Collection Summary

Title: American Colony in Jerusalem Collection
Span Dates: circa 1786-2006
Bulk Dates: (bulk 1870-1968)
ID No.: MSS85137
Creator: American Colony (Jerusalem)
Extent: 10,600 items; 52 containers plus 14 oversize; 27.8 linear feet
Language: Collection material in English
Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.
Abstract: Religious community in Jerusalem founded by American emigré Christians, Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888) and Anna T. Spafford, and perpetuated by their daughter, Bertha Spafford Vester, and others. Correspondence, diaries, minutes, notes, hymns, financial and legal records, scrapbooks, photographs, photograph albums, printed matter, and other papers relating to the history of the colony and its members.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

People
Spafford family.
Vester family.
Vester, Anna Grace.
Vester, Frederick.
Vester, Frieda.
Vester, John.
Vester, Louise.
Vester, Tanetta.
Vester, Valentine.
Whiting family.
Whiting, Grace Spafford.
Whiting, John D. (John David), 1882-1951.
Whiting, Mary.
Whiting, Ruth.

Organizations
American Colony (Jerusalem)
Anna Baby Home.
Anna Spafford Baby Home.
Fr. Vester & Co.
Spafford Children's Center.
Spafford Children's Hospital.

Subjects
Americans--Palestine.
Charities--Palestine.
Christian communities--Palestine.
Consuls--Jerusalem.
Consuls--Palestine.
Earthquakes--Palestine.
Hymns.
Israel-Arab War, 1948-1949.
Jewish-Arab relations.
Medical care--Palestine.
Shipwrecks--Atlantic Ocean.
Swedes--Palestine.
Tourism--Palestine.
World War, 1914-1918--Palestine.

**Places**
Israel--History.
Jerusalem--History--19th century.
Jerusalem--History--20th century.
Jordan--History.
Palestine--History--19th century.
Palestine--History--20th century.
Turkey--History--Ottoman Empire, 1288-1918.

**Administrative Information**

**Provenance**
The American Colony in Jerusalem Collection was given to the Library of Congress by the board of directors of the American Colony of Jerusalem, Ltd., between 2004 and 2008.

**Transfers**
Items have been transferred from the Manuscript Division to other custodial divisions of the Library. Some picture postcards have been transferred to the Prints and Photographs Division. Audiovisual recordings have been transferred to the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division. Some maps have been transferred to the Geography and Map Division. All transfers are identified in these divisions as part of the American Colony in Jerusalem Collection.

**Related Material**
Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the G. Eric Matson Papers and the John D. Whiting Papers.

**Copyright Status**
It is the researcher's responsibility to determine requirements of domestic copyright laws and international treaties and conventions.

**Access and Restrictions**
Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult reference staff in the Manuscript Division for information concerning these restrictions. In addition, many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

**Online Content**
Organizational History and Biographical Note

American Colony in Jerusalem

Date  Event
1881  A group of fourteen adults and four children led by Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888) and Anna T. Spafford traveled to the Holy Land from Chicago, Ill., and formed a Christian utopian community in Jerusalem

1888  Horatio Gates Spafford died; Anna T. Spafford became leader of the group

1895  Custody trial concerning guardianship of Ruth Whiting and John D. Whiting, children of American Colony member, Mary E. Whiting, Chicago, Ill.

1896  Groups of Swedes joined the American Colony; members of the Swedish Evangelical Church, led by Olaf Henrik Larsson, arrived from Chicago, Ill., in April and others from the village of Nås in Dalarna, Sweden, arrived in August

1898  American Colony Photo Department established

1902  American Colony began operating a hostel for visitors to the Holy Land

1904-1948  Operation of Fr. Vester and Co., American Colony Store, managed by Frederick Vester and John D. Whiting, inside Jaffa Gate in the Old City, Jerusalem

1915-1918  Colony members engaged in relief efforts and charitable activities for the local populace during World War I

circa 1918-1922  Administered an orphanage supported by Christian Herald

1923  Anna T. Spafford died; Bertha Spafford Vester assumed leadership role

1926  Started a baby home; over the years it became the Anna Spafford Baby Home, the Spafford Children's Hospital, and the Spafford Children's Center

1927  Infant Welfare Center established

1929  Opened a playground in the Old City

1929-1930  American Colony organized into a corporation, American Colony of Jerusalem, resulting in a split in the group and the departure of many of the Swedish members

1929  American Colony Stores, Inc., established
1931 Vester and Co. New York store sold to Nils Lind
1960 Vester and Co., Ltd., established
1980 Management of American Colony Hotel taken over by Gauer Hotels of Switzerland following retirement of Horatio Vester

**Horatio Gates Spafford**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1828, Oct. 20</td>
<td>Born, Lansingburgh, N.Y.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circa 1856</td>
<td>Moved to Chicago, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856-1881</td>
<td>Practiced law, Chicago, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Married Anna Tubena Lawson (originally Larsson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1871</td>
<td>Suffered financial losses in the Great Fire, Chicago, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1873</td>
<td>Lost four daughters in the sinking of the Ville du Havre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circa 1873</td>
<td>Wrote lyrics for the hymn “It Is Well with My Soul”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1878</td>
<td>Published Waiting for the Morning and Other Poems. Chicago: F. H. Revell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>Following family tragedies and a split from his church, led a group of people to Jerusalem and set up a Christian utopian community that became known as the American Colony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circa 1882-1888</td>
<td>Taught English, Alliance Israelite boys’ school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888, Oct. 16</td>
<td>Died, Jerusalem, Palestine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Anna T. Spafford**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1842, Mar. 16</td>
<td>Born, Stavenger, Norway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1846</td>
<td>Emigrated to United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1861</td>
<td>Married Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1873</td>
<td>Survived sinking of the Ville du Havre, but lost her four daughters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>Traveled to Jerusalem and helped found the American Colony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1888</td>
<td>Assumed leadership of the American Colony following the death of her husband</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923, Apr. 17</td>
<td>Died, Jerusalem, Palestine</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Bertha Spafford Vester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1879, Mar. 24</td>
<td>Born, Lake View, Chicago, Ill.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>Moved to Jerusalem, Palestine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1897</td>
<td>Director, Moslem girls school, Jerusalem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1904</td>
<td>Married Frederick Vester (died 1942); first marriage allowed in American Colony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>Founder, Anna Baby Home which later became the Anna Spafford Baby Home, the Spafford Children's Hospital, and the Spafford Children's Center, Jerusalem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>circa 1931</td>
<td>Established American Colony Aid Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Published Flowers of the Holy Land. Kansas City, Mo., Hallmark Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1964</td>
<td>Published new and enlarged edition, Flowers of the Holy Land. Kansas City, Mo., Hallmark Cards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Awarded Jordan Star by Hussein, King of Jordan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968, June 27</td>
<td>Died, Jerusalem, Israel</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Scope and Content Note

The papers in the American Colony in Jerusalem Collection span the years circa 1786-2006, with the bulk of the material dating from 1870 to 1968. The collection documents the history of the American Colony in Jerusalem and its members, particularly the Spafford, Vester, and Whiting families. It covers the events that led to the founding of this cooperative Christian community in the Holy Land, the lives and philanthropic work of American Colony members, the secularization and shift toward incorporation of the religious commune, and the conflict and split between American and Swedish members. It is also a record of life in Jerusalem and Palestine as part of the Ottoman Empire, the British mandate, Jordan, and Israel. Most of the items were collected and saved by Bertha Spafford Vester, who was the daughter of American Colony founders, Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888) and Anna T. Spafford, and the community's primary leader following the death of her mother. Other members who fulfilled administrative roles include adopted son Jacob Spafford and son-in-law John D. Whiting. Although most of the items in the collection are written in English, there is also material in Turkish, Arabic, and Hebrew. The collection consists of three parts.

Part I

Part I of the American Colony in Jerusalem Collection is organized in two series: Topical File and Oversize. The items in Part I were gathered for a 2005 exhibit in the Library of Congress on the history and work of the American Colony in Jerusalem. They include documents significant to the lives of the colony founders and those that are representative of the activities of the group. The
material is arranged according to the thematic sections of the exhibit: Family Tragedy, On to Jerusalem, In the Holy Land, The American Colony at Work, The Locust Plague, World War I, Wartime Aid, and Continuing Relief Work.

Items in Part I relating to the founders of the colony include a telegram sent by Anna T. Spafford to her husband following the sinking of the Ville du Havre, an album containing photographs of the four daughters lost in the shipwreck, Horatio Gates Spafford's hand-written lyrics to the popular hymn, “It Is Well with My Soul,” his diary for 1882, and a Bible filled with his notations. Contained in the section “In the Holy Land” are a 1906 letter to President Theodore Roosevelt from the members of the American Colony recounting their on-going conflict with the American consul in Palestine, Selah Merrill, and an article praising the colony in Appleton’s Magazine published in December of that year. An album of World War I photographs taken by American Colony photographers depicts the war in Palestine. Among the items pertaining to the colony’s efforts to ease the suffering of the local populace during the war are correspondence with Edward F. Loud and accounts of the funds he raised in the United States to support the American Colony’s soup kitchen.

Part II

Part II of the American Colony in Jerusalem Collection is organized in seven series: Our Jerusalem, Bertha Spafford Vester Diaries, American Colony Members, Business and Legal Files, Chronological File, Miscellany, and Oversize.

The Our Jerusalem files were compiled by Bertha Spafford Vester in the preparation of her book, Our Jerusalem: An American Family in the Holy City, 1881-1949. The series documents her family's history and the major events in the American Colony from its founding through the 1930s. Most of the material is grouped by year in a chronological file. Files from the 1870s and 1880s include letters and other writings by Horatio and Anna Spafford, and material from 1873 includes accounts of the shipwreck and correspondence written following the tragedy. Files for the period 1893 through 1895 describe colony member Mary Whiting's dispute with family members critical of the colony's beliefs and lifestyle. The conflict over an inheritance and the custody of her children, John D. Whiting and Ruth Whiting, led to a trial in Chicago over guardianship of the children. Additional information on the Whiting trial is contained in a scrapbook of clippings on the American Colony in Part I. The file for 1896 contains a list of the Swedes who emigrated from Sweden to join the American Colony. Material from 1922 includes letters from Grace Spafford Whiting to her sister, Bertha Spafford Vester, while Bertha and her family were in the United States. They describe daily life at the colony and discuss the last illness of Anna T. Spafford. Also included are a few letters from Anna. A topic that is chronicled in the 1890s, the early 1900s, and the 1930s is the antagonism of United States consuls in Jerusalem toward the American Colony. Files from 1930 through 1934 contain material relating to the split in the colony membership that resulted in lawsuits, arbitration, and the departure of many of the Swedish members. Much of this material expresses the viewpoint of the Vesters and the Whitings, who were part of what is referred to as the “majority,” while the Swedes were the “minority.” Files from 1941 contain texts of the remarks given at the sixtieth anniversary of the founding of the American Colony.

In addition to the chronological file, the Our Jerusalem series contains personal correspondence between Bertha Spafford Vester and members of her family when she was traveling in the United States. The letters complement the correspondence in the chronological file of this series and detail family news, issues of concern at the American Colony, and opinions on the people, places, and culture of the United States as compared to their life in Jerusalem. Letters from Jacob Spafford describe events such as the 1927 earthquake, Arab-Jewish violence in 1929, and the conflict among colony members in 1930.

The Bertha Spafford Vester Diaries span the years 1920 until her death in 1968. They provide a personal account of her life and work and offer Bertha’s point of view on people and events. She supplemented her written entries by inserting invitations, telegrams, programs, photographs, newspaper clippings, flowers, and other memorabilia in the volumes. Loose items have been
removed and are foldered next to the volume from which they were removed. Family members frequently mentioned are her husband, Frederick, and her children, Anna Grace, Horatio, Tanetta, John (“Jock”), Louise, and Frieda. Bertha's sister, Grace, and her husband, John D. Whiting, are also featured prominently. In the diaries Bertha discusses her involvement with the baby home, various health care services and charitable activities, the American Colony Store, and the tourist services provided by the American Colony for visitors staying at the hostel (later the American Colony Hotel). Diaries for 1930 and 1931 provide Bertha Vester's point of view on the split in the American Colony membership and her feelings about the actions of the Swedish members who dissented from her efforts to organize the American Colony into a formal corporation. She also discusses the care of the elderly Swedes who remained at the American Colony for the remainder of their lives. The diaries chronicle the periods of violence between Jews and Arabs in the region, particularly in the 1940s, that culminated in the Arab-Israeli War. Bertha Vester's visits to the United States and her relationship with Lowell Thomas, who assisted her in the publication of her book and helped to arrange lecture tours are also covered. An entry in January 1955 describes a meeting with President Dwight D. Eisenhower in which she offered her opinion on the problems in Jerusalem and the plight of Arab refugees.

An American Colony Members series contains files of some individual colonists. Names of members can also be found in a birthday book and register of those belonging to the colony when it was incorporated. A file on Ana Andersson contains letters from Bertha Vester's daughter, Anna Grace Lind. Information on American Colony members is located in other sections of the collection as well. Files relating to 1896 in both the Our Jerusalem series and the Chronological File series contain names of Swedes who joined the group that year. A letter of December 1926 that was inserted into Bertha Spafford Vester's diary for that year contains signatures of colony members and others who worked there. Statements by American Colony members given as part of the charitable trust lawsuit filed in the Business and Legal Files series offer information about some of the Swedish members of the American Colony who remained with the group following the schism in the membership.

The Business and Legal Files are grouped into sections pertaining to the American Colony and the Spafford family. Many of the files relate to the corporate entities and business ventures established by the American Colony and its members. In 1929 the American Colony was formally organized into a corporate body named American Colony of Jerusalem, and minutes of the meetings of the membership and the council are filed here. The litigation and arbitration leading to the formal split in membership is documented in a section called “reorganization and dissent.” Included in Vester and Company business enterprises is material on the American Colony Stores. Information on the Jerusalem store is lacking. Most material pertains to the store opened in New York City in the 1920s. Among the Spafford family legal files are those relating to litigation concerning Spafford property in Chicago and copies of the divorce papers of Horatio Gates Spafford (1778-1832) from 1811.

A Chronological File series, like the Our Jerusalem series, is arranged by year and contains information on the history of the American Colony. The early portion of this series, 1897-1908, covers conflicts between the American Colony and United States consuls for Palestine, Selah Merrill and Edwin Sherman Wallace, and focuses on problems with burial issues in the 1890s, the publication of an article in Appleton's Magazine in 1906, and the subsequent libel case, Wallace v. D. Appleton & Co. The 1904 file contains letters Anna T. Spafford wrote to John D. Whiting while he was in the United States. Starting in 1910, most of the contents of this series pertains to John D. Whiting. His correspondence details his dealings with museums regarding antiquities, his work with National Geographic magazine, American Colony Store business, photography orders, and family news. Letters from 1919 and 1920 include lengthy accounts of the colony's experiences during World War I and his own military service. This material supplements the John D. Whiting Papers that are also in the Manuscript Division.

Included in a Miscellany series are hymns, poems, and other writings by Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888). A transcript of a 2005 oral history interview with Valentine Vester, who managed the
American Colony Hotel with her husband Horatio, son of Bertha Spafford Vester, is also part of this series. The audiovisual version of this interview is available along with other related oral interviews in the Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division.

**Part III**

*Part III* of the American Colony in Jerusalem Collection contains additional material relating to John D. Whiting including catalogues of his pottery collection, permits and passes relating to his work in British military intelligence during the first World War, and two writings, “Bethlehem and the Christmas Shepherds” and “Notes on the Ancient Water Supplies in Jerusalem.”

**Organization of the Papers**

The collection is arranged in three parts composed of ten series:

**Part I:**
- Topical File, 1871-2004
- Oversize, 1871-1942

**Part II:**
- Our Jerusalem, circa 1786-1942
- Bertha Spafford Vester Diaries, 1920-1968
- American Colony Members, 1810-2006
- Business and Legal Files, 1811-2006
- Chronological File, 1893-1968
- Miscellany, 1869-2005
- Oversize, 1866-1938

**Part III:**
- Addition, 1906-1924
## Description of Series

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Series</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BOX I:1-3</td>
<td><strong>Part I: Topical File, 1871-2004</strong>&lt;br&gt;Correspondence, hymns, photographs, photograph albums, scrapbooks, account book, wartime passes, lace sample book, lists, printed matter, and other papers gathered for a 2005 Library of Congress exhibit on the history of the American Colony.&lt;br&gt;Arranged according to the order and thematic topics used in the exhibit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX I:OV 1- OV 7</td>
<td><strong>Part I: Oversize, 1871-1942</strong>&lt;br&gt;Draft of hymn, map, scrapbooks, photograph album, hospital record, and printed matter.&lt;br&gt;Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX II:1-9</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Our Jerusalem, circa 1786-1942</strong>&lt;br&gt;Correspondence, notes, writings, lectures, printed matter, and other papers compiled by Bertha Spafford Vester as resource files for her book, Our Jerusalem.&lt;br&gt;Most files are arranged chronologically by year. Others are grouped by type of material and therein chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX II:9-31</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Bertha Spafford Vester Diaries, 1920-1968</strong>&lt;br&gt;Diaries and folders of loose items that were removed from each volume.&lt;br&gt;Arranged chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX II:32-34</td>
<td><strong>Part II: American Colony Members, 1810-2006</strong>&lt;br&gt;Correspondence, diaries, notes, financial records, wills, printed matter, registers of American Colony members, and other papers.&lt;br&gt;Arranged alphabetically by name of person or type of material and therein chronologically.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX II:35-42</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Business and Legal Files, 1811-2006</strong>&lt;br&gt;Correspondence, memoranda, minutes, legal documents, financial records, and other business documents relating to the American Colony and the Spafford family.&lt;br&gt;Grouped into files pertaining to the American Colony and those concerning the Spafford family and therein alphabetically by topic or type of material.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX II:43-47</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Chronological File, 1893-1968</strong>&lt;br&gt;Correspondence, legal documents, notes, printed matter and other papers concerning the activities of the American Colony.&lt;br&gt;Arranged chronologically by year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOX II:47-48</td>
<td><strong>Part II: Miscellany, 1869-2005</strong>&lt;br&gt;Hymns, poetry, and other writings by Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888), notes, oral history transcript, photographs, and printed matter.&lt;br&gt;Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Part II: Oversize, 1866-1938**
Diaries, hymns, poems, and other writings by Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888), maps, and printed matter.
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

**Part III: Addition, 1906-1924**
Catalogues, correspondence, permits and passes, writings, and other papers relating primarily to John D. Whiting.
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically.
### Container List

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Container</th>
<th>Contents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **BOX I:1-3** | **Part I: Topical File, 1871-2004**  
Arranged according to the order and thematic topics used in the exhibit. |
| **BOX I:1** | **Family Tragedy**  
Spafford family and friends photograph album, circa 1870s  
Spafford cottage, Lake View, Chicago, Ill., stereograph; and photograph of church in Stavanger, Norway, undated  
Spafford home, Chicago, Ill., photograph, undated  
Spafford, McDaid & Wilson, attorneys at law, business card, circa 1870s  
“The Sinking of the Steamship Ville du Havre,” photoprint of Currier and Ives lithograph, 1873  
Telegram from Anna T. Spafford to Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888), 1873  
Telegram from Dwight Lyman Moody to Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888), 1874  
Portrait of Anna T. Spafford, circa 1873  
Portraits of Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888), circa 1873, circa 1882-1886  
(2 folders)  
“It Is Well with My Soul,” draft of hymn by Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888), circa early 1870s |
| **Box I:2** | **On to Jerusalem**  
Hymns by Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888)  
“How Long Oh Lord,” 1879  
“Next Year at Jerusalem,” circa 1879  
“Perilous Times,” circa 1879 [See Oversize](#)  
Waiting for the Morning and Other Poems, 1878  
Diary of Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888), 1882  
Letter from Anna T. Spafford, 1902  
Moody, Dwight Lyman, miscellany, 1874, 1938 |
| **BOX I:2** | **In the Holy Land**  
Bible belonging to Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888), circa 1870s  
Letter from Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888) to Charles Piazza Smith, 1887  
“The Great Pyramid of Egypt–The Mightiest Wonder on Earth,” from Our Rest and Signs of the Times, no. 11, 1882  
Map of Jerusalem, undated [See Oversize](#)  
Correspondence between A. Loivy and Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888), 1885 |
Letter from Anna T. Spafford to Mrs. Morse, 1909
Letter to Theodore Roosevelt (1858-1919) from the American Colony, 1906
Letter to Alexander Hume Ford from the American Colony, 1906
“Americans Lead in Jerusalem Progress” by William T. Ellis, 1913

The American Colony at Work
“In Memoriam“ keepsake with pressed flowers, undated
List of antiquities sent to University of Pennsylvania Museum, Philadelphia, Pa., 1913
Postcards of the Holy Land, 1921, undated
Scrapbook of American Colony clippings, 1871-1942
Bound vol. See Oversize
Loose items removed from scrapbook See Oversize
Business card, John D. Whiting, United States deputy consul, Jerusalem, undated
“The Chief Industries of the American Colony, Jerusalem, at the Present Time,” 1907
Letter from David Fairchild to John D. Whiting, 1916
Letter from Gilbert Hovey Grosvenor to John D. Whiting, 1915

The Locust Plague
Locust album, 1915 See Oversize
Photograph of Bertha Spafford Vester, John Vester, Louise Vester, and Jemal Pasha, circa 1915

World War I
Photograph album, 1914-1917 See Oversize
Scrapbook of Fannie L. Koster regarding American Colony, circa 1908-1924 See Oversize
Wartime pass issued by Ottoman Turkish forces, 1916-1917
Turkish lira note
Movement order, Kantara Military Railway, for John D. Whiting, British intelligence, 1918
American Colony nursing corps
Names of nurses, 1917
Night pass for nurses, circa 1915-1917
Photograph, circa 1915-1917
Hospital record, 1916 See Oversize
Manifesto and other printed announcements, 1882, 1896, 1905, 1914 See Oversize
Miscellaneous passes and permits, 1914-1917
Note from A. F. Bernard Shaw to American Hospital, Jerusalem, 1917

BOX I:3

Wartime Aid
School of Handicrafts and Dressmaking
Brochures and photographs, circa 1920s
Lace sample book, undated
Report of the Syrian and Palestine Relief Fund sewing rooms and Christian Herald Relief Fund lace industry, circa 1918
Part I: Topical File, 1871-2004

Container	Contents

Account book of money received by Mr. Trowbridge, 1918
Balance sheet for distribution of Charitable Funds, Feb- Apr. 1918
Loud, Edward F.
Account of and distribution of Loud Fund, 1916-1917
Letter from John D. Whiting to Edward F. Loud, 1918(?)
Miscellaneous correspondence, 1916-1918
“Photograph of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Loud at their island home in Michigan,” undated

Continuing Relief Work
Christian Herald Orphanage
Photograph album, 1918-1927
(2 folders)
Register of children, 1921-1923
Appeals to Bertha Spafford Vester for aid, 1918-1921
Spafford Children’s Center
Pamphlet, undated
Photographs, 2004, undated
Documents regarding relief and charitable work
Miscellaneous activities, 1915-1922, undated
Nonsectarian nature of work, 1920, undated

BOX I:OV 1- OV 7 Part I: Oversize, 1871-1942
Draft of hymn, map, scrapbooks, photograph album, hospital record, and printed matter.
Arranged and described according to the series, containers, and folders from which the items were removed.

BOX I:OV 1
Topical file
On to Jerusalem
“Perilous Times,” circa 1879 (Container I:1)
In the Holy Land
Map of Jerusalem, undated (Container I:2)

BOX I:OV 2*
The American Colony at Work
*Administratively restricted
Scrapbook of American Colony clippings, 1871-1942
Bound vol. (Container I:2)

BOX I:OV 3
Loose items removed from scrapbook (Container I:2)

BOX I:OV 4*
The Locust Plague
*Administratively restricted
Locust Album, 1915 (Container I:2)

BOX I:OV 5*
World War I
*Administratively restricted
Photograph album, 1914-1917 (Container I:2)

BOX I:OV 6*
Scrapbook of Fannie L. Koster regarding American Colony, circa 1908-1924 (Container I:2)
*Administratively restricted

BOX I:OV 7
Hospital record, 1916 (Container I:2)
Part I: Oversize, 1871-1942

Manifesto and other printed announcements, 1882, 1896, 1905, 1914
(Container I:2)

Part II: Our Jerusalem, circa 1786-1942
Correspondence, notes, writings, lectures, printed matter, and other papers compiled by Bertha Spafford Vester as resource files for her book, Our Jerusalem.
Most files are arranged chronologically by year. Others are grouped by type of material and therein chronologically.

Part II: Bertha Spafford Vester Diaries, 1920-1968
Diaries and folders of loose items that were removed from each volume. Arranged chronologically.
### Container Contents

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### Part II: Bertha Spafford Vester Diaries, 1920-1968

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| BOX II:22 | 1950  
(5 folders) |
| BOX II:23 | 1951  
(3 folders)  
1952  
(1 folder) |
| BOX II:24 | 1953  
(3 folders) |
| BOX II:25 | 1954  
(6 folders) |
| BOX II:26 | 1955  
(3 folders)  
1956  
(1 folder) |
| BOX II:27 | 1957  
(6 folders) |
| BOX II:28 | 1958  
(4 folders)  
1959  
(2 folders) |
| BOX II:29 | 1960-1961  
(3 folders)  
1962  
(2 folders) |
| BOX II:30 | 1963-1968  
(7 folders) |

### Part II: American Colony Members, 1810-2006

Correspondence, diaries, notes, financial records, wills, printed matter, registers of American Colony members, and other papers. Arranged alphabetically by name of person or type of material and therein chronologically.

- Andersson, Ana, 1945-1947, undated
- Baldwin, Norman, 1928-1935, 2006
- Goldenthal, Maurice, 1911, 1926-1931, undated
- Gould, Amelia, 1856, 1876-1880, 1887-1898, 1905-1914, undated
- Larsson, H. L. ("Lars"), 1922-1931, undated
Lind, L. E. ("Lars"), 1922-1930, undated
Lind, Nils, 1922
Lind, Olaf E., 1922-1928, undated

BOX II:33
Matson, G. Eric
  Correspondence, 1932
  Diary, 1928-1937
Matson, G. Olaf, 1920-1933, undated
  (3 folders)
Matsson, Rachel, 1947-1950
Meyers, Charles, and family, 1925, 1931-1937
Registers
  American Colony of Jerusalem members and members of the Council of the American Colony of Jerusalem, 1932-1933, undated
  Birthday book, 1942
Shelburg, G. E. ("Enor") and Bessie, 1918-1926
Smith, Carrie Jonsson, 1891-1898, 1908, 1914-1916, 1928-1932
  (2 folders)

BOX II:34
  (3 folders)
Spafford, Jacob E.
  Correspondence, 1913, 1927
  Financial papers, 1890-1922, undated
    (2 folders)
  Miscellany, 1903, 1912, 1925-1933, undated
Strand, Alvide, 1931-1932, undated
Sylvester, Mary Maria, 1896-1899, 1920, undated
  (3 folders)
Wills of members, 1926-1932, undated

BOX II:35-42
Part II: Business and Legal Files, 1811-2006
Correspondence, memoranda, minutes, legal documents, financial records, and other business documents relating to the American Colony and the Spafford family.
Grouped into files pertaining to the American Colony and those concerning the Spafford family and therein alphabetically by topic or type of material.

BOX II:35
American Colony
  American Colony Aid Association
    Miscellany, 1931, 1937, 1950
  Trip to the United States, 1938
    Correspondence
      (5 folders)
    Miscellany
American Colony Hotels
  Miscellany, 1966-1973, undated
Part II: Business and Legal Files, 1811-2006

American Colony in Jerusalem Collection

American Colony of Jerusalem
Corporate reorganization
  Formation of AMCOL, 1979-1984
    (2 folders)
  Plan by Horatio Vester, 1954, undated
  Tax and other issues, 1978-1982, undated
    (2 folders)
  Transfer documents, 1983-1984

BOX II:36
Financial reports, 1932-1941
Meetings
  Council, 1933-1936, 1942-1952
    (7 folders)

BOX II:37
Miscellany, 1952-1980
  (4 folders)
Miscellaneous issues
  Howorth, Caroline Eade, business with Frutiger Bank, Jerusalem, 1888-1893, 1921-1923
  Miller, Susanna, pension claim, 1894-1897, undated
  Partition of land, 1931-1933
  Powers of attorney, 1887, 1930-1932
  Naseef v. Vester, 1924-1934
  Receipts, 1881-1904
    (7 folders)

BOX II:38
Reorganization and dissent
American corporation
  Correspondence, 1927-1930
    (2 folders)
  Miscellaneous documents, 1929-1930
  Proposed amendments, 1930, undated
Arbitration
  Award, ruling, and other documents, 1929-1931, undated
    (3 folders)
  Bildt, Harold Knut Clarence de, 1929-1930
  Costs, 1930-1932
  Perrott, C. H., 1930-1931
  Richardson, S. O., 1930-1931
  Auster, Daniel, 1927-1930
Charitable trust lawsuit
  Affidavits, 1928-1930, undated
    Court, Jerusalem, 1928-1930
      (2 folders)
  Keith-Roach, Edward, 1930, undated
  Memoranda, 1930, undated

BOX II:39
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  (2 folders)
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  Dissolution of Mechanical Department, 1930-1931
  Miscellaneous distributions, 1930-1931
  Transfer of Vester house and land, 1931
Loan, 1931
  (2 folders)
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  General meeting (May 28, 1930), vote on separation, 1930, 1936
  Miscellaneous, 1926-1930
Memoranda on disputes within the American Colony, undated
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**BOX II:40**
Money owed by minority group to majority group, 1930-1934, undated
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  Ellis, William T., 1931-1932, 1938
  Miscellaneous, 1918, 1924-1932, undated
  “On Holy Paths,” by Laura Petri, translated from Swedish, 1931, undated
Townsend, Arthur O., 1928-1934, 1984
  (5 folders)
Russell and Co., accountants
  General, 1930-1931, 1947
  (5 folders)

**BOX II:41**
Whiting, John D., 1930-1931, undated
Saffi, Michael, and land, 1920-1935
Swedish Evangelical Church of Hyde Park, Chicago, Ill., 1886-1888, 1895-1899, undated
Vester and Co.
American Colony Stores
  Jerusalem store, “Plan of Jerusalem Issued by Vester & Company American Colony Stores,” undated
  New York, N.Y., store
    Business papers, 1922, 1929-1941, undated
    (2 folders)
    Correspondence, 1930-1933
    (6 folders)
  Registration of firm, 1919-1928

**BOX II:42**
Beirut, Lebanon, office
  Financial accounts, 1961-1965
  Miscellany, 1958-1968
  Separation from American Colony Hotels, 1961-1962
Jerusalem office
  Financial accounts, 1962-1968
  Miscellany, 1960-1967
  Miscellany, 1962-1976
  Taylor, Mervyn, solicitor, 1969-1970
### Part II: Business and Legal Files, 1811-2006

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|           | Spafford family  
Chicago, Ill., property, litigation, 1878, 1885-1908, undated  
(2 folders)  
Miscellany, 1865-1871  
See also Oversize  
Spafford v. Spafford, 1811, 2006 |
| BOX II:43-47 | **Part II: Chronological File, 1893-1968**  
Correspondence, legal documents, notes, printed matter and other papers concerning the activities of the American Colony.  
Arranged chronologically by year. |
| BOX II:43 | 1893-1907  
(16 folders) |
| BOX II:44 | 1908-1912  
(11 folders) |
| BOX II:45 | 1913-1914  
(10 folders) |
| BOX II:46 | 1915-1920  
(14 folders) |
(18 folders) |
| BOX II:47-48 | **Part II: Miscellany, 1869-2005**  
Hymns, poetry, and other writings by Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888), notes, oral history transcript, photographs, and printed matter.  
Arranged alphabetically by type of material and therein chronologically. |
| BOX II:47 | Handwritten notes, undated  
Hymns, poems, and other writings by Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888)  
Bible study, undated  
Hymns and poems, circa early 1870s-1887, undated  
See also Oversize  
(8 folders) |
| BOX II:48 | Letter describing his sister's biblical interpretations and his beliefs, 1879  
Notebook, 1869  
Letter from Charles Green, 1884  
Oral history interview with Valentine Vester, 2005  
Photographs, 1873, 1908-1909, circa 1928, 1937, undated  
(3 folders)  
Printed matter  
Ferry Hall, Lake Forest, Ill., 1926, undated  
(2 folders)  
The House-Top Saint by Mrs. J. D. Chaplin, undated  
Memorial cards, 7undated  
Miscellaneous, 1981-1982 |
# Part II: Miscellany, 1869-2005

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<td>Diaries, hymns, poems, and other writings by Horatio Gates Spafford (1828-1888), maps, and printed matter.</td>
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