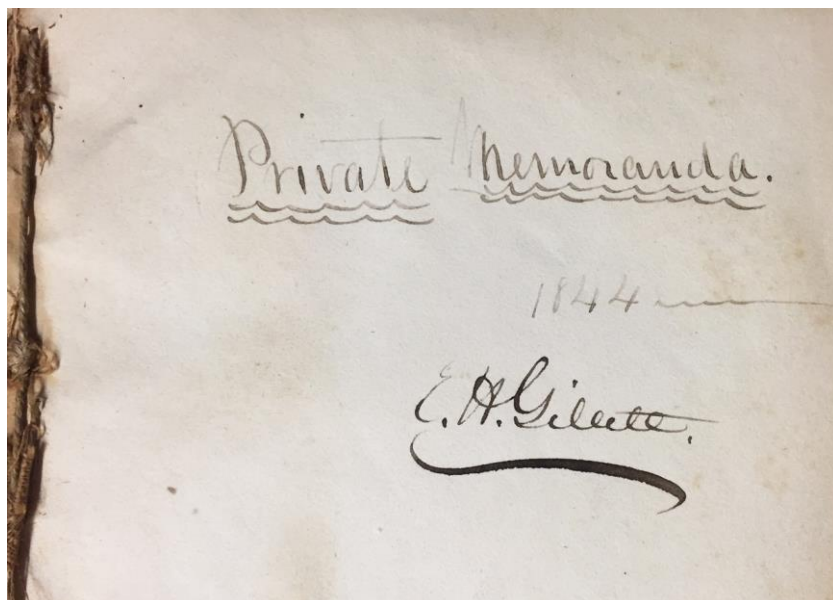


The Burke Library Archives, Columbia University Libraries,  
Union Theological Seminary, New York

Union Theological Seminary Archives 1

Finding Aid for

**Ezra Hall Gillett Papers, 1797 – 1906**



Private Memoranda, 1844. Credit to: UTS1: Ezra Hall Gillett Papers, series 2, box 1, folder 3, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

Finding Aid prepared by: Ruth Tonkiss Cameron and Brigette C. Kamsler, October 2015  
With financial support from the Henry Luce Foundation

**Summary Information**

Creator: Ezra Hall Gillett, 1823–1875  
Title: Ezra Hall Gillett Papers  
Inclusive dates: 1797-1906  
Bulk dates: 1839-1875  
Abstract: UTS alumnus 1841-1844, Presbyterian minister in Harlem, 1845-1870, professor of political science at New York University. Collection contains sermons, notes, personal recollections and other manuscript material.  
Size: 15 boxes, 6.75 linear feet  
Storage: Onsite storage  
Repository: The Burke Library  
Union Theological Seminary  
3041 Broadway  
New York, NY 10027  
Email: [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu)

### Administrative Information

- Provenance: Exact provenance unknown. It is possible that Ezra's son, Charles Ripley Gillett and active staff member of the Union Library, donated the materials.
- Access: Archival papers are available to registered readers for consultation by appointment only. Please contact archives staff by email to [burkearchives@library.columbia.edu](mailto:burkearchives@library.columbia.edu), or by postal mail to The Burke Library address on page 1, as far in advance as possible  
Burke Library staff is available for inquiries or to request a consultation on archival or special collections research.
- Access Restrictions: The collection is unrestricted to readers. Certain materials, however, are in a fragile condition, and this may necessitate restriction in handling and copying.
- Preferred Citation: Item description, UTS1: Ezra Hall Gillett Papers, series #, box #, and folder #, The Burke Library at Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University in the City of New York.

### Biography

Reverend Doctor Ezra H. Gillet was born in Colchester, Connecticut in 1828. He graduated from Yale College in 1841, then from Union Theological Seminary in 1844 where he continued his theological studies until his ordination in the Presbyterian Church in 1845. After his ordination he served as the pastor for the First Presbyterian Church at Harlem for 20 years.

In 1864 he received his doctorate from Hamilton College and then served as a professor of Political Economy at New York University. Re. Dr. Gillet has penned many biographical and historical books including *Life and Works of John Huss*, *History of the Presbyterian Church*, and *The Moral System*. Ezra was the father of Charles Ripley Gillett, noted librarian of Union Theological Seminary.

Ezra Hall Gillett died on September 2, 1875 of a "nervous fevered, engendered by a severe attack of rheumatism."

### Sources:

Obituary: Rev. Dr. E.H. Gillet. Edward King., *New York Times* (1857-1922); Sep 3, 1875; ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The New York Times with Index pg. 4.

### Collection Scope and Content Note

The collection is organized in three series:

- **Series 1: Manuscript Sermons, 1844-1875 (9 boxes, 4.25 lin. ft.)**  
This series contains handwritten sermons that are numbered. The numbering system is not always complete. Gillett kept various groupings of sermons together, and gave some of the groupings volume numbers. There can be multiple volume numbers, although the individual sermon numbers are unique. The titles of the sermons as well as the location the sermon was given are often written onto the cover of the sermon booklets.

- **Subseries 1A: Ely H. Gillett Sermons, 1797-1828 (1 box, 0.25 lin. ft.)**  
This series contains the sermons of Ezra's father, Ely H. Gillett. These sermons are the oldest in the collection.
- **Series 2: Other Writing, 1843-1906 (3 boxes, 1.25 lin. ft.)**  
Within this series are a number of other handwritten pieces and documents by Ezra, including town descriptions, a diary, notes on themes and other collections of writings.
- **Series 3: Teaching and Class Notes, 1839-1872 (2 boxes, 1.00 lin. ft.)**  
Ezra Hall Gillett appeared to have taken a personal study of the Law, both nationally and internationally. Included in this series are those handwritten notes from various aspects of the law that Gillett studied. There are also other class notes from Yale as well as the University of the City of New York.

### **Processing**

Metal clips and staples were removed from materials and folded items were flattened. Materials were placed in new acid-free folders and boxes. Acidic items were separated from one another by interleaving with acid-free paper and folders as needed.

### **Further Sources**

The collection of Ezra's son, Charles Ripley Gillett, is also available at the Burke Library. For more information, please see the [Burke Library Archives website](#).

The Burke Library also offers a number of publications by Ezra, which can be found by searching [CLIO](#): Columbia University Library's online catalog.

## Contents list

### **Series 1: Manuscript Sermons, 1844-1875**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
1	1	1-6	Volume 1: No. 1-37, 1844-1845
1	1	7-11	Volume 2: No. 38-68, 1845
1	1	12-16	Volume 3: No. 70-100, 1846
1	2	1-7	Volume 4: No. 101-137, 1847-1848
1	2	8-14	Volume 5: No. 138-177, 1846-1856
1	3	1-7	Volume 6: No. 178-227, 1848-1850
1	3	8-16	Volume 7: No. 230-280
1	4	1-3	No. 502-512 [185?]
1	4	4-16	No. 1001-1099 [1853]
1	5	1-4	Volume 1: 1998-2031, 1847-1848
1	5	5-8	Volume 2: 2037-2067, 1847-1848
1	5	9-12	Volume 3: 2069-2099, 1848-1849
1	5	13-16	Volume 4: 2100-2133, 1849-1850
1	6	1-3	No. 2168-2199, 1852
1	6	4-5	No. 2200-2226, 1848-1854
1	6	6-7	No. 2226-2250, 1854
1	6	8-9	No. 2251-2302
1	6	10-11	No. 2309-2363
1	6	12-15	No. 2401-2474
1	7	1-2	No. 2501-2533, 4 bound volumes
1	7	3-5	No. 2534-2590 and Index of Sermons, 1850-1857
1	7	6-8	Sermons, 1845-1848
1	7	9-11	Sermons, Letters B-P, 1845-1846
1	8	1-9	Sermons, Harlem, 1845-1867
1	8	10	Notebook, Sermons and Loose Papers, Harlem, 1848
1	8	11-13	Sermons, Notes and Lectures, Handwritten, 1845-1872
1	8	14-16	Sermons, Teaching and Class Notes, 1875
1	9	1-3	Manuscript Copies of Published Sermons and Articles
1	9	4	Sermons, Undated

### **Series 1A: Ely H. Gillett Manuscript Sermons, 1797-1828**

1A	1	1-4	No. 8-591 [incomplete], 1797-1814
1A	1	5-6	Sermons, 1812-1828

**Series 2: Other Writing, 1843-1906**

Series	Box	Folder	Contents
2	1	1	Correspondence and Pamphlet, 1906
2	1	2	Diary, 1848-1850
2	1	3	Diary, Private Memoranda, 1844
2	1	4	Diary, Notes and Sermons in bound book, 1847
2	1	5-7	Town Descriptions [184?]
2	1	8	Extracts from History Travels Biography, 1843
2	2	1-10	Writings on Themes
2	2	11-14	Notes by Theme
2	3	1	Article Notes
2	3	2	Systematic Charity, 1848
2	3	3	Anniversary Poem for the Literary Association of Bacon Academy, 1845
2	3	4-5	Collected Writings, Notes for Publication

**Series 3: Teaching and Class Notes, 1839-1872**

3	1	1-3	Constitutional Law
3	1	4	Sovereignty and Democracy
3	1	5-6	International Law and Religious Liberty
3	1	7-8	Social and Political
3	1	9-10	Law, Economy and Government Notes
3	2	1-2	Class Notes, 1839-[185?]
3	2	3	Class Notes and Sermons, University of the City of New York, 1859
3	2	4	Class Grades, 1872
3	2	5	Notebooks, Class, Sermons and Authors [185?]
3	2	6	Book/Teaching Notes[?]
3	2	7	Yale Notebook, 1839
3	2	8	Essay on Prayer for Colleges [Yale 1839?]