

# **LMHS.09: Gerald A. Francis postcard collection**

**09**

**Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Michael Gubicza through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories.**

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Last updated on November 09, 2012.

Lower Merion Historical Society

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Lower Merion Historical Society
<b>Creator</b>	Francis, Gerald A.
<b>Title</b>	LMHS.09: Gerald A. Francis postcard collection
<b>Call number</b>	09
<b>Date</b>	circa 1900-2000
<b>Extent</b>	0.7 linear feet
<b>General Physical Description Note</b>	2 binders
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Abstract</b>	<p>The township of Lower Merion in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania was first settled by Welsh Quakers in 1682. It is part of the "Main Line," a collection of affluent Philadelphia suburbs located alongside the Pennsylvania Railroad line that was built between Philadelphia and Harrisburg in the mid-19th century. The Gerald A. Francis postcard collection, circa 1900-2000, consists of postcards, mostly photograph postcards, of Lower Merion and surrounding areas.</p>

## Biography/History

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In August of 1682, Welsh Quakers from the County of Merionethshire landed in Pennsylvania. These "Merioneth Adventurers" were bound for the "Welsh Tract," granted to them by William Penn. Today, the area is Lower Merion township and Narberth borough, Montgomery County, Pennsylvania.

In the mid-19th century, the Main Line of the Pennsylvania Railroad was constructed, running from Philadelphia to Harrisburg and Pittsburgh. The route passed through Lower Merion, and like other "Main Line" towns, the area developed into an affluent community due to its convenient location.

Lower Merion township has become known for two industrial giants, the Pencoyd Iron Works and the Autocar Company. The Pencoyd Ironworks was started by the Roberts family in 1852. The company became a major bridge and structural steel supplier. The Autocar company moved to Ardmore from Pittsburgh in 1900. Autocar was a manufacturer of commercial vehicles. The company moved to Exton, Pennsylvania in 1953.

### **Bibliography:**

Francis, Gerald A. "Celebrating William Penn's Vision and the First Welsh Settlement in Lower Merion and Narberth: 1682-2007." The Lower Merion Historical Society, 2007.

Lower Merion Historical Society. "Business and Industry." Accessed November 7, 2011. [http://www.lowermerionhistory.org/texts/first200/business\\_5.html](http://www.lowermerionhistory.org/texts/first200/business_5.html).

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection consists of postcards, mostly photograph postcards, of Lower Merion and surrounding areas. The postcards date from the twentieth century; most are from the first half of the twentieth century. Some of the postcards have been written upon and display evidence that they were sent contemporaneously. The postcards are organized into geographic regions based on the image pictured.

Images from this collection were used in the book *Lower Merion and Narberth* by the Lower Merion Historical Society, in the Postcard History Series (Charleston, S.C.: Arcadia, 2010).

## Administrative Information

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Lower Merion Historical Society

Finding aid prepared by Celia Caust-Ellenbogen and Michael Gubicza through the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories.

### Sponsor

This preliminary finding aid was created as part of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania's Hidden Collections Initiative for Pennsylvania Small Archival Repositories. The HCI-PSAR project was made possible by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

### Access Restrictions

Contact Lower Merion Historical Society for information about accessing this collection.

### Immediate Source of Acquisition Note

On long-term deposit from Jerry Francis.

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## Related Materials

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### Related Archival Materials Note

Lower Merion Historical Society: Lower Merion Historical Society photograph collection.

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## Controlled Access Headings

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### Geographic Name(s)

- Ardmore (Pa.)
- Bala-Cynwyd (Pa.)
- Bryn Mawr (Pa.)

- Gladwyne (Pa.)
- Haverford (Pa. : Township)
- Lower Merion (Pa. : Township)
- Main Line (Pa.)
- Merion (Pa.)
- Montgomery County (Pa.)
- Narberth (Pa.)
- Villanova (Pa.)
- Wynnewood (Montgomery County, Pa.)

### **Subject(s)**

- Historic buildings
- Postcards