Dr. Church archives at UNR:

<http://dewey.library.unr.edu/xtf/view?docId=ead/NC96-ead.xml#overview>

## Overview

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| Title: | James Edward Church Papers |
| Creator(s): | Church, James Edward, Jr., 1869-1959 |
| Collection Number: | NC96 |
| Dates (inclusive): | 1869-1964 |
| Physical Extent: | 72.0 cubic feet (69 boxes) |
| Preferred Citation: | James Edward Church papers, NC96. Special Collections, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Reno. |
| Repository: | [University of Nevada, Reno. Special Collections Department](http://knowledgecenter.unr.edu/specoll) |
| Permanent Link: | <http://dewey.library.unr.edu/xtf/view?docId=ead/NC96-ead.xml> |

## Biographical Note

James Edward Church

James Edward Church, Jr., was born in Holly, Michigan on February 15, 1869 to James Edward and Mary Eisenbrey Church. He received an A.B degree in Classics from the University of Michigan in 1892, and an offer that same year to teach classics at the University of Nevada in Reno. There he taught courses in the appreciation of literature and beauty in art and nature, and Latin and German. He attended the University of Michigan in 1898-99 to work on a graduate degree and attended the University of Munich from 1899-1901, where he was awarded his Ph.D. The Churches returned to Reno in 1901 where he taught classics and art history until his retirement in 1939.

Dr. Church, called "Ward" by his friends and relatives, married his college sweetheart, Florence Humphrey on July 2, 1894. They had two children: Willis Humphrey Church, (d.1969); and Donald E. Church. Willis received a bachelor of arts degree in 1923, bachelor of architecture degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1927, and a master of architecture in 1933. In 1930 he co-authored the book Masterpieces of Architecture in the United States with Edward Hoak (Scribner). Although a brilliant artist/architect, Willis was an alcoholic who spent many years at the Napa State Hospital in California. Donald was married to Pearl Church and was a transportation expert who held a federal government position in Washington, D.C. He had one son, Russell M. Church, a professor in the Walter S. Hunter Laboratory of Psychology at Brown University.

The Churches, along with many other friends in Reno, held a small parcel of land at Tahoe City where they spent summer vacations. Later, they purchased a lot at Cedar Tract Flat, one mile south of Carnelian Bay on Lake Tahoe's northwest corner. Son Willis designed a small house and large terrace around a pine tree on the lot; it became known at the Tree House and is standing today (1998).

Dr. Church later recounted to one of his students, C.J. Thornton, how he (Church) arrived by train in Reno and started toward the University. While walking down Commercial Row past the many bars, a dead man was thrown out in the street right in front of him. Church said he came "pretty near gettin' back to the depot and gettin' back on the train and leavin' after that." (Thornton, p. 40-41).