

Edith Bolling Galt Wilson Papers

A Finding Aid to the Collection in the
Library of Congress

Prepared by Manuscript Division Staff



Manuscript Division, Library of
Congress

Washington, D.C.

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Collection Summary

Title: Edith Bolling Galt Wilson Papers

Span Dates: 1833-1961

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1925-1961)

ID No.: MSS45930

Creator: Wilson, Edith Bolling Wilson, 1872-1961

Extent: 19,000 items; 71 containers; 28.4 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

Repository: Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Abstract: Wife of President Woodrow Wilson. Correspondence, diary notes, drafts of Wilson's autobiography, *My Memoir*, financial and legal records, family and genealogical material, printed matter, memorabilia, and other papers relating largely to political and social life in Washington, D.C.

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

Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.

Baker, Ray Stannard, 1870-1946--Correspondence.

Baruch, Bernard M. (Bernard Mannes), 1870-1965--Correspondence.

Coolidge, Calvin, 1872-1933--Correspondence.

Coolidge, Grace Goodhue, 1879-1957--Correspondence.

Crane, Charles Richard, 1858-1939--Correspondence.

Daniels, Josephus, 1862-1948--Correspondence.

Davis, Norman H. (Norman Hezekiah), 1878-1944--Correspondence.

Dodge, Cleveland H. (Cleveland Hoadley), 1860-1926--Correspondence.

Eisenhower, Dwight D. (Dwight David), 1890-1969--Correspondence.

Eisenhower, Mamie Doud, 1896-1979--Correspondence.

Grayson, Cary T. (Cary Travers), 1878-1938--Correspondence.

Hamlin, Charles, 1861-1938--Correspondence.

Harding, Florence Kling, 1860-1924--Correspondence.

Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.

Hoover, Lou Henry, 1874-1944--Correspondence.

James, Marquis, 1891-1955--Correspondence.

Johnson, Lyndon B. (Lyndon Baines), 1908-1973--Correspondence.

Jones, Jesse H. (Jesse Holman), 1874-1956--Correspondence.

McAdoo, W. G. (William Gibbs), 1863-1941--Correspondence.

McCormick, Cyrus Hall, 1809-1884--Correspondence.

Onassis, Jacqueline Kennedy, 1929-1994--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Eleanor, 1884-1962--Correspondence.

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.

Sayre, Francis Bowes, 1885-1972--Correspondence.

Stevenson, Adlai E. (Adlai Ewing), 1900-1965--Correspondence.

Sweetser, Arthur, 1888-1968--Correspondence.

Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.

White, Henry, 1850-1927--Correspondence.

Wilson family.

Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt, 1872-1961.

Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt, 1872-1961. My memoir. 1939.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.

Places

Washington (D.C.)--Social life and customs.

Occupations

Presidents' spouses--United States.

Administrative Information

Provenance

The papers of Edith Bolling Galt Wilson, wife of President Woodrow Wilson, were given to the Library of Congress by her between 1957 and 1960. Additional material was given by the Woodrow Wilson House, Washington, D.C., 1962-1966, and items were received by transfer from the Rare Book and Special Collections Division of the Library in 1966. Financial records relating to President Woodrow Wilson were transferred from this collection to the Woodrow Wilson Papers.

Processing History

The papers of Edith Bolling Galt Wilson were arranged and described in 1965 and expanded circa 1968. The finding aid was revised in 2011.

Additional Guides

The papers of Edith Bolling Galt Wilson have been described in part in the Library's *Quarterly Journal of Current Acquisitions* (May 1958): 182-183 and (June 1963): 178.

Transfers

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of Edith Bolling Galt Wilson is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Related Material

Related collections in the Manuscript Division include the papers of [Woodrow Wilson](#).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of Edith Bolling Galt Wilson are open to research. Researchers are advised to contact the Manuscript Reading Room prior to visiting. Many collections are stored off-site and advance notice is needed to retrieve these items for research use.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, Edith Bolling Galt Wilson Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of Edith Bolling Galt Wilson (1872-1961) span the years 1833-1961, with a few family letters from the years 1833-1850. There is little correspondence for the Woodrow Wilson presidential years; the bulk of the material originated after 1925. The collection is composed of family and general correspondence; copies of letters sent; correspondence and drafts of writings relating to Edith Wilson's autobiography, *My Memoir* (1938); diary notes; financial and legal records, including material relating to President Wilson's estate and to the publication rights in his writings; and memorabilia. The papers are organized into eleven series: [Diary Notes](#); [Family Correspondence](#); [General Correspondence and Related Papers](#); [Messages of Condolence](#); [Writings](#)

File; Legal File; Miscellany; Financial File; Printed Matter, Awards and Certificates; and Addition.

The collection reflects the social life of Mrs. Wilson as a president's widow. Correspondence containing biographical information on President and Mrs. Wilson, as well as important information on the provenance of the president's papers, is included. The published version of Edith Wilson's autobiography ends with the president's death in 1924, but drafts for the period of her life after 1924 are among the papers. There are files containing correspondence and other papers of organizations such as the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace Foundation, the Woodrow Wilson Foundation, and the Woodrow Wilson Papers. Also included is a small group of letters of condolence on her death.

Most of the correspondence is of a social nature from leaders in American political life and society. Important correspondents include Newton Diehl Baker, Ray Stannard Baker, Bernard M. Baruch, Charles Richard Crane, Josephus Daniels, Norman H. Davis, Cleveland H. Dodge, Cary T. Grayson, Charles S. Hamlin, Marquis James, Jesse H. Jones, William Gibbs McAdoo, Cyrus H. McCormick, Francis B. Sayre, Adlai E. Stevenson (1900-1965), Arthur Sweetser, and Henry White; letters of members of their families are included in some cases. Presidents or their wives represented are William H. Taft, Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, Herbert Hoover, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. Johnson (as senator).

Arrangement of the Papers

The collection is arranged in ten series:

- Diary Notes, 1907-1935
- Family Correspondence, 1833-1946
- General Correspondence and Related Papers, 1908-1961
- Messages of Condolence
- Writings File, 1929-1943
- Legal File, 1898-1944
- Miscellany, 1860-1961
- Financial File, 1906-1961
- Printed Matter, Awards, and Certificates
- Addition

Description of Series

<i>Container</i>	<i>Series</i>
BOX 1	<u>Diary Notes, 1907-1935</u> Sporadically kept notes. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1-3	<u>Family Correspondence, 1833-1946</u> Letters sent and received and copies of letters sent to members of Wilson's immediate family. Includes a few early family letters and miscellaneous drafts by Wilson. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 4-43	<u>General Correspondence and Related Papers, 1908-1961</u> General Correspondence including with distant relatives. Arranged alphabetically by name of correspondent or organization, with separate folders for important or frequent correspondents.
BOX 44	<u>Messages of Condolence</u> Largely letters and telegrams received on the death of Mrs. Wilson, with a few copies of telegrams sent. Unarranged.
BOX 45-55	<u>Writings File, 1929-1943</u> Holograph and typed drafts of Wilson's autobiography, <i>My Memoir</i> (Bobbs Merrill, 1938), with changes and emendations by her and her assistant, Marquis James. Also included are film scripts of a movie on the life of Woodrow Wilson written by Lamar Trotti. Related correspondence is included. Arranged by type of writing.
BOX 56	<u>Legal File, 1898-1944</u> Miscellaneous papers relating to Wilson's ownership of Galt & Co. and to the estate of Woodrow Wilson. Arranged by type of material or case.
BOX 57-61	<u>Miscellany, 1860-1961</u> A sampling of invitations, greeting and calling cards; genealogical material; lists of addresses and telephone numbers; poems; a sampling of White House form letters; other memorabilia, including a play, "The Schoolmaster" by Helga Sanburg, and <i>The Democratic Book</i> , 1936; and an edited copy of a diary kept at the White House by Ike Hoover during President Woodrow Wilson's administration. Arranged by type of material.
BOX 62-64	<u>Financial File, 1906-1961</u> Miscellaneous papers relating to personal financial matters, the Galt family business, and to financial arrangements with publishers. A sampling of household bills is included. Some material arranged alphabetically by name of financial institution, company, or type of material.

BOX 65-66

Printed Matter, Awards, and Certificates

Newspaper clippings, awards, and certificates.
Arranged by type of material.

BOX 66-71

Addition

Mainly family papers relating to Wilson's sister, Bertha Bolling, including correspondence and poems. Also financial papers, Galt estate material, political and personal memorabilia, and other miscellaneous items.
No arrangement.

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BOX 2	1916-1929
BOX 3	1930-1946, undated
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General Correspondence and Related Papers, 1908-1961

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General Correspondence and Related Papers, 1908-1961

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General Correspondence and Related Papers, 1908-1961

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BOX 66-71	Family papers relating to Wilson's sister, Bertha Bolling, including correspondence and poems; also financial papers, Galt estate material, political and personal memorabilia, and other miscellaneous items