

James Whitcomb Riley Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2000

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79083909>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms000005>

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Revised 2010 March

Collection Summary

Title: James Whitcomb Riley Papers

Span Dates: 1883-1915

ID No.: MSS83909

Creator: Riley, James Whitcomb, 1849-1916

Extent: 39 items

Extent: 1 container

Extent: 0.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm79083909>

Summary: Author and poet, of Indianapolis, Indiana; sometimes known as the "Hoosier Poet." Correspondence and manuscript and typescript poems. Includes a drawing by Riley of his friend, Bill Nye.

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

Edgar, William C. (William Crowell), 1856-1932--Correspondence.

Farrell, C. E.--Correspondence.

Kiser, Samuel E. (Samuel Ellsworth), 1862-1942--Correspondence.

Laughlin, Clara E. (Clara Elizabeth), 1873-1941--Correspondence.

Matthews, James Newton, 1852-1910--Correspondence.

McNutt, Cyrus F.--Correspondence.

Miller, Dewitt, 1857-1911--Correspondence.

Nye, Bill, 1850-1896.

Pond, James B. (James Burton), 1838-1903--Correspondence.

Ridpath, John Clark, 1840-1900--Correspondence.

Riley, James Whitcomb, 1849-1916.

Untermeyer, Louis, 1885-1977--Correspondence.

Ware, Eugene Fitch, 1841-1911--Correspondence.

Subjects

American poetry.

Occupations

Authors.

Poets.

Provenance

The papers of James Whitcomb Riley, author and poet, were given to the Library of Congress by Nelson R. Burr in 1957. Additional material was purchased by the Library in 1996 and 1998.

Processing History

The papers of James Whitcomb Riley were arranged and described in 1997. Additional material received in 1998 was incorporated into the collection in 2000.

Copyright Status

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of James Whitcomb Riley is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).

Access and Restrictions

The papers of James Whitcomb Riley 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, James Whitcomb Riley Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Whitcomb Riley (1849-1916) span the years 1883-1915 and include correspondence, poems, and a drawing. Riley was born in Greenfield, Indiana, and is known as the "Hoosier poet." He was on the staff of the *Indianapolis Journal*, 1877-1885, and his contributions to that newspaper established his fame as a poet.

The papers include letters from Riley to William C. Edgar, C. E. Farrell, Samuel E. Kiser, Clara E. Laughlin, James Newton Matthews, Cyrus F. McNutt, DeWitt Miller, James B. Pond, John Clark Ridpath, George Smith, Louis Untermeyer, Eugene Fitch Ware, and others. The papers also include a drawing by Riley of his friend, Bill Nye.

Manuscript poems in the collection include "To Robert Burns Wilson," "The Poems Here at Home," "Say Farewell and Let Me Go!," "At 'The Literary,'" "A Pen-Pictur' of a Certin Frivvelus Old Man," and an untitled verse written for a Mr. Washington. Typescript poems include "The Name of Old Glory," "The Lisper," "The Young Old Man," and "At 'The Literary.'"

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged alphabetically by type of material.

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1883-1909, 1915 (2 folders) Drawing, undated Poems, 1885-1888, undated (3 folders)