

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

Request As:

Call No.: MS2009.2

Repository: College Archive, Hoover Library, McDaniel College

Creator: George Stockton Wills, 1866-1956

Title: George Stockton Wills Papers, 1860s-1956

Dates: 1854-1956 (1944-1954)

Quantity: 8 document cases, 1 record box (4.6 cf)

Processing Information:

Processed: June 2009

By: Melissa Atkinson

Acquisition Information:

Accession numbers: 2/02/0343; 2005.053; 2005.008

Terms of Use:

Access: Unrestricted

Preferred citation: George Stockton Wills (1866-1956) Papers, 1860s-1956; McDaniel College Archives in Hoover Library

Copyright: McDaniel College holds copyright to sections of this material.

McDaniel College makes no representation that it is the owner of any copyright or other literary property in the materials contained in its archives and special collections, (b) that in providing access to or permitting the reproduction of any such materials, McDaniel Archives does not assume any responsibility for obtaining or granting any permission to publish or use the same, and (c) that the responsibility (i) for determining the nature of any rights, and the ownership or interest therein, and for obtaining the appropriate permissions to publish or use and (ii) for determining the nature of any liabilities (including liabilities for defamation and invasion of privacy or publicity) that may arise from any publication or use, rest entirely with the researcher.

Copying: Papers may be copied in accordance with the Archives usual procedures.

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. A survey of the papers showed a logical organization would be by subject, genre, and then chronological order.

CONTAINER LIST

- Box 1: Folders 1-15, 1866-1897, Notes on James Thomas Ward
- Box 2: Folders 16-26, 1868-1947, Notes on Board of Trustees Minutes
- Box 3: Folders 27-46, 1866-1953, Notes on College Organizations
- Box 4: Folders 47-58, 1867-1941, Notes from College Catalogs
- Box 5: Folders 59-75, 1863-1941, Notes On and Correspondence About College History
- Box 6: Folders 76-86, CDs 1-7, 1898-1942, Personal Papers and Photographs
- Box 7: Books, Calendar, and Programs
- Box 8: Diaries, 1911-1956
- Box 9: 1854 – 1955, 88 and Scrapbooks of Newspaper Clippings, 1854-1955

INVENTORY

Series 1, 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. Notes from Aloha Yearbooks

Box 4: Notes from the College Catalogs

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)

Series 2; Boxes 6 & 7, Personal Papers, Photographs, and Books

Box 6: Personal Papers 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)
- 86b.** Photocopies of a tribute to George Stockton Wills, Pp. 68-136 (May 1941)
- 87.** Photograph - George Stockton, undated.
- 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: Books, Calendars, and Programs

- 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

Series 3, 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)

Series 4; Box 9: Scrapbooks

88. Scrapbook pages - newspaper clippings

2005.053.15

- Mostly wedding invitations, baby announcements, and invitations from Western Maryland College (1854-1954)
- 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

Additional catalog entries:

Dates: 1854-1956 (bulk 1944-1954)

Persons:

Brocket, Robert L.
Buell, Fayette
Flanders, Helen Hartness
Wilmer, Edwin Megredy
Zimmerman, William Henry

Corporate Bodies:

King William's School
Manchester United Academy
Maryland Annual Conference (Methodist)
McDaniel College
St. John's College, MD
Washington College, MD
Wesley Theological Seminary
Western Maryland College
Westminster Theological Seminary

Associated Titles:

A Sketch of English Literature in the Southern Part of the United States

Subjects:

Colleges – History – United States
Diaries – United States – Appointment
Diaries – United States -- Weather
Education – History – United States
English literature – History – United States - Southern
Folksongs – United States – New England

Genres and Forms:

Correspondence
Diaries
Greeting Cards
Monograph
Newspaper clippings
Notes
Photographs

Occupations:

Educators
Writers