

Wilson-McAdoo Families Papers
A Finding Aid to the Collection in the Library of Congress



Manuscript Division, Library of Congress
Washington, D.C.
2008

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

Catalog Record: <https://lcn.loc.gov/mm83061481>

Additional search options available at: <https://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008064>

Prepared by Connie L. Cartledge

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Collection Summary

Title: Wilson-McAdoo Families Papers

Span Dates: 1860-1966

Bulk Dates: (bulk 1912-1943)

ID No.: MSS61481

Creator: Wilson Family

Creator: McAdoo Family

Extent: 1,093 items

Extent: 8 containers

Extent: 3 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

LC Catalog record: <https://lccn.loc.gov/mm83061481>

Summary: Correspondence, writings, speeches, statements, biographical material, financial papers, clippings, photographs, and other papers primarily of Eleanor Wilson McAdoo and Margaret Woodrow Wilson, documenting the activities of the McAdoo and Wilson families.

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

Ghose, Aurobindo, 1872-1950.

McAdoo family.

McAdoo, Eleanor Wilson, 1889-1967. Eleanor Wilson McAdoo papers. 1911-1950.

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

Sayre family.

Sayre, Francis Bowes, 1885-1972.

Sayre, Jessie Woodrow Wilson, 1887-1933.

Wilson family.

Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt, 1872-1961.

Wilson, Ellen Axson.

Wilson, Margaret Woodrow, 1886-1944. Margaret Woodrow Wilson papers. 1912-1943.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.

Organizations

United States. Department of the Treasury. Office of the Secretary.

United States. Director General of the Railroads.

Subjects

Community centers.

Mysticism--Hinduism.

Mysticism--India.

Practice of law--California--Los Angeles.

Railroads and state--United States.

School facilities--Extended use.

Singing.

Places

Pondicherry (India)--Religion.

United States--Economic policy--20th century.

United States--Politics and government--1901-1953.

Provenance

The papers of the Wilson-McAdoo families consist of the papers of Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo, Margaret Woodrow Wilson, and other members of the Wilson and McAdoo families. The papers were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1983.

Processing History

The collection was arranged and described in 1990. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

Access and Restrictions

The papers of the Wilson-McAdoo families 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.

Copyright Status

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

Preferred Citation

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

Biographical Note

Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo

Date	Event
1889, Oct. 16	Born, Middletown, Conn.
1914	Married William Gibbs McAdoo (divorced 1934)
1937	Published, <i>The Woodrow Wilsons</i> . New York: Macmillan Co.
1946	Published, <i>Julia and the White House</i> . New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.
1962	Published, <i>The Priceless Gift: The Love Letters of Woodrow Wilson and Ellen Axson Wilson</i> . New York: McGraw-Hill
1967, Apr. 6	Died, Santa Barbara, Calif.

Margaret Woodrow Wilson

Date	Event
1886, Apr. 16	Born, Gainesville, Ga.
1903-1905	Student, Goucher College, Baltimore, Md.
1905-1906	Studied voice and piano, Peabody Conservatory of Music, Baltimore, Md.
1915	Professional debut, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Central New York Music Festival, Syracuse, N.Y.
1917	Concert tour for American Red Cross, midwestern and southern United States
1918-1919	Sang in Allied army camps in France, Belgium, and England
1928	Entered advertising business

1930	Consultant and writer, Blow Agency, New York, N.Y.
1938	Moved to Pondicherry, India, to follow the teachings of Sri Aurobindo, a Hindu mystic
1944, Feb. 14	Died, Pondicherry, India

Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Wilson-McAdoo families span the years 1860-1966 with the majority of the papers concentrated from 1912 through 1943. The bulk of the papers are those of Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo and Margaret Woodrow Wilson, the daughters of President Woodrow Wilson. Additional family members represented in this collection include William Gibbs McAdoo, Jessie Wilson Sayre, and Ellen Axson Wilson. The collection is divided into three series: [Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo Papers](#), [Margaret Woodrow Wilson Papers](#), and [Other Family Papers](#).

The papers of [Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo](#), 1911-1950, are divided into three groups: family correspondence, general correspondence, and miscellany. Family correspondence, 1911-1939, contains primarily letters of family members to Eleanor McAdoo concerning family matters, local news, and occasionally national politics. The majority of the correspondence is from McAdoo's husband, William Gibbs McAdoo. His letters pertain chiefly to his work as Woodrow Wilson's secretary of treasury and director general of railroads and his legal practice in Los Angeles, California, from 1920 through 1932. William McAdoo's early correspondence contains love letters to Eleanor prior to their marriage in 1914. Also included are letters from Eleanor McAdoo's sister, Margaret Woodrow Wilson, most of which document Wilson's life in Pondicherry, India. The general correspondence, 1913-1950, contains letters to Eleanor McAdoo from friends, acquaintances, and the general public concerning primarily her articles and books about the Wilson family. Miscellany files, 1914-1937, include financial papers, certificates, and other printed matter documenting McAdoo's personal activities. One item worthy of note is Ellen Wilson McAdoo's baptism certificate, which contains her grandfather's (Woodrow Wilson's) signature as one of her sponsors.

The [Margaret Woodrow Wilson Papers](#), 1912-1943, are also divided into three groups: family correspondence, general correspondence, and miscellany. The family correspondence, 1912-1943, consists mainly of letters to Margaret Wilson from various family members concerning family and local news. The majority of the correspondence is from her sisters, Eleanor McAdoo and Jessie Wilson Sayre. McAdoo's early letters focus on her husband and children and occasionally national politics. Correspondence after 1936 relates to McAdoo's writings about the Wilson family. Several letters written in 1943 concern a movie about Woodrow Wilson's life. Jessie Sayre's letters pertain primarily to her husband, Francis B. Sayre, and their children but occasionally contain news about Woodrow Wilson and his second wife, Edith Galt Wilson. Also included in this series are a number of letters from Margaret Wilson to Jessie Sayre.

The other two groupings in the [Margaret Wilson Papers](#) are general correspondence and miscellany. The general correspondence, 1912-1943, consists mostly of letters to Margaret Wilson from friends, acquaintances, and the general public. The majority of the early correspondence relates to Wilson's brief singing career and her interest in promoting American schools as community centers. Correspondence after 1937 pertains primarily to her life in Pondicherry, India, as a follower of the Hindu mystic, Sri Aurobindo Ghose, and her efforts to get Aurobindo's writings published. The miscellany files, 1917-1943, include Wilson's writings, financial papers, certificates, and other material documenting her activities and interests.

The final series in this collection is [Other Family Papers](#), 1860-1966, and is divided into two subgroups: general correspondence and miscellany. The most prominent correspondents in the general correspondence, 1860-1966, are William Gibbs McAdoo, Jessie Wilson Sayre, and Ellen Axson Wilson. Other correspondence in this series includes incoming and outgoing correspondence between family members and their friends. Topics focus mainly on their daily activities, family matters, and local news. The Miscellany, 1912-1935, includes unidentified speeches, statements, and writings; financial papers; photographs; and other papers pertaining to the Wilson-McAdoo families.

Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo Papers, 1911-1950](#)
- [Margaret Woodrow Wilson Papers, 1912-1943](#)

- Other Family Papers, 1860-1966

Description of Series

Container	Series
BOX 1-4	<p><u>Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo Papers, 1911-1950</u></p> <p>Family correspondence, primarily to Eleanor McAdoo, general correspondence, financial receipts and statements, certificates, calling cards, and other printed matter.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>
BOX 4-7	<p><u>Margaret Woodrow Wilson Papers, 1912-1943</u></p> <p>Family correspondence, primarily to Margaret Wilson, general correspondence, writings, financial papers, biographical material, maps, programs, certificates, and other printed matter pertaining to Wilson's activities and interests.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>
BOX 7-8	<p><u>Other Family Papers, 1860-1966</u></p> <p>General correspondence, sent and received by the Wilson-McAdoo families, speeches, statements, writings, financial papers, photographs, programs, invitations, clippings, and other printed matter.</p> <p>Arranged alphabetically by type of material.</p>

Container List

Container	Contents
BOX 1-4	Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo Papers, 1911-1950 Family correspondence, primarily to Eleanor McAdoo, general correspondence, financial receipts and statements, certificates, calling cards, and other printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 1	Family correspondence
BOX 1	Axson, Stockton (uncle), 1929
BOX 1	Bones, Helen W. (cousin), 1922-1937, undated (2 folders)
BOX 1	Howe, Ellen Wilson (cousin), 1936
BOX 1	Hoyt, Florence S. (cousin), 1924
BOX 1	King, Benjamin (cousin), 1935
BOX 1	King, Marjorie Brown (cousin), 1933-1936
BOX 1	McAdoo, Molly (daughter-in-law), 1935
BOX 1	McAdoo, William Gibbs (husband) 1913-1927 (8 folders)
BOX 2	1928-1937, undated (9 folders)
BOX 2	Sayre, Francis B., Sr. (brother-in-law), 1932-1934
BOX 2	Sayre, Francis B., Jr. (nephew), undated
BOX 2	Sayre, Jessie Wilson (sister), 1925-1932, undated
BOX 2	Smith, Mary R. (cousin), 1934-1935
BOX 2	Wilson, Margaret Woodrow (sister) 1911, 1922-1933 (2 folders)
BOX 3	1934-1939, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	General correspondence
BOX 3	"A-R" miscellany, 1913-1937, undated (13 folders)
BOX 3	Smith, Lucy M., 1925, 1932, 1938
BOX 3	"S-W" miscellany, 1917-1950, undated (2 folders)
BOX 3	Unidentified, 1937, undated
BOX 3	Miscellany
BOX 3	Calling cards, undated
BOX 3	Financial receipts and statements, 1927-1937
BOX 3	Marriage
BOX 3	Announcement, 1914
BOX 3	Certificate, 1914
BOX 4	McAdoo, Ellen Wilson

Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo Papers, 1911-1950

Container

Contents

BOX 4	Baby book, 1915
BOX 4	Baptism certificate, 1915
BOX 4	Pharmacy prescription, undated
BOX 4-7	Margaret Woodrow Wilson Papers, 1912-1943 Family correspondence, primarily to Margaret Wilson, general correspondence, writings, financial papers, biographical material, maps, programs, certificates, and other printed matter pertaining to Wilson's activities and interests. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 4	Family correspondence
BOX 4	Axson, Stockton (uncle), 1929, undated
BOX 4	Bones, Helen W. (cousin), 1924-1942, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	Brown, Mary C. "Meemee" (cousin), 1922-1923, undated
BOX 4	King, Benjamin (cousin), undated
BOX 4	King, Marjorie Brown (cousin), 1925-1939, undated (2 folders)
BOX 4	McAdoo, Eleanor Randolph Wilson (sister), 1922-1943, undated (3 folders)
BOX 4	McAdoo, Mary Faith (niece), 1934-1937, undated
BOX 4	McAdoo, William G. (brother-in-law), 1930-1931
BOX 4	Sayre, Ellen Axson (niece), undated
BOX 4	Sayre, Francis B., Jr. (nephew), 1928, 1941-1942
BOX 4	Sayre, Francis B., Sr. (brother-in-law), 1937
BOX 4	Sayre, Jessie Wilson (sister) 1912-1925
BOX 5	1926-1932, undated (3 folders)
BOX 5	Sayre, Woodrow Wilson (nephew), 1928, undated
BOX 5	Smith, Mary R. (cousin), 1928, undated
BOX 5	Wilson, Ellen Axson (mother), undated
BOX 5	Wilson, Josephine (cousin), 1924-1943
BOX 5	General correspondence
BOX 5	"A" miscellany, 1921-1942, undated
BOX 5	Bateman, Lady Marian, 1940-1943
BOX 5	Biow, Miller H. and Sophie, 1924-1925
BOX 5	Bose, A. E., 1938-1942
BOX 5	"B" miscellany, 1925-1943
BOX 5	Clark, Eliot, 1937-1939, undated
BOX 5	Clark, Percival L., 1926, 1939-1940
BOX 5	Cooper, David B. (Ely), 1926-1928, 1939
BOX 5	"C" miscellany, 1919, 1925-1940, undated
BOX 5	Davis, Charles Hall, 1925, undated
BOX 5	"D-E" miscellany, 1920-1943 (2 folders)
BOX 6	Fisher, Boyd, 1924-1942, undated

Margaret Woodrow Wilson Papers, 1912-1943

Container

Contents

BOX 6	"F-J" miscellany, 1927-1943 (3 folders)
BOX 6	Kellogg, Lois, 1938-1942, undated
BOX 6	Kellogg, Spencer, Jr., 1941, undated
BOX 6	Kohl, Edwin and Flora, 1933-1943
BOX 6	"K-L" miscellany, 1917-1942
BOX 6	MacLeod, Gwen, 1924, undated
BOX 6	MacLeod, Josephine (Tantine), 1939-1942
BOX 6	"M" miscellany, 1936-1943, undated
BOX 6	Nikhilananda, Swami, 1937-1943
BOX 6	"N-O" miscellany, 1929, 1937-1943
BOX 6	Pickett, L. C. (Mother Pickett), 1921-1925, undated
BOX 6	Plautiff, Ellen, 1937-1942, undated
BOX 6	Pritchett, E. Esther, 1924, 1930
BOX 6	Pritchett, Thomas J., 1924-1931, undated (3 folders)
BOX 6	Roberts, Elta C., 1941-1943
BOX 6	"R" miscellany, 1937-1942, undated
BOX 6	Sen, Boshi and Gertrude, 1937-1943
BOX 4	Smadbeck, Warren, 1937-1943
BOX 7	Stephens, Frederick L., 1923
BOX 7	"S-V" miscellany, 1920-1943, undated (2 folders)
BOX 7	Wyckoff, Constance, 1942-43, undated
BOX 7	"W-Y" miscellany, 1912-1919, 1938-1942, undated (2 folders)
BOX 7	Unidentified, 1913-1943, undated (3 folders)
BOX 7	Miscellany
BOX 7	Biographical file, undated
BOX 7	Financial receipts and statements, 1920-1943
BOX 7	Maps, 1918-1919
BOX 7	Writings by Margaret Woodrow Wilson, 1922, undated
BOX 7	Writings by others, 1943, undated
BOX 7	Miscellany, 1917-1919, undated
BOX 7-8	Other Family Papers, 1860-1966 General correspondence, sent and received by the Wilson-McAdoo families, speeches, statements, writings, financial papers, photographs, programs, invitations, clippings, and other printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 7	General correspondence
BOX 7	Alphabetical
BOX 7	McAdoo, William Gibbs, 1913-1937, undated (2 folders)
BOX 7	Sayre, Jessie Wilson, 1923-1931, undated

Other Family Papers, 1860-1966

Container	Contents
BOX 7	Wilson, Ellen Axson, 1897, 1912, 1933
BOX 7	Chronological
BOX 7	1860-1866, undated (4 folders)
BOX 8	Fragments, undated
BOX 8	Miscellany
BOX 8	Calling cards, undated
BOX 8	Clippings, 1933-1934, undated
BOX 8	Democratic National Convention program, 1912
BOX 8	Financial receipts and statements, 1927-1935
BOX 8	Photographs, 1924, undated
BOX 8	Presidential
BOX 8	Dinner, seating plan, 1919
BOX 8	Inauguration, invitations and program, 1913
BOX 8	Speeches, statements, and writings, 1918, undated
BOX 8	Miscellany, 1924, undated