

James Whitcomb Riley

A Register of His Papers in the Library of Congress

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Manuscript Division, Library of Congress

Washington, D.C.

2000

Contact information: <http://lcweb.loc.gov/rr/mss/address.html>

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress
Manuscript Division, 2000**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc/mss/eadmss.ms000005>

Latest revision: 2004-11-12

Collection Summary

Title: Papers of James Whitcomb Riley

Span Dates: 1883-1915

ID No.: MSS83909

Creator: Riley, James Whitcomb, 1849-1916

Extent: 39 items; 1 container; 0.2 linear feet

Language: Collection material in English

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

Abstract: Author and poet, of Indianapolis, Ind.; sometimes known as the "Hoosier Poet." Correspondence and manuscript and typescript poems. Includes a drawing by Riley of his friend, Bill Nye.

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.

Names:

Riley, James Whitcomb, 1849-1916

Edgar, William C. (William Crowell), 1856-1932--Correspondence

Farrell, C. E.--Correspondence

Kiser, Samuel E. (Samuel Ellsworth), 1862-1942--Correspondence

Laughlin, Clara E. (Clara Elizabeth), 1873-1941--Correspondence

Matthews, James Newton, 1852-1910--Correspondence

McNutt, Cyrus F.--Correspondence

Miller, Dewitt, 1857-1911--Correspondence

Nye, Bill, 1850-1896

Pond, James B. (James Burton), 1838-1903--Correspondence

Ridpath, John Clark, 1840-1900--Correspondence

Untermeyer, Louis, 1885-1977--Correspondence

Ware, Eugene Fitch, 1841-1911--Correspondence

Subjects:

American poetry

Occupations:

Authors

Poets

Administrative Information

Provenance:

The papers of James Whitcomb Riley, author and poet, were given to the Library of Congress by Nelson R. Burr in 1957. Additional material was purchased by the Library in 1996 and 1998.

Processing History:

The papers of James Whitcomb Riley were arranged and described in 1997. Additional material received in 1998 was incorporated into the collection in 2000.

Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of James Whitcomb Riley is governed by the Copyright Law of the United States (Title 17, U.S.C.).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, James Whitcomb Riley Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

Scope and Content Note

The papers of James Whitcomb Riley (1849-1916) span the years 1883-1915 and include correspondence, poems, and a drawing. Riley was born in Greenfield, Indiana, and is known as the "Hoosier poet." He was on the staff of the *Indianapolis Journal*, 1877-1885, and his contributions to that newspaper established his fame as a poet.

The papers include letters from Riley to William C. Edgar, C. E. Farrell, Samuel E. Kiser, Clara E. Laughlin, James Newton Matthews, Cyrus F. McNutt, DeWitt Miller, James B. Pond, John Clark Ridpath, George Smith, Louis Untermeyer, Eugene Fitch Ware, and others. The papers also include a drawing by Riley of his friend, Bill Nye.

Manuscript poems in the collection include "To Robert Burns Wilson," "The Poems Here at Home," "Say Farewell and Let Me Go!," "At 'The Literary,'" "A Pen-Pictur' of a Certin Frivvelus Old Man," and an untitled verse written for a Mr. Washington. Typescript poems include "The Name of Old Glory," "The Lisper," "The Young Old Man," and "At 'The Literary.'"

Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1	Correspondence, 1883-1909, 1915 (2 folders) Drawing, n.d. Poems, 1885-1888, n.d. (3 folders)