

MS-668: Garard-Getter Family Collection

Collection Number: MS-668

Title: Garard-Getter Family Collection

Dates: circa 1890-1955 (bulk 1920-1935)

Creator: Garard family

Summary/Abstract:

The collection consists primarily of the personal photographs of a Dayton, Ohio, family in the early 20th century. Subjects include leisure activities (hunting, boating, camping, and playing music, etc.), travel (throughout Ohio and beyond), and family reunions.

Quantity/Physical Description: 0.5 linear foot

Language(s): English

Repository:

Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, OH
45435-0001, (937) 775-2092

Restrictions on Access: There are no restrictions on accessing material in this collection.

Restrictions on Use:

Copyright restrictions may apply. Unpublished manuscripts are protected by copyright. Permission to publish, quote, or reproduce must be secured from the repository and the copyright holder.

Preferred Citation:

[Description of item, Date, Box #, Folder #], MS-668, Garard-Getter Family Collection, Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio

Acquisition:

The collection was donated to Special Collections and Archives, Wright State University Libraries, by an unidentified donor in March 2015.

Separated Material:

Two items larger than 8.5 inches by 11 inches have been removed to oversize storage. (A reference photocopy of each item has been placed in the appropriate folder along with a Document Removed form.)

Processed by:

Finding aid written according to DACS standards by Lisa Rickey, October 2019.

Other Finding Aid:

The finding aid is available on the Special Collections & Archives, Wright State University Libraries web site at <https://www.libraries.wright.edu/special/collectionguides/files/ms668.pdf>. It is also available in the OhioLINK Finding Aid Repository at <http://ead.ohiolink.edu/xtf-ead/>.

Processing Information:

The scrapbook was received unbound, with no cover, and has been housed in sleeve pages inside a ring binder box. All non-oversize (smaller than 8.5" x 11") items are also in this binder box.

Arrangement:

The collection is arranged in a single series of photographs.

Biographical/Historical Note:

Jesse Edgar Garard was born March 12, 1879, at Bachman (near Brookville), Montgomery County, Ohio, a son of William and Esther (Dyson) Garard. He married Catharine D. Getter on October 21, 1903, in Montgomery County, Ohio. Catharine "Katie" D. Getter was born January 24, 1882, in Miamisburg, Ohio, to Clement and Catharine (Miller) Getter. Jesse and Catharine Garard had two daughters: Wilma (1905-1950) and Mae (1907-1984).

The Garard family resided at 1529 E. Second Street in Dayton, Ohio, near what is now known as the Huffman Historic District. Jesse's primary occupation was as a machinist, though he also worked as a repairman and blacksmith at different times. He worked for Stoddard and later for the City Machine and Tool Company. Jesse belonged to the St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church (now St. Paul United Methodist Church) at 101 Huffman Avenue, as well as to the Eagles.

On November 3, 1928, Jesse Garard died at age 49 at Miami Valley Hospital, after an illness of about a week. Cause of death was septicemia. He was buried November 6 at Parish Cemetery in Arlington (near his birthplace of Bachman).

Catharine Garard and her daughters moved about a mile southeast to 209 S. Findlay Street. After an illness of about 9 months, Catharine died at home from uterine cancer on July 18, 1932, at the age of 50. She was buried next to her husband on July 21, 1932.

The elder daughter Wilma Hyacinth Garard was born January 27, 1905, in Dayton, Ohio. She was a school teacher in Dayton city schools. She died unmarried at age 44 on January 1, 1950, in Dayton, and is also buried at Parish Cemetery.

The younger daughter Mae "Major" Garard was born May 30, 1907, probably also in Dayton. Prior to her marriage, she worked in various clerical positions, including as a "multigraph operator" at the Fyr-Fyter Company in Dayton. Mae also played saxophone. About 1930, Mae married Elmer G. Miller (1904-1986). Elmer was a pattern maker at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Mae and Elmer do not appear to have had any children. Mae died June 30, 1984, at age 77, in Dayton, Ohio. Mae and Elmer are also buried in Parish Cemetery.

Scope and Content Note:

The collection centers on the immediate family of Jesse and Catharine (Getter) Garard and their two daughters Wilma and Mae (nicknamed “Major,” as evidenced by many of the photographs), as well as extended family and friends. Items marked “Daddy” appear to refer to Jesse Garard, and “Mother” is Catharine “Katie” Garard.

The collection consists primarily of the personal photographs of a Dayton, Ohio, family in the early 20th century. A few items date to as early as about 1890 and as late as 1955, but the bulk of the materials date from about 1920 to 1935. The majority of the collection consists of photographs mounted to scrapbook pages (and well-labeled), but there are loose photographs (of varying degrees of identification) and a couple of negatives as well. Some of the photographs double as postcards, with messages on the backs. Subjects include leisure activities, travel, and family reunions.

Leisure activities depicted include hunting, boating, camping, swimming, sports, and playing music. Sports team photos include the St. Paul M. E. Church basketball team (circa 1910s?) and the Moraine City Bowling Team (1937-1938). The theme of music appears many times, including photos of “Daddy” and other relatives playing instruments at a reunion; Mae playing saxophone in both the Harmony Flyers band (1928) and in Louise Henning’s All-Girl Orchestra (1936); and photos of the St. Paul’s orchestra (presumably also St. Paul M. E. Church). A few other items of interest include a group photo of the “Fyr-Fyter Gang,” presumably employees of Dayton’s Fyr-Fyter Co. (manufacturers of fire extinguishers), where Mae worked in 1930; a group photo of what appears to be an 8th grade graduation class from Huffman School (undated).

Documentation of the family’s travels around Ohio and beyond include photos of sights and activities at Coney Island (Cincinnati) and its “Princess” steamer boat; Washington, D.C. (including the Capitol building), 1932; Akron, Ohio (including Goodyear hangar), 1938; Mansfield, Ohio (including Boys’ Reformatory), 1938; Ft. Loramie, Ohio; and Zane Caverns in Bellefontaine, Ohio. Campgrounds at an unidentified location (or locations) are also present. Other locations mentioned but not necessarily pictured include Lima, Ohio; Indian Lake, Ohio; Asbury Park, New Jersey; Muncie, Indiana; McCabe Park (Dayton); and the Dayton Soldiers’ Home. Automobiles appear frequently in the photographs as well.

The last three locations hosted Garard family reunions, which appear to have been held fairly regularly every year or two from at least 1918 to 1928, in both Indiana and Ohio. The reunion was held more than once at the Dayton Soldiers’ Home or at nearby McCabe Park.

Subject Terms

Persons/Families

Garard family

Getter family

Miller family

Garard, Jesse Edgar, 1879-1928

Garard, Catharine D. (Getter), 1882-1932
 Garard, Wilma Hyacinth, 1905-1950
 Miller, Mae (Garard), 1907-1984
 Miller, Elmer G., 1904-1986
 Whyte, Louise (Henning), 1914-2005

Organizations/Corporate Names

Fyr-Fyter Company
 St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church (Dayton, Ohio)
 Harmony Flyers (musical group)
 Louise Henning's All-Girl Orchestra (musical group)

Places

Dayton (Ohio)
 Akron (Ohio)
 Coney Island (Cincinnati, Ohio)
 Washington (District of Columbia)

Subjects (General)

Music -- 20th century -- Performance

Material Types

Photographs
 Postcards
 Scrapbooks

Collection Inventory

<u>Box</u>	<u>File</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Date</u>
1	1	Scrapbook of Photographs	
1	2	Garard Reunion Photographs/Postcards	1918-1928, undated
1	3	Jesse and Catharine (Getter) Garard Family Photographs	circa 1890-1940
1	4	Identified Photographs: Garard, Getter, etc.	circa 1920-1955
1	5	Unidentified Photographs	circa 1900-circa 1955
1	6	Jesse and Catherine (Getter) Garard 1903 marriage certificate (photostat copy)	Undated