

GEORGE AND NORAH PAYNE COLLECTION

Of Personal Papers

A Guide to the Collection in Garrett Park Town Archives

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GARRETT PARK TOWN ARCHIVES

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TITLE OF COLLECTION

George and Norah Payne Collection of Personal Papers

REFERENCE NUMBER(S)

2014.0002

DATES OF CREATION

1949–1998 (non-inclusive)

HISTORICAL/ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION¹

George Louis Payne and Norah May Payne were longtime residents of Garrett Park, moving to the town in 1941. Their home was on Kenilworth Avenue. The couple was actively involved in town politics and other events and activities.

George Payne (1914–1998) was employed by the National Institutes of Health from 1959 to 1979. He served on the Garrett Park Town Council multiple times—from 1960 through 1962, 1968 through 1970, and 1974 through 1993. He was also the Mayor from 1970 through 1974. Payne was instrumental in having the town placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1975 as well as building the community center and the swimming pool. In the mid-1940s, he served as secretary and treasurer of the Citizens Association.

Norah May Payne (1910–2007) was a librarian. During her early career, she worked at the Library of Congress. After moving to Garrett Park, she started the Garrett Park Free Library, which later became part of the Montgomery County Public Library System. Payne worked as a librarian in area public libraries until her retirement in 1975. Like her husband, Payne made significant contributions to the Town of Garrett Park through her work and leadership on the Woman's Club, the Citizens Association, and the community center board. She is credited with creating the town's first resident directory in 1949, complete with maps she drew.

EXTENT

0.5 cubic feet: 1 legal size box and oversized items

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The George and Norah Payne Collection contains the couple's personal papers, including correspondence; written works of George Payne, such as poems and speeches; and a birthday scrapbook for Norah Payne, containing good wishes from friends and family.

¹ "Montgomery Politician George L. Payne Dies," *Washington Post*, August 30, 1998; "Norah M. Payne, Librarian," *Washington Post*, July 13, 2007.

BOX DESCRIPTIONS

As the collection is small, Box 1 contains the materials described under Scope and Content and the Box Inventory.

LANGUAGE

English

CONDITIONS GOVERNING ACCESS

This collection is open for research.

USING THIS COLLECTION

Records in this collection are available primarily in hardcopy form only. With the exception of some photographs, the materials have not been digitized. To request use of this collection, please contact the Town Archivist to arrange a visit.

The preferred citation for materials from this collection is:

Garrett Park Town Archives, Garrett Park, MD. "George and Norah Payne Collection." Box 1. Folder title.

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PROVENANCE

The Garrett Park Town Archives acquired this collection through donations from the Payne family over a period of years.

PROCESSING PROCEDURES

When materials were originally donated in about 2011, Archives staff and volunteers at the time intermingled the items with other collections that had been created based on subjects (for example, Resident Files and House Files). In addition, some of Payne's personal papers were intermingled with official town records from Payne's time as Mayor and on the Town Council.

This collection of personal papers reflects our attempt to reunite some of the materials that were donated by the Payne family. General processing procedures included arranging and organizing documents in folders, as well as disposing of duplicate materials and discarding non-archival binders, metal clips, rubber bands, and other supplies. We placed oversized documents in separate storage locations. Separation sheets were inserted in the original

location within the folder to indicate the new locations for these items. We also used separation sheets to cross-reference materials in the collection that we decided not to reunite for continuity purposes. Unless otherwise indicated, we arranged records in folders in forward chronological order.

RELATED COLLECTIONS

- Oral History Collection
- Garrett Players Collection
- Other un-processed collections (Ask Archivist)

ARCHIVES STAFF & FINDING AID AUTHOR

Town Archivist Claire McDonald, MLIS, processed this collection and prepared the finding aid.

BOX INVENTORY

Box 1

Town Directories and Maps, 1949–1955
“Spring in the Maryland Manner,” Signed Program ca .1950s
Poems and Songs, 1957–1993 (non-inclusive)
News Articles About the Paynes, 1960
Essays and Articles Written by George Payne, 1975; n.d.
Speeches, 1982; 1998
Personal Correspondence, 1984–1994 (non-inclusive)
Norah Payne Birthday Book, 1985
Photographs, n.d.