

**JONES MEMORIAL LIBRARY
2311 MEMORIAL AVENUE
LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA 24501**

(434) 846-0501

JOSEPH ALLEN GILLS (1906-2002) COLLECTION

The collection includes genealogical materials on Gills and related families of Appomattox County, Virginia; business papers and scrapbook of William Pitzer Gills and the estate settlement of his wife, Judith Albertha (O'Brien) Gills; and miscellaneous correspondence, photographs, and memorabilia of members of the Gills family. Also included are the military records (1924-1966) of Joseph Allen Gills.

- BOX 1**
- 1-1 Gills, Borden, Fowle, Pitzer, O'Brien families
 - 1-2 Cornelia Kyle Gills - Miscellaneous
 - 1-3 Judith Albertha (O'Brien) Gills - Business Papers (1924-1949)
 - 1-4 Judith Albertha (O'Brien) Gills - Business Papers (1950-1951)
 - 1-5 Judith Albertha (O'Brien) Gills - Business Papers (1952-1958)
 - 1-6 Judith Albertha (O'Brien) Gills - Miscellaneous
 - 1-7 Miscellaneous invitations
 - 1-8 William Pitzer Gills (1859-1941) - Business papers, estate settlement
 - 1-9 William Pitzer Gills (1859-1941) - Scrapbook
 - 1-10 William Pitzer Gills (1859-1941) - Scrapbook
 - 1-11 William Henry Gills (1825-1912) - Miscellaneous papers
 - 1-12 Rebecca Shanks - Miscellaneous
- BOX 2**
- 2-1 Mary Taylor (Gills) Copenhaver - DAR application
 - 2-2 Mary Taylor (Gills) Copenhaver - Correspondence
 - 2-3 Mary Taylor Gills - College Graduation Booklet (1924)
 - 2-4 Mary Taylor Gills - Wedding booklets (1934)
 - 2-5 Mary Taylor Gills - Memory book (1934)
 - 2-6 William Haller Copenhaver (1899-1940) - Correspondence, funeral register
 - 2-7 Photograph album (undated)
- BOX 3**
- 3-1 *Gills in America* - Halbert's
 - 3-2 Military Service - CSA
 - 3-3 Miscellaneous clippings
 - 3-4 Miscellaneous photographs
 - 3-5 *Some During the War Experiences* - Mrs. M. W. Ragland
 - 3-6 *I heard of a man who...* - Charles Rutherford
 - 3-7 Joseph Allen Gills (1906-2002) - Military records 1924-1945
 - 3-8 Joseph Allen Gills (1906-2002) - Military records 1946-1960

(Continued)

MS1258

JOSEPH ALLEN GILLS (1906-2002) COLLECTION, cont'd.

- BOX 3** **3-9** Joseph Allen Gills (1906-2002) - Military records 1942-1966
 3-10 Joseph Allen Gills (1906-2002) - Miscellaneous
- BOX 4** **4-1** Box of miscellaneous decorations (mostly military)
 4-2 *Critic-Crest* (E. C. Glass High School) - 1926-1927
 4-3 Elementary school teaching units (Lynchburg Public Schools)
 Souvenir Program - Tobacco Festival 1941
 4-4 Scrapbook – Kathleen Wood Gills (High school 1926-1927)
 4-5 Pittman family Bible
 Notary seal (Gill), E.C.Glass memorabilia (2001 reunion)
- BOX 5** Van Toliver Wood family Bible
- [BOX 6]** Scrapbook - Cornelia K. Gills - 1920-1948
- [BOX 7]** Oil painting - Gills Home in Appomattox County
- [BOX 8]** (Oversize)
 Diplomas (High School) (1920-1927)
 Certificates (Business School) (1922-1928)
 Diplomas (Church) (1921-1927)
 Military Commissions (1950-1966)
 Certificates of Merit & Appreciation (1963-1974)

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JOSEPH ALLEN GILLS (1906-2002)

Joseph Allen Gills, son of William Pitzer Gills and Albertha O'Brien, was born in Appomattox County, Virginia, on 8 June 1906. He was a graduate of Virginia Polytechnic Institute in Blacksburg, Virginia, in 1928 and taught at E. C. Glass High School in Lynchburg, Virginia, until he retired in 1972.

During World War II he was a First Lieutenant and battery commander in the Coast Artillery Corps from 1942 until 1944. Following his active military duty, he served in the Quartermaster Corps, U.S. Army Reserves. He retired in 1966 as a Captain in the Quartermaster Corps. He was an instructor for the Veteran's Administration in Lynchburg for several years. For many years he also operated the Gills Gun Shop in Lynchburg.

J. Allen Gills married Kathleen Taliaferro Wood, daughter of Van Toliver Wood and Katy Davis Ogden, in Lynchburg on 14 April 1933.

Joseph Allen Gills died in Lynchburg on 1 January 2002 and was buried in Fort Hill Memorial Park, with military honors.

[Obituary, *News & Advance*, 3 January 2002, Sect. C, p. 2, col. 1: Joseph Allen Gills Collection, MS1258, Jones Memorial Library, Lynchburg, Va.]

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[Detailed finding guide available with the collection.]