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:**

**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:

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
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 “Chesapeke 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 1862
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