

Guide to the Peyton Randolph Gilbert Family Papers

MS 699



compiled by Staff of Manuscripts and Archives

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 699

CREATOR: Gilbert, Peyton Randolph, 1808-1874

TITLE: Peyton Randolph Gilbert family papers

DATES: 1760-1905

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.5 linear feet (3 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Peyton R. Gilbert is the central figure in these family papers which begin with his father Samuel Gilbert, a judge in Tolland County, Connecticut. The family was based in Gilead and Hebron, Connecticut. The largest part of the papers contains legal and financial papers from the law practices of both Peyton R. and Samuel Gilbert. Also included is family correspondence, with a number of Civil War letters from David J. Gilbert as well as letters from members of the family in the West. Also in the papers are the diaries (1878-1884) of Ralph P. Gilbert and the papers of the Gilead Ecclesiastical Society, including letters from Albert W. and Nellie P. Clark who were living as missionaries in Bohemia in 1872.

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Requesting Instructions

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Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Acquired by purchase, 1944-1953.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Peyton Randolph Gilbert Family Papers (MS 699). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

EDWIN RANDOLPH GILBERT, 1808-1874

EDWIN RANDOLPH GILBERT, son of Hon. Peyton R. and Anna (Porter) Gilbert, was born in Gilead, a parish of Hebron, Conn., Feb. 10, 1808. He entered the Yale Divinity School in 1829 and completed the course in 1832. On the 3d of Oct., 1832, he was ordained over the Congregational Church in Wallingford, Conn., and retired as pastor emeritus, Jan. 1, 1874. His long pastorate was marked by great fidelity and judiciousness. He died of pneumonia at his residence in Wallingford, April 17, 1874, after an illness of eight days. The sermon preached at his funeral by the Rev. Dr. Leonard Bacon, who also preached the sermon at his ordination, is to be published. From August, 1849, until his death, Mr. Gilbert was a member of the Corporation of Yale College.

He was married, May 7, 1833, to Ann S. Langdon, of Hartford, Conn., by whom he had four children. She died Feb. 13, 1841. His second marriage was with Dorcas S., daughter of Rev. Aaron Dutton. (Y. C. 1803) of Guilford, July 26, 1842. She died July 10, 1849, having had three children. He married again, Sept. 7, 1852, Clara, daughter of William Baldwin, of New Haven, who died Aug. 19, 1864. He was again married, Oct. 16, 1865, to Henrietta M. Carrington, of Wallingford; who survives him. Two sons, one by his first and one by his second marriage, are also living, the younger of whom is a graduate of this college.

From *Yale University Obituary Record*.

Scope and Contents

This small collection contains papers of the Peyton Randolph Gilbert family and of the towns of Gilead and Hebron, Connecticut. Family members include Peyton R. Gilbert's father, Samuel Gilbert (1734-1818), and mother, Deborah Gilbert, his brothers John H. Gilbert and Charles C. Gilbert, his wife, Anna Porter, and his son Edwin Randolph Gilbert (1808-1874). Also represented in the collection are Ralph P. Gilbert, Ralph D. Gilbert, Sylvester Gilbert, and others whose precise connection to Peyton R. Gilbert is unclear.

A number of the Gilberts were involved in legal and political affairs. Samuel Gilbert was chief justice of the Court of Common Pleas for Tolland County, Connecticut, for 21 years. Sylvester Gilbert was a lawyer and justice of the peace, as was Peyton R. Gilbert, while Ralph P. Gilbert, a farmer by trade, was a member of the Connecticut State Legislature in the years 1880 and 1883. As a result, although fragments of family and business correspondence of Edwin R., Ralph P., Ralph D., and Peyton R. Gilbert are in the collection along with the diaries of Ralph P. Gilbert for the years 1878-1884, the majority of the papers are of a financial and legal nature. Included are papers from the legal practices of Samuel and Peyton R. Gilbert, legal papers relating to the Gilbert family (folders 33, 38), and a collection of legal documents of Peyton R. and Ralph Gilbert and other justices of the peace of Tolland County (folders 41-44). The financial papers in the collection are largely concerned with the estates of Samuel and Peyton R. Gilbert (folders 3, 21-22), although there are also lists of taxable property of residents of Hebron (folder 40) and other miscellaneous financial papers (folders 26-32).

Other materials in the collection include papers of the Gilead School Society and of the Gilead Ecclesiastical Society, among the more interesting of which are letters from Albert W. and Nellie P. Clark, missionaries in Bohemia in 1872. There is also a small amount of correspondence belonging to Mary Hutchinson of Gilead, several sermons possibly written by Edwin R. Gilbert, an unidentified copy book, and various other miscellaneous items.

Collection Contents

Inventory, 1760-1905

Gilbert, Edwin R.		
b. 1, f. 1	Letter to his parents	1832
b. 1, f. 1	Letters from Edwin D. Potter	1859
Gilbert, Peyton R.		
b. 1, f. 2	Incoming letters	1818-1962
b. 1, f. 3	Lists of his taxable property	1806-1857
Legal practice		
b. 1, f. 4	Adams, Cynthia: estate papers	1820-1835
b. 1, f. 5-6	Bliss family: financial and legal papers	1779-1884
b. 1, f. 7	Bolles, Edwin C.: promissory notes and accounts payable	1850-1863
b. 1, f. 8	Gilbert family: papers re the "family fund" established in the will of Samuel Gilbert	1800-1820
b. 1, f. 9	Johnson, Joel: estate papers	1847-1853
b. 1, f. 10-12	Mack family: financial and legal papers	1798-1853
b. 1, f. 13	Norton, Jethro: estate papers	1831-1843
b. 1, f. 14	Porter, Hannah: estate papers	1836-1838
b. 1, f. 15	Porter, Pelatiah: estate papers	1800, 1803
b. 1, f. 16	Gilbert, Ralph D. (Y. 1904, Ph.D.): letters to his family	1901, undated
Gilbert, Ralph P.		
b. 1, f. 17	Incoming letters	1848, 1862-1874
b. 1, f. 18-19	Diaries	1878-1884
b. 1, f. 20	Railroad passes	1880, 1883
Gilbert, Samuel		
b. 2, f. 21	Account book	1760-1797
b. 2, f. 22	Legal and financial papers	1795-1818
b. 2, f. 22	Estate papers	1818-1820
Gilead Ecclesiastical Society		
b. 2, f. 23	Lists of members and miscellaneous financial papers	1750, 1783, 1797-1883

Gilead Ecclesiastical Society (continued)

b. 2, f. 23	Letters to the Sunday School from Albert W. Clark and Nellie P. Clark, missionaries in Bohemia	1872
b. 2, f. 24	Gilead School Society: minutes and legal and financial papers	1814-1881
b. 2, f. 25	Hutchinson, Mary L.: letters and miscellaneous papers	1833-1841
b. 2, f. 26-32	Receipts and other financial papers	1786-1883, 1890, undated
b. 2, f. 33	Deeds	1816-1860
b. 2, f. 34	Sermons	1773-1860
b. 2, f. 35	Copy book	Undated
b. 2, f. 36	Miscellaneous letters	1800-1905, undated
b. 2, f. 37	Miscellaneous legal papers	1820-1889, undated
b. 2, f. 38	Miscellaneous papers	Undated
b. 2, f. 39	Instructions for polishing a stove	Undated
b. 3, f. 40	Lists of taxable property of various residents of Hebron, Connecticut	1832
b. 3, f. 41-44	Summons, attachments, complaints, and other legal papers of Peyton R. Gilbert, Ralph Gilbert, and other justices of the peace of Tolland County, Connecticut	1814-1854, undated

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

Subjects

Clergy
Education
Families
Law
Lawyers
Missionaries

Geographic Names

Bohemia (Czech Republic) -- Religion
Connecticut
Hebron (Conn.)
West (U.S.)

Genres / Formats

Account books
Diaries
Sermons

Names

Clark, Albert Warren, 1842-1921
Gilbert, D. J. (David J.)
Gilbert, Edwin Randolph, 1808-1874
Gilbert, Ralph P.
Gilbert, Samuel, 1734-1818

Families

Gilbert family