

Wills, George Stockton, 1866-1956. Papers, 1860s-1956: A Finding Aid

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Repository: Hoover Library, McDaniel College
Creator: George Stockton Wills, 1866-1956
Title: Papers, 1860s-1956
Quantity: 8 document cases, 1 record box

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BIOGRAPHY

George Stockton Wills was born on April 3, 1866 in Halifax County, North Carolina to Richard Henry Wills and Anna Louisa Norman Wills. From 1885 to 1889, he attended the University of North Carolina for his undergraduate years, where he obtained his Bachelor's degree. He returned to the University of North Carolina for his Doctor of Philosophy degree (1894-1896) and then attended Harvard University (1896-1898), where he earned his Master of Arts degree.

After completing his education, Wills began a teaching career that would last almost fifty years. He taught English at the University of North Carolina as well as at North Carolina's Oakridge Military Institute and Greensboro Women's College. He also taught at Battle Ground Academy in Tennessee and at Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in Maryland. The majority of his career, however, was spent as a professor of English at Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) in Westminster, Maryland. He remained at WMC from 1898 to 1900, 1901 to 1904, and from 1922 -1944. He was eventually named head of the English Department and, in 1935, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Literature from WMC. He was named Professor Emeritus in 1945 upon his retirement.

Throughout his life, he maintained an interest not only in literature, but in history, particularly the history of WMC. He wrote the *History of Western Maryland College* (1949, 1954) as well as the "Sketch of the Life of Sydney Lanier" and various papers on the literature and history of the American South.

He had two children, a son and a daughter, with his wife, Mary Georgia M. Chridester Wills. She died in 1943. In 1956, Wills suffered a stroke and was hospitalized in Baltimore's Union Memorial Hospital. He died on February 27, 1956 in Kenswick Home, Baltimore.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The collection consists primarily of George Stockton Wills' handwritten notes detailing the history of Western Maryland College, including information about college periodicals, James T. Ward (the college's first president), the Board of Trustees, and courses of study (mostly taken from the college catalog).

Also included are items of a more personal nature. The collection contains diaries, scrapbooks, individual and family photographs, and personal papers. The scrapbooks and scrapbook pages feature newspaper clippings of personal, local, and national interest as well as a collection of personal correspondence, including wedding invitations, Christmas cards, and invitations from WMC alumni. Wills' diaries, which range from 1911 to 1956 with the exception of several omitted years, mostly discuss daily appointments and the weather. Later diaries (1946-1956) are more detailed as Wills comments not only on daily activities but also on his declining health.

The collection also contains several books as well as a photocopy and a digital copy of the book of tribute that was dedicated to Wills in May 1941 by students and colleagues.

Upon arrival, the papers were divided into a series of folders and boxes. The folders were loosely arranged according to subject, while the boxes were arranged neither chronologically nor categorically. The diaries, scrapbooks, and books were boxed together without an apparent organizational scheme. After intake, the folders and other materials were grouped and boxed by subject and chronology.

CONTAINER LIST

- Box 1: 1-15
- Box 2: 16-26
- Box 3: 27-46
- Box 4: 47-58
- Box 5: 59-75
- Box 6: 76-86, CDs 1-7
- Box 7: Diaries
- Box 8: 87 and Books
- Box 9: 88 and Scrapbooks

INVENTORY

Boxes 1-5: Notes on the History of Western Maryland College

2/02/0343

Box 1: Notes on James T. Ward

- 1. Diary of Ward and Buell (April 3, 1866 - December 21, 1886)
- 2. James T. Ward's Diary (March 13, 1866 - September 27, 1867)

- 3. James T. Ward's Diary (September 30, 1867 - March 26, 1869)
- 4. James T. Ward's Diary (April 1, 1869 - September 6, 1870)
- 5. James T. Ward's Diary (September 7, 1870 - August 21, 1873)
- 6. James T. Ward's Diary (August 22, 1873 - March 31, 1877)
- 7. James T. Ward's Diary (April 2, 1877 - December 29, 1879)
- 8. James T. Ward's Diary (January 5, 1880 - June 29, 1883)
- 9. James T. Ward's Diary (July 2, 1883 - December 21, 1886)
- 10. James T. Ward's Account Book (1868-1872)
- 11. James T. Ward's Will
- 12. James T. Ward's Biography
- 13. Scharf's *History of Western Maryland: James T. Ward and WMC*
- 14. Notes - Mostly on James T. Ward
- 15. Notes - Mostly on James T. Ward and faculty curriculums

Box 2: Notes on Board of Trustee Minutes

- 16. 1868-1935
- 17. June 25, 1868 - June 14, 1882
- 18. June 25, 1868 - June 16, 1886
- 19. January 24, 1883 - October 15, 1897
- 20. April 15, 1891 - April 3, 1913
- 21. January 14, 1898 - June 19, 1915
- 22. June 15, 1915 - July 3, 1928
- 23. June 9, 1924 - November 8, 1947
- 24. June 4, 1928 - October 14, 1937
- 25. December 17, 1937 - April 16, 1943
- 26. July 27, 1943 - December 16, 1947

Box 3: WMC Organizations

- 27. Papers - Mostly notes about college finances
- 28. WMC library, taken from the college catalog and *College Monthly* (1868-1953)
- 29. WMC buildings (1886-1935)
- 30. WMC faculty (1867-1887)
- 31. Faculty minutes (October 13, 1868 - November 25, 1898)
- 32. Faculty salaries (1925-1932)
- 33. Women student societies (1867-1927)
- 34. College periodicals, mostly the *Irving Literary Gazette* and the *College Monthly* (1867-January 1897)
- 35. College periodicals, mostly the *Gazette* and the *Literary College Journal* (1869-1920s)
- 36. College periodicals, *College Monthly*, *Black and White*, and the *Goldbug* (1887-1936)
- 37. College periodicals, mostly the *Irving Literary Gazette* and the *College Monthly* (February 1897-1921)
- 38. Newspaper clipping from *Goldbug* (May 16, 1935)
- 39. *College Monthly*: v. 1, n. 1 - v. 3, n. 5 (October 1887 - February 1890)
- 40. *College Monthly*: v. 3, n. 6 - v.5, n. 10 (March 1890 - July 1892)

- 41. *College Monthly*: v. 6, n. 1 - v. 9, n. 6 (October 1892 - July 1896)
- 42. *College Monthly*: v. 10, n. 1 - ? (October 1896 - June 1901)
- 43. *College Monthly* (July 1901 - June 1907)
- 44. *College Monthly* (1907-1914)
- 45. *College Monthly* (1915-1926)
- 46. Aloha Yearbook

Box 4: Notes from the College Catalog

- 47. College catalog (1867-1871)
- 48. College catalog (1871-1886)
- 49. Papers - Mostly notes from the college catalog (1872-1926)
- 50. College catalog (1885-1894)
- 51. College catalog (1894-1900)
- 52. College catalog (1900-1920)
- 53. College catalog (1920-1941)
- 54. Notes - Mostly from the college catalog
- 55. Notes - Mostly on the college catalog and the Board of Trustees
- 56. Notes - Mostly on the college catalog and WMC buildings
- 57. Notes - Mostly from the college catalog and the *College Monthly*
- 58. Notes - Mostly on the college catalog and faculty

Box 5: General WMC History and Other Notes

- 59. Correspondence - Relating to WMC (1947-1949)
- 60. Correspondence - Relating to WMC (1950-1951)
- 61. Maryland Annual Conference minutes (1863)
- 62. WMC 1864 and 1868 Charters and The *Chapter and Fundamental Ordinances of Western Maryland College*
- 63. Dr. J.W. Hering
- 64. Alphabetized Notecards (A-I) - General college history
- 65. Alphabetized Notecards (K-Y) - General college history
- 66a and b. General college history
- 67. Notes - Mostly on *College Monthly* and Board of Trustees (1888-1932)
- 68a, b, and c. Notes - Mostly about student societies and the college curriculum
- 69. Notes - Mostly about courses of study (1869-1887)
- 70. Notes - Mostly about courses of study
- 71. Notes - Topics Wills wished to investigate
- 72. Other MD schools, including Washington College and St. John's College
- 73. Washington College and King William's School
- 74. Manchester United Academy (1829-1932)
- 75. Westminster Theological Seminary (1869-1898)

Box 6: Personal Folders and Tribute to George S. Wills

2005.053; 2005.008

- **76a.** Draft of Wills' *A Sketch of English Literature in the Southern Part of the United States*, Pp. 1-126 (June 1898)
2005.053.024
- **76b.** Draft of Wills' *A Sketch of English Literature in the Southern Part of the United States*, Pp. 129-236 (June 1898)
2005.053.024
- **76c.** Draft of Wills' *A Sketch of English Literature in the Southern Part of the United States*, Pp. 237-End (June 1898)
2005.053.024
- **77.** Income and expenses from the estate of R.N. Wills
2005.053.026
- **78.** Papers - Mostly regarding the Wills family
2005.053.019
- **79.** Photograph of George Stockton Wills (January 1900)
- **80.** Photographs of George Stockton Wills (1951-1952)
- **81.** Painting. No identification or date.
2005.053.017
- **82.** Newspaper clippings - Mostly about George Stockton Wills
2005.053.018
- **83.** Pages from the *Outlook*, including an article on President Eliot of Harvard University (August 6, 1904)
2005.053.021
- **84.** Scrapbook pages - Mostly poetry and newspaper clippings of local and college interest (1935-1949)
- **85.** Scrapbook pages - Photographs and Christmas cards (1936-1952)
- **86a.** Photocopies of a tribute to George Stockton Wills, Pp. 1-67 (May 1941)
2005-008, 8702.2005.002
- **86b.** Photocopies of a tribute to George Stockton Wills, Pp. 68-136 (May 1941)
2005-008, 8702.2005.002
- **CDs:** Digital copies of a tribute to George Stockton Wills (May 1941)
2005-008, 8702.2005.002
 1. Pp. 1-19
 2. Pp. 20-36
 3. Pp. 37-51
 4. Pp. 52-68
 5. Pp. 69-85
 6. Pp. 86-111
 7. Pp. 112-136

Box 7: Diaries

1911, 1916-1927, 1929-1935, 1937-1939, 1942, 1944, 1946-1953, 1955-1956

- 1911: Mostly weather and appointments
- 1916-1927: Mostly weather and appointments
- 1929-1935: Mostly weather and appointments
- 1937-1939: Mostly weather and appointments
- 1942: Mostly weather and appointments

- 1944: Mostly weather and appointments
- 1946-1953: Weather, daily activities, personal comments
- 1955-1956: Weather, daily activities, personal comments (including on his declining health)

Box 8: Books (Personal and General) and Photograph

- **87.** Photograph - possibly of George Stockton Wills. No identification or date.
- Class-Day Exercises for University of North Carolina (1889)
- The Graduate School Catalogue of Harvard University (1873-1898)
- Record Book - Contains a list of letters written by Wills (March 22, 1955 - January 29, 1956) and notes
- Record Book - Record of Wills' death and a list of friends who called afterwards
- Book of Common Prayer
- Holy Bible
- Jenkin's Vest-Pocket Lexicon
- Klassische's Vergissmeinnicht
- Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam

Box 9: Scrapbooks

- **88.** Scrapbook pages - newspaper clippings
2005.053.15
- Mostly wedding invitations, baby announcements, and invitations from Western Maryland College (1889-1955)
- Mostly newspaper clippings about New England folksongs (a collection of articles by Helen Hartness Flanders) and about local and world news (1880-1941)
- Mostly newspaper clippings about influential individuals of Wills' era, current events, and Western Maryland College (1953-1955)
- Mostly newspaper clippings about influential people of Wills' era and other local and world news
- Mostly newspaper clippings about deaths of famous individuals, poetry, and local and world news