

Guide to the William Wallace Irwin Papers

WA MSS S-4453



Sarah Lerner

August 2021

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-4453

CREATOR: Irwin, William Wallace, 1881-

TITLE: William Wallace Irwin papers

DATES: 1899-1959

BULK DATES: 1902-1918

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 1.42 linear feet (2 boxes)

LANGUAGE: English (Latin script); French (Latin script)

SUMMARY: Correspondence, papers, and photographs by or relating to William Wallace Irwin, 1899-1959. Documented--primarily through letters addressed to Ellen Dripps Irwin--are William Irwin's brief time as an assayer in Sultan, Washington; subsequent efforts operating a cattle ranch (identified as JM Ranch) near Bear, Idaho, with F. A. Moore; ownership of a drugstore in Weiser, Idaho; work as a cost engineer in Grace, Idaho; and life in France. Photographs are primarily of Idaho. Included is correspondence relating to Andrée d'Estrées Irwin.

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

Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.wwirwin>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to beinecke.images@yale.edu.

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

b. box
f. folder

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Michael Vinson on the Winlock William Miller, Jr. Memorial Fund, 2018.

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

The William Wallace Irwin Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

Preferred Citation

William Wallace Irwin Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

These materials have been arranged and described according to national and local standards. For more information, please refer to the Beinecke Manuscript Unit Processing Manual.

Biographical / Historical

William Wallace Irwin (1881-1973) of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, was the son of James Irwin and Ellen Dripps Irwin (1844-1930).

Irwin studied chemistry and mineralogy at the University of Pennsylvania before moving to Sultan, Washington, in 1902 to work as an assayer. In 1902 November, he purchased a cattle ranch near Bear, Idaho, with business partner F. A. Moore. In 1905, he purchased a drugstore in Weiser, Idaho. He began work as a cost engineer in Grace, Idaho, for the Phoenix Construction Company in 1913.

In 1918, Irwin was living in France and working for the American University Union at Paris. He also worked for the Farmers' Loan & Trust Co. and American Chamber of Commerce. In 1927, he published *On the slope of Montmartre with seventeen illustrations in duotone by Marcel Poncin* (New York: Frederick A. Stokes Company, 1927). He remained in the country until his death.

He was married to Andrée d'Estrées Irwin, with whom he had a son, William Wallace Irwin-d'Estrées.

Scope and Contents

Correspondence, papers, and photographs by or relating to William Wallace Irwin, 1899-1959. Documented--primarily through letters addressed to Ellen Dripps Irwin--are William Irwin's brief time as an assayer in Sultan, Washington; subsequent efforts operating a cattle ranch (identified as JM Ranch) near Bear, Idaho, with F. A. Moore; ownership of a drugstore in Weiser, Idaho; work as a cost engineer in Grace, Idaho; and life in France. Photographs are primarily of Idaho.

Included is correspondence relating to Andrée d'Estrées Irwin.

Arrangement

Arranged into three series: I. Correspondence, 1902-1959. II. Papers, 1903-1956. III. Photographs, 1899-1913.

Collection Contents

Series I: Correspondence, 1902-1959

Series I contains circa 310 letters by or to William Wallace Irwin and wife Andrée d'Estrées Irwin.

Circa 200 letters sent from William Irwin to mother Ellen Dripps Irwin document his brief time as an assayer in Sultan, Washington; subsequent efforts operating a cattle ranch--identified as JM Ranch--near Bear, Idaho, with business partner F. A. Moore; work as a cost engineer in Grace, Idaho, with the Phoenix Construction Company; and time in France with the American University Union at Paris.

Approximately 136 letters sent from William Irwin to Ellen Irwin between 1902 July and 1906 March are accompanied by typescript transcriptions prepared by dealer.

45 letters are addressed to Andrée d'Estrées Irwin--15 of these concern her writing submissions to an astrology magazine.

Series I is arranged alphabetically by sender.

b. 1, f. 1	Beebe, William to William Wallace Irwin (photocopies)	1913
b. 1, f. 2	Irwin, Andrée d'Estrées to William Wallace Irwin	1918-1919
b. 1, f. 3	Irwin, Ellen Dripps to Andrée d'Estrées Irwin and family	1928-1930
b. 1, f. 4	Irwin, Ellen Dripps to William Wallace Irwin	1918?
b. 1, f. 5-26	Irwin, William Wallace to Ellen Dripps Irwin	1902-1918
b. 1, f. 27	Irwin, William Wallace to others	1910-1915
b. 1, f. 28	Jordan, Ruth to Andrée d'Estrées Irwin	1955-1957
b. 1, f. 29	Lockwood, Priscilla to William Wallace Irwin	1916-1918
b. 1, f. 30	Moore, F. A. to William Wallace Irwin	1914-1916
b. 1, f. 31	Other letters to Andrée d'Estrées Irwin (in French)	1917-1918
b. 1, f. 32	Other letters to Andrée d'Estrées Irwin (in English)	1931-1958
b. 1, f. 33-34	Other letters to William Wallace Irwin	1907-1918
b. 1, f. 35	Invitations and empty envelopes	1904-1959, undated

Series II: Papers, 1903-1956

Series II contains papers relating to William Wallace Irwin. These include calling cards, certificates of deposit with the German American Investment Company, papers documenting Irwin's forest service in Idaho, a ledger of account between naturalist C. William Beebe and Irwin, life insurance documents, a draft of a manuscript and accompanying notes on writing, certificates of Irwin's service with the Idaho and Oregon national guards, and ranch book kept for JM Ranch.

Series II is arranged alphabetically by content.

b. 2, f. 36	Calling cards	undated
b. 2, f. 37	Certificates of deposit	1906
b. 2, f. 38	Forest service	1907
b. 2, f. 39	Ledger of account	1909-1915
b. 2, f. 40	Life insurance	1906-1907
b. 2, f. 41-43	Manuscript draft and materials	circa 1912-1914
b. 2, f. 44	Military service	1910
b. 2, f. 45	Loose notes	1912
b. 2, f. 46	Ranch book	1903-1904
b. 2, f. 47	Miscellaneous	1907-1956

Series III: Photographs, 1899-1913

Series III contains 81 photographs of Alexander, Grace, and Cambridge, Idaho; the Irwin Drug Store in Weiser, Idaho; JM Ranch near Bear, Idaho; the 1905 Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition in Portland, Oregon; and portraits of individuals (some of whom are identified), including William Wallace Irwin. Other photographs show unidentified men and women in unidentified locations.

Series III is arranged alphabetically by subject.

b. 2, f. 48	Alexander and Grace, Idaho	1912
b. 2, f. 49	Cambridge, Idaho	1905
b. 2, f. 50	The Irwin Drug Store	circa 1905
b. 2, f. 51	JM Ranch	1903-1904
b. 2, f. 52	Lewis and Clark Centennial Exposition	1905
b. 2, f. 53	Portraits	1899-1913
b. 2, f. 54-57	Other	circa 1900-1910

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.

Subjects

Americans -- France
Assayers -- Washington (State)
Drugstores -- Idaho
Gold mines and mining -- Washington (State)
Ranchers -- Idaho
Ranches -- Idaho
Ranching -- Idaho

Occupations

Assayers -- Washington (State) -- 20th Century
Ranchers -- Idaho -- 20th Century

Geographic Names

Bear (Idaho)
Grace (Idaho)
Idaho -- Description and travel
Idaho -- Economic conditions -- 20th Century
Idaho -- Pictorial works
Idaho -- Social life and customs -- 20th Century
JM Ranch
Sultan (Wash.)
Washington (State) -- Description and travel
Weiser (Idaho)

Genres / Formats

Photographs

Names

Irwin, Andrée d'Estrées
Irwin, Ellen Dripps, 1845-1930
Moore, F. A.

Acquired From

Michael Vinson