

## McCarthy Family Collection

Cambridge Historical Commission  
831 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**Provenance:** Gift of the Justin McCarthy estate, May 1994.

**Additional Acquisition:** CPD Manual purchased from an eBay dealer by Executive Director Charles M. Sullivan on behalf of the Cambridge Historical Commission in September 2011.

**Collection ID:** CHC061

**Dates:** 1860s-1980s

**Extent:** 6 document boxes, 2 flat boxes

**Processing and finding aid by:** Molly Alexander, Gavin Kleespies, Maeve Strucker

**Rearrangement and updated finding aid by:** Brittany Fox, January 2020.

**Languages:** English

**Access:** Collection is available for research under the CHC rules of use.

### Collection Description:

This collection documents a longstanding and active family in Cambridge and various local organizations spanning a period of nearly 150 years. The majority of the collection is comprised of personal papers, legal documents, photographs and ephemera relating to the McCarthy family. Papers include vital records and citizenship certificates of McCarthy family members (1860s-1960s); penmanship books from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century; personal correspondence; and real estate and income tax documents (1900-1923).

The collection also includes nearly 300 photographs of McCarthy family members and friends (1890s-1980s), over 250 photographs of unidentified people and places, 10 tintypes, and 1 drawing. The content of the photographs ranges from portrait images, trips to Bermuda, sailing, and buildings visited or owned by the family.

Also included are local newspaper clippings (1920s-1940s) and various printed materials from Cambridge-area businesses and social events (1920s-1940s). Other subject matter contained in the collection include records relating to the East Cambridge Catholic Institute and Club, the Sacred Heart Church of East Cambridge, the Father Mathew Total Abstinence society of East Cambridge, and the St. John's Council No. 193 of the Knights of Columbus.

## **Historical Sketch:**

The members of the McCarthy family were longtime residents of Cambridge, Massachusetts. The first generation to live in Cambridge was Maurice McCarthy. An Irish immigrant born in the County Cork, Maurice McCarthy became a U.S. citizen in 1860. A year later, in 1861 he purchased land in East Cambridge at 6 Lechmere Place. He and his wife, Mary Hurley McCarthy, had two children, Ellen McCarthy and Jeremiah H. McCarthy. Ellen was born in 1861 and worked as a fare collector for the Boston Elevated Railroad; she died in 1937.

Maurice's son, Jeremiah, was born in 1857 and married a Cambridge resident, Julia Theresa Lane, on November 24, 1900 at the Sacred Heart Church in East Cambridge. Julia was born in 1867 in Ireland but her family moved to 29 Warren Street in East Cambridge when she was 8 months old. As a child, Julia attended the Thorndike Grammar School, located at Sixth and Thorndike in East Cambridge, and graduated in 1880 at the age of thirteen. It was there that she learned the Duntonian System of penmanship created by Alvin R. Dunton, an overseer of penmanship studies in Boston schools. Julia kept many of her penmanship books from this period of her life.

Between 1900 and 1905 Jeremiah and Julia moved into a house at 134 Otis Street, where the McCarthy family resided until 1993. Jeremiah, sometimes known as "Jerry," worked for 39 years as a patrolman out of the East Cambridge police station and he retired a year before his death in 1926. Julia lived until 1963 and she was noted for being the oldest East Cambridge resident and oldest graduate of the Thorndike School. The couple had three sons, Gerald F., John L., and Justin H. McCarthy.

Gerald F. McCarthy was born on January 25, 1902. He worked for the Cambridge Police Department, the Metropolitan Police Department and finally for the Massachusetts State Police as a lieutenant. According to the 1930 federal census, Gerald worked as a chauffeur for a factory company but by the 1940 census he had changed his occupation to policeman. He also served in WWII from October 30, 1942 to May 10, 1946. Gerald died on July 18, 1997.

John Lane McCarthy was born on February 15, 1904 and attended Harvard Dental School. He had an office in Central Square and was also employed as one of Cambridge's school system dentists. In 1934 he married Margaret Loretta Roche in Woburn. He then served in WWII as a lieutenant in the Naval Reserve in 1939 and he began his active duty as a lieutenant commander of the dental corps in June 1943. He was also affiliated with the Bainbridge Naval Hospital training Center in Maryland and the U.S.S. *War Hawk* that participated in the Pacific theater. John was also a member of the Cambridge Elks Lodge, the Knights of Columbus, the Guild of St. Apollonia, and the Agnes Holy Name Society. On July 1, 1969 he died a sudden death from coronary heart disease.

Justin H. McCarthy was born in 1906 and he worked as a marine electrician at the Boston Navy Yard as well as Western Electric. While serving for the Navy, he embarked on trips

to Bermuda. He did not have children so when he died on September 19, 1993, the house at 134 Otis Street and most of its contents were sold at auction.

### **Related Resources:**

For further information about police in Cambridge, see *Cambridge Police Department* by David J. Degou, available in the CHC library for viewing, HV9788.C1 D4 2009. See page 79 for an image of Jeremiah McCarthy and page 81 for Gerald McCarthy.

For information about the 19<sup>th</sup> Naval Construction Battalion in Bermuda and possible further connection to the McCarthy family, see *Bermuda Cruise* published by the 49<sup>th</sup> U.S. Naval Construction Battalion and the Battalion Welfare Fund in 1943. Available as online pdf by Naval History and Heritage and Google ebook.

For access to the Justin McCarthy photo album, see the CHC Flickr account (Cambridge Historical Commission), "McCarthy Family Album." This Flickr album contains 39 images.

### **Scope and Content:**

The collection is organized into six series, with subseries and folders arranged alphabetically within each series.

The second and third series contain similar subject matter-- records of individual family members-- but they have been separated by format. Along with the papers created by family members, the personal papers also contain newspaper articles and obituaries pertaining to the individual identified.

The police diaries have been placed with Gerald F. McCarthy's personal papers since they likely belonged to him. While his father Jeremiah was also employed as a police officer, the diaries date past Jeremiah's death in 1926. Gerald was the only son of Jeremiah McCarthy that went into the police force.

Of special note are the holiday cards created by Greg McCarthy and his children Denise, Bryna, and Brendan. These cards also contain letters that detail the yearly updates for each family member.

The sixth and final series ranges in subject matter, so it has been further divided into subseries. These subseries reflect either the creators of the items or outlying material formats.

Note of physical separation: Due to preservation needs and larger sizes, some items have been physically separated from this content organization and have been housed in oversized flat boxes. The arrangement list reflects the collection's content organization, but separation notes indicate items that have been stored separately. Relevant items include tintypes that must be placed at the top of the oversized box so as not to cause

damage from added weight. Additionally, the two photo albums in the collection are fragile and require extra care. Assistance from an archivist will likely be needed.

Note on preservation copies: Some items in the collection were damaged beyond repair and had to be replicated in other formats. These new preservation copies are digital files that are scans of the original items. Two of these items were unacquered photographs in the “Unidentified children, 20<sup>th</sup> century” folder. The original photographs were discarded. Please inquire with an archivist to view the digital records. Original newspaper clippings have been photocopied and the originals discarded for preservation purposes. Preservation copies that were once clippings in the collection are labeled.

Note on access: Due to the poor condition of Justin McCarthy’s photo album, the pages have been digitized and are accessible on the CHC Flickr page. Access to the originals will only be granted after digital version has been consulted. To help researchers gather information from the digital surrogates, a transcription of the identified photographs has been created. See transcription file for more information.

### **System of Arrangement:**

#### Box 1

Series I: Preliminary historical background on family, secondary material compiled by Gavin Kleespies

Series II: Personal papers

Folder 1: Ellen L. McCarthy- death certificate

Folder 2: Gerald McCarthy

Diaries (7), **moved to oversized box 2**

Folder 3: Gilbert and Gerry McCarthy

Folder 4: Jeremiah McCarthy

Folder 5: Jeremiah McCarthy, Newspaper articles

Folder 6: John F. McCarthy

Folder 7: John J. McCarthy, “Red Jack,” Newspaper articles

Folder 8: John Lane McCarthy

Folder 9: John Lane McCarthy, Newspaper articles

Folder 10: Julia Theresa Lane McCarthy, Correspondence

Folder 11: Julia Therese Lane McCarthy, Deceased records

Folder 12: Julia Therese Lane McCarthy, Memorabilia

Folder 13: Julia Therese Lane McCarthy, School records, **Thorndike grammar school certificate moved to oversized box 1**

Folder 14: Julia Therese Lane McCarthy, Writing books

Folder 15: Justin McCarthy, **Boston Naval Shipyard certificate, 1948 moved to oversized box 1**

Folder 16: Justin McCarthy, Holiday Cards, 1982-1990

Folder 17: Justin McCarthy, Holiday Cards, 1991

#### Box 2

Folder 18: Maurice McCarthy

Folder 19: Patrick McCarthy

Folder 20: Thomas J. Lane  
Folder 21: Thomas J. Lane, Writing books  
Folder 22: Reverends, David P. Roche and R. H. Hurley, Newspaper articles  
Folder 23: Unidentified handwritten notes  
Folder 24: Unidentified holiday cards

Series III: McCarthy family photographs

Folder 1: Cousin Dan  
Folder 2: Florence W. McCarthy  
Folder 3: Gerald McCarthy, Childhood  
Folder 4: Gerald McCarthy, Civilian  
Folder 5: Gerald McCarthy, Navy  
Folder 6: Gerald McCarthy, Police force, **(1) image moved to oversized box 1**  
Folder 7: Gerald McCarthy, Newspaper images  
Folder 8: Greg and kids Bryna, Brendan, Denise McCarthy  
Folder 9: Jeremiah McCarthy  
Folder 10: John Lane McCarthy, Youth (The Early Years)  
Folder 11: John Lane McCarthy, Mounted Photographs, **(2) images moved to oversized box 1**

Box 3

Folder 12: John Lane McCarthy, Adulthood, **(1) panorama of Harvard Dental School, 1927 moved to oversized box 2**  
Folder 13: John Lane McCarthy's photo album, **moved to oversized box 1**  
Folder 14: John Lane McCarthy, Newspaper images  
Folder 15: Julia Theresa Lane McCarthy  
Folder 16: Justin McCarthy  
Folder 17: Mary McCarthy  
Folder 18: Roche family  
Folder 19: Family photo album, **moved to oversized box 1**

Series IV: Non-family photographs

Folder 1: Audrey  
Folder 2: Cambridge Latin School classmates - Frank J. Leurtis, Leo Carmon, Mary Shannon, Katherine F. O'Keefe  
Folder 3: Danny  
Folder 4: Harriet  
Folder 5: Helen  
Folder 6: Joseph L. M. and Mary M. M. Hugh  
Folder 7: Olin J. Kelleys  
Folder 8: Peggy, Lillian, Anne  
Folder 9: Partially identified photographs - Elenor, Mary McKenna, Mrs. Horace Fogg, Bobby, Jule  
Folder 10: Mounted portraits - Bill Hogan, Marie Blieu, Jig, Johnny  
Folder 11: Unidentified mounted photographs, **moved to oversized box 1**  
Folder 12: Reverends - Hugh F. Blunt, J.M. Douville  
Folder 13: Reverends - unidentified, **(1) image moved to oversized box 1**

- Folder 14: Unidentified photographs, **(4) tintypes moved to oversized box 1**
- Box 4
- Folder 15: Unidentified children, 19<sup>th</sup> century **(2) tintypes moved to oversized box 1**
- Folder 16: Unidentified children, 19<sup>th</sup> century, encased
- Folder 17: Unidentified children, 20<sup>th</sup> century
- Folder 18: Unidentified women, 19<sup>th</sup> century vol. 1
- Folder 19: Unidentified women, 19<sup>th</sup> century vol. 1 **(2) tintypes moved to oversized box 1**
- Folder 20: Unidentified women, 19<sup>th</sup> century vol. 2
- Folder 21: Unidentified women, 19<sup>th</sup> century vol. 2, encased
- Folder 22: Unidentified women, 20<sup>th</sup> century vol. 3
- Box 5
- Folder 23: Unidentified men, 19<sup>th</sup> century **(1) tintype moved to oversized box 1**
- Folder 24: Unidentified men, 19<sup>th</sup> century

Series V: Topical photographs

- Folder 1: Bermuda
- Folder 2: Buildings
- Folder 3: U.S. Navy Sailors, 1943, Construction Battalion No. 9, Bermuda,  
**Battleship *Maine* moved to oversized box 1**

Series VI: Related Activities

- Subseries 1: Cambridge police force
- Folder 1: Lowell vs Cambridge police, 1895 **moved to oversized box 1**
- Folder 2: Newspaper articles
- Folder 3: 1884 CPD Manual, signed by Jeremiah and Gerald; purchased by Charles Sullivan, September 2011.
- Subseries 2: East Cambridge Catholic Club
- Folder 1: Dearo publications
- Folder 2: Newspaper clippings
- Folder 3: "Old East Cambridge" by John T. Shea
- Folder 4: Prayer material
- Folder 5: Special events
- Subseries 3: Father Mathew Total Abstinence Society
- Folder 1: Printed materials
- Folder 2: Panoramas, ca. 1926 **moved to oversized box 2**
- Subseries 4: History of Cambridge
- Folder 1: "The Central Trust Company" by Walter G. Davis, 1927
- Folder 2: "Now They May be Told" by Councillor Daniel H. Coakley

Box 6

- Subseries 5: Knights of Columbus
- Folder 1: *The Elm*
- Folder 2: *The Elm*, bound copy
- Folder 3: Panorama, 1920 **moved to oversized box 2**

- Folder 4: Programs
- Subseries 6: Sacred Heart Church
  - Folder 1: Parish Reunion
  - Folder 2: Programs
  - Folder 3: Publications
  - Folder 4: Newspaper articles
- Subseries 7: Other Materials
  - Folder 1: Advertisements
  - Folder 2: Cambridge Express magazine, 1982 **moved to box 1**
  - Folder 3: City of Cambridge records
  - Folder 4: Dog License Tags, 1953-1964 **moved to oversized box 2**
  - Folder 5: Map of Boston by Walker Lith & Pub Co., ca. 1926
  - Folder 6: Newspaper articles
  - Folder 7: Programs

#### Oversized Box 1 [Box 7]

- Series II, Folder 13: Julia Therese Lane McCarthy, School records, Thorndike grammar school certificate
- Series II, Folder 15: Justin McCarthy, Boston Naval Shipyard certificate, 1948
- Series III, Folder 6: Gerald McCarthy, Police force, (1) image
- Series III, Folder 11: John Lane McCarthy, Mounted Photographs, (2) images
- Series III, Folder 13: John Lane McCarthy's photo album
- Series III, Folder 19: Family photo album
- Series IV, Folder 11: Unidentified mounted photographs
- Series IV, Folder 13: Reverends - unidentified, (1) image
- Series IV, Folder 14: Unidentified photographs, (4) tintypes
- Series IV, Folder 15: Unidentified children, 19<sup>th</sup> century, (2) tintypes
- Series IV, Folder 19: Unidentified women, 19<sup>th</sup> century vol. 1, (2) tintypes
- Series IV, Folder 23: Unidentified men, 19<sup>th</sup> century, (1) tintype
- Series V, Folder 3: U.S. Navy Sailors, 1943, Construction Battalion No. 9, Bermuda, Battleship *Maine*
- Series VI, Subseries 1, Folder 1: Lowell vs Cambridge police, 1895
- Series VI, Subseries 7, Folder 2: Cambridge Express magazine, 1982

#### Oversized Box 2 [Box 8]

- Series II, Folder 2: Gerald McCarthy Diaries (7)
- Series III, Folder 12: John Lane McCarthy, Adulthood, (1) panorama of Harvard Dental School, 1927
- Series VI, Subseries 3, Folder 2: Panoramas, ca. 1926
- Series VI, Subseries 5, Folder 3: Panorama, 1920
- Series VI, Subseries 7, Folder 4: Dog License Tags, 1953-1964

#### Items of note

- Julia T.L. McCarthy writing books - companies: James R. Osgood, Dunton, J.W.C. Gilman, Potter, Rinsworth and Co, Lee & Shepard. See Series II folder 14
- Thomas J. Lane writing books. See Series II folder 21

Mustaches! See Series IV, folder 23

Police. See Series III, folder 6

Navy. See series III, folder 5

Cottage Block on North Street, 1846. See series V folder 2  
Snow storm on 6<sup>th</sup> street. See series V folder 2

Return to CHC Collections home:

<http://www.cambridgema.gov/historic/researchaids/archivalcollections>