

# Guide to the Kent A. Leslie Collection on Robert Bradford Williams

MS 2098



compiled by Robert Bartels

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Manuscripts and Archives  
Yale University Library  
P.O. Box 208240  
New Haven, CT 06520-8240  
(203) 432-1735  
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<http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/>

**CALL NUMBER:** MS 2098

**TITLE:** Kent A. Leslie Collection on Robert Bradford Williams

**DATES:** 1996–2009

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.25 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** The collection documents the life and career of Robert Bradford Williams, African American lawyer and graduate of Yale College, 1885, who settled in New Zealand.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2098>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Manuscripts and Archives reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.2098>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to [http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr\\_copy\\_order.html](http://www.library.yale.edu/mssa/ifr_copy_order.html). The information you will need to submit an order includes: the collection call number, collection title, series or accession number, box number, and folder number or name.

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b. box  
f. folder

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Gift of Kent A. Leslie, 2019.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

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## Preferred Citation

Kent A. Leslie Collection on Robert Bradford Williams (MS 2098). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

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## Biographical / Historical

Robert Bradford Williams was born on June 24, 1860 in Augusta, Georgia. He attended school at the Williston Academy in Massachusetts, and later attend Yale University, where he graduated in 1885. After he graduated from Yale Williams joined the Fisk Jubilee Singers, the choir of Fisk University, and embarked on a world tour with the singers. He married Katherine Josephine Burke while in Australia; in 1890 the two settled in Wellington, New Zealand. In New Zealand, Williams became a lawyer, forming a partnership with Vincent Meredith and founding the law firm Meredith Connell. Williams also entered politics and in 1902 became the mayor of the Wellington borough of Onslow, serving for five years. Williams died on May 28, 1942 in Otaki Beach, New Zealand.

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## Content Description

The collection documents the life and career of Robert Bradford Williams, African American lawyer and graduate of Yale College, 1885, who settled in New Zealand. Materials include a copy and transcription of Williams' diary from his trip to Australia and New Zealand in 1887; published articles about Williams; and correspondence between the donor, Kent A. Leslie and Williams' granddaughter, Jane Paul.

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## Arrangement

The collection is arranged in three groupings: Robert Bradford Williams 1887 diary, Jane Paul files, and Kent A. Leslie files.

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## Collection Contents

Williams, Robert Bradford, 1887 diary		
b. 1, f. 1	Photocopy of diary	2008
b. 1, f. 2	Paul, Jane, transcription of diary	2008
b. 1, f. 3	Paul, Jane, notes on interesting excerpts	2008
b. 1, f. 4	Paul, Jane, files on Robert Bradford Williams	2002
Leslie, Kent A.		
b. 1, f. 5	Correspondence with Jane Paul	2008
b. 1, f. 6-8	Files on Robert Bradford Williams	1996–2009

## **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.

### **Geographic Names**

New Zealand -- Politics and government

### **Subjects**

African American lawyers

African American mayors

### **Acquired From**

Leslie, Kent Anderson , donor