

M. T. Garvin Papers, 1899-1988

Call Number: MG-34

5 boxes 12 folders, 13 scrapbooks 4.5 cubic ft.

Repository: LancasterHistory (Organization); PV7

Shelving Location: Archives South, Side 1

Scope and Content Note: This collection contains information and materials relating to Milton Thomas Garvin, his department store, and the Garvin Lecture Series. The scrapbooks were compiled by Garvin from 1899-1936. Other materials in this collection include letters to family, business partners, and community organizations; several pamphlets from the Garvin Lecture Series; M. T. Garvin & Co. store information; receipts; invoices; banquet programs; and a sampling of financial records from the store.

Creator: Garvin, Milton Thomas, 1860-1936; LancasterHistory (Organization)

Conditions for Access: No restrictions.

Conditions Governing Reproductions: Collection may not be photocopied. Please contact Research Staff or Archives Staff with questions.

Language: English

Source of Acquisition: Items were collected by LancasterHistory. Source noted at the item level if known. Two scrapbooks were a gift of Paul A. Haefner, an employee.

Administrative/Biographical History: **Milton Thomas Garvin**

Milton Thomas Garvin was born in Fulton Township around 1860. In 1874, at the age of fourteen, Garvin quit school and moved to Lancaster City. He worked various odd jobs before he was hired to work as an errand boy for R. E. Fahnestock's dry goods store in December of 1874. At the age of sixteen, Fahnestock promoted Garvin to a salesman for the store. He continued to work there through his adolescent years and was promoted to manager at the age of twenty-one, when Fahnestock was in failing health. Garvin assumed that responsibility for twelve years and then bought the store when Fahnestock was ready to retire. Garvin renamed the store M. T. Garvin & Co.

Over the next ten years, Garvin bought the rest of the building and several surrounding buildings to expand his store to a four story and three lot property. He prospered in business and was a philanthropist throughout Lancaster County. Other than a prominent businessman, Garvin served as a board member, trustee, director or president of the following organizations: The Shippen School for Girls, Lancaster General Hospital, Lancaster Chamber of Commerce, Meadville Theological Seminary, A. Herr Smith and Mechanics' Libraries, Lancaster Charity Society, Joseph Priestly



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Conference, and People's Octoraro Meeting House. Milton Thomas Garvin died on 18 August 1936.

Preferred Citation: M. T. Garvin Papers (MG-34), Box #, Folder #, LancasterHistory, Lancaster, Pa.

Subject Headings:

Department stores. (LHo-LOC sh 85037015)

Business records. (LHo-LOC sh 85018316)

Scrapbooks. (LHo-LOC sh 85118923)

Civic leaders. (LHo-LOC sh 88004175)

Search Terms:

Civic leaders

Correspondence

Department stores

Elks Club

Hotel Brunswick

Letters

M. T. Garvin & Co.

Photographs

Scrapbooks

Stevens House Hotel

Williamson Park

Wills

Finding aids

Manuscript groups

Related Materials: See also the Photograph and Curatorial Collections.

Processing History: Processed and finding aid prepared by TH, April 2014. This collection has been documented, preserved and managed according to professional museum and archives standards. The collection was cataloged using DACS conventions.



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Box 1

Folder 1

"Immortality of Man" by William Ernest Hocking, delivered at the Garvin Lecture in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1945 (2 copies)

"Immortality of Man" by Dr. William L. Sperry, Dean of the Harvard Divinity School, delivered in Lancaster, PA, 16 May, 1947

"Immortality of Man" by Norman Cousins, Editor of The Saturday Review of Literature, The Garvin Lecture, Lancaster, PA, delivered at the Church of Our Father, Unitarian, West Chestnut and Pine Streets, 20 November, 1953 (2 copies)

"Immortality of Man" by Gerald Kennedy, Lancaster, PA, delivered at the Church of Our Father, Unitarian, West Chestnut and Pine Streets, 10 November, 1959, Reprinted from Religion in Life, Volume XXIX, Number 1, Winter 1960. Copyright by the Trustees Under the Will of M. T. Garvin, c/o Farmers Bank and Trust Company of Lancaster, PA (2 copies)

Folder 2

"On The Meaning of Immortality" by Sterling M. McMurrin, Ph.D., L.L.D., D. Hum. Litt. E.E. Ericksen Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Dean of the Graduate School in the University of Utah, delivered at the Garvin Lecture at the Church of Our Father, Unitarian, Lancaster, PA, 8 May 1970, Copyright 1970 by Garvin Trust

"The Myth of Immortality" by Corliss Lamont, delivered at the Garvin Lecture in Lancaster, PA, 1974 (2 copies)

"What the Unitarian Denomination Ought to Be" by Walter Donald Kring, Minister of the Unitarian Church of All Souls, New York City

Folder 3

"The Idea of God as Affected by Modern Knowledge" by Charles E. Park, delivered at the Garvin Lecture in Lancaster, PA, 19 February 1946

"The Idea of God as Affected by Modern Knowledge" by Julius Seelye Bixler, delivered at the Garvin Lecture at the Church of Our Father, Unitarian, West Chestnut and Pine Streets, Lancaster, PA, 11 December 1950

"The Idea of God as Affected by Modern Knowledge" by Harry Emerson Fosdick, delivered at the Garvin Lecture at the Church of Our Father, Unitarian, West Chestnut and Pine Streets, Lancaster, PA, 13 November 1952

"The Idea of God as Affected by Modern Knowledge" by Paul Tillich, delivered at the Garvin Lecture at the Church of Our Father, Unitarian, West Chestnut and Pine Streets, Lancaster, PA, 27 November 1957. Reprinted from the Crane Review, Volume I, Number 3, Spring 1959 (2 copies)

"The Idea of God and Modern Thought" by Howard Thurman, D.D., Clergyman, Author, and College Professor, delivered at the Garvin Lecture at the Church of Our Father, Unitarian, West Chestnut and Pine Streets, Lancaster PA, 23 November 1965

"The Idea of God as Affected by Modern Knowledge" by Hugh Lynn Cayce, delivered at the Garvin Lecture in Lancaster PA, 1973, Copyright 1973 by Garvin Trust

"The Idea of God as Affected by Modern Knowledge" by Eric J. Chaisson, senior research physicist at M.I.T and teaches astrophysics at Harvard University. Based on a



forthcoming book, *The Life Era*, Atlantic Monthly Press, 1987, delivered at the Garvin Lecture in Lancaster PA, 1986, Copyright February 1987, Hamilton Bank in Lancaster, PA (2 copies)

Folder 4

"Man's Destiny in Eternity" by Arthur H. Compton, Jacques Maritain, Maude Royden, Hornell Hart, Reinhold Niebuhr, William Ernest Hocking, Charles E. Park, Willard L. Sperry, F.S.C. Northop, Garvin Lectures, Copyright Boston, Beacon Press, 1949 (9 pages – unbounded)

"Garvin Lecture for 1977, The Idea of God As Affected By Knowledge of the World's Religions" by John B. Noss, Garvin Lectures, Copyright 1977 by Garvin Trust (2 copies)

"Garvin Lecture for 1978, The Immortality of Humanity: The Medieval Roots of Millennial Hope" by Rosemary Radford Ruether, Garvin Lectures, Copyright 1978 by Garvin Trust

"Garvin Lecture of 1984, Intimation of Immortality from Ancient Religion & Future Science" by Prof. John Rossner, S.T.M., PH.D, delivered the Garvin Lecture at Concordia University in Montreal, Copyright 1986 by Garvin Trust

"M.T. Garvin Lecture" by Rev. Jeremy Taylor, delivered at the Unitarian Church of Lancaster, 538 West Chestnut Street, Lancaster, PA 17603, 29 April 1988

Folder 5

Calendar from M.T. Garvin & Co., "The Department Store for Thrifty People". 29-37 E. King St., Lancaster PA, 1943

Early American Old Spice advertising card, sold by M.T. Garvin & Co., Lancaster, PA.

Folder 6 Dinner Programs. *Transferred from Garvin's Department Store Information File*

Diamond Jubilee Complimentary Dinner to the Store Family by M.T. Garvin & Co. Hotel Brunswick, 29 September 1921

Bi-Centennial Banquet of M.T. Garvin & Co. Hotel Brunswick, 15 January 1929, Lancaster, PA (2 copies)

Twenty-Eighth Annual Banquet, celebrating the 200th Anniversary of George Washington, Stevens House, Lancaster, PA, 28 January 1932

Twenty-Ninth Annual Banquet, 31 January 1933

M.T. Garvin & Co. – Store Picnic, Williamson's Park in Lancaster, PA, 30 July 1942

96th Anniversary Dinner. Hotel Brunswick, Lancaster, PA, 23 September 1942

One Hundredth Anniversary Banquet. Hotel Brunswick, Lancaster PA, 5 November 1946

Forty-Third Annual Banquet. Hotel Brunswick, Lancaster, PA, 5 November 1947

Folder 7 Dinner Programs

The 108th Birthday Banquet. Hotel Brunswick, Lancaster, PA, 25 October 1954

The 109th Birthday Banquet. Hotel Brunswick, Lancaster, PA, 24 October 1955

The 110th Birthday Banquet. Ephrata American Legion, Lancaster, PA, 22 October 1956

The 111th Birthday Banquet. Hotel Brunswick, Lancaster, PA, 28 October 1957

The 112th Birthday Banquet. Hotel Brunswick, Lancaster, PA, 20 October 1958



The 113th Birthday Banquet. Hotel Brunswick, Lancaster, PA, 26 October 1959
The 114th Birthday Banquet. Hotel Brunswick, Lancaster, PA, 24 October 1960 (2 copies)
121st Anniversary Dinner. Elks Club, Lancaster, PA, 23 October 1967

Folder 8 Employee Manuals

"Information for Members of the Garvin Store Family" by M.T. Garvin & Co., Lancaster PA, July 1930
"Information for Members of Gavin's" by M.T. Garvin & Co., Lancaster PA, September 1944

Folder 9 Receipts

Receipt for purchases made by Miss Bechtold. On billhead of M. T. Garvin & Co., Lancaster, PA. 21 April 1899. *Gift of Mrs. Russell Bechtold.*
Garvin's invoice and cash register receipt for purchase of a humidifier by Mrs. J. P. Kiehl, Lancaster PA. 28 October 1971. *Gift of Jack. P. Kiehl.*

Folder 10 Newspaper Articles and Advertisements

"Richard Hopf New Garvin President", *New Era*, Lancaster PA, 1 February 1963
"Officers of M.T. Garvin's Dept. Store", image from newspaper, Lancaster PA, 1996. *Gift of Paul A. Haefner.* (2 copies)
"Garvin's Mid-Summer Sales, Shoe Sale!" ad in *New Era*, Lancaster PA, 20 July 1967
"Garvin's – Look Sweeter in Featherknits" ad in *New Era*, Lancaster PA, 20 July 1967
"Local Experts Address Class", *New Era*, Lancaster PA, 30 November 1969

Folder 11 *Sixty Years: Milton Thomas Garvin*, by M. M. J. Klein. 1934.

Folder 12 Financial records for M. T. Garvin & Co. *Gift of Brian G. Ressler, 3 August 1984.*

Investment and Capital accounts of Walter Bechtold, James H. Ross, Andrew Smith, S. W. [Fitch] and Jacob Hupper. 1913-1915.
Opening Entries, financial journal entries, January 1913 – July 1920.
Balance Sheet, financial journal entries, January 1921 – June 1927.

Scrapbook 1A

1899 – 1919

Letters to and from M.T. Garvin, Board of trade, Pamphlets for voting for Republican and Democratic parties, Newspaper articles on local politics, M.T. Garvin appointed to the Reception Committee, Chamber of Commerce, War Hut Fund, National Retail Dry Goods Association, National War Savings Committee.

Box 2

Scrapbook 1B – cover is loose and fragile condition.

Year: 1916 - 1918



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Letters to M.T. Garvin and from M.T. Garvin, Lancaster General Hospital, Committee of Finance, Nurses and nurse graduations, Co-op - St. Joseph's and Lancaster General, Statement funds and budgets, Legislative from the House of Representatives for Lancaster General Hospital, Bowman Box Factory – Fire and buying out the factory, Train nurses for World War 1, Garvin stepping down as President.

Scrapbook 2

Year: 1920

Letters to M.T. Garvin and from M.T. Garvin, Lancaster General Hospital Campaign, Newspaper articles about the hospital, Committee of Finance, Funds for the hospital, Social service inside and outside of hospitals, Rooms for nurses, Church drive and other drives for hospital funding.

Scrapbook 3

Year: 1921

Letters to M.T. Garvin and from M.T. Garvin, 75th Anniversary of M.T. Garvin Co.

Box 3

Scrapbook 4

Year: 1921 - 1922

Newspaper articles on local politics, Common Council from the Second Ward, Musser and Kennedy elections, 1921 local elections, Coalition party, M.T. Garvin common council president, Traffic cops end friendly talks, Ten-year program of street building, Lancaster school needs.

Scrapbook 5

Year: Jun. 1922 – October 1922

Newspaper articles on local politics, Policemen's and Firemen's Salaries, Policemen requirements, Balance the treasury, Fire alarm records, Common council, C.M. Howell, "Machine" Lieutenant, Gang exterminators and Boss system (W.W.S), City Audit October 1922, Musser Campaign, Women in politics.

Scrapbook 6

Year: October 1922 – July 1923

Newspaper articles on local politics, Letters to M.T. Garvin and from M.T. Garvin, Musser for Congress, W.W.S., "Machine", Griest and the gang, C.M. Howell, Howell Bill, City police force, Musser for Mayor, City Finances.

Scrapbook 7

Year: July 1923 – November 1923

Newspaper articles on local politics, Letters to M.T. Garvin and from M.T. Garvin, Mayor Musser, Petition for mandamus, Coalition party, "Gangster" method, 1923 local elections.



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Box 4

Scrapbook 8

Year: November 1923 – September 1924

Letters to M.T. Garvin and from M.T. Garvin, Newspaper articles on local government, Mayor Musser, M.T. Garvin – president of select councils, Griest Machine, Milk meetings, M.T. Garvin withdrawals select council.

Scrapbook 9

Year: 1924 – 1925

Letters to M.T. Garvin and from M.T. Garvin, Shippen School for girls, M.T. Garvin appointed on Unitarian Committee, Expansion of Garvin and Co., M.T. Garvin appointed president of the Board of Trustees of Shippen School, Statue of Buchanan, M.T. Garvin heads museum committee.

Scrapbook 10

Year: 1933 – 1934

M.T. Garvin & Company expands, President Roosevelt comes to Lancaster, Mayor Ross, Letters to M.T. Garvin and from M.T. Garvin, Photographs of M.T. Garvin, and M.T. Garvin Building, Musser deceased.

Scrapbook 11

Year: October 1934 – April 1936

Unitarian Committee, Women's Alliance of Lancaster, Letters to M.T. Garvin.

Box 5

Milton Thomas Garvin Scrapbook, 1911-1930 Containing a majority of correspondence, both personal and business, this scrapbook illustrates the civic and business life of Milton Thomas Garvin. Within the correspondence, there are both letters written to Garvin and letters written by Garvin. There are also newspaper clippings displaying articles about M. T. Garvin & Co. department store as well as information about Lancaster City. Milton Thomas Garvin was also known as M. T. Garvin and Milton T. Garvin. *Previously housed in the Scrapbook Collection, Book 122. Cataloged by CRB, October 2007. This project was funded by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, ME60112, 2007-2008.*



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