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.

COPYRIGHT

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.


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 visite.

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:**
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:**
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**
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**
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
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 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

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 1918-1921
   (See Also Oversize)
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

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 c1901

Box 12

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 – 19th C. – Unidentified (mostly cabinet cards)
126b) Women – 19th C. – Unidentified
127) Men – 19th C. – Unidentified

Box 13

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

Box 14

133) Children – 20th C. – Female – Unidentified
134) Children – 20th 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. c1904
162) Gardiner Home – 144 E. 3rd St. 1904
163) Scrapbook – John H. Gardiner 1921 – 1948