

GARDNER W. PEARSON PAPERS

Introduction

The Gardner W. Pearson Papers consist of letters of congratulations, general correspondence and printed material dealing with his life from 1903-1914. The items are mainly concerned with Pearson's appointment as Adjutant General of Massachusetts, which ranged from January 5, 1911 to May 2, 1914. The collection was donated by Sarah Pearson McWane, daughter of Gardner W. Pearson, and wife of Gerould R. McWane.

The collection and its contents are divided into three parts: letters of congratulations for being appointed Adjutant General, 1910; general correspondence, 1908-1941; printed material, 1903-1914. The collection is arranged chronologically into 1 box by type of material.

There are no restrictions in the use of the collection.

Biographical Sketch

Gardner W. Pearson was born on September 4, 1869 in Lowell, Massachusetts. He graduated from Lowell High School in 1885, attended Harvard University and Law School (graduated 1891), and set up a law practice soon after. In 1897, Pearson enlisted in Company C, 6th Regiment, Massachusetts Volunteer Militia as a corporal, then sergeant, and entered U.S. Volunteers. He was assigned to Camp Algier, and detailed a Regimental Commissary Sergeant, and also as Acting Regimental Sergeant Major. He took part in the landing of the 6th Regiment under General Miles at Guanica, Puerto Rico.

In September 1898, Pearson was promoted to 2nd Lieutenant, and assigned duty at Camay as Post Adjutant and Quartermaster. On January 21, 1899, he was discharged from U. S. Volunteers. Two years later, on January 9, 1901, he re-entered Co. C, 6th Regiment, as a private, became corporal, then 1st Lieutenant. On April 18, 1905, Pearson was elected Captain, heading marching competition from Boston to Lowell.

On January 5, 1911, Gardner Pearson was appointed by Governor Foss of Massachusetts to the position of Adjutant General, Chief of Staff of Massachusetts, which lasted until May 2, 1914. In August, 1916, he was re-appointed to this post by Governor McCall. He retired on March 16, 1917, at his own request, and secured a commission in the active reserve.

Gardner W. Pearson died on June we, 1953, leaving a daughter, Sarah Pearson McWane, wife of Gerould R. McWane.

Scope and Content Note

The Gardner W. Pearson Papers deals with his life from 1903-1914. The papers included are based on Pearson's life in the service and as the Adjutant General, Chief of Staff of Massachusetts, 1911-1914.

The papers are basically broken down into three categories: congratulatory correspondence dealing with his appointment to Adjutant General, 1910; general correspondence, 1908-1914; and printed material, 1903-1914.

The papers dealing with his appointment to Adjutant General are letters of congratulations from his close friends who were associated with Mr. Pearson in the service and in the business world.

The portion concerning Gardner Pearson's general correspondence is made up of two unidentified letters addressed to Governor Foss dealing with Pearson's appointment as Adjutant General in 1910. It also includes two letters dealing with the Lawrence Strike of 1912. There is a letter from Colonel Sweetsir to Pearson (1912); a letter written by Mr. Pearson to the Army & Navy Journal (1914); and a letter from J. D. Heinze and J. A. McKenna dealing with the Lowell Automobile Club (1908).

Printed material makes up the bulk of the Pearson collection. Included in this part of the collection are news clippings, 1903-1914; a program to the Lowell 250 Mile Automobile Race, 1908; two photographs, one with Governor Foss and Gardner W. Pearson and the second photo is of Gardner W. Pearson in his dress uniform.

The papers have been placed by type of material in chronological order and there are no restrictions in the use of the collection.

GARDNER W. PEARSON PAPERS

Container List

<u>Box/Folder</u>	<u>Description</u>
1	CONGRATULATORY LETTERS: THE ADJUTANT GENERAL, CHIEF OF STAFF OF MASSACHUSETTS, 1910.
1	A-C.
2	D-F.
3	G-H.
4	J-L.
5	M.
6	P.
7	R-S.
8	T-W.
	GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE, 1908-1914.
9	Letter from J. D. Heinze and J. A. McKenna dealing with the Lowell Automobile Club, 1908.
10	Unidentified letter to the Honorable Eugene N. Foss, November, 1910.
11	Unidentified letter to the Honorable Eugene N. Foss, December, 1910.
12	Statement by Mr. Abouder about the Lawrence Strike, 1912.
13	Letter from Colonel Sweetsir to Adjutant General Pearson, 1912.
14	Letter written to the editor of <u>Army and Navy Journal</u> from General Pearson, 1914.
	PRINTED MATERIAL, 1903-1914.
15	Newspaper clippings, 1903-1905.
16	Newspaper clippings dealing with Company competition, 1906-1907.
17	Newspaper clippings dealing with Company competition, 1908.
18	Newspaper clippings dealing with Company competition, 1909-1910.
19	Newspaper clippings dealing with Company competition, Lawrence Strike, and military build up, 1911-1912.
20	Newspaper clippings dealing with military build up and the retirement of Adjutant General Pearson, 1913.
21	Newspaper clipping with an article on George C. Marshall, 1913.
22	Newspaper clippings dealing with military build up and retirement of Pearson, 1914.
23	Program. Lowell 250 Mile Automobile Race, 1908.

GEORGE C. MARSHALL RESEARCH FOUNDATION

SEPARATION RECORD

COLLECTION: GARDNER W. PEARSON PAPERS

ACCESSION NUMBER: (389) 71

The following items have been removed from the collection:

Description of items PHOTOGRAPHS

Location

1. Photograph of Gardner W. Pearson and Governor
Foss of Massachusetts, n.d.

PHOTOGRAPH ROOM
#4617

2. Photograph of Gardner W. Pearson in dress uniform,
n.d.

#4618