

**Charles R. Garnett Collection
1890 - 1944**

Processed by:
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Department of Preservation of Records

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INTRODUCTION

The Charles R. Garnett Collection contains approximately 200 items arranged into 1 box. Access to this collection may be permitted for the purposes of personal and scholarly research. The Montgomery County Archives requires that the following credit line be used in all publications to identify that the image or document used is from its holdings: *Courtesy of the Montgomery County Archives*. Specific citation of where the image or document is located (collection, box, folder, etc.) should be made in an acknowledgements section, footnote, or bibliography.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Charles R. Garnett Collection contains assorted holiday cards, letters, church programs, photographs, and other papers belonging to Charles R. Garnett, a black resident of Clarksville. The majority of this collection dates from 1931 to 1940. The remaining items in the collection are undated cards, postcards, and papers.

In the 1900 Census, Ida Garnett (b. October 1887, d. May 15, 1934) lived at 217 Poston Street with other family members. She worked as a laundress in 1900 and 1920, but the census record lists her as a private cook for a family in 1910. Ida's son Charles Robert Garnett (b. February 11, 1901, d. November 24, 1976) worked as a bronzer for a local foundry. From at least 1920, the mother and son lived together at 532 Poston Street. Ida Garnett died in May 1934 and was buried at Golden Hill Cemetery, a historic African-American cemetery on Sevenmile Ferry Road.

On August 24, 1940, Charles Robert Garnett married Mrs. Lucile Garrott Barton (b. November 1, 1903, d. 1996). Lucile's first marriage was to Marion G. Barton on May 22, 1920. Charles and Lucile Garnett lived at 532 Poston Street. City directories document Charles Garnett's occupations. He worked as a laborer for Dunlop Milling Company in 1942 before eventually finding employment as a mixer at Igleheart Brothers/Igleheart's from 1947 to 1952. By 1959, Garnett was working as a porter at Boillin-Harrison Co. On November 24, 1976, Charles passed away; however, his widowed wife Lucile lived until 1996. The couple are buried together at Evergreen Cemetery, an African-American cemetery located adjacent to Golden Hill Cemetery.

In 2005, Calvin Stokes purchased a dresser drawer of a local African-American family papers at a yard sale in Clarksville, Tennessee. The Charles R. Garnett Collection is comprised of the family papers formerly housed in that drawer. This collection was processed by a former staff member, ca. 2012. Items were placed between acid-free papers in acid-free folders. Staff member Jenna Stout relabeled folders, rehoused the collection in a small box, and created the finding aid. Although the collection was processed in November 2018, additional materials were located in the volunteer room in March 2019.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Assorted holiday cards, February 11, 1931 – February 10, 1938 (9 items)
 - Birthday card, February 11, 1931
 - Birthday card, Charles Garnett to unknown, 1931
 - Birthday card, C.W. Hudson to Garnett, February 11, 1932
 - Mother's Day card, Charles Garnett to Mother, May 6, 1932
 - Sympathy card, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Darden & Mrs. Rubye Herndon to Garnett, May 16, 1934
 - Sympathy card, Maggie Ruth to Garnett, May 17, 1934
 - Letter, order of "binocular viewer" delayed, Albert Arthur Allen to Garnett, October 19, 1935
 - Letter, photographs opened by postmaster & returned, Ben F. Rogers to Garnett, January 8, 1936
 - Birthday card, Clara Hester (cousin) to Garnett, February 10, 1938
2. Assorted Christmas cards and other papers, December 1-20, 1938 (6 items)
 - Letter, candidate for mayor, William Kleeman,, December 1, 1938
 - "Elysium" order form, Albert Arthur Allen, December 1, 1938
 - Christmas card, Clara Hester (cousin) to Garnett, December 17, 1938
 - Christmas card, Mrs. Hettie Davie to Garnett, December 19, 1938
 - Christmas card, Roberts, Ivie, & Vance to Garnett, December 20, 1938
 - Christmas card, Mr. & Mrs. Adolphus Harrison to Garnett, December 20, 1938
3. Assorted Christmas cards, December 21-22, 1938 (8 items)
 - Christmas card, Mr. & Mrs. Edw. & Betsey Dabney, December 21, 1938
 - Christmas card, Gazelle Knox (cousin), December 21, 1938
 - Christmas card, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Leampton, December 21, 1938
 - Christmas card, Bud Knox, December 21, 1938
 - Christmas card, Angerlyn Gray, December 21, 1938
 - Christmas card, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Metcalfe, December 22, 1938
 - Christmas card, Mr. & Mrs. Chester Johnson, December 22, 1938
 - Christmas card, Mr. C.W. Hudson, December 22, 1938
4. Assorted Christmas and sympathy cards, December 23-27, 1938 (6 items)
 - Christmas card, Mr. & Mrs. Alex Reeves, December 23, 1938
 - Christmas card, Miss Lucile Garrott, December 23, 1938
 - Christmas card, Mrs. Kendrick, December 23, 1938
 - Christmas card, "Thank You" note, Mr. & Mrs. C.L. Thompkins, December 23, 1938
 - Christmas card, Mrs. M.J. Killebrew, December 24, 1938
 - "Sorry you're ill" card, Auntie Jennie, December 27, 1938
5. Assorted Christmas cards, December 15-18, 1939 (4 items)
 - Christmas card, Clara Hester (Cousin), December 17, 1939
 - Christmas card, Lucile Garrott, December 17, 1939
 - Christmas card, Mr. & Mrs. Lurton Oldham, December 18, 1939
 - Christmas card, Mr. & Mrs. Chester Johnson, December 18, 1939

6. Assorted Christmas cards, December 19-20, 1939 (8 items)
 - Christmas card, Mr. & Mrs. Adolphus Harrison, December 19, 1939
 - Christmas card, Mr. & Mrs. Cross, December 19, 1939
 - Christmas card, Cousin Justini, December 19, 1939
 - Christmas card, D.C. & Amy, December 20, 1939
 - Christmas card, Mr. & Mrs. W.M., December 20, 1939
 - Christmas cards, Cousin Gazelle & Bud Knox, December 20, 1939
7. Assorted Christmas cards, December 21, 1939 (5 items)
 - Christmas card, Norman & Fannie Young, December 21, 1939
 - Christmas card, Mr. & Mrs. Rhodes, December 21, 1939
 - Christmas card, C.W. Hudson, December 21, 1939
 - Christmas card, Alex & Irma, December 21, 1939
 - Christmas card, The Lamptons, December 21, 1939
8. Assorted Christmas & New Year's cards, December 22-30, 1939 (6 items)
 - Christmas card, Mr. & Mrs. Riley Eldridge, December 22, 1939
 - Christmas card, Morton & Josephine, December 22, 1939
 - Christmas card, Mrs. Myrtle Simms & family, December 22, 1939
 - Christmas card, Mildred Ellen, December 23, 1939
 - Christmas card, Mrs. Jennie Gaines, December 25, 1939
 - New Year's card, Mr. & Mrs. Ed Dabney, December 30, 1939
9. Assorted holiday cards, postcards, & other papers, 1939 (7 items)
 - Universal Life Insurance brochure/report & business card, G.G. Aldredge III, 1939
 - Birthday card, C.W. Hudson, February 11, 1939
 - Birthday card, Lucile Garrott, February 11, 1939
 - Easter card & note, Cousin Gazelle, April 7, 1939
 - Easter card, Lucile Garrott, April 9, 1939
 - Postcards, Lucile Garrott, September 14-26, 1939
10. Assorted holiday cards, 1940 (4 items)
 - Letter, Cousin Gazelle Knox, February 11, 1940
 - Birthday card, Cousin Gazelle Knox, February 11, 1940
 - Birthday card, Cousin Clara Hester, February 14, 1940
 - Easter card, Cousins Bud & Gazelle Knox
11. Assorted holiday cards & other papers, n.d. (16 items)
 - Shadowgraphs, illustrated booklet
 - Valentine card, Cousin Gazelle
 - Greeting card, Belle (Aunt)
 - Clarksville High School, K.C.H. to Harold Brett, July 1, 1907
 - Christmas card, Corinne (2 items)
 - Christmas card, to Miss Ida Garnett
 - Christmas card, unknown
 - Christmas card, Gazelle Knox (cousin)
 - Christmas card & note, Aunt Belle
 - Christmas card, Arnett F. Dixson
 - Easter card, C.W.H. (Hudson)
 - Easter card, Corinne

- Easter cards, unknown (3 items)
12. Assorted holiday cards & other papers, n.d. (17 items)
 - Sympathy card, Francis Looney
 - Sympathy card, Beatrice, Holda, & Lucille Kendrick
 - Get Well card, Corinne
 - Get Well card, C.W. Hudson
 - Christmas card, Mr. & Mrs. Edd Robinson
 - Birthday card, Aunt Belle
 - Birthday card, Gazelle & Belle
 - Birthday card, Corinne
 - Birthday card, unknown
 - Birthday cards & postcard, Gazelle Knox (3 items)
 - Birthday card, Belle
 - Easter postcard, Corinne, April 18, 1930
 - Christmas card, C.W. Hudson
 - Dunbar Cave brochure; note on Dunbar stationary
 - Clarksville Coca-Cola Co. coupon, Clarksville Coca-Cola Bottling Co., April 5, 1939
 13. Letters to Charles R. Garnett from Cousin Gazelle and others, ca. 1935-1940 (1 of 2)
 14. Letters to Charles R. Garnett from Cousin Gazelle and others, ca. 1935-1940 (2 of 2)
 15. Postcards & Christmas hop invitation to Charles Robert Garnett, ca. 1938-1940
 16. Brenner Furniture Co., Coulter Lumber Co., Manning-Orgain Supply Co., & Askew-Coulter-Owen Drug Co. receipts, Charles R. Garnett, 1930-1944
 17. Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church Letter & Funeral Program, 1939
 18. Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, monthly programs, February 1939-July 1940
 19. Burt High School programs & invitations, ca. 1939-1940
 20. Program of the State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Clarksville, Tenn., June 25-28, 1939
 21. Most Popular Widow Contest program & *Maryland* movie at Capitol Theatre program, 1939-1940
 22. Masonic Hall tickets, wedding & funeral announcements, ca. 1927-1939
 23. The Deluxe Club Presents "A Manless Wedding" programs

Photographs

Photograph Box #1 (2005.011.001-2005.011.033)

1. Photographs 001-005
 - African-American woman in shirtwaist dress, studio portrait, ca. 1890-1900 (in enclosure)
 - African-American woman in dress and hat, studio portrait, ca. 1890-1900 (in enclosure)
 - Mrs. Harriet Watkins, African-American woman in dress and fur stole, studio portrait, ca. 1890-1900 (in enclosure)
 - African-American man in suit and top hat, studio portrait, ca. 1900-1910 (in enclosure)

- “From your devoted brother Tom, Jan. 26, 1912,” African-American man in suit standing, studio portrait, 1912 (in enclosure)
- 2. Photographs, 006-009
 - Mill & three silos, Franklin Street, Clarksville, Tenn., Finished by Stephens, ca. 1930s-1940s
 - Mill & warehouse, Clarksville, Tenn., Finished by Stephens, ca. 1930s-1940s
 - Three pipes / smoke stacks, Clarksville, Tenn., Finished by Stephens, ca. 1930s-1940s
 - Group gathered at cave opening, Dunbar’s Cave, July 11, 1896 (faded photograph mounted on cardstock)
- 3. Photographs, 010-014
 - Two young white women posing with stocking legs showing, ca. 1920s
 - Man in robe, long hair, beard costume, holding scythe, Grim Reaper?, ca. 1920s-1930s (2 photographs)
 - Two African-American women in bathing suits, ca. 1930s-1940s
 - Group of African-American women in bathing suits near river and railroad bridge, ca. 1930s-1940s
- 4. Photographs, 015-018
 - Three young African-American women in dresses in front of porch, finished by Stephens, Clarksville, Tenn., ca. 1920s
 - Two African-American women in dresses, fur-lined coats, and hats, posing in front of house and fence, finished by Stephens, Clarksville, Tenn., ca. 1920s
 - Three African-American women in dresses and hats, posing on sidewalk, finished by Stephens, Clarksville, Tenn., ca. 1920s
 - Young African-American couple in front of frame house, finished by Stephens, Clarksville, Tenn., ca. 1920s
- 5. Photographs, 019-030
 - Young African-American boy in suit in front yard with basket on sidewalk, finished by Thompson Photo Service, Clarksville, Tenn., May 31, 1948 (2 photographs)
 - Man, woman, and young boy on rocking horse, “Taken at King Bros. Cinema, April 23, 1947,” in a Lovingly Yours From frame enclosure
 - Snapfolio photobook of African-American family in front of house, elephant, and car decorated with Weekend Club, C. Lacy Thompson Studio, Clarksville, Tenn., July 26, 1954 (8 photographs)
 - Studio portrait of older African-American couple and younger man in dress clothes, ca. 1960s
- 6. Photographs, 031-033
 - “Memories? Annie?,” African-American woman in dress and jewelry posing for studio portrait, ca. 1920s-1930s (in enclosure)
 - African-American woman and man in oval portrait, ca. 1930s
 - The Queen City Gospel Chorus, Clarksville, Tenn., Radio Station WJZM, Thompson Studio, ca. 1930s-1940s