

John Sharp Williams Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
1997

Contact information: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/mss.contact>

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm78045823>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms998021>

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Revised by Harry G. Heiss

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Collection Summary

Title: John Sharp Williams Papers

Span Dates: 1902-1924

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1914-1924)

ID No.: MSS45823

Creator: Williams, John Sharp, 1854-1932

Extent: 36,000 items

Extent: 120 containers

Extent: 91 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm78045823>

Summary: United States representative and senator, lawyer, and planter from Mississippi. Correspondence, biographical and genealogical material, newspaper clippings, printed material, and other papers documenting Williams's Congressional service. Pertains primarily to politics in Mississippi and the nation during the presidential administrations of Woodrow Wilson and Warren G. Harding.

Selected Search Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the LC Catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically.

People

Baker, Newton Diehl, 1871-1937--Correspondence.
Baruch, Bernard M. (Bernard Mannes), 1870-1965--Correspondence.
Borah, William Edgar, 1865-1940--Correspondence.
Butler, Nicholas Murray, 1862-1947--Correspondence.
Clayton, Henry De Lamar, 1857-1929--Correspondence.
Eliot, Charles William, 1834-1926--Correspondence.
Gorgas, William Crawford, 1854-1920--Correspondence.
Harding, Warren G. (Warren Gamaliel), 1865-1923.
Hoover, Herbert, 1874-1964--Correspondence.
Hughes, Charles Evans, 1862-1948--Correspondence.
Hull, Cordell, 1871-1955--Correspondence.
Jordan, David Starr, 1851-1931--Correspondence.
Lodge, Henry Cabot, 1850-1924--Correspondence.
McAdoo, W. G. (William Gibbs), 1863-1941--Correspondence.
Palmer, A. Mitchell (Alexander Mitchell), 1872-1936--Correspondence.
Peabody, George Foster, 1852-1938--Correspondence.
Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945--Correspondence.
Root, Elihu, 1845-1937--Correspondence.
Taft, William H. (William Howard), 1857-1930--Correspondence.
Underwood, Oscar Wilder, 1862-1929--Correspondence.
Williams family.
Williams, John Sharp, 1854-1932.
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924--Correspondence.
Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.
Wood, Leonard, 1860-1927--Correspondence.

Organizations

League of Nations.
United States. Federal Trade Commission.

Subjects

Armenian massacres, 1894-1896.
Armenian massacres, 1909.
Armenian massacres, 1915-1923.
Armenian question.
Currency question.
Debts, External.
Disarmament.
Home rule--Ireland.
Irish question.
Military readiness.
Patronage, Political.
Prohibition.
Self-determination, National.
Women--Suffrage.
World War, 1914-1918.

Places

Armenia--History.
Mississippi--Politics and government--1865-1950.
Puerto Rico--Politics and government--1898-1952.
United States--Foreign relations--20th century.
United States--Politics and government--1901-1953.
United States--Politics and government--1913-1921.
United States--Politics and government--1921-1923.

Occupations

Lawyers.
Plantation owners.
Representatives, U.S. Congress--Mississippi.
Senators, U.S. Congress--Mississippi.

Provenance

The papers of John Sharp Williams, lawyer, planter, congressman and senator from Mississippi, were given to the Library of Congress in 1936 by his son, John Sharp Williams, Jr., with an additional item given by Frank Roberson in 1941.

Processing History

The papers of John Sharp Williams were first arranged and described circa 1948. Additional material received was incorporated into the collection in 1963 and the register further revised in 1997.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of John Sharp Williams is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

Restrictions apply governing the use, photoduplication, or publication of items in this collection. Consult a reference librarian for information concerning these restrictions.

Preferred Citation

Researchers wishing to cite this collection should include the following information: Container number, John Sharp Williams Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Biographical Note

Date	Event
1854, July 30	Born, Memphis, Tenn.
1868-1870	Attended Kentucky Military Institute, Lyndon, Ky.
1870	Expelled from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tenn.
1870-1873	Attended University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Va.
1873-1876	Attended University of Heidelberg, Baden, Germany, and Dijon, France
1876	LL.B., University of Virginia Law School, Charlottesville, Va.
1877	Admitted to bar in Tennessee
1878	Moved to Yazoo City, Miss., to practice law
1892	Elected delegate, Democratic National Convention, Chicago, Ill.
1893-1909	Member, U.S. House of Representatives
1898	Published <i>Hawaiian: Against Annexation</i> (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office. 16 pp.)
1900	Published <i>Philippine Annexation Not Desirable</i> (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office. 15 pp.)
1903-1909	Democratic minority leader
1904	Elected temporary chairman, Democratic National Convention, St. Louis, Mo.
1911-1923	Member, U.S. Senate
1912	Elected delegate, Democratic National Convention, Baltimore, Md. Published <i>The Supply Bills</i> (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office. 16 pp.)
1913	Published <i>Thomas Jefferson: His Permanent Influence on American Institutions</i> (New York, N.Y.: Columbia University Press. 330 pp.)
1916	Published <i>Lincoln Birthplace Farm at Hodgenville, Kentucky</i> (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office. 8 pp.)
1932, Sept. 27	Died, "Cedar Grove" plantation, Yazoo City, Miss.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of John Sharp Williams (1854-1932) consist largely of correspondence and newspaper clippings for the years 1902-1924, with the bulk of the material dated after 1914. Family and business correspondence was not given to the Library. The collection is organized into four series: [Special Correspondence](#), [General Correspondence](#), [State Correspondence](#), and [Miscellany](#).

Williams served in the House of Representatives from 1893 to 1909 and in the Senate from 1911 to 1923, and the predominant subject of his papers is politics in Mississippi and the nation during the administrations of Woodrow Wilson and Warren G. Harding. Correspondence with the White House, senators, congressmen, government agency executives, and officials and nonresidents of Mississippi is primarily concerned with military preparedness, women's suffrage, the League of Nations, disarmament, the Irish question, self-determination of nations, the currency bill, prohibition, Federal Trade Commission, Puerto Rico, Armenia, war debts, and patronage. The papers include considerable correspondence with Woodrow Wilson, whom Williams greatly admired.

The [State Correspondence](#) series consists primarily of correspondence with residents of Mississippi concerning government employment, state politics, war risk insurance claims, government allotments, claims against the government, veteran's pensions and benefits, and appointments to the military service academies. Much of the constituent correspondence was written by or addressed to Williams's congressional office clerk, J. M. Burlew. In the [Miscellany](#) series are Armenian relief petitions, biographical and genealogical material, Haiti trade reports, and newspaper clippings and other printed matter.

Prominent among Williams's correspondents are Newton D. Baker, Bernard M. Baruch, William E. Borah, Nicholas Murray Butler, Henry De Lamar Clayton, Charles W. Eliot, William C. Gorgas, Herbert Hoover, Charles Evans Hughes, Cordell Hull, David Starr Jordan, Henry Cabot Lodge (1850-1924), William G. McAdoo, A. Mitchell Palmer, George Foster Peabody, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Elihu Root, William Howard Taft, Oscar W. Underwood, and Leonard Wood.

Organization of the Papers

The collection is arranged in four series:

- [Special Correspondence, 1908-1923](#)
- [General Correspondence, 1902-1924](#)
- [State Correspondence, 1911-1923](#)
- [Miscellany, 1904-1922](#)

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-3	<p><u>Special Correspondence, 1908-1923</u></p> <p>Primarily correspondence with Woodrow Wilson and Warren G. Harding. Arranged chronologically.</p>
BOX 3-61	<p><u>General Correspondence, 1902-1924</u></p> <p>Correspondence with government officials and nonresidents of Mississippi. Also included are topical files. Arranged chronologically, with undated material filed at the end of each year or at the end of the series.</p>
BOX 62-118	<p><u>State Correspondence, 1911-1923</u></p> <p>Constituent correspondence with residents of Mississippi. Arranged chronologically and alphabetically therein. Also included is topical correspondence, some of which is arranged alphabetically by subject at the end of the series.</p>
BOX 119-120	<p><u>Miscellany, 1904-1922</u></p> <p>Biographical and genealogical material, correspondence, newspaper clippings, petitions, reports, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-3	Special Correspondence, 1908-1923 Primarily correspondence with Woodrow Wilson and Warren G. Harding. Arranged chronologically.
BOX 1	1908-1916 (20 folders)
BOX 2	1917-1919 (15 folders)
BOX 3	1920-1923, undated (5 folders)
BOX 3-61	General Correspondence, 1902-1924 Correspondence with government officials and nonresidents of Mississippi. Also included are topical files. Arranged chronologically, with undated material filed at the end of each year or at the end of the series.
BOX 3	1 July 1902-31 Jan. 1914 (9 folders)
BOX 4	1 Feb.-19 Mar. 1914 (9 folders)
BOX 5	20 Mar.-30 Apr. 1914 (10 folders)
BOX 6	1 May-6 June 1914 (7 folders)
BOX 7	7 June-31 July 1914 (8 folders)
BOX 8	1 Aug.-30 Sept. 1914 (11 folders)
BOX 9	1 Oct.-31 Dec. 1914 (11 folders)
BOX 10	1 Jan.-31 May 1915 (11 folders)
BOX 11	1 June-31 Aug. 1915 (10 folders)
BOX 12	1 Sept.-30 Nov. 1915 (8 folders)
BOX 13	1 Dec. 1915-15 Jan. 1916 (8 folders)
BOX 14	16-31 Jan. 1916 (8 folders)
BOX 15	1 Feb.-10 Mar. 1916 (9 folders)

General Correspondence, 1902-1924

Container	Contents
BOX 16	11 Mar.-30 Apr. 1916 (9 folders)
BOX 17	1 May-30 June 1916 (9 folders)
BOX 18	1 July-5 Aug. 1916 (8 folders)
BOX 19	6 Aug.-10 Sept. 1916 (8 folders)
BOX 20	11 Sept.-30 Nov. 1916 (10 folders)
BOX 21	1 Dec. 1916-19 Jan. 1917 (8 folders)
BOX 22	20 Jan.-16 Feb. 1917 (7 folders)
BOX 23	17 Feb.-31 Mar. 1917 (7 folders)
BOX 24	1-18 Apr. 1917 (7 folders)
BOX 25	19 Apr.-5 May 1917 (8 folders)
BOX 26	6-24 May 1917 (7 folders)
BOX 27	25 May-23 June 1917 (7 folders)
BOX 28	24 June-20 July 1917 (9 folders)
BOX 29	21 July-14 Aug. 1917 (8 folders)
BOX 30	15 Aug.-12 Sept. 1917 (7 folders)
BOX 31	13 Sept.-16 Oct. 1917 (9 folders)
BOX 32	17 Oct.-17 Dec. 1917 (10 folders)
BOX 33	18 Dec. 1917-31 Jan. 1918 (9 folders)
BOX 34	1-28 Feb. 1918 (8 folders)
BOX 35	1-24 Mar. 1918 (7 folders)
BOX 36	25 Mar.-20 Apr. 1918 (9 folders)
BOX 37	21 Apr.-16 May 1918 (8 folders)
BOX 38	17 May-20 June 1918 (6 folders)
BOX 39	21 June-31 July 1918 (8 folders)

General Correspondence, 1902-1924

Container	Contents
BOX 40	1 Aug.-30 Sept. 1918 (7 folders)
BOX 41	1 Oct.-15 Nov. 1918 (7 folders) 23-25 Oct. 1918, osteopath bill
BOX 42	16 Nov.-31 Dec. 1918 (7 folders)
BOX 43	1 Jan.-7 Feb. 1919 (8 folders) 3-8 Feb. 1919, suffrage amendment
BOX 44	8 Feb.-31 Mar. 1919 (6 folders)
BOX 45	1 Apr.-11 June 1919 (7 folders)
BOX 46	12 June-31 July 1919 (9 folders)
BOX 47	1 Aug.-25 Sept. 1919 (9 folders)
BOX 48	26 Sept.-31 Oct. 1919 (8 folders)
BOX 49	1 Nov.-31 Dec. 1919 (9 folders)
BOX 50	1 Jan.-19 Feb. 1920 (9 folders)
BOX 51	20 Feb.-31 Mar. 1920 (5 folders) 26 Mar.-1 Apr. 1920, Mississippi legislature speech 1-30 Apr. 1920 (4 folders)
BOX 52	29 Apr.-2 Aug. 1920, Federal Aid Act 1 May-31 Sept. 1920 (7 folders)
BOX 53	1 Oct.1920-31 Jan. 1921 (10 folders)
BOX 54	1 Feb.-30 Apr. 1921 (9 folders)
BOX 55	1 May-26 July 1921 (9 folders)
BOX 56	27 July-15 Nov. 1921 (8 folders)
BOX 57	16 Nov. 1921-8 Feb. 1922 (8 folders)
BOX 58	9 Feb.-15 Apr. 1922 (8 folders)
BOX 59	16 Apr.-30 June 1922 (8 folders)
BOX 60	1 July-30 Dec. 1922 (8 folders)

General Correspondence, 1902-1924

Container	Contents
BOX 61	1 Jan.-17 Feb. 1923 (4 folders) 19 Feb.-8 Mar. 1924 Undated (3 folders)
BOX 62-118	State Correspondence, 1911-1923 Constituent correspondence with residents of Mississippi. Arranged chronologically and alphabetically therein. Also included is topical correspondence, some of which is arranged alphabetically by subject at the end of the series.
BOX 62	1911-1913, "B-S" miscellaneous 1914 "A-D" miscellaneous (9 folders)
BOX 63	"E-I" miscellaneous (8 folders)
BOX 64	"J-M" miscellaneous (10 folders)
BOX 65	"N-S" miscellaneous (9 folders) Supreme Court recommendations
BOX 66	"T-Y" miscellaneous (8 folders)
BOX 67	Endorsements U.S. Attorney, Southern District (5 folders) Ellisville, Miss., post office Mississippi judgeships
BOX 68	1915 "A-H" miscellaneous (10 folders)
BOX 69	"I-S" miscellaneous (16 folders)
BOX 70	"T-Y" miscellaneous (4 folders) 1916 "A-B" miscellaneous (8 folders)
BOX 71	"B-D" miscellaneous (9 folders) Drug inspector applicants
BOX 72	"E-G" miscellaneous (10 folders)
BOX 73	"H-K" miscellaneous (14 folders)
BOX 74	"L" miscellaneous (3 folders)

State Correspondence, 1911-1923

Container	Contents
	Land office vacancy
	"M" miscellaneous (6 folders)
BOX 75	"M-R" miscellaneous (12 folders)
BOX 76	"S-T" miscellaneous (9 folders)
BOX 77	"U-Z" miscellaneous (9 folders)
BOX 78	1917 "A-B" miscellaneous (11 folders)
BOX 79	"B-C" miscellaneous (10 folders)
BOX 80	"C-D" miscellaneous (10 folders)
BOX 81	"E-G" miscellaneous (10 folders)
BOX 82	"G-H" miscellaneous (10 folders)
BOX 83	"H-K" miscellaneous (10 folders)
BOX 84	"L-M" miscellaneous (10 folders)
BOX 85	"M-N" miscellaneous (10 folders)
BOX 86	"O-R" miscellaneous (11 folders)
BOX 87	"R-S" miscellaneous (9 folders)
BOX 88	"S-V" miscellaneous (10 folders)
BOX 89	"W-Z" miscellaneous (12 folders)
BOX 90	1918 "A-B" miscellaneous (9 folders)
BOX 91	"B" miscellaneous Burlew, J. M. (2 folders) "C" miscellaneous (7 folders) Census director applicants Cotton prices
BOX 92	"D-F" miscellaneous (8 folders)
BOX 93	"G-H" miscellaneous (10 folders)

State Correspondence, 1911-1923

Container	Contents
BOX 94	"I" miscellaneous (2 folders) Internal revenue collectors "J" miscellaneous (2 folders) Judge advocate general "K-L" miscellaneous (7 folders)
BOX 95	"M" miscellaneous (9 folders)
BOX 96	Mississippi judgeships "N-Q" miscellaneous (12 folders)
BOX 97	"R-S" miscellaneous (10 folders)
BOX 98	"S-V" miscellaneous (10 folders) U.S. marshals
BOX 99	"W-Z" miscellaneous (10 folders) Yazoo City, Miss., post office
BOX 100	1919 "A-B" miscellaneous (7 folders)
BOX 101	"B-D" miscellaneous (8 folders)
BOX 102	"E-H" miscellaneous (9 folders)
BOX 103	"I-O" miscellaneous (11 folders)
BOX 104	Prohibition Commission "P-R" miscellaneous (7 folders)
BOX 105	"S-T" miscellaneous (8 folders)
BOX 106	"U-Z" miscellaneous (10 folders)
BOX 107	1920 "A" miscellaneous (2 folders) Burlew, J. M. (2 folders) "B-E" miscellaneous (9 folders)
BOX 108	"F-M" miscellaneous (15 folders)
BOX 109	"M-S" miscellaneous (15 folders)

State Correspondence, 1911-1923

Container	Contents
BOX 110	"T-Z" miscellaneous (7 folders) 1921 "A-B" miscellaneous (5 folders)
BOX 111	"C-H" miscellaneous (13 folders)
BOX 112	"I-O" miscellaneous (16 folders)
BOX 113	"P-Z" miscellaneous (17 folders)
BOX 114	1922 "A-B" miscellaneous (4 folders) Burlew, J. M. "C-H" miscellaneous (8 folders)
BOX 115	"H-M" miscellaneous (9 folders) Mississippi flood aid "N-R" miscellaneous (5 folders)
BOX 116	"S" miscellaneous (3 folders) Soldiers' bonus "T-Z" miscellaneous (4 folders) 1923 "A-Z" miscellaneous Undated Allotments, 1919-1920 Claims, 1918-1919 (2 folders)
BOX 117	Pensions, 1918-1922 (5 folders) Veterans Bureau, 1921-1922 (6 folders)
BOX 118	War risk insurance, 1918-1920 (12 folders)
BOX 119-120	Miscellany, 1904-1922 Biographical and genealogical material, correspondence, newspaper clippings, petitions, reports, and printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by topic or type of material.
BOX 119	Applicants, military academies, 1916-1922 (7 folders)

Miscellany, 1904-1922

Container	Contents
	Armenian petitions, 1919-1920 (2 folders)
	Biographical and genealogical material, undated
	Haiti trade reports, 1918
	Newspaper clippings, 1904-1921, undated (3 folders)
BOX 120	(5 folders)
	Miscellany, undated