) Gardiner Home – 144 E. 3rd St. (See Also Oversize) 1904 -1930
- 141) Gardiner Home – 144 E. 3rd St. — Interiors c. 1930
- 142) Gardiner Home – 2101 E. Spring St. c. 1938 –1 956

Box 15

- 143) Tucson Homes – Including Burning Home, Christmas and Interiors, including children’s room.
- 144) Businesses – Tucson – Gardiner Worthen and Gross Bicycle Shop – Interior and exterior undated
- 145) San Xavier Mission undated
- 146a) Scenes – Tucson – photographed by Beuhman & Haynes – Birds Eye Views c.1900
- 146b) Scenes – Tucson – photographed by Beuhman & Haynes – Buildings c.1900
- 147) Scenes – Arizona – Post Cards and Slides c1930 – 1956
- 148) Gardiner Home – Ft. Smith AK 1930 - 1938
- 149) Gardiner Home – Morristown N.J. undated
- 150) Kolbe Home – Philadelphia PA undated
- 151) Houses –19th and 20th C. – unidentified
- 152) Outdoor Scenes – Miscellaneous
- 153) Miscellaneous Scenes and Buildings
- 154) Automobiles, Wagons and Planes

Photo Albums and Oversized

Box 16

- Album 1: Photograph Album of John H. Gardiner c.1900 – 1938

Box 17

- Album 2: Photograph Album of Edith Ramsey Gardiner 1921 – 1938

Box 18

- Album 3: Photograph Album of Christine Ramsey Gardiner 1947 – 1956

Box 19 (OVERSIZED)

- 155) Certificates and Awards – John Gardiner Sr. 1974 – 1912
- 156) Writings and drawings – Gretchen Kolbe Gardiner undated
- 157) Certificates and Awards – John H. Gardiner 1915 – 1947
- 158) Certificates and Awards – Edith Ramsey Gardiner 1914
- 159) Photographs: John H. Gardiner c1930 – 1948
- 160) Photographs: Edith and Christine Ramsey Gardiner c1900’s – 1947
- 161) Photographs: Unidentified People – 19th and 20th C.
- 162) Gardiner Home – 144 E. 3rd St. 1904
- 163) Scrapbook – John H. Gardiner 1921 – 1948