

Yale University Library
Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Guide to the Rowland Willard and Elizabeth S. Willard Papers

WA MSS S-2512



by Beinecke staff

2015

P. O. Box 208330
New Haven, CT 06520-8330
(203) 432-2977
beinecke.library@yale.edu
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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library
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CALL NUMBER: WA MSS S-2512

CREATOR: Willard, Rowland, 1794-1884

TITLE: Rowland Willard and Elizabeth S. Willard papers

DATES: 1822-1921

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 6.92 linear feet (7 boxes) + 1 roll

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: The collection consists of diaries and other writings, correspondence, photographs, and other papers documenting the lives of Dr. Rowland Willard and his wife Elizabeth S. Willard. Dr. Willard's diaries and autobiography chronicle in particular his travels through New Mexico in 1825.

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

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.willard>.

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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Carmen D. Valentino on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2004. Willard's journal and obituary purchased from William Reese Co. on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2005. 2011 acquisition purchased from Carmen D. Valentino and gift of Carmen D. Valentino.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Box 8 (Roll): Restricted Fragile Material. For further information consult the appropriate curator.

Conditions Governing Use

The Rowland Willard and Elizabeth S. Willard 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

Rowland Willard and Elizabeth S. Willard Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Biographical/Historical Sketch

Dr. Rowland Willard was born at Fort Ann, New York, in 1794, and died in Haddonfield, New Jersey, in 1884. He traveled the Ohio River system during his youth, and studied as a carpenter, musician, Freemason and eventually, as a medical student, in St. Charles, Missouri from 1817 to 1825. Leaving St. Charles in 1825, he traveled to Taos along the Arkansas River and the Santa Fe Trail to New Mexico. From Taos, he travelled south, administering medical advice in various Indian pueblos and establishing a successful medical practice in Chihuahua. Three years later, he returned to the United States via Matamoras and New Orleans. Willard attended Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia from 1828 until 1829 when he moved to Cincinnati to speculate on land and establish a medical practice which grew to include a wholesale drugstore. In 1829 Timothy Flint published a brief account of Willard's travels in *The Western Monthly Review*. The account was later reprinted as an appendix to James Ohio Pattie's *Personal Narrative* in 1831. Willard traveled down the Mississippi and through Alabama in 1830. In 1832, Willard married wife Elizabeth (b. 1814) in Cincinnati. After a conversion to the Baptist faith a year later, the couple moved to Covington, Kentucky, where Dr. Willard helped establish the Western Theological Institute, and then to Oswego, Indiana, where Willard again speculated on land. Three sons survived childhood: Lyman W., Nelson L., and Rowland. The Willards retired to Haddonfield, New Jersey.

Scope and Contents

The collection consists of diaries and other writings, correspondence, photographs, and other papers documenting the lives of Dr. Rowland Willard and his wife Elizabeth S. Willard. Dr. Willard's diaries and autobiography chronicle in particular his travels through New Mexico in 1825.

The 2004 acquisition consists of Dr. Rowland Willard's annotated manuscript autobiography in ink, in seven sections bound with string (372 p.), narrating in detail his life from early youth until settlement in Oswego, Indiana, including his encounter with Hugh Glass while travelling along the Santa Fe Trail in 1825 and his experiences in Mexico. The latter part of the memoir shares Willard's religious views, including his thoughts on slavery and the Civil War. The manuscript concludes with a passage dated 1880 July 26, Haddonfield, [N.J.]. Accompanying material includes a commonplace book of Willard's, titled "Cincinnati O--o" and dated 1829 Jun 28 (31 p.); and a manuscript draft of an incomplete translation of "Los Incas" with preface (95 p.). This acquisition also includes three bound diaries of Elizabeth Willard, kept irregularly from 1842 to 1886. One diary written in one of Dr. Willard's Cincinnati account books. Willard describes her religious convictions, the deaths of several children, and her family life, faith, church work, and travels. Also: 11 manuscript compositions by Elizabeth Willard, mostly religious quotations and some fiction, including what appears to be a draft of a short story (54 p.); 1 ALS from Lyman W. Willard to his mother, dated 1863

Sep 16; 7 ALS from Elizabeth Willard to family and friends, including a joint letter with a note from Dr. Willard; and 2 newspaper clippings of Elizabeth Willard's published writing (a poem and a letter).

Addition to the papers in 2005: manuscript journal (140 p.) kept by Dr. Rowland Willard during his travels along the Santa Fe Trail, 1825-1827. Daily entries record routes taken, scenery, plants, animals, fellow travelers on the Trail, and encounters with Indians. Includes descriptions of Taos, Santa Fe, and Chihuahua, where he settled and established his medical practice. Begins with Willard's departure from St. Charles, Missouri, on May 6, 1825, and traces his journey with a caravan of thirty-three men traveling by pack horse along the Arkansas River and into New Mexico. The journal describes local men of note in the various locales visited, including trader Augustus Storrs in Santa Fe, and the alcaldes of Santa Fe and Albuquerque. During his journey, Willard engaged in trading with those he encountered, and the prices of goods bought and sold are recorded in his journal. The journal also includes descriptions of the men Willard met in Chihuahua, including Comanche chiefs, Governor Arce, and several American traders. Addition also includes the March 15, 1884 issue of "The Directory", a newsletter for Haddonfield, New Jersey, with Willard's obituary; and a manuscript promissory note for \$120.57, dated 1835 May 17, written to Willard from [Phanes Throop?] & Son.

The 2011 addition to the papers includes correspondence, including letters by Rowland Willard and Rowland Willard, Jr.; writings by Elizabeth Willard and Rowland Willard; portrait photographs of individuals and groups including members of the Willard family; printed materials including books and clippings; other papers, and a map by Elizabeth Willard.

Collection Contents

2004 Acquisition, 1829-1884

The 2004 acquisition consists of Dr. Rowland Willard's annotated manuscript autobiography in ink, in seven sections bound with string (372 p.), narrating in detail his life from early youth until settlement in Oswego, Indiana, including his encounter with Hugh Glass while travelling along the Santa Fe Trail in 1825 and his experiences in Mexico. The latter part of the memoir shares Willard's religious views, including his thoughts on slavery and the Civil War. The manuscript concludes with a passage dated 1880 July 26, Haddonfield, [N.J.]. Accompanying material includes a commonplace book of Willard's, titled "Cincinnati O--o" and dated 1829 Jun 28 (31 p.); and a manuscript draft of an incomplete translation of "Los Incas" with preface (95 p.).

Also present are three bound diaries of Elizabeth Willard, kept irregularly from 1842 to 1886. One diary written in one of Dr. Willard's Cincinnati account books. Willard describes her religious convictions, the deaths of several children, and her family life, faith, church work, and travels. Also: 11 manuscript compositions by Elizabeth Willard, mostly religious quotations and some fiction, including what appears to be a draft of a short story (54 p.); 1 ALS from Lyman W. Willard to his mother, dated 1863 Sep 16; 7 ALS from Elizabeth Willard to family and friends, including a joint letter with a note from Dr. Willard; and 2 newspaper clippings of Elizabeth Willard's published writing (a poem and a letter).

Arranged with Rowland Willard's writings first, followed by Elizabeth Willard's writings.

b.1	Willard, Rowland. Autobiography, Sections 1 & 2	
b.1	Willard, Rowland. Autobiography, Sections 3 & 4	
b.1	Willard, Rowland. Autobiography, Sections 5 & 6	
b.1	Willard, Rowland. Autobiography, Sections 7 & 8	1870-1880
b.1	Willard, Rowland. Los Incas translation, with preface	
b.1	Willard, Rowland. Commonplace book: Cincinnati, O-o	1829 June 28
b.1	Willard, Elizabeth. Correspondence	1837-1864
b.1	Willard, Elizabeth. Diary	1842-1863
b.1	Willard, Elizabeth. Diary	1880-1883
b.1	Willard, Elizabeth. Diary	1882-1884
b.1	Willard, Elizabeth. Writings	1860-1864
b.1	Willard, Elizabeth. Draft of story, corrected.	
b.1	Willard, Elizabeth. Clippings	

2005 Acquisition, 1825-1884

The 2005 addition to the papers includes a manuscript journal (140 p.) kept by Dr. Rowland Willard during his travels along the Santa Fe Trail, 1825-1827. Daily entries record routes taken, scenery, plants, animals, fellow travelers on the Trail, and encounters with Indians. Includes descriptions of Taos, Santa Fe, and Chihuahua, where he settled and established his medical practice. Begins with Willard's departure from St. Charles, Missouri, on May 6, 1825, and traces his journey with a caravan of thirty-three men traveling by pack horse along the Arkansas River and into New Mexico. The journal describes local men of note in the various locales visited, including trader Augustus Storrs in Santa Fe, and the alcaldes of Santa Fe and Albuquerque. During his journey, Willard engaged in trading with those he encountered, and the prices of goods bought and sold are recorded in his journal. The journal also includes descriptions of the men Willard met in Chihuahua, including Comanche chiefs, Governor Arce, and several American traders. Addition also includes the March 15, 1884 issue of "The Directory", a newsletter for Haddonfield, New Jersey, with Willard's obituary; and a manuscript promissory note for \$120.57, dated 1835 May 17, written to Willard from [Phanes Throop?] and Son.

Arranged chronologically.

b.1	Willard, Rowland. Journal	1825-1827
b.1	Rowland journal transcription	
b.1	Promissory note to Rowland Willard from [Phanes Throop?] & Son	1835 May 17
b.1	<i>The Directory</i> (Haddonfield, N.J.)	1884, March 15

February 2011 Acquisition, 1822-1921

The 2011 addition to the papers consists of correspondence, including letters by Rowland Willard and Rowland Willard, Jr.; writings by Elizabeth Willard and Rowland Willard; portrait photographs of individuals and groups including members of the Willard family; printed materials including books and clippings; a map by Elizabeth Willard, and other papers.

This acquisition is organized into five series: Correspondence, Writings, Photographs, Printed Materials, and Other Papers.

	Correspondence	1862-1921
	Correspondence is arranged alphabetically by correspondent.	
b. 2	Cousin Sallie	1868-1869
b. 2	Hastings, John K. - to "Mother Willard"	1900 July 12
b. 2	Willard, Rowland <i>3 Folders</i>	1867-1913
b. 2	Willard, Rowland Jr. <i>4 folders</i>	1862-1870
b. 2	Willard, Rowland Jr. - to Bretner Lyman	1869
b. 2	Willard, Rowland Jr.	1919-1921
	Writings	1827-1917
	Writings include sermons by Elizabeth Willard; account books and diaries by Rowland Willard; and other Willard family writings and fragments.	
	Writings are arranged alphabetically by author.	
b. 2	Willard, Elizabeth - An Address to the Churches of God throughout the United States and Canada, by whatever names called--Greeting: - Circular	1888 November 25
b. 2	Willard, Elizabeth - Cluster from the True Vine, Or a Record of the Learnings and Doings of Jesus in Our Household - MS <i>6 Folders</i>	1880-1900
b. 2	Willard family - Writings - Miscellaneous	
b. 2	Willard, Rowland - Account Book, Diary	1830-1836
b. 2	Willard, Rowland - Business Receipt Book	1883-1895
b. 2	Willard, Rowland - Diary <i>2 folders</i>	1827-1832
b. 2	Willard, Rowland - Diary	1871
b. 2	Willard, Rowland - Diary	1917
b. 2	Willard, Rowland - Las Incas - MS	
b. 2	Fragments	

Photographs 1850s-1890s

Photographs consist of portraits of individuals and groups including members of the Willard family.

Photographs are arranged alphabetically by subject.

b. 2	Baker, [Adeline?]	
b. 2	Bro. Cargil	
b. 2	Bussier, Mrs.	1880s
b. 2	Bussier, Sarah	1884 January 2
b. 2	Chipman, Samuel C.	
b. 2	Clark, Sarah	
b. 2	Eadie, Amelia	
b. 2	"Elder Guiselman of Argos, Indiana"	
b. 2	Gill, Jane Everett	
b. 2	Gould, Asher - Gould, Chary - Gould, Rowlana	
b. 2	Hastings, John King	1889 February
b. 2	Hastings, Willard	
b. 2	Meyrick, Mrs. Samuel	
b. 2	Nace, Lizzie Gresty and Harry J. Nace	1895 June 11
b. 2	Paul, Maggie Glover and Mrs. Glover (mother)	
b. 2	Petersen, Annie Marie	
b. 2	Peterson, Mathilda Elisabet	
b. 2	Peterson, Peter and Chatarina Dorothea	
b. 2	Root, George	
b. 2	Stoddard, Mrs.	
b. 5 (Oversize)	Willard, Elizabeth	
b. 6 (Oversize)	Willard Family	1887
b. 3	Willard Family Photograph Album	1860-1872
b. 3	Willard Family Photograph Album	1860-1872
b. 3	Willard, Lizzie May	1851 May 1
b. 7 (Oversize)	Willard, Rowland	1870
b. 3	[Willard, Rowland and Elizabeth]	

Photographs (continued)

b. 3	Willard, Rowland Jr. and Family	1887
b. 3	Wood, Mr.	
b. 3	Wood, Mrs.	
b. 3	Unidentified photographs <i>2 folders</i>	
b. 3	Unidentified with annotations	
	Printed materials	1855-1904
	Printed materials include books, clippings, and a remembrance card.	
	Printed materials are arranged alphabetically by author or title.	
b. 3	Butler, Francis. <i>The Spanish Teacher and Colloquial Phrase Book</i>	1873
b. 3	Chaplin, MP - Remembrance Card	1892
b. 3	Evaris, Louis H. <i>Baptist Encyclopedia: A Dictionary</i>	1881
b. 4	Daniels, W.H. Editor. <i>Temperance Reform and Its Great Reformers</i>	1879
b. 4	Hastings, H.L. - clippings	1895-1900
b. 4	<i>New Testament</i>	1855
b. 4	Willard, Rowland - Summit Grove Seminary	
b. 4	Woodruff, John O. <i>The Word of the Kingdom</i>	1904
	Other Papers	1822-1917
	Other papers include a hair sample, calling cards, a map, and a masonic apron.	
b. 4	"Mother's Hair"	
b. 4	Willard Family - Calling Cards	
b. 8 (Roll)	Willard, Elizabeth - Map Restricted fragile material. For further information consult the appropriate curator.	
b. 4	Willard, Rowland - Masonic Apron	1822; 1917

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

Baptists -- United States
Comanche Indians
Frontier and pioneer life -- United States
Women -- Religious life
Women -- West (U.S.)

Geographic Names

Albuquerque (N.M.) -- Description and travel
Arkansas River -- Description and travel
Chihuahua (Mexico : State) -- Description and travel
Cincinnati (Ohio) -- Description and travel
Haddonfield (N.J.) -- Social life and customs
Matamoros (Tamaulipas, Mexico) -- Description and travel
Mississippi River -- Description and travel
New Mexico -- Description and travel
New Orleans (La.) -- Description and travel
Ohio River -- Description and travel
Oswego (Ind.) -- Social life and customs
Saint Charles (Mo.) -- Description and travel
Saint Charles (Mo.) -- Social life and customs
Santa Fe National Historic Trail -- Description and travel
Taos (N.M.) -- Description and travel

Genres / Formats

Autobiographies (documents) -- Mexico -- 19th century
Autobiographies (documents) -- United States -- 19th century
Commonplace books -- United States -- 19th century
Diaries -- United States -- 19th century
Promissory notes

Occupations

Pharmacists -- Ohio -- Cincinnati -- 19th century
Physicians -- 19th century

Preferred Titles

Directory (Haddonfield, N.J.)

Names

Arce, José Antonio, 1784-1839?
Glass, Hugh, approximately 1780-approximately 1833
Storrs, Augustus, 1791-1850
Willard, Elizabeth S., b. 1814
Willard, Lyman W.
Willard, Rowland, 1794-1884

Corporate Bodies

Jefferson Medical College
Western Baptist Theological Institute