

Guide to the Louis F. Gillette Papers, 1871-1967

Administrative Information

Title and Dates:

Louis F. Gillette Papers, 1871-1967

Repository:

New Hampshire Historical Society
30 Park Street
Concord, NH 03301
603-228-6688
nhhistory.org

Collection Number:

1993.001

Author of Finding Aid:

Unidentified; reformatted and revised by Korrena Cowing and updated by Abigail Dollries

Creator:

Gillette, Louis F., 1857-1937

Language:

The materials in this collection are in English.

Extent:

1 box, approximately 180 items ; 0.33 linear feet

Abstract:

The Louis F. Gillette Papers consist of correspondence from the Gillette family as well as corporate records from the Gillette Manufacturing Company and their patented metal hot water bottle. Materials date from 1871 to 1967. The Gillette family and company were based in Concord, NH.

Access and Use

Acquisition Information and Provenance:

The Louis F. Gillette Papers were purchased by the New Hampshire Historical Society in January 1993.

Processing Information:

This collection was processed by an unknown person at an unknown date. The finding aid was written by an unknown person at an unknown date, reformatted and revised by Korrena Cowing in August 2020, and updated by Abigail Dollries in May 2025. 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:

The materials in this collection are paper based and have no special 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. Users are responsible for following all copyright and intellectual property laws.

Preferred Citation:

Item title, Louis F. Gillette Papers, 1993.001. New Hampshire Historical Society, Concord, NH. Date accessed.

Collection Overview

Biographical Information:

Louis F. Gillette was born in Washington, DC, to Augustus C. and Mary Louisa (Papy) Gillette on February 8, 1857. He moved to Concord, NH, at age 17. He is listed in the Concord City Directory as living at 11 Wall Street from 1906 to 1937 and was the founder of Gillette Manufacturing Company. He married Ella M. Stevens (1858-1848) on October 22, 1879 and their daughter, Lillian Gillette, married Evan Evans of New York. He retired in 1932 and died in Concord on June 6, 1937.

Administrative History:

Gillette Manufacturing Co., located in Concord, operated from 1912 to 1929 and was run by Louis F. Gillette. The company is listed as being located at 22 Bridge Street from 1912 to 1928 and at 1 Odd Fellow Ave in the 1929 city directory. The company manufactured Gillette's patented metal hot water bottles for twenty years.

Collection Scope and Content Note:

The Gillette Manufacturing Company records include patents for their hot water bottles in the United States and the United Kingdom. The stock certificate book shows the first three certificates issued to family members. Business correspondence includes letters on a patent infringement suit in Mexico and a highway from Keene to Concord, NH. The papers also include correspondence from Peter Gray & Sons, later Peter Gray Corporation, who bought the water bottle molds in 1917, but gave up the business in 1930. There are order forms, letterhead, information for salesmen, advertising flyers, and the "Hot Water Bottle Philosophy".

Family papers include letters from Louis F. Gillette to his wife, a printed memorial, his article "The Automobile of Today", and photocopies of his newspaper articles on improving highways. There are letters from Mrs. Gillette and from Lillian Evans in New York to Esther Holmgren, who worked as a bookkeeper for Gillette manufacturing for a number of years.

Arrangement:

The materials in this collection are separated into the following series:

Series 1. Gillette Manufacturing Company, 1910-1967

Series 2. Family papers, 1871-1967

Contents List**Series 1. Gillette Manufacturing Company, 1910-1967**

Extent: 8 folders

Scope and Content: The materials in this series relate to the Gillette Manufacturing Company including patent documents, advertisements, sales information, and other materials on the production of metal hot water bottles, dating from 1910 to 1967.

Box 1

Folder 1	Patents, 1910-1911
Folder 2	Stock certificate book, 1913
Folder 3	Business correspondence, 1916-1939, 1967
Folder 4	Orders and business letterhead, 1911-1939
Folder 5	Sales information, undated
Folder 6	Printed advertising materials, undated
Folders 7-8	Advertising flyers, 1911, undated

Series 2. Family papers, 1871-1967

Extent: 10 folders

Scope and Content: This series consists of correspondence, writings, and financial records from members of the Gillette family and Esther Holmgren, who worked at Gillette Manufacturing Company, dating from 1871-1967. A miscellaneous folder contains correspondence, recipes for medicine, poetry, and an account book.

Box 1

Folder 9	Louis F. Gillette personal correspondence and memorial, 1878-1879, 1926, 1937
Folder 10	Louis F. Gillette, "The Automobile of Today", 1925, undated
Folder 11	Ella M. (Stevens) Gillette correspondence from, 1871, undated

Folder 12	Ella M. (Stevens) Gillette correspondence to, 1875-1878, 1937-1939, undated
Folder 13	Benjamin F. Stevens (Ella's father) correspondence, 1877-1930
Folder 14	Esther Holmgren and Uncle Frank correspondence to Lillian Evans, 1964, undated
Folder 15	Esther Holmgren correspondence from Lillian Evans, 1949-1955
Folder 16	Esther Holmgren correspondence from Lillian Evans, 1955-1967
Folder 17	Esther Holmgren correspondence to, undated
Folder 18	Miscellaneous papers including an account book, 1859, 1871-1874, undated

Separated Materials:

The following item was moved to Broadsides – Humor:

“Cold Feet” poem by Louis Gillette

Subject Terms

People:

Evans, Lillian
 Gillette, Ella M., 1858-1948
 Gillette, Louis F., 1857-1837
 Holmgren, Esther W.
 Stevens, Benjamin F.

Organizations:

Gillette Manufacturing Company
 Peter Gray Corporation

Subjects:

Account books
 Correspondence
 Manufacturing industries
 Medicine--Formulae, receipts, prescriptions
 Patents
 Poetry

Locations:

Cambridge, MA
 Concord, NH
 New York, NY

Occupations:

Businessmen
 Inventors

Related Materials

Archives

Photograph Collection – People – Gillette

Photograph Collection – Concord, New Hampshire: Business, Interior

Museum

Bottle, Hot-Water, Gillette Manufacturing Company, 1910-1930, 1993.039.17.02