



MSS 34762

**Josiah William Gitt Collection**  
1918 - 1994

**OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION**

Object ID Number: 34762  
Title: Josiah William Gitt Collection  
Creator: Josiah William Gitt, 1884-1973  
Dates: 1918-1994  
Media: Papers, photographs, scrapbook, cassette tapes  
Quantity: 12.7 linear feet

**BIOGRAPHY OF JOSIAH WILLIAM GITT**

Josiah William Gitt was born in Hanover, Pennsylvania on March 28, 1884. He was also known as J.W. Gitt and Jess Gitt. He was the son of Clinton Jacob Gitt, who worked at the family store, and Emma Belle Koplín. He studied at Franklin and Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and graduated in 1904. Gitt then studied law at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1909, he became a court reporter for The York Gazette, which was owned by his uncle. In 1913, he married Elizabeth Glatfelter Moul, and they had four children.

In 1915, Gitt and his partner, Allen C. Wiest, purchased The York Gazette newspaper, and later purchased The York Daily newspaper in 1918. Gitt and Wiest merged the two newspapers, creating The Gazette and Daily. Under Gitt, the newspaper gained a national reputation for its independent news orientation and editorial positions. Gitt and The Gazette and Daily gained world-wide attention in 1948 when the newspaper backed Henry Wallace for President. The Gazette and Daily was the only U.S. newspaper to endorse Wallace. Gitt and his newspaper joined Progressives and others who questioned the Cold War, McCarthyism, and the Vietnam War. He was a supporter of the Civil Rights Movement. Due to his political views, Gitt was investigated by the FBI on suspicion that he was a communist. For over fifty years, Gitt published The Gazette and Daily, directing its content, selecting its news items, and editorializing. Gitt sold the newspaper in 1970, when The Gazette and Daily was renamed the York Daily Record. Gitt died on October 7, 1973 in Boston, Massachusetts.

**SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION**

The collection contains letters, magazine articles and newspaper clippings from J.W. Gitt's personal papers that he accumulated during his time as the owner of The Gazette and Daily. The collection includes non-political letters from 1947 to 1970, political letters from 1943 to the 1960s, items from Gitt's congressional campaign, newspaper articles about J.W. Gitt and The Gazette and Daily, articles about various political figures, editorials from The Gazette and Daily, letters about the sale of The Gazette and Daily, the FBI files on J.W. Gitt, business records for The Gazette and Daily, and a scrapbook compiled by Gitt's wife. The collection also contains eight boxes of research material compiled by Mary A. Hamilton for her book about Gitt, *Rising From The Wilderness*, including cassette tapes of research notes.

## ORGANIZATION OF THE COLLECTION

Gitt's personal papers came to the York County Heritage Trust primarily as they had been organized by Gitt. Gitt's organizational structure was largely maintained, however similar items were grouped together by topic and by date.

## SEE ALSO

Rising From The Wilderness: J.W. Gitt and His Legendary Newspaper, The Gazette and Daily of York, PA by Mary A. Hamilton and McKinley C. Olson, accession nos. 28331B, 28332B (2 copies).

J.W. Gitt's Sweet Land of Liberty by Josiah William Gitt, compiled and edited by McKinley C. Olson, accession nos. 19306B, 23206B (2 copies).

J.W. Gitt: The Cold War's 'Voice In The Wilderness' by Mary A. Hamilton, accession no. 22005B.

Josiah W. Gitt, object ID no. 12090, general information about J.W. Gitt compiled by YCHT

York Gazette and Daily, Object ID no. 00662.055, general information about the newspaper

Allen C. Wiest, object ID no. 14396, general information about Gitt's business partner

York Gazette, object ID no. 31076, general information about the newspaper

J.W. Gitt, object ID nos. 12090.001P and 12090.002P, photographs of J.W. Gitt

## ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION

Access: This collection is open under the rules and regulations of the York County History Center.

Preferred Citation: Researchers are requested to cite the collection name, collection number and the York County History Center in all footnote and bibliographic references.

Property Rights: York County History Center owns the property rights to this collection.

Copyrights: York Country History Center holds the copyright to this collection.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

<u>Folder</u>	<u>File Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
34762.001	Mary Hamilton	1976 -
34762.002	Magazines	1970 -
34762.003	Newspaper Articles on J.W. Gitt	1957 -
34762.004	Copies of the Gazette and Daily	1945 -
34762.005	McKinely C. Olson letters	1975
34762.006	J.W. Gitt "Food for Thought" articles	1961 -

<u>Folder</u>	<u>File Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
34762.007	Gazette and Daily articles	1945 -
34762.008	Letters to Mrs. Elizabeth M. Gitt	1975 -
34762.009	Harry S. Truman Memoirs	1953 -
34762.010	Harry S. Truman Articles	1951 -
34762.011	Henry A. Wallace	1942 -
34762.012	Henry A. Wallace Newspaper Clippings	1946 -
34762.013	Miscellaneous writers letters - purchase of property	1951
34762.014	Miscellaneous materials, business letters, and job applications	1950
34762.015	J.W. Gitt Annotated Notes	
34762.016	Gazette and Daily Editorials on United States Government	1946 -
34762.017	Gazette and Daily Editorials on Business, and Miscellaneous	1946 -
34762.018	Gazette and Daily Editorials on York County and Surrounding Areas	1946 -
34762.019	Gazette and Daily Editorials on People	1946 -
34762.020	Gazette and Daily Editorials on Global Affairs	1946 -
34762.021	Editing	
34762.022	Gazette and Daily Historical Edition	1958
34762.023	Magazines	1944 -
34762.024	Gazette and Daily business and legal papers	1950
34762.025	Miscellaneous writing	1947 -
34762.026	Federal Bureau of Investigation files on J.W. Gitt	1961 -
34762.027	J.W. Gitt family and friends	1975 -
34762.028	J.W. Gitt alumni information	1929 -
34762.029	Miscellaneous includes handwritten notes	1938 -
34762.030	1953 - 1954 - 1955 - 1956 political letters	1953 -
34762.031	1960s political letters	1960
34762.032	1951 political letters	1951
34762.033	1970s sale of Gazette and Daily letters	1970 -
34762.034	1946 business and professional letters	1946
34762.035	1947 non-political letters	1947
34762.036	1948 newspaper operation	1948
34762.037	1949 all other letters	1949
34762.038	1943 political letters	1943
34762.039	J.W. Gitt congressional campaign	1944
34762.040	1944 political letters	1944
34762.041	1945 political staff letters	1945
34762.042	1946 and 1947 political letters	1946 -
34762.043	1946 political papers	1946
34762.044	1947 political papers	1947
34762.045	1948 political letters	1948

<u>Folder</u>	<u>File Title</u>	<u>Dates</u>
34762.046	1948 political papers	1948
34762.047	1949 political papers	1949
34762.048	1949 political letters	1949
34762.049	J.W. Gitt and Gifford Pinchot exchange	1918 -
34762.050	1960 - 1970 non-political letters	1960 -
34762.051	1950 non-political letters	1950
34762.052	Mary A. Hamilton: J.W. Gitt research	
34762.053	Scrapbook compiled by Elizabeth M. Gitt	