

Sturgis Library Archives

MS. 165

Jerauld, Thayer, and Trayser Collection

Extent: 12 boxes

Scope and Content Note: The collection consists of letters, photographs, diaries, and documents related to the Jerauld, Thayer, and Trayser families.

James Otis Thayer m. Sara Elizabeth Peirce

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Frederick H. Thayer m. Jennie Mathidle Otte

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Jennie Lucile Thayer (m. Bruce Jerauld)

Ensign C. Jerauld m. Anna Eldridge

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Annabel Jerauld (m. Donald Trayser) and Bruce Jerauld (m. Jennie Lucile Thayer)

Historical and Biographical Information:

The Jerauld Family has deep roots on Cape Cod, dating back to the 18th century.

Bruce K. Jerauld of Barnstable served as Barnstable County Treasurer for 42 years from 1930 to 1972. He was married to J. Lucile Thayer. His son Gordon was born and raised in Barnstable and served in the military during World War II, and went on to live all over the world, settling in Florida where he served as a Senior Vice President for Florida Public Utilities. Gordon was married to Ruth Annie Johnson for 63 years.

Donald Grant Trayser was born in New London, Wisconsin in 1902. He graduated from the journalism school at the University of Wisconsin. As a young newspaperman, he was hired by the New Bedford Standard, and assigned to the Hyannis desk to report on Cape Cod events for the New Bedford daily.

For the next 30 years, Don Trayser devoted his life to Cape Cod, its past and its present. He became totally immersed in the history of the Cape and all aspects of Cape life, and became one of its most best-known personalities. He married a local girl, Annabel (Anne) Jerauld in 1930 and they lived in Hyannis for many years. In 1947 they moved to a home on Bow Lane, Barnstable, which they ran as a guest house.

In 1936 Trayser became the Cape correspondent for the Boston Globe, and also became the editor of the weekly Barnstable Patriot. An avid collector of Cape Cod books and history, he wrote *Barnstable, Three Centuries of a Cape Cod Town* (F.B. & F.P. Goss, Hyannis: 1939) for the Barnstable tercentenary in 1939. This volume quickly became the

definitive history of the town, and Trayser was recognized as the authority on Cape Cod history.

When the position of clerk of the Superior Court became available in 1940, Don Trayser ran for and won the position. With a public office, his career as a newspaperman ended, but he continued to write on Cape Cod history. He also became a popular speaker on Cape lore. In 1945 he became president of the Cape Cod Chamber of Commerce until 1946, and director from 1946 to 1949.

Mr. Trayser had many Cape-related interests. He was a Trustee, then a Vice President of the Cape Cod Hospital, a Trustee of the West Parish Meeting House Memorial Foundation, and a managing Trustee of Sturgis Library. He was also a director of the Cape Cod Co-operative Bank of Yarmouth. It was after returning from an annual meeting of this bank that he suddenly collapsed and died at home on April 14, 1955, of a heart attack at the age of 52.

Annabel Jerauld Trayser (1900-1993) (always known as Anne) was born on March 23, 1900 in Barnstable, the daughter of Ensign C. Jerauld and Anna (Eldridge) Jerauld. She grew up in Barnstable and graduated from Barnstable High School in 1916.

In 1918 Anne went to work as a clerk in the Barnstable County Probate Court as a clerk, and she worked for them until 1930. She then married Donald Trayser, and left the courthouse for married life in Hyannis and later on Bow Lane in Barnstable. Among other pursuits, she assisted her husband when he wrote *Barnstable, Three Centuries of a Cape Cod Town* (F.B. & F.P. Goss, Hyannis: 1939.) She also ran a guesthouse in their home on Bow Lane from 1949 to 1958, which was known for the beauty of her gardens.

After Don died in 1952, Anne returned to her position at the probate court, and was appointed to Assistant Registrar in 1965. In 1965 she succeeded her sister Myra Jerauld as Register, a post Myra had held for 51 years.

Among her many interests were the Donald Trayser Memorial Museum, where she was the chair of the Management Committee, and Sturgis Library, where she was a Trustee. Anne was Register until 1970, when she retired from public office to her home on Bow Lane where she lived for many years. She died one day before her 93rd birthday, on March 22, 1993.

Access: Unrestricted. Credit Sturgis Library Archives for publication purposes.

Acquisition: Gift of Nancy Jerauld, 2016-2018.

Related collections:

MS. 9: Donald G. and Annabel J. Trayser Papers

MS. 105: Jerauld Family Collection

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BOX 1

Photographs

- Fldr 1** 19th century photo portraits of unknown people
- Fldr 2** 20th century photo portraits of unknown people
- Fldr 3** Photos of Jerauld family friends
- Fldr 4** 19th century photo portraits of Dr. and Mrs. Lothrop
- Fldr 5** Photo proofs of Bruce Jerauld
- Fldr 6** Photos of Jennie Thayer, Lucile Jerauld's mother
- Fldr 7** Photo of Joseph and Jennie Schrage, Lucile Jerauld's cousins
- Fldr 8** Photos of Jerauld grandchildren
- Fldr 9** Photo of Jerauld family pets and wildlife
- Fldr 10** Photos of Jerauld house, 1579 Hyannis Road, Barnstable Village
- Fldr 11** Photos of the Barnstable Unitarian Church
- Fldr 12** Photos of the Barnstable Courthouse
- Fldr 13** Photos of Barnstable Harbor
- Fldr 14** Photos of Sandy Neck
- Fldr 15** Photos of places

BOX 2

Assorted Jerauld and Trayser documents

- Fldr 1** Bruce Jerauld newspaper clippings
- Fldr 2** Plot plans – Jerauld property

BOX 2
continued

Assorted Jerauld and Trayser documents

- Fldr 3** Barnstable & Cape Cod articles, pamphlets, booklets, etc.
- A Cape Cod Village by Mary Sprague
 - Cape Cod Lighthouses
 - A Short History of the Sturgis Library by Eugene Exman
 - The Story of the Village Hall by Phyllis Jerauld Bearse
 - Barnstable – A Little Guide to Some of Her Historic Scenes
 - Along Barnstable Village’s Historic Mile by Patricia Anderson and Marion Vuilleumier
 - Proceedings of the Tercentenary Anniversary of Barnstable, Massachusetts
 - James Otis Jr. June 29, 1952.
 - An Assembly to Honor the Beginnings of Barnstable, August 19, 1939.
 - Barnstable Village. Cape Cod Life, Winter 1982.
 - The Sturgis Library. Cape Cod Life, Winter 1983.
 - 5 historic maps
 - The Unitarian Church, Barnstable, Massachusetts
 - Town of Barnstable Information Handbook, 1992.
- Fldr 4** Genealogical and Historical Pamphlets
- Nicholas Snow of Eastham
 - Early Settler of Eastham (2 parts)
 - Eastham and Orleans Historical Papers
 - A Genealogist’s Letter Book – Amos Otis (3 parts)
- Fldr 5** Typewriting certificate, Frances Miller
- Fldr 6** Christmas seals, 1941-1961
- Fldr 7** Birth announcements
- Fldr 8** Annabel Trayser journal summaries
- Fldr 9** Annabel Trayser funeral arrangements
- Death Certificate, Correspondence, Obituary, Power of Attorney, Burial Plot deed

BOX 2
continued

- Fldr 10** Annabel Trayser estate and miscellaneous documents
- Will, Birth Certificate, Death Certificate, Probate Inventory, Guardianship Appraisal, Cat Photograph, Poem
- Fldr 11** Annabel Trayser sale of property
- Annotated Guardianship Appraisal, Eldred Auction Documents, Notes and Correspondence regarding sale of misc. items; Letter from buyer of 8 Bow Lane, Letter from Philip E Jerauld to family regarding Annabel's affairs, documents regarding real estate sale, documents from Commonwealth of Mass. re Nat'l Register of Historic Places, handwritten notes regarding maintenance and care of property.

BOX 3

Documents related to Annabel (Anne) Jerauld and Donald Trayser

- Fldr 1** Love letters from Donald Trayser to Anne Jerauld
- Fldr 2** Cards from Donald Trayser to Anne Jerauld
- Fldr 3** Engagement announcements and letters
- Fldr 4** Poems and clippings about marriage
- Fldr 5** Daily letters from Donald Trayser to Anne Jerauld Trayser after their marriage during a visit to New York (It is interesting to note that now that they are married he opens the letters with various terms of endearment – “My Little Apple Saucie,” “My Little Beach Plum,” “Sugar Plum,” “Dear Apple Blossom,” “My Little Cloudlet,” “Sweet Violet,” “Dear Honeysuckle,” and “My Little Cockatoo.”)
- Fldr 6** Condolence letters and resolutions after Donald Trayser's death in 1955
- Fldr 7** Donald Trayser article on James Otis, Jr.
- Fldr 8** Miscellaneous notes, photos, and memorabilia

BOX 4

Photographs of and documents about:

FREDERICK HARRISON THAYER

Jennie Matilda Otte Thayer

William Louis Otte

Emelie Schrage Otte

Anna Bohne Thayer

Marianna Stamm (4 generations)

Jennie Lucile Thayer

George Linn & Harold Finn Weaver

Lydia Hallett

Gustav Schrage

BOX 5

Photographs of and documents about:

Joshua Thayer

Sumner Peirce

Nancy Farnsworth Otis

Joshua Thayer House, 3755 Main Street, Barnstable, MA

JOHN OTIS THAYER

SARAH ELIZABETH PEIRCE THAYER

BOX 6

Photographs of and documents about:

ENSIGN CURTIS JERAULD

ANNA CORABEL ELDRIDGE JERAULD

BRUCE KEMPTON JERAULD

Myra Elwinna Jerauld

Phyllis Eldridge Jerauld

Annabel Jerauld Trayser

BOX 7

Photographs of and documents about:

Children of

ENSIGN LEWIS JERAULD AND

KEZIAH BEARSE JERAULD

Wilbert, Myra, Ensign Curtis, Ellen Kate, Oliver Dorrance,

Ermond Gordon

HOME IN EAST HARWICH

GRAVESTONES

Letters, receipts, legal documents

BOX 8

Photographs of and documents about:

BRUCE KEMPTON JERAULD

Bruce Kempton Jerauld Jr

Frederick Thayer Jerauld

Gordon Otis Jerauld

Philip Eldridge Jerauld

BOX 9

Photographs of and documents about:
HOME OF BRUCE K and LUCILE JERAULD
1579 Hyannis Road, Barnstable, Massachusetts
Exterior and interior
Pets
Postcards, 1930's – 1950's

BOX 10

Bruce and Lucile Jerauld photo album

BOX 11

- Annabel Jerauld Trayser Journals 1918-1923, 1940 - 1941, and 1950-1956. (Journal summaries/transcriptions in box with journals).
- (There are no entries from April 14, 1955 to January 1, 1956. Her husband Donald Trayser died on April 14, 1955 and she stopped writing. The 1956 Journal includes only a few brief entries.)
- Tennyson Birthday Book, ed. Anna Smith, Thomas Y Crowell Co., NY, 1907. Poetry. [This birthday book was most likely a gift from Annabel to Ruth Crocker, Annabel's best friend who died January 25, 1920, when she was only 19 years old. Mrs. Crocker must have returned the book to Annabel. The inscription reads: "January 26, 1920, Ruth, After God there is nothing, oh my friend, so sweet as a friend."]
- Whittier Birthday Book, ed. Annie Russell Marble, Thomas y Crowell Co., NY, 1910. Poetry. [Inscribed "Anne." Possibly a gift from Ruth Crocker]
- The Daily Pathway, Margaret Sangster, Heart Life Classics, American Tract Society, NY, 1904
- Tufts Class Day (Leather bound), Friday June 18, 1920. Commencement June 16-20, 1920. Phyllis Eldridge Jerauld is listed under the Jackson Class Roll.
- Book with lined pages listed by date of birthdays, marriages and death dates of friends and family. Belonged to Lucile Thayer Jerauld.

BOX 12

1. Box of slides, pictures by Bruce K. and Lucile Jerauld in 1959, trip to Sheboygan and Point O' Pines.
2. Framed photograph of Frederick Thayer Jerauld
3. Red memo book, Lucile Thayer Jerauld, list of property given as indicated.
4. E C Jerauld fish labels NS Gates Warner Prankard Co., Inc
5. E C Jerauld fish labels The Hugh Stocker Company
6. E C Jerauld fish labels Chesebro Brothers
7. Jennie Lucile Thayer 1907 "Dickens Birthday Book with quotes for each day of the year and spaces for entering birthdates. Many different birthdays and autographs entered of Lucile Jerauld's friends and family.
8. Small red notebook (4 x 2 3/8") with notes
9. Photographs of John Otis Thayer (3) + one double framed photograph of his wife Sara Elizabeth Peirce and their granddaughter Lucile Thayer Jerauld.
10. 14 small photo albums