

Guide to the Wildman Family Papers

MS 1029



compiled by Janet Elaine Gertz

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Collection Overview

REPOSITORY: Manuscripts and Archives
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CALL NUMBER: MS 1029

CREATOR: Wildman family

TITLE: Wildman family papers

DATES: 1803-1877

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION: 2.5 linear feet

LANGUAGE: English

SUMMARY: Principal figure in the papers is Zalman Wildman, lawyer and congressman who, with his brother, Seymour, were proprietors of Z. & S. Wildman, Hat Manufacturers, and the first manufacturers from Danbury to establish outlets in the South for Danbury hats. The papers consist almost entirely of business records including correspondence, financial and legal papers, and a receipt book. This latter volume (1803-1821) records the commodities shipped from Danbury by the firm to its Charleston, South Carolina store. Included also is a single family letter (1847) from Lucy S. Wildman to her brother, Horatio.

ONLINE FINDING AID: To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/mssa.ms.1029>

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.1029>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please go to 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

Administrative Information

Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased in 1944-1945.

Conditions Governing Access

The materials are open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

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Preferred Citation

Wildman Family Papers (MS 1029). Manuscripts and Archives, Yale University Library.

Biographical / Historical

Zalmon Wildman was born in Danbury, Connecticut, on February 16, 1775. He was a hat manufacturer and established hat shops in Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia. In 1805, he was appointed postmaster of Danbury, a position he held for three decades. In 1818 and 1819, he was a member of the Connecticut State House of Representatives. In 1834, he was elected as a Democratic representative to the United States Congress, but he died just nine months after taking office. His death occurred in Washington, D.C., on December 10, 1835.

Scope and Contents

These letters and business papers of the Wildman family of Danbury, Connecticut, mainly concern Zalman Wildman and his son, Frederick S. Wildman. Zalman Wildman, lawyer and congressman, and his brother, Seymour Wildman, were proprietors of Z. & S. Wildman, Hat Manufacturers, and the first manufacturers from Danbury to establish outlets in the South for Danbury hats.

Included in their papers are forty-four letters, arranged chronologically 1816-1877, all of a business nature except one. The exception, dated September 20, 1847, is from Lucy S. Wildman to her brother, Horatio Wildman, recounting family news. There are, further, ninety-five other items, 1808-1869 and undated, consisting of bills, receipts, writs, records of sales, notes, drafts, agreements, and similar papers, all arranged in one chronological sequence, except for two oversize items located in the folio. The collection is completed by a receipt book, 1803-1821, of Z. & S. Wildman. The receipts are nearly all for commodities such as saddles, shoes, hats, butter, and farm produce consigned to their Charleston, South Carolina store.

These papers were purchased in two lots in 1944 and 1945. Papers of more distantly related Wildman family members living in Colorado form part of the Collection of Western Americana in the Beinecke Rare Book Library.

Collection Contents

b. 1, f. 1 - 6	Correspondence	1816-1855, 1877
b. 1, f. 7 - 16	Financial and legal papers	1808-1869, undated
b. 1, f. 17	Receipt book	1808-1821
b. 2	Oversize items	1823, 1827

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

Business
Hat trade -- Connecticut -- Danbury

Geographic Names

Charleston (S.C.) -- Commerce
Connecticut
Danbury (Conn.) -- Industries
Southern States

Genres / Formats

Account books

Occupations

Manufacturers

Names

McCarthy, Kevin (Family)
Wildman, Lucy S.
Wildman, Seymour
Wildman, Zalman, 1775-1835

Families

Wildman family