

McCarthy Family Collection

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Languages: English

Historical Sketch

The McCarthy family were longtime residents of Cambridge, Massachusetts. An Irish immigrant born in the County Cork, Maurice McCarthy became a U.S. citizen 1860 and in 1861 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 1861 and worked as a fare collector for the Boston Elevated Railroad; she died in 1937. Jeremiah was born in 1857 and married Cambridge resident Julia T. Lane in 1900. Between 1900 and 1905 they moved into a house at 134 Otis Street, where the McCarthy family resided until 1993. Jeremiah worked for 39 years as a patrolman out of the East Cambridge police station and retired a year before his death in 1926. He and Julia had three sons, Gerald F., John L., and Justin H. Gerald was born 1902, and worked for the Cambridge Police Department, the Metropolitan Police Department and finally for the Massachusetts State Police as a lieutenant; he died in 1977. John was born in 1904 and attended Harvard Dental School. He had an office in Central Square and married Loretta Roche in 1951; he died in 1969. Justin was born in 1906, and worked as a marine electrician at the Boston Navy Yards and for Western Electric. He never had children, and when he died in 1993 the house at 134 Otis Street was sold and most of the contents auctioned off.

Scope and Content

This collection contains personal papers, legal documents, photographs and ephemera relating to the McCarthy family; it spans a period of nearly 150 years. The collection includes birth, death and citizenship certificates of McCarthy family members (1860s-1960s); penmanship books from the late 19th century; personal correspondence; and real estate and income tax documents (1900-1923). Also included are local newspaper clippings (1920s-1940s); and materials 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. In addition, the collection contains various printed materials from Cambridge-area businesses and social events (1920s-1940s). 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 sketch. This collection is useful for research of a longstanding and active Cambridge family and various local organizations.

Box List

Box 1 of 6 / Personal papers – folder titles

- Notes, index, family tree, second generation photocopies for McCarthy collection
- John Lane
- Thomas Lane
- Ellen L. McCarthy
- Gerald McCarthy
- John F. McCarthy
- Jeremiah McCarthy
- John L. McCarthy
- Julia T. (Lane) McCarthy
- Justin McCarthy
- Maurice McCarthy – deed to land 1867
- Patrick McCarthy
- *Dearo* and assorted Catholic
- Sacred Heart Church
- Misc.
- Knights of Columbus
- Printed material
- Total Abstinence Society

Box 2 of 6 / identified photographs – folder titles

- Gerald McCarthy – as a child
- Gerald McCarthy – Navy photos
- John J. McCarthy “Red Jack”
- Gerald McCarthy – civilian
- Gerald McCarthy – police force photos
- Jeremiah McCarthy
- John Lane McCarthy
- John Lane McCarthy – the early years
- Photo album of John Lane McCarthy
- Julia Theresa Lane McCarthy
- Justin McCarthy
- Mary McCarthy
- Cousin Dan (priest)
- Reverends – Rev. Hugh F. Blunt, Rev. Allan E. Roche, Rev. Wilfred L. Griffith, Rev. J. Walter Stocklosa, Rev. Fr. R.H. Hurley, Rev. J.M. Douville

Box 3 of 6 / group and partially identified photographs – folder titles

- the Olin Kelley's – Olin, Dorothy, Marga, and Denise
- Audrey
- Unidentified priests and reverends
- Unidentified military – probably related to Gerald McCarthy
- Unidentified groups – Mccarhty
- Series of photos
- Buildings to be identified
- Photos – slightly identified, not McCarthy's
- 17 matted portraits

Box 4 of 6 / unidentified photos – men, women and children – folder titles

- unidentified children – 19th century – McCarthy
- unidentified women – 19th century – McCarthy col. v.1
- unidentified children – 20th century – McCarthy col.
- unidentified women – 19th century – McCarthy col. v.2
- unidentified women – 20th century – McCarthy col. v.3
- unidentified 19th century photos of men – McCarthy collection

Box 5 of 6 / oversized

- This box contains newspaper clippings, oversize photos, and pages from a photo album.

Box 6 of 6 / miscellaneous

- This box contains bound copies of *The Elm*, newsletter for the Knights of Columbus, Cambridge Council from 1932-1933; personal letters to Justin McCarthy; cards and pamphlets; dog license tags; two rolled photos; one photo of the Battleship Maine; a copy of The Express; and seven daily diaries (probably belonging to Justin McCarthy). It also contains an 1884 leather-bound Cambridge Police Department Manual with Jeremiah and Gerald's names written inside; this item was not part of the original materials donated but was purchased from an eBay dealer by Executive Director Charles M. Sullivan on behalf of the Cambridge Historical Commission in September 2011.

Provenance

Donated by the estate of Justin McCarthy to the Cambridge Historical Commission in May 1994.

Related Sources

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