

Inventory of the

E. B. Gilbert Family Collection
DeKalb, Illinois

Collection

In the

Regional History Center

RC 277

INTRODUCTION

Elaine Jackson Cozort and Richard G. Jackson, of DeKalb and Elk Grove, Illinois respectively, donated materials of the Eli B. Gilbert Family and descendants to the Regional History Center on January 25, 2007.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 5
Number of containers: 9
Northern Illinois Regional History Center
Collection 277

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Eli B. Gilbert Family Collection spans five generations, all of whom have resided at 210 N. 1st Street in DeKalb. Materials in this collection date from the 1830's to the 1990's, although the bulk of the collection dates from the 1860's through the mid-1940's. The collection is arranged chronologically within family groupings, and by type of record. About half the collection consists of photographic materials including ambrotypes, cartes-de-visite, and glass plate negatives. Scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, correspondence, a large number of legal documents, and genealogical information relating to the Eli B. Gilbert family, their descendants and ancestors, make up the remainder of the collection. Also included in the collection is information on Lyman H. Needham, brother of Lois A. Needham Gilbert, who died in Andersonville Prison during the Civil War. Researchers interested in the Needham family should also consult VFM 4.134.

HISTORICAL SKETCH

Eli B. Gilbert was born April 12, 1822 in Laurens, New York, the son of Abner and Betsy (Balcom) Gilbert. After completing his education at Norwich Academy, Eli taught school for six years, the last three in Sycamore, Illinois where he had moved in 1847. He learned the carpenter's trade in 1850 and built homes in the area, and on the side he studied law. 1856 was an important year for Mr. Gilbert. He was admitted to the bar and opened his office in DeKalb in April, was elected Justice of the Peace (an office he held until shortly before his death), and it was also the year he moved his family to DeKalb. Eli had married Lois Annie Needham (1830-1910) on December 25, 1851, and they eventually had three daughters, Josephine Lodica, Viola May, and Jessie Luella. The Gilbert's built their home at 210 N. 1st Street, ca. 1865. In 1860 he was editor of the DeKalb *Leader*, and was strongly pro-Lincoln. Gilbert's political leanings are also shown by his membership in the Union League, and the Spartan Band. Among his other activities he was elected President of the Village Board in 1866, was a notary public, served on the school board, and was a member of a number of organizations including the DeKalb Masonic

Lodge. Eli B. Gilbert died at his home on August 30, 1895.

Josephine "Fena" Gilbert (1853-1928) married Austin B. Blackman on April 23, 1873, and they had one son, Gilbert Needham Blackman. Following their divorce in 1876 she married John S. Orr (1853-1915) in October 1883. Orr, a former school teacher, was a salesman for Excelsior Glove factory at the time of their marriage. He later became police magistrate, a lawyer, and a justice of the peace in DeKalb.

Gilbert N. Blackman was born April 8, 1875. Following his graduation from DeKalb High School in 1895, he studied business at the Chicago College of Commerce. He married Myrtle Montgomery (1882-1957) of Sycamore, in June 1905. Their only child, Alice was born in 1915. Gilbert Blackman held various bookkeeping and accounting positions throughout his lifetime, among them chief clerk of the DeKalb-Sycamore Electric Company. He was elected DeKalb city clerk in 1912, a position he held for 20 years. He died May 3, 1968 in the family home.

Alice Blackman married Curtis Elwyn Jackson in January of 1938. They were the parents of two children, Richard and Elaine Jackson. As of 2007 Elaine Jackson Cozort and her husband Dale reside in the family home on North 1st Street.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Banks and banking--Illinois-- DeKalb--History	Blackman Family
Chicago Fire	Lincoln, Abraham 1809-1865
Cooley Family	Montgomery Family
DeKalb, (Ill.)	Music
DeKalb Banks	Needham Cemetery
DeKalb Township High School	Needham Family
Gilbert, Lois A.	Northern Illinois State Normal School
Huntley Family	Orr, John S.
International Order of Good Templars	Poetry
International Organization of Good Templars	Simonds, Merritt J.
Jackson Family	Superior Steel and Wire Company
Lawyers	Trowbridge Family
	Wagon Train
	Unites States-- History--Civil War, 1861-1865
	United States--History--Civil War, 1861-1865-- Correspondence

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Orenda Needham Poetry, 1835
	2	Copybook of Songs and Poems, from Needham Family, ca. 1850's
	3	Benjamin C. Needham Correspondence, 1852, 1858, n.d.; Funeral Cards for Lois Huntly [Needham] 1857, and Benjamin Needham, 1880
	4	Lyman H. Needham, Correspondence and Personal Affects, [He died in Andersonville Prison, 1864], (1853-1865).
	5	Civil War Correspondence, Eli and Lois Annie Gilbert, [mentions Merritt J. Simonds and Lyman Needham], November 1863
	6	Eli B. Gilbert, Correspondence to Recover Money of Lyman H. Needham, 1867
	7	Needham Family Related Papers, 1889, 1913, n.d.
	8	Needham Family Genealogy Correspondence, 1935
	9	Needham Cemetery, (1857-1906)
	10	Eli B. Gilbert, Obituaries, 1895, and other articles, 1907, n.d.; Record of Gilbert Family Births and Deaths, 1884
	11	Eli B. Gilbert, Permission Letters to Teach Common School, 1844, 1847
	12	Eli B. Gilbert, Licences to Practice Law, 1862-1866 [See also Box 9]
	13	Eli B. Gilbert, Good Templar Membership, 1863, 1864
	14	Eli B. Gilbert, Masonic Memberships, DeKalb, 1867, 1889, 1894; and Freeport, 1881
	15	Eli B. Gilbert, Political Correspondence to, 1868
	16	Eli B. Gilbert, Correspondence, Miscellaneous, [mentions Chicago Fire], (1871-1880)
	17	Eli B. Gilbert, Accounts and Receipts, Miscellaneous, (1858-1884)
	18	Eli B. Gilbert's Account Book, 1850's-1880's [End of book also contains personal addresses and deaths, 1880's-1902]
	19	<u>Dr. Chase's Recipes</u> , 1867, book owned by L.A. and E.B. Gilbert
	20	Transcript of Lois A. Gilbert's Will, not signed or dated
	21	Lois A. Gilbert, Obituary and Memorial Booklet, 1910; Postcard from Lois A. Gilbert to Gilbert Blackman, 1909; Charges for preparing grave, 1910

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
1	22	Lois A. Gilbert vs. Josephine and John S. Orr, Legal Documents, July 1896	
	23	Abstracts of Title, Property at 210 N. 1 st Street, DeKalb, Illinois, (1844-1941)	
	24	Mortgages for Property at 210 N. 1 st Street, DeKalb, Illinois, (1877-1940)	
	25	210 N. 1 st Street, DeKalb, Promissory Note and Receipts for Electrical and Heating Work, 1901-1904	
2	1	Marriage Certificate, Josephine Gilbert and Austin B. Blackman, April 23, 1873; Story of her marriage and divorce from A.B. Blackman, written 1877	
	2	Josephine L. Gilbert Blackman Divorce from Austin B. Blackman, October 1876	
	3	Austin B. Blackman, Business Cards, and Obituary of December 13, 1897 [Des Moines, Iowa]	
	4	Josephine "Fena" Gilbert's Autograph Album, December 1877-1889	
	5	Josephine Gilbert Orr, Related Materials: Dance Program, December 1877; Post Card, ca. 1881; Article, n.d.	
	6	John S. Orr, Agent for Haish & Co., December 1887; Running for DeKalb Sheriff, 1890; Biographical Information	
	7	John S. Orr Estate, Gilbert N. Blackman - Administrator, and Related Documents, 1916-1917, 1925	
	8	Quit Claim Deed to Josephine L. Orr from David, Harriet & Levi Orr, and Ellen & Charles Low, 1916	
	9	Gilbert N. Blackman, Correspondence to his Grandparents Eli B. and Lois A. Gilbert, 1887, 1908	
	10	<i>The Busy Bee</i> , Published by Clyde Jackson and Gilbert Blackman, July 19, 1890	
	11	Gilbert N. Blackman's Mandolin & Guitar Club Score Book, ca. 1890's	
	12	Gilbert N. Blackman, Chicago College of Commerce papers, Business Card, and Photograph, 1898, n.d.	
	13	Gilbert N. Blackman and Myrtle Montgomery, Wedding Invitation and Certificate of Marriage, June 21, 1905	
	14	Gilbert N. Blackman and Myrtle Montgomery Wedding Book, June 21, 1905	
	15	Myrtle Miranda Montgomery, Affidavit of Birth, January 13, 1882	
	16	Gilbert N. Blackman, Articles and Newspaper Clippings, (1907-1914)	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
2	17	Gilbert N. Blackman, Invitation to his Birthday Party, 1888; DeKalb High School Report Card, 1895; Military Service Registration Cards, 1918 & 1942	
	18	Gilbert N. Blackman, Elks Resignation Certificate, October 12, 1914	
	19	Gilbert N. Blackman, LaSalle Extension University, Chicago, Accounting Lessons, ca. 1917	
	20	Gilbert N. Blackman's Insurance Policy, 1920	
	21	Gilbert N. Blackman's Talk to the DeKalb League of Women Voters, on City Government and Taxes, February 1930	
	22	Gilbert N. Blackman's Patent Efforts for a Grain Door for Railroad Cars, 1954	
	23	Hospital Bills Paid by Gilbert Blackman, (1924-1959) [DeKalb Hospital, Lincoln Hospital, Glidden Hospital, and Copley Memorial Hospital]	
	24	Gilbert N. Blackman, Death Certificate, May 3, 1968; Myrtle M. Blackman Death Certificate, August 14, 1957	
	25	F.M. Blackman, Correspondence, Will, and Related Documents, (1898-1917)	
	26	Wedding Announcement of Alice M. Blackman to Curtis E. Jackson, January 29, 1938	
	27	Clippings and Memorabilia from "Nice to Save" Binder, (mostly Alice and Curtis Jackson Family), 1940's to 1960's	
	28	Curtis E. Jackson's Will, and Power of Attorney, 1945	
	29	DeKalb Township High School, Class of 1933 List, ca. 1974	
	30	"Recollections of DeKalb, Illinois 1915-1937," Assembled by Edwin S. Hunt and Members of the McMurray Training School 1 st Grade Class of 1921, including Alice Blackman [Jackson] and Curtis Jackson, 1996 (draft copy)	
	31	"DeKalb Memories," Articles, 1996	
	32	Jackson Family Genealogy, by David Jackson, 1988, 1993; and a Letter [possibly by Luna Mae Jackson Atherton,] ca. 1967	
	33	<i>Gilbert N. Blackman and Myrtle M. Blackman, Social Security Correspondence, (1947-1957) RESTRICTED</i>	
3	1	Benjamin Cooley Family Descendants/Genealogy, [includes Needham's], n.d.	
	2	Montgomery Family Genealogy Correspondence, 1983	
	3	Annabelle Montgomery, Delayed Birth Record, January 10, 1884	
	4	Poem by Sylvia May Montgomery, ca. 1910	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	6
3	5	Marriage Certificate, Casimer Jackson and Mary Lula Trowbridge, September 3, 1884	
	6	Palestine Company Wagon Train Journal [Council Bluffs, Iowa to Placerville, California], by Sabin Trowbridge, April 27 - August 29, 1850	
	7	Letter to Reuben Trowbridge from George Greenwood, June 12, 1879	
	8	"DeKalb, DeKalb County, Illinois," booklet by Commercial Club, July 1913	
	9	Superior Steel Wire Clothes Pins, Patent by Henry F. Condon, Photographs, Brochures, and one Clothes Pin, 1914	
	10	Advertising Cards: "S Barb Steel Fence Wire," ca. 1888; "Isaac L. Ellwood Hardware," n.d.; "Root & Lewis Musical Merchandise, Chicago," ca. 1874; "Braiden & Heefners' Dining Hall," [Des Moines, Iowa], n.d.	
	11	Post Cards: Main Street, DeKalb, Illinois, n.d.; Black Hills, South Dakota, n.d.; Archer Ave. Bridge, Chicago, n.d.	
	12	Land Document for Church in Pierce Township, 1855	
	13	H.W. Hyde, Correspondence to, from Corydon Heath, 1862 [relates to Civil War]	
	14	<u>Memorial Address on the Life and Character of Abraham Lincoln</u> , by George Bancroft, 1866 [owned by Eli B. Gilbert]; miniature Lincoln portrait	
	15	Revenue and Proprietary Stamps, and Related Items, ca. 1873-1901 [photocopies, with added identifications from book]; Hopkins, Hunt & Co. Checks written by Eli B. Gilbert, 1864; Hopkins & Co. Check, 1867	
	16	Currency, Certificates, Tickets, [photocopies], (1853-1935)	
	17	Odd Items, n.d.	
		Photographs:	
4	1	Needham Family, (8), 1860's-1870's	
	2	Eli B. Gilbert, (6), 1860's-1880's	
	3	Eli B. Gilbert, engraving, ca. 1890	
	4	Lois Annie Needham Gilbert, (4), 1860's-1880's	
	5	Eli B. And Lois Annie Gilbert's Portraits,(2), and "Mosher's Memorial Offering to Chicago," 1876; Letter of 1975, re: 1976 Centennial of this Exhibit	
	6	Eli B. Gilbert's Home, 210 N. 1 st Street, DeKalb, Illinois, (7), ca. 1900, n.d.	
	7	Josephine "Fena" Lodica Gilbert Blackman Orr, (9), ca. 1860's - 1920's	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	7
4	8	Viola May Gilbert, (2), 1860's	
	9	Ann Spooner, (2), n.d., and Obituary, 1961	
	10	Gilbert Family album page: Mrs. Abner [Betsy Balcolm] Gilbert, (2) ca. 1860's; Jessie Luella Elvira Gilbert, ca. 1864; Josephine Gilbert, ca. 1860's; Lois Annie Gilbert and Josephine Gilbert Orr, ca. 1900	
	11	Austin B. and Josephine Blackman, 1870's; Austin B. Blackman's Grandparents, ca. 1860's, (7)	
	12	DeLand Relatives (4), ca. 1860's, and Related Correspondence and Information, 1872, 1898, 1907	
	13	John Orr and Orr Family, (2), 1870's	
	14	Album Pages of Gilbert N. Blackman and Other Family Members including Myrtle Montgomery, Lydia Montgomery, Alice Blackman, and Curtis Jackson, (13), (1889-1955); Wedding Invitation of Myrtle Montgomery and Gilbert N. Blackman, 1905; Newspaper Clipping of Gilbert Blackman's 50 th Wedding Anniversary in 1955	
	15	DeKalb High School Class of 1895, (1), and Program	
	16	Denver and Colorado Springs Photographs, (6) belonged to Gilbert Blackman and his mother Josephine Orr, n.d.	
	17	M. Llewellyn and Caroline Jackson Photographs, (7), 1890's, 1940's	
	18	Curtis and Alice Jackson and Family, (4), ca. 1945, 1950, 1988	
	19	Edward Livingston Jackson and Family, (5 photographs and 4 negatives), n.d.	
	20	Lucile Jackson and Elmer A. Carlson, (4), 1942, and nd.	
	21	Jackson Family Relatives, most unidentified, (12), 1942, and n.d.	
	22	Northern Illinois State Normal School, 1895, 1898, 1901; and Dedication Invitation, 1899	
5		Dry Glass Plate Negatives (24) - See Identification List at end of Inventory	
6	oversize	Card Print album #1, ca. 1890's, <i>fragile</i> , [See Identification List at end of Inventory]; Small carte-de-visite album, ca. 1890's, [See Identification List]; Ambrotype in case, "Fena Orr, DeKalb," [Josephine Gilbert, when a young girl]; Ambrotype of unidentified man; two printing illustration blocks, one of Lois Annie Needham Gilbert, and the other of a bearded gentleman; 3 leather document pouches	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	8
7	oversize	Card Print albums, #2 and #3, ca. 1890's, [See Identification Lists at end of Inventory]	
8	oversize	Clipping books (3), [all contain clippings of marriages, obituaries, poems, stories, recipes, etc.]. #1 [in phase box, <i>fragile</i>], ca. 1851-1867, includes Civil War related stories and articles, and women's issues, probably compiled by Lois Annie Needham Gilbert; #2, "Ledger" on front, "Mrs. Josephine L. Orr" written inside, ca. 1881-1888; #3, "Day Book" on the spine, ca..1888-1899, probably by Josephine Orr.	
9	oversize	Superior Wire Products Company, Record Book, [never used] Memorial Poster for Lyman H. Needham, 1864 Eli B. Gilbert documents:	
	1	Admissions to the Bar, 1861	
	2	Justice of the Peace, 1856-1893	
	3	Notary Public, 1864-1893	
	4	County Surveyor, 1892	
	5	Trust Deeds, 1858, 1859, 1876	
	6	Warranty Deeds, 1854, 1857	
	7	Quit Claim Deed, 1858	
	8	Indenture Deed between Charles Needham and Eli B. Gilbert, 1858	
	9	Indenture between Obediah Mead and Eli B. Gilbert, 1858; and Release Deed, August 3, 1861	
	10	Release of Mortgage, J.V. Randall to Eli B. Gilbert, 1865	
	11	Articles of Agreement between Eli B. Gilbert and Horace Parkhurst, 1872	
	12	Tax Deed to Eli B. Gilbert, 1874	
	13	Sale Mortgage, Eli B. Gilbert to J.F. Glidden, 1879; Release, 1881	
	14	Lois Annie Gilbert, Warranty Deed, 1857	
	15	Eviction Notice, J.F. Glidden to H.G. Newman, DeKalb, January 17, 1870	
	16	DeKalb Hardware Company, Corporation Document, 1883	
	17	Promissory Note, James W. Carroll to E.P. Young, 1858	
	18	Internal Revenue Licence, V.D. Miller, 1866	
9	19	Land Grant Certificates to James Mason, Eleanor Austin, Horace Austin, 1850-1851	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	9
9	20	Quit-Claim Deeds, signed by E.B. Gilbert, Justice of the Peace, 1857, 1875	
	21	Warranty Deeds, signed by E.B. Gilbert, (1864-1878)	
	22	Miscellaneous Warranty Deeds, (1844-1884); Claim for Payment, 1867 [Family connection not apparent]	
Oversize Drawer 13	4	Eli B. Gilbert Certificate, Appointed Captain in S.B. [Spartan Band] Association, February 1863 Union League of America, Charter for DeKalb, 1863 DeKalb City Maps, 1910, 1949 Group Photos, Great Lakes Naval Training Center, includes Curtis Jackson, 1945	
	5	<i>Nashville Weekly Union</i> , October 5, 1863	