

NEW HAVEN COLONY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LIBRARY

Manuscripts
No. 139

Date processed: Nov. 23, 1981

- I. Title Yerkes Collection, 1910-1964.
- II. The papers of Mr. and Mrs. Yerkes deposited in the Library on Feb. 28, 1978, by Roberta Watterson Yerkes Blanshard (Mrs. Brand Blanshard) ~~converted the deposit to a gift.~~
~~xxxxxxx~~
- III. Linear feet of shelf space occupied: 3"
Approximate number of items: 150
- IV. Restrictions: None
- V. Literary rights of the unpublished writings of in these papers, and in other collections of papers in the custody of the New Haven Colony Historical Society Library, have been dedicated to the New Haven Colony Historical Society.
- VI. Press release was issued on
- VII. Biographical note: See page 1
- VIII. Analysis: See page 2

Biographical Note:

Robert Mearns Yerkes (1876-1956) and Ada Watterson (1873-1963) were married in 1905 and lived in Cambridge until 1917; he was teaching comparative psychology at Harvard. With the United States' entry into World War I the family moved to Washington, where Robert M. Yerkes as a major headed the mental testing of Army recruits, and later was on the staff of the National Research Council. They moved to New Haven in 1924 where Robert Yerkes joined the Yale faculty.

He was Assistant Professor of Psychology from 1924-1929, Professor of Psychology from 1929 until he retired in 1944. He was Director of the Laboratories of Comparative Psychobiology from 1931 to 1935 and of the Yale Laboratories of Primate Biology from 1935 to 1941.

Ada Watterson before her marriage studied and taught botany at Barnard. In 1926 a house, 4 St. Ronan Terrace, was built for the Yerkes family, designed by J. Frederick Kelly.*

The papers of Robert Yerkes, professional and personal (referred to as the Yerkes Papers), are in the Yale Archives.

"Household Accounts of R.M. and A.W. Yerkes. Oct. 1905-Jan. 1912. 30 1/2 Mellen St., [and] 3 Fuller Place, Cambridge," contains entries by both, but increasingly by AWY. This book RMY kept with his diaries [at Yale]; the later account books are included in this collection.

In 1911 RMY bought and gave to AWY a farm on the New Boston Road in Franklin, N.H. He referred to it as the "Franklin field station," using it for experimental work on behavior of animals by research assistants and himself. The family spent most summers there from 1912 on. Expenses for maintenance and taxes on the farm are listed in the account books.

Analysis: The collection is filed in one box and consists of 150 items, which includes five account books and one book of building specifications. The correspondence relates to the planning and building of the house at 4 St. Ronan Terrace and is filed chronologically. The account books reported by Mrs. Yerkes for household, farm, personal and family expenses, are also filed chronologically.

BOX 1Table of Contents

Folder A:	Correspondence (1925-1926) with J. Frederick Kelly. Architect and Pederson Brothers, Contractors relating to planning and building house at 4 St. Ronan Terrace.	42
Folder B:	Specifications for residence prepared by J. Frederick Kelly 1926--76 pages, are in the Architectural Drawing collection.	1
Folder C:	Correspondence and invoices(1926-1927) J.S. Nielson Electric Co.; The Stanley Works, New Britain, and Mr. Kelly.	33
Folder D:	Correspondence with Yale and The New Haven Bank to arrange financing 1926-1933	32
Folder E:	Correspondence 1930-1946 concerning problems with heating and water heater, and offers to buy house.	23
Folder F:	Two account books kept by Ada Watterson Yerkes (Mrs. Robert M. Yerkes) 1910-1918 in Cambridge, Mass., and Washington D.C., and 1924 to 1934 in New Haven.	2
Folder G:	Two account books Kept by Ada Watterson Yerkes in New Haven 1934-1941 and 1941-1952.	
Folder H:	Account books Kept by Ada Watterson Yerkes in New Haven 1953-1964.	
Folder I:	Loose material (notes, lists, etc.) removed from account books in Folders F, G and H.	14

1987 ADDITIONS

Folder J:	Ada Yerkes' journal entitled <u>Our House</u> , March 1926, in which she kept notes about the building of house at 4 St. Ronan Terrace, with sketches and list of expenses.	1 v.
Folder K:	Ada Yerkes' journal, 1926 - 1956, with record of expenses for garden and house repairs and alterations	1 v.
Folder L:	Drawings of house by J. Frederick Kelly found in journal in Folder K.	2

Table of Contents (Continued)

Folder M:	Drawings of floor plans and lot plan with notes by Ada Yerkes.	12
Folder N:	Planting sketches for garden by Ada Yerkes	4
Folder O:	Garden tour (including 4 St. Ronan Terrace) by Friends of Hospice and the Edgerton Garden Center, 1981 and by the American Garden History Society, 1982	17
Folder P:	Garden Club of New Haven - Slate of Officers, 1943; program for Victory Products Show, 1943; awards to Ada Yerkes	7
Folder Q:	Photographs - 4 St. Ronan Terrace, 1939 and 1940; Ada Yerkes, no date.	3
Folder R:	Bookplate - Robert M. & Ada W. Yerkes	1
<u>Oversize Item 1:</u>		17

Original drawing of garden plan for 4 St. Ronan Terrace, Frederick A. Davis, Sept. 4, 1926

Blueprint - Planting Plan, Frederick A. Davis September, 1926

Blueprint - grading plan for property, Sept. 1926 (2 copies)

Photocopy- planting plan - Elm City Nursery Company, 10/5/26; list of plants

Blueprints for house at 4 St. Ronan Terrace, J. Frederick Kelly, Architect, sheets No. 1 thru No. 10

Blueprint of property survey, December 1925, by N. Aymon, C.E.

(2-22-90 Additions: a copy of the blueprint#1, North Elevation, and one without a number, property of W.R. Vance, done at TYCO)