



Guide to the Joseph Gilmore Papers, 1842-1866

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Joseph Gilmore Papers, 1842-1866

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
<http://www.nhhistory.org/>

Collection Number:

1926.006

Author of Finding Aid:

Original finding aid written by Thomas E. Camden in May, 1982. Re-written and formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler, May 2014. Additions to the original finding aid narrative made by SL Wheeler are in brackets. []

Creator:

Gilman, Joseph, 1811-1867

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

4 boxes, 18 shelf inches

Abstract:

The Joseph Gilmore (1811-1867) papers consist largely of correspondence concerning political and business matters, but also contain some personal correspondence from family members. Gilmore was a businessman who was elected to the New Hampshire Senate (1858-1859) and then as Governor of New Hampshire (1863-1865). His daughter, Ann Caroline, was the first wife of William E. Chandler, New Hampshire Senator (1887-1901).

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Joseph Gilmore Papers were given to the New Hampshire Historical Society by the estate of William E. Chandler in 1926 and given accession number, 1926.006. This donation has been divided into three parts, all with the same accession number but with separate finding aids. They are: The John Parker Hale Papers, The William E. Chandler Papers and the Joseph Gilmore Papers.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by Thomas E. Camden in May, 1982. The finding aid was written by Thomas E. Camden in May, 1982 and re-formatted by Sandra L. Wheeler in May, 2014. This finding aid follows the standards set-forth by *Describing Archives: A Content Standard*.

Access Restrictions:

Available for research.

Location:

The collection is housed at the New Hampshire Historical Society in Concord, New Hampshire.

Physical Characteristics and Technical Requirements:

This collection is on paper; there are no technical requirements for use.

Copyright/Conditions Governing Use:

For permission to reproduce or publish materials from this collection, please contact the New Hampshire Historical Society. Researchers are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Joseph Gilmore Papers, 1926.006. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH.
Date accessed.

Biographical Information:

Joseph Gilmore was born in Weston, VT, but spent his early years in Boston, MA, before moving to Concord, NH in 1842. In Concord, he operated a wholesale grocery store until he became deeply interested in railroad matters and was appointed construction agent of the Concord & Claremont Railroad. In 1856, he was named superintendent of the Concord Railroad, a position he held until failing health obliged him to resign in 1866.

Gilmore was a member of the Whig Party but did not hold public office until after that organization had disintegrated. In 1858 and 1859, he was elected to the New Hampshire Senate as a Republican and served as president during his second term. In 1863, he received the nomination for the governorship, in spite of considerable opposition due to his railroad connections. Since the campaign and election results were so close, the final

choice was made by the legislature, and Gilmore was elected. He proceeded to win the confidence of the people of New Hampshire by a vigorous and successful attack on the administrative problems created by the Civil War. This policy caused serious clashes with the legislature but which earned him “an honorable place among the war governors.” [Dictionary of American Biography, pg. 311]

As Governor during the Civil War, Gilmore raised and equipped the 18th Regiment of New Hampshire Infantry, the 1st Regiment of New Hampshire Cavalry, and the 1st Regiment of New Hampshire Heavy Artillery. He oversaw the raising of a loan of \$1.5 million to provide bounties for soldiers, and arranged furloughs and free transportation for soldiers to vote. [Sobel & Raimo, pg. 964]

Since Gilmore had the support of public opinion and his proposals were, for the most part, sound and feasible, the legislature provided him with most of the authority necessary to carry out his designs. When his administration came to an end in 1865, his health had already begun to fail, and he retired from office. [Dictionary of American Biography, pg. 311] Gilmore died in Concord on April 17, 1867.

Time line, Joseph Gilman

- 1811 June 10, born at Weston, VT, son of Asa D. and Lucy Dodge Gilmore.
Received common school education.
- 1832 July 10, married Ann Page Whipple (1808-1893) of Dunbarton, NH. They had 11 children, see list below
- 1842 Moved to Concord, NH from Boston, MA and established a wholesale grocery
- 1848 Appointed construction agent of the Concord & Claremont RR
- 1856 Superintendent of the Concord Railroad
- 1858 Elected to New Hampshire Senate as a Republican, served as President during his second term
- 1863 Nominated for the governorship and, in a close campaign, elected
- 1864 Re-elected to the governorship
- 1865 Governorship ended, retired from office and relinquished further public activity
- 1866 August 11, resigned from position with the Concord Railroad due to failing health
- 1867 April 17, died in Concord, NH

References:

Dictionary of American Biography. Vol. 7 (N.Y.: Scribners), 1931. p. 311
Sobel, Robert and John Raimo, eds. *Biographical Dictionary of the Governors of the United States, 1789-1978, Vol. III*. Westport, CT: Meckler Books), 1978. p. 964.

Joseph Gilmore and Ann Whipple Gilmore’s children, compiled from notes kept by William D. Chandler, Gilmore’s grandson:

- Joseph Henry 1834-1918
- Ann Caroline 1836-1871
- Maria Thomas 1840-
- Elizabeth Augusta 1838-1843
- Franklin Adams 1842-1843

Edward Everett 1843-1864
Frank Whipple 1845-1895
Mary Acsah 1847-1860
John Leach 1849-1888
Emma Lincoln 1851-1855
Addison 1853-

Collection Overview

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Joseph Gilmore Papers consist largely of correspondence concerning political and business matters but also contain some personal correspondence from family members. There are letters from such notables as Nathaniel Bouton, Edmund Burke, William E. Chandler, Ichabod Goodwin, W.H. Gove, Horace Greeley, John P. Hale, Edward Rollins, George Stark, Amos Tuck and Joseph B. Walker.

[Gilmore's correspondence during the Civil War years contains letters about his efforts to establish a government hospital in New Hampshire, preferably in Concord (it ended up being situated in Manchester) for the care of wounded and ill soldiers. Some of these letters are copies of his originals, others are replies to them. Gilmore's brother, Lucius Gilmore, served in various New Hampshire units in Virginia between 1862 and 1864 and wrote his brother unhappy letters from time to time asking his influence in moving to another regiment and, finally, in obtaining a discharge. Eventually, in 1864, Lucius was at the "Chesapeake Hospital in Fortress Monroe" in Virginia because he was too old (48) and unwell to serve in his regiment any longer. He wrote from there that he was now working as a nurse and wondering if Gilmore could get him a job in that capacity in a New Hampshire hospital, which Gilmore did.]

Arrangement:

All correspondence is arranged chronologically.

Contents List:

Box 1. Correspondence

Folder 0	Finding aid, secondary source biographical information, index of correspondents compiled by an unknown person (on 3x5 slips of paper)
Folder 1	1842-1854
Folder 2	1855
Folder 3	1856-1858
Folder 4	February 1859
Folder 5	March 1859
Folder 6	April 1859
Folder 7	May-August 1859
Folder 8	January-April 14, 1860
Folder 9	April 16-26, 1860
Folder 10	May-June 1860

Folder 11	July-December 1860
Folder 12	January-February 1861
Folder 13	March-April 1861
Folder 14	May-October 1861
Folder 15	January-February 1862
Folder 16	March 1862
Folder 17	April-June 1862
Folder 18	August 1862
Folder 19	September 1962
Folder 20	October-November 1862
Folder 21	December 1-5, 1862
Folder 22	December 6-10, 1862
Folder 23	December 11-15, 1862
Folder 24	December 16-25, 1862
Folder 25	December 26-31, 1862

Box 2. Correspondence

Folder 1	January 1-5, 1863
Folder 2	January 7-10, 1863
Folder 3	January 12-15, 1863
Folder 4	January 16-20, 1863
Folder 5	January 21-31, 1863
Folder 6	March 1863
Folder 7	May-June 1863
Folder 8	July 3-14, 1863
Folder 9	July 16-29 1863
Folder 10	August 1863
Folder 11	October 27-November 14, 1863
Folder 12	November 16-30, 1863
Folder 13	December 1863
Folder 14	January 1-15, 1864
Folder 15	January 16-29, 1864
Folder 16	February 1-10, 1864
Folder 17	February 11-20, 1864
Folder 18	February 22-29, 1864
Folder 19	March 1-5, 1864
Folder 20	March 6-10, 1864
Folder 21	March 11-19, 1864
Folder 22	March 22-31, 1864
Folder 23	April 2-5, 1864
Folder 24	April 6-10, 1864
Folder 25	April 11-30, 1864
Folder 26	May 1864
Folder 27	June 1-15, 1864
Folder 28	June 16-29, 1864

Box 3. Correspondence

Folder 1	July 1864
Folder 2	August 1-9, 1864
Folder 3	August 10-30, 1864
Folder 4	September 1-9, 1864
Folder 5	September 12-30, 1864
Folder 6	October 2-9, 1864
Folder 7	October 11-30, 1864
Folder 8	November 1864
Folder 9	December 2-15, 1864
Folder 10	December 18-30, 1864
Folder 11	January 2-15, 1865
Folder 12	January 18-31, 1865
Folder 13	February 1-10, 1865
Folder 14	February 11-20, 1865
Folder 15	February 21-28, 1865
Folder 16	March 1865
Folder 17	April 1-15, 1865
Folder 18	April 17-25, 1865
Folder 19	May 1865
Folder 20	June 1865
Folder 21	July 1865
Folder 22	August 1865
Folder 23	September 1865
Folder 24	October 1865
Folder 25	November 1865
Folder 26	December 1865

Box 4. Correspondence

Folder 1	January 1866
Folder 2	February 1866
Folder 3	March 1866
Folder 4	April 1866
Folder 5	May 4-19, 1866
Folder 6	May 21-30, 1866
Folder 7	June 1866
Folder 8	July 1866
Folder 9	August 1866
Folder 10	September-October 1866
Folder 11	November 1866
Folder 12	December 1866

Subject Terms

People:

Chandler, William E. (William Eaton), 1835-1917
Gilmore, Lucius
Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872
Hale, John Parker, 1806-1873
Rollins, Edward Henry, 1824-1899
Stark, George, 1823-1892
Tuck, Amos, 1810-1879
Walker, Joseph

Organizations:

United States. Army. New Hampshire Cavalry Regiment, 1st (1861-1865)
United States. Army. New Hampshire Heavy Artillery Regiment, 1st (1864-1865)
United States. Army. New Hampshire Infantry Regiment, 18th (1864-1865)
New Hampshire. General Court. Senate
New Hampshire. Governor. (1865-1865: Gilmore)

Subjects:

New Hampshire – History – Civil War, 1861-1865
New Hampshire – Politics and government – 1861-1865
Railroads
United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865
United States – History – Civil War, 1861-1865 – Hospitals

Locations:

Concord, NH
Virginia