

1121-063-GSM-gau (USMARC)

City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia [GSG (OCLC/LYRASIS)]

Record Series #: 1121-063

Name: Nazer Karam Gannam papers and Gannam family genealogy research

Dates: 1944-1946, no date; reproductions 1927-2011, no date

Extent/Size: ½ document case, 1 oversized folder (0.3 cubic feet)

Language: English

Name of Creator(s):

Nazer Karam Gannam; Gannam family

Biographical History:

Karam George Gannam (1882-1980) and his wife Annie Abraham (1884-1943) were married in 1907 in Manchester, New Hampshire. The two emigrated from Lebanon to escape abuse for their religious beliefs as Maronite Catholics. Annie and Karam started their family in New Hampshire, with the birth of their first child, Mary (1910-2000) on June 19, 1910. Three boys followed Anthony (1915-1997), Nazer (1918-1991), and George (1919-1941). Karam worked in a foundry during World War I, but his position was lost after the war ended and he decided to move the family to Savannah, Georgia to start a new business. The family arrived in Savannah in 1919 and Karam opened a confectionary on West Broad Street. After selling the store, the family moved to 53rd and Hopkins streets. Karam built a little farm and started a grocery store right next door to the house. All of the children and Annie helped run the store and grow local produce to sell. The couple had one last child, Michael (1922-2003), born in Savannah. The family practiced Catholicism at the local Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The Gannams attended a Roman Catholic church because there were no practicing Maronite Catholic churches in Savannah. Annie died of a stroke in 1943, which many attributed to the untimely death of her son George. Karam remarried in 1945 to Elizabeth Preston. Karam lived till 1980.

Mary Harnamie Gannam (1910-2000) married George Saraf (1896-1941) in Savannah in 1927. The marriage ended in tragedy when George was murdered in 1941. Mary remarried Harold P. Beecher (1913-1978).

Anthony Karam Gannam (1915-1997) married Polly Leon Clovis (1920-1994) on October 4, 1939 and worked as an insurance agent for the National Life Insurance Company. Anthony served as a Merchant Marine in World War Two. Anthony later took over management of the family grocery store.

Nazer Karam Gannam (1918-1991) worked as a watchman for a local business in Savannah before joining the Navy in 1940. He was trained and first stationed in Norfolk, Virginia and was a certified Aviation Metalsmith. Nazer married Miriam George, an elementary school teacher, in 1946 and by the 1980s was living in Fort Fairfield, Maine.

George Karam Gannam (1919-1941) joined the Army Air Corps in 1939, rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant by 1941 and was stationed at Wheeler Field, Hawaii. On December 7, 1941, while on assignment at Hickam Field, George was killed in action during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. George was the first World War II casualty from Savannah, Georgia.

Record Series 1121-063, Nazer Karam Gannam papers and Gannam family genealogy research

After graduating from Benedictine Military School, Michael Joseph Gannam (1922-2003), joined the Army Air Corps and was stationed in the Philippines during World War II. Michael married Marion DeFrank in 1949, attended college and obtained a law degree at the University of Georgia. He later earned a master's degree at the University of North Carolina. Michael opened his own law practice in Savannah in 1981 and taught students at the local college known today as Armstrong State University. Michael died in 2003.

With the exception of George K. Gannam, the entire Gannam family is buried at Bonaventure Cemetery in Savannah, Georgia. George's remains were buried in Hawaii, but a memorial plaque was placed in his honor at Bonaventure Cemetery. George was memorialized on Chatham County's World War II Monument on Savannah's River Street, dedicated in 2010, which honors all Chatham Countians who died while serving in World War II; and Nazer, Michael and George were all honored in the brick walkway surrounding the monument by their family.

Scope & Content:

The Nazer Karam Gannam papers and Gannam family genealogy research collection (1944-1946, no date; reproductions 1927-2011, no date) includes original documents related to Nazer Karam Gannam's United States Naval service, as well as reproductions of photographs, newspaper articles, and other historical documents related to the Gannam family. The genealogical research was collected by Kim Marie Fischer Peters, great-niece of George K. Gannam, and the originals remain in possession of the Gannam family. All of the genealogical research material was donated as a digital copy on a compact disc. The digital files have been backed up to the City's Electronic Archives and access printouts are available for research use. Highlights of this collection include Nazer K. Gannam's official military documents, including a small portrait photograph of him.

System of Arrangement & Ordering:

The Nazer Karam Gannam papers and Gannam family genealogy research collection (1944-1946, no date; reproductions 1927-2011, no date) are arranged first by original documents and then by reproductions. The research collection was donated on a compact disc (CD), which was backed-up to digital storage from which access copies were printed. The access copies are arranged by individual family member, in chronological order by birth dates. The CD and the inventory of digital files are included in the last folder.

Conditions Governing Access:

None

Conditions Governing Reproduction and Use:

Please read carefully the statement on copyright below. ***Permission to reproduce does not constitute permission to publish.*** Researchers who plan publication are asked to discuss this with the archivist first for written permission. While most of the Library & Archives collections are public records and in the public domain, not all are, and the

Record Series 1121-063, Nazer Karam Gannam papers and Gannam family genealogy research

Library & Archives may not be the owner of copyright for all its archival materials. Researchers are responsible for obtaining any necessary permission to publish from the holder of copyright. In the event that the Library & Archives becomes a source for publication, a copy of the publication is requested for the Library & Archives.

NOTICE: WARNING CONCERNING COPYRIGHT RESTRICTIONS

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material.

Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be "used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship, or research." If a user makes a request for, or later uses, a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of "fair use," that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if, in its judgment, fulfillment of the order would involve a violation of copyright law.

Related Collections:

Record Series# 1121-062, George Karam Gannam papers. City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia.

Access Points:

Armstrong State College (Ga.)
Beecher, Mary Gannam Saraf
Benedictine Military School
Catholicism
Fort Fairfield (Me.)
Gannam, Annie
Gannam, Anthony
Gannam, George
Gannam, Karam
Gannam, Michael
Gannam, Nazer
Hickam Air Force Base (Hawaii)
Lebanon
Manchester (N.H.)
National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific
Panama
Pearl Harbor (Hawaii)
Sacred Heart Church (Savannah, Ga.)
Savannah (Ga.).
Savannah (Ga.)--History.
Syria
United States. Air Corps
United States. Navy
University of Georgia
University of North Carolina (1793-1962)
Wheeler Army Airfield (Hawaii)

1121-063-GSM-gau (USMARC)

City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia [GSG (OCLC/LYRASIS)]

4

Record Series 1121-063, Nazer Karam Gannam papers and Gannam family genealogy research

World War Two

Preferred Citation:

1121-063, Nazer Karam Gannam papers and Gannam family genealogy research. City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia.

Processed by:

M. Kerkhoff, May 2016.

Record Series 1121-063, Nazer Karam Gannam papers and Gannam family genealogy research

Inventory:

Nazer Karam Gannam's papers (Originals):

Box 1121-063-01

- Folder 1 Nazer Karam Gannam's Official Military and Travel documents, 1944-1946, no date [5 items]
- U.S. Navy Service Card, Certificate #2010033, Active Duty 1/16/1940-1/17/1946
 - Air Raid Protection Organization ID Card No. 815, Norfolk Operating Base
 - Notice of Classification Card, Chatham County Local Board, Issued 1/29/1946
 - Republica de Panama Inspeccion General del Transito documents, Issued 8 September 1944 for being in the Canal Zone [2 items]

Oversized Folder 1121-063-02

Photograph of class at the Naval Training School, Norfolk, Virginia, 7th Week, no date. [Nazer Karam Gannam is indicated with a black dot on his white cap; in the 4th row down from the top and the 4th person over from the right.]

Gannam family genealogy research documents (Reproductions):

Box 1121-063-01

- Folder 2 General Gannam Family genealogy research documents and photographs, 1929-2010, no date.
- Folder 3 Karam George Gannam(1882-1980) genealogy research documents and photographs, 1971-1985, no date.
- Folder 4 Mary Harnamie Gannam Saraf Beecher (1910-2000) genealogy research documents and photographs, 1927-2000, no date.
- Folder 5 Anthony Karam Gannam Sr. (1915-1997) genealogy research photographs, 1939, no date.
- Folder 6 Nazer Karam Gannam (1918-1991) genealogy research documents and photographs, 1944-2011, no date.
- Folder 7 George Karam Gannam (1919-1941) genealogy research documents and photographs, 1938-2011, no date.
- Folder 8 George Gannam Day/Pearl Harbor Day (December 7, 1941) photographs and newspaper articles, 1951-1991.

Record Series 1121-063, Nazer Karam Gannam papers and Gannam family genealogy research

Folder 9 Michael Joseph Gannam (1922-2003) genealogy research documents and photographs, 1941-2010, no date.

Folder 10 Digital copies and digital location of Nazer Karam Gannam papers and Gannam Family genealogy research, 2010-2011.