The papers of Richard W. and Constance Cowen were placed in the Archives of Labor and Urban Affairs in April of 1979 by Mr. and Ms. Cowen and were opened for research in July of 1982.

Richard W. Cowen, a graduate of Muhlenberg College in Pennsylvania is a reporter for The Morning Call of Allentown, Pa. Mr. Cowen was interested in the career of Charles Garland, the radical philanthropist, who used his million-dollar inheritance to establish the American Fund for Public Service, popularly known as the "Garland Fund." The fund supported numerous liberal and reform enterprises such as the ACLU, the NAACP and various labor unions. Mr. Garland also established several farm communes in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania in the mid-twenties.

The papers of Mr. and Ms. Cowen consist of a draft of an article and two newspaper articles by him on Charles Garland, the Garland Fund, and the April Farm colony.