

BIRMINGHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY ARCHIVES DEPARTMENT

Gillespy, James McAdory **Diaries and Family Papers, 1890-1920**

Biography/Background:

James McAdory Gillespy was born in Jonesboro, Alabama in 1856. Both of Gillespy's parents died when he was a small child and he was subsequently raised by relatives. He attended Southern University in Greensboro, Alabama and Nashville College. In 1885 Gillespy married Margaret Charles Mortimer Jordan. The couple lived in Birmingham, first in a boarding house on Seventh Avenue, North and later in a house they owned on Twenty-ninth Street, South. In 1901 Gillespy bought a lot in Glen Iris Park, a new residential area south of Birmingham developed by Robert Jemison, Sr. In 1903 Gillespy built a house on the lot where he would live the remainder of his life.

Gillespy studied law under the supervision of attorney Robert McAdory, and the two practiced together until McAdory's death in 1886. Gillespy then practiced with E. J. Smyer until 1892. He established an abstract company and later made loans, holding mortgages on property. James Gillespy was active in Democratic Party politics and served one term (1894-1896) on the Birmingham Board of Aldermen.

Gillespy died in Birmingham on September 23, 1920.

Source:

Lawson, Matthew L. and Virginia Pounds Brown (ed). *Mr. Gillespy of Glen Iris Park: Journals of James McAdory Gillespy, 1890-1910*. Birmingham: Birmingham Public Library, 2000.

Scope and Content:

The diaries of James McAdory Gillespy, 17 volumes covering the period 1890 to 1920, chronicle the everyday activities and concerns of a middle class white family in Birmingham, Alabama. In the diaries Gillespy discusses family life, local politics, travel, sporting events, church life, weather, and the activities of his friends and neighbors. Gillespy was an avid reader and often discusses books that interest him.

Gillespy's diaries for the years 1890 to 1910 have been transcribed and published (see "Source" above).

This collection also includes ...

Subject Areas:

Diaries.
Gillespy family.
Gillespy, James McAdory, 1856-1920.
Glen Iris Park (Birmingham, Ala.)

Size: 10 boxes

Source: Matthew L. Lawson and Virginia Pounds Brown

Restrictions: Standard preservation and copyright restrictions. Do not photocopy diaries.

Guide Prepared By: Jim Baggett (October 2001)

File Number:	Description:
1773.1.1	Diary, Volume 1, September 1, 1890 to May 23, 1894 (285 pages).
1773.2.1	Diary, Volume 2, Cover, July 7, 1894 (2 items). Volume 2 of the diaries came to the Archives with the binding broken and pages loose. As a preservation measure the pages and cover are now housed in files. The inscription on the inside front cover of the diary reads, "J. M. Gillespy Birmingham Ala July 7th 1894."
1773.2.2	Diary, Volume 2, July 9, 1894 to June 14, 1898 (62 pages).
1773.2.3	Diary, Volume 2, July 9, 1898 to March 11, 1899 (43 pages).
1773.2.4	Diary, Volume 2, March 18, 1899 to July 15, 1899 (27 pages).
1773.2.5	Diary, Volume 2, September 22, 1899 to December 9, 1899 (23 pages).
1773.2.6	Diary, Volume 2, December 23, 1899 to June 9, 1900 (25 pages).
1773.2.7	Diary, Volume 2, June 16, 1900 to October 27, 1900

(19 pages).

1773.2.8 Diary, Volume 3, Cover, November 3, 1900 (2 items).

Volume 3 of the diaries came to the Archives with the binding broken and pages loose. As a preservation measure the pages and cover are now housed in files.

The inscription on the inside front cover of the diary reads, "J. M. Gillespy Birmingham Ala Nov. 3rd 1900."

1773.2.9 Diary, Volume 3, November 3, 1900 to February 23, 1901 (35 pages).

1773.2.10 Diary, Volume 3, March 11, 1901 to August 24, 1901 (31 pages).

1773.2.11 Diary, Volume 3, August 31, 1901 to March 8, 1902 (31 pages).

1773.2.12 Diary, Volume 3, March 22, 1901 to October 27, 1902 (29 pages).

1773.2.13 Diary, Volume 3, November 1, 1902 to October 6, 1903 (33 pages).

1773.2.14 Diary, Volume 3, October 6, 1903 to March 20, 1904 (37 pages).

1773.3.1 Diary, Volume 4, March 27, 1904 to December 31, 1905 (144 pages).

1773.4.1 Diary, Volume 5, Cover, undated (2 items).

Volume 5 of the diaries came to the Archives with the binding broken and pages loose. As a preservation measure the pages and cover are now housed in files.

1773.4.2 Diary, Volume 5, January 15, 1906 to June 2, 1906 (30 pages).

1773.4.3 Diary, Volume 5, June 2, 1906 to September 12, 1906 (21 pages).

- 1773.4.4 Diary, Volume 5, September 13, 1906 to January 3, 1907
(25 pages).
- 1773.4.5 Diary, Volume 5, January 3, 1907 to March 31, 1907
(23 pages).
- 1773.3.2 Diary, Volume 6, April 1, 1907 to January 2, 1908
(144 pages).
- 1773.5.1 Diary, Volume 7, January 4, 1908 to December 4, 1909
(300 pages).
- 1773.6.1 Diary, Volume 8, December 18, 1909 to December 31,
1910 (144 pages).
- 1773.6.2 Diary, Volume 9, January 1, 1911 to December 31, 1911
(210 pages).
- 1773.7.1 Diary, Volume 10, January 1, 1912 to December 31, 1912
(368 pages).
- 1773.7.2 Diary, Volume 11, January 1, 1913 to December 31, 1913
(368 pages).
- 1773.8.1 Diary, Volume 12, January 1, 1915 to December 31, 1915
(368 pages).
- 1773.8.2 Diary, Volume 13, January 1, 1916 to December 31, 1916
(368 pages).
- 1773.9.1 Diary, Volume 14, January 1, 1917 to December 31, 1917
(368 pages).
- 1773.9.2 Diary, Volume 15, January 1, 1918 to December 31, 1918
(368 pages).
- 1773.10.1 Diary, Volume 16, January 1, 1919 to December 31, 1919
(368 pages).
- 1773.10.2 Diary, Volume 17, January 1, 1920 to September 1, 1920
(383 pages).

The last entry in this diary is dated September 1,
1920. James Gillespy died September 23, 1920.