
II. The papers of Jennie Gilbert Jerome deposited in the Library on April 4, 1981, by Mrs. Leroy Platt. In converted the deposit to a gift.

III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 3 1/2
Approximate number of items: 412

IV. Restrictions: None

V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.

VI. Press release was issued on

VII. Biographical note: See p. 2 and 3.

VIII. Analysis: The Jerome Papers consist of 7 boxes of papers belonging to Jennie Gilbert Jerome, her mother, Elizabeth Maude Jerome, and Gilbert Nelson Jerome, Jennie G. Jerome's brother. The papers, totaling 412 items, consist of diaries, photograph albums and loose photographs, clippings from periodicals, correspondence primarily genealogical in nature, some genealogical sketches, class books and ephemera.

The collection is arranged by type of material. Materials in each box are arranged according to the ownership of the papers. Materials in each folder are arranged chronologically by type of material or by topic.

Additional material pertaining to the history of the Gilbert and Jerome families can be found in vols 10 (p. 19-22c), 27 (p. 67-74), 57 (p. 27-30A), and 116A (p. 25-35) of the Dana Collection (MSS 1).
Jennie Gilbert Jerome was born May 15, 1888, in New Haven, Gilbert Ave. 24, the daughter of a Chinese writer and lecturer Yan Phou Lee and Elizabeth Maude Jerome. On her mother's side she traced her ancestry to Matthew Gilbert, Deputy Governor of New Haven Colony in the 1640's. She was related to Chauncey Jerome, former Mayor of New Haven and founder of the New Haven Clock Company. Jennie Jerome, Winston Churchill's mother, was also a distant relation. Jennie G. Jerome's grandmother, Elizabeth Gilbert Jerome, was a noted portrait painter in Hartford, before moving to New Haven after her husband's, Benjamin Nelson Jerome's, death.

Jennie G. Jerome's father Yan Phou Lee (Yan Fu Li) was said to be the son of the president of the University of Canton. He was brought to this country at the age of 10 through the efforts of minister Li Hung Chang. With a group of about 100 other Chinese boys of the best families, he was to get his education in America in order to become acquainted with Western civilization. Yan Phou Lee was brought up by a doctor's family in Springfield, Mass., worked his way through Yale and graduated in 1887 with honors, majoring in English language and literature. A brilliant student and a charming young man he married into this old New Haven family right after graduation. However, after two children - Jennie G. Jerome, born in 1888, and Gilbert Amos (later Nelson) Jerome, born in 1889, the marriage was dissolved for reasons given in Jennie G. Jerome's letter to Mr. Dana (see box V, folder A of these papers). After the divorce Elizabeth Maude Jerome resumed her maiden name and her family was supported by her mother. In 1892 Elizabeth Gilbert Jerome bought for her daughter's family a home 255 Crown Street, consisting of 17 rooms, where they lived until 1902. Because of the grandmother's failing health the family moved back to her home on Gilbert Ave., built during Civil War, surrounded by the ancestry land. The street itself was named after the landowner's name. After her mother's death in 1910 Elizabeth Maude Jerome sold the property on Gilbert Ave. and built a house called Greenway after an ancestral castle in Devon on Forest Road, no. 987. The family moved there in 1914; Jennie Gilbert Jerome spent the rest of her life there.

Elizabeth Maude Jerome, Jennie G. Jerome's mother, had a little formal education. She left school at 15, a very sentimental young girl, who proved to be a strongwilled woman. She was an avid reader throughout her life. The Jerome children never knew their father. There was not a touch of the Oriental in their childhood upbringing. The grandmother was a strict disciplinarian and a great influence upon her grandchildren whom she taught to read and write at an early age and encouraged their interests in literature, art, music and history. Jennie had piano lessons (she continued playing throughout her life) and also studied French at an early age. The girl was educated in private schools before attending Hillhouse High School. After graduation in 1907 she spent the next four years at Mt. Holyoke College, which according to herself, were the happiest years of her life. Jennie G. Jerome was a good student, enjoying her work, had a good high soprano voice, sang in the college choir, made the Glee Club, took singing lessons, participated in theatrical performances and even took up solo dancing. She graduated from college in 1911 with a major in art, with emphasis on art appreciation; her minor was English literature. While at college she became a feminist and made up her mind to have a career, perhaps as a writer. However, her mother did not allow her to start her career immediately, since in those days it was thought to be unladylike. After college she studied at the Yale Art School for 5 terms, got involved in various clubs, taught at the YWCA, and thus learned to know people from different social strata. With the onset of World War I the social atmosphere changed, women were needed at the home front. After a breakdown, upon a doctor's recommendation to take a job, Jennie G. Jerome joined the New Haven Public Library's staff in 1917 as an assistant at the Dixwell Branch (at 20 cents
an hour) later becoming a branch librarian there.

Jennie G. Jerome's brother, Gilbert Nelson Jerome, graduated from Yale in 1918 as an electrical engineer. He then studied psychology at Springfield College, where he became interested in drama and was a speaker and lecturer on various topics. Through Ernest Thomson Seton he became involved in scouting and was the first Boy Scout Executive in New Haven. During the war he was one of the 10 first pilots sent overseas. Attached to a French escadrille under General Fétain, Gilbert was shot down by a German plane while on patrol in Blamont, Southern France. Many details are known about his death and funeral (see Elizabeth Maude Jerome's pamphlet Lieut. Gilbert Nelson Jerome in box II, folder C of these papers). Through this incident the people of Blamont found out that America was in the war on France's side. After the war Jennie G. Jerome and her mother travelled to France to visit his grave and arranged the return of his body to New Haven, where Gilbert Nelson Jerome was buried with military honors in September, 1921. This loss marked the lives of the two women, who never overcame this death.

In 1922 Jennie G. Jerome accepted the position of art librarian at the New Haven Public Library, where she remained until her retirement in 1952. Over the years she made the best of her limited budget to acquire an admirable collection of books on art and music. Jennie G. Jerome started holding weekly exhibitions of works by local artists, thus giving scores of painters an opportunity to display their works to the public without the prohibitive expense of renting a private gallery. She did the selection of the works to be exhibited herself. For several years she wrote critiques of the exhibits for the Register - an assignment which gave her a great deal of pleasure. She had an artistic talent herself and did silhouettes in pen and ink of her associates and friends. Because of an exhibition of her work at the Library, she was elected a member of the Paint and Clay Club and the Brush and Palette. Her picture collection was extensive, consisting of thousands of pictures-sketches, paintings and photographs, clipped from magazines and methodically filed. Many people thought her picture collection to be better than New York Public Library's. Sometimes as many as 2,000 pictures were signed out in a day. In 1951 the Library circulated 156,000 pictures. Jennie G. Jerome's picture and biography files were frequently referred to by newspapers and other publications.

Jennie G. Jerome was a woman of many interests, but the books were the most important. She loved general information, history and biography in particular. Much of her leisure time was spent in voluminous correspondence with her Mt. Holyoke classmates, because of her position of class scribe which she took seriously. She was a member of the Edgewood Congregational Church Choir until her old age, keeping her skills as an amateur pianist practicing at the keyboard of her family's square antique piano. She had great interest in sewing and gardening. After her retirement she also made dolls, ca. 250 in all.

Throughout her life Jennie G. Jerome wore her hair in a coronet, a style she adopted as a school girl. She liked to dress in black offset by delicate white lace collars. After her mother's death in 1939 she continued to live in her family home with a companion amid her family antique Victorian furniture and her grandmother's paintings. Her family heirlooms were given to Mt. Holyoke College, after being declined by The New Haven Colony Historical Society. Jennie Gilbert Jerome died in her home August 12, 1979, at the age of 91, the last of her family line.
Content Guide.

BOX I.

Folder: Correspondence re: Jennie Gilbert Jerome collection.

Folder B: Jennie G. Jerome's diary covering her trip to France in 1919 - 60 p. (1)

BOX II.

Folder D: Elizabeth Maude Jerome's 3 notebooks re: her son Gilbert Nelson Jerome and her trip to France to visit his grave in 1919 - 72, 22 and 28 p. (A letter from L'Abbé Lenhard of Les Scouts de France, Province de Lorraine, District de Nancy, Groupe Godefroy de Bouillon, dated le 13 mars, 1934, inserted in one of them) (3)

BOX III.

Folder A: Jennie Gilbert Jerome's photograph albums 1900?-1914? and 1907?-1911 46 and 44 p. (2)
Folder B: Jennie Gilbert Jerome's photograph album 1908-1911 - 28 p. (1)
Folder C: Jennie Gilbert Jerome's photograph album 1912?-1915? - 90 p. (1)
Folder D: Elizabeth Maude Jerome's photograph album 1895?-1911? - 32 p. (1)
Folder E: Elizabeth Maude Jerome's photograph album ca. 1914 - 32 p. (1)

BOX IV.

Folder A: Elizabeth Maude Jerome's photograph album 1914-1919 - 110 p. (1)
Folder B: Elizabeth Maude Jerome's photograph album 1919 - 78 p. (1)
Folder C: Elizabeth Maude Jerome's photograph album 1917-1927? - 82 p. (1)
Folder D: Elizabeth Maude Jerome's photograph album 1928?-1938? - 50 p. (1)

BOX V.

Folder A: Jennie Gilbert Jerome's folder: sketches, photographs and clippings:
1. Jennie G. Jerome's letter to Mr. Dana disclosing the grounds of her parent's divorce.
2. Silhouette of Jennie Gilbert Jerome and a sketch of her mother, Elizabeth Maude Jerome.
4. Print of a photograph of Jennie and Gilbert Jerome as children; photograph of Elizabeth Maude Jerome with her children (ca. 1892?); two of Jennie G.

* For additional copies see the card catalog.
MSS 130

Content Guide (cont'd.)

BOX V, Folder A (cont'd.)
Jerome's N.H.H.S. graduation photographs (1907); Jennie G. Jerome's photograph of 1909.
5. Newspaper clippings about Jennie G. Jerome (incl. the article upon her retirement and her obituary).
6. Church affiliations.
7. Ephemera.

Folder B: Elizabeth Maude Jerome's folder: clippings and photographs.
1. Clippings of Elizabeth Maude Jerome's obituaries and descriptions of her funeral (written by Jennie G. Jerome).
2. 5 photographs of Elizabeth Maude Jerome; one photograph of Elizabeth Maude Jerome with an unidentified woman; 1 daguerreotype of a group of women.

Folder C: Gilbert Nelson Jerome's folder: sketches, photographs and clippings.
1. Gilbert N. Jerome's photographs and his silhouette at the age of 9.
2. Clippings from newspapers: missing in action announcement; obituaries, description of his funeral in New Haven, Sept. 20, 1921; four copies of Gilbert N. Jerome's Memorial Service program; a fragment of Gilbert N. Jerome's obituary in his mother's handwriting.
3. Gilbert N. Jerome's poems (one with ink drawing); one unsigned ink drawing, probably by G.N. Jerome.
4. Photographs and mementoes found in Gilbert N. Jerome's possession after his death in action.
5. Scouting and soldiering mementoes.

Folder D: Jerome and Gilbert families' correspondence, photographs and paper clippings.
1. Letters to Mrs. J.L. Newton, cousin of Elizabeth Maude Jerome, from members of Jerome family.
2. Clipping of Elizabeth Gilbert Jerome's (1824-1910) obituary (partially disintegrated); 3 xerox copies thereof from New Haven Evening Register, April 24, 1910; one copy of the article about the 1872 experiment to educate 120 Chinese boys in the U.S.A., one of whom was Jennie G. Jerome's father, Yuan Phou Lee; one xerox copy thereof from New Haven Register, May 4, 1947; clippings re: Jerome and Churchill family members.
3. Family's homes and ancestral homes.

BOX VI.
Folder A:
1. Marriage certificate of Elizabeth and Benjamin N. Jerome, Jennie G. Jerome's grandparents, dated December 8, 1858.

Content Guide (cont'd.)

Box VI (cont'd.)

Folder B: Genealogy.

1. Three letters of G.A. (?) Gilbert, M.D., of 179 Main St. Danbury, Conn., to Elizabeth M. Jerome, dated 6.1.1908, 19.10.1908, and 3.11.1908, re: Gilbert family genealogy. Third letter contains genealogical sketch of Amos Gilbert (1752-1800) family, of which the lines of his first three children - Amos Allins (1776-1805), Rebecca (1779-1852), and Nancy (1782-1839) were partially compiled. (3)

2. Two letters of E.E. Clemons, of Manlius, N.Y., to Jennie Gilbert Jerome, dated 2.10.42 and 3.16.42 re: genealogy of Jennie Jerome's (mother of Winston Churchill) family. (2)

3. Coat of arms of Jerome family and its description by Halberts of Bath, Ohio. (1)

4. A sketch of Matthew Gilbert line in New Haven (in Jennie G. Jerome's handwriting); 3 short notes re: Gilbert family genealogy sources, Amos Gilbert, father of Hezekiah, and the Jeromes who were ancestors of Winston Churchill. (4)

5. 2 copies of incomplete Jerome family genealogical sketch. (2)

6. A sketch of Jerome family history, the ancestry of Sarah Noble. (1)

7. A genealogy of Jerome family, the descendants of Timothy Jerome (1688-1794/50) who came to America from the Isle of Wight, ca. 1709. (1)

Folder C.

Elizabeth M. Jerome's notebook on Gilbert family history and genealogy: quotations from grave stones of Gilbert family members in Grove St. cemetery, the Sylvan Ave. lots and the Center Church; lists of members of Gilbert family in the first Church. Extensive description of the members of her immediate family - parents, sister and herself - with accompanying clippings and some photographs. Family record of Elizabeth Gilbert Jerome. (1)

Folder D:

Box of hair samples of various members of Gilbert and Jerome family. (1)

Folder E:

New Haven High School Senior Class Book 1906 - 49 p. (1)

Folder F:

Record album - 7 records. (1)

Box VII.

Folder A:

Mt. Holyoke's Yearbook 1911 - 150 p. (1)

Folder B:

The Llamarada 1911, published by Mt. Holyoke junior class. - 260 p. (1)

Folder C:

The 1912 Llamarada - 265 p. (1)

Folder D:

Jennie G. Jerome's devotional books - 6 v. (approx. 2500 p.) (6)
MSS #130

Additions to the Collection
February 1990 and October 1996

This material was given to the Historical Society by the Quinnipiac Council, Boy Scouts of America, Hamden, CT. Prior to her death, Jessie Jerome had given these items to the Scouts in memory of her brother, Gilbert, who had been a Scout Executive in New Haven. Also presented to the Society was a memorial Tiffany window which had been placed in the Pilgrim Congregational Church in memory of Gilbert Jerome.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box/Folder</th>
<th>Contents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/A</td>
<td>Photograph of Gilbert Jerome as a boy, n.d.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/B</td>
<td>Letters from Gilbert Jerome to his mother and sister, 1908-1913</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/B1</td>
<td>Letters from Jennie Jerome to Gilbert Jerome while he was on duty in France during World War I. These letters were returned undelivered due to his death in action, June – August 1918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8/C through 8/J</td>
<td>Scrapbooks documenting Gilbert’s service in France, his death in action and the return of his body to New Haven. (Note: This scrapbook has been disbound and many items removed to protect them from the highly acidic paper. Photocopies of the scrapbooks have been cataloged and are on the shelves of the Whitney Library, call number: CS275.J3J6.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/K</td>
<td>Photographs of Elizabeth Maude, Jennie and Gilbert Jerome.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/L</td>
<td>Gilbert Jerome Boy Scout articles and World War I letters, photographs, and articles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/M</td>
<td>Boy Scout and Boy’s Club photograph and pamphlets.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/N</td>
<td>Obituaries and newspaper clippings of the death of members of the Jerome family and other prominent New Haven citizens.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/O</td>
<td>Papers of Theodore F. Tuttle.</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/A</td>
<td>Transcript of Jennie Jerome’s 1907 diary, prepared by Deborah Rossi, 2000. Original is in this collection, Box I, Folder A.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oversized Item #1</td>
<td>Photographs of Jennie and Gilbert and memorial certificate signed by Woodrow Wilson.</td>
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