

# **The Wilson-McAdoo Families**

## **A Register of Their Papers in the Library of Congress**

**Prepared by Connie L. Cartledge**



**Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

**Washington, D.C.**

**2008**

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

**Finding aid encoded by Library of Congress  
Manuscript Division, 2008**

Finding aid URL: <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.mss/eadmss.ms008064>

## Collection Summary

**Title:** Wilson-McAdoo Families Papers

**Span Dates:** 1860-1966

**Bulk Dates:** (bulk 1912-1943)

**ID No.:** MSS61481

**Creator:** Wilson Family

**Creator:** McAdoo Family

**Extent:** 1,093 items; 8 containers; 3 linear feet

**Language:** Collection material in English

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

**Abstract:** Correspondence, writings, speeches, statements, biographical material, financial papers, clippings, photographs, and other papers primarily of Eleanor Wilson McAdoo and Margaret Woodrow Wilson, documenting the activities of the McAdoo and Wilson families.

## 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.

### Personal Names

Ghose, Aurobindo, 1872-1950.

McAdoo family.

McAdoo, William Gibbs, 1863-1941.

Sayre family.

Sayre, Francis Bowes, 1885-1972.

Sayre, Jessie Woodrow Wilson, 1887-1933.

Wilson family.

Wilson, Edith Bolling Galt, 1872-1961.

Wilson, Ellen Axson.

Wilson, Woodrow, 1856-1924.

### Organizations

United States. Dept. of the Treasury. Office of the Secretary.

United States. Director General of the Railroads.

### Subjects

Community centers.

Mysticism--Hinduism.

Mysticism--India.

Practice of law--California--Los Angeles.

Railroads and state--United States.

School facilities--Extended use.

Singing.

### Locations

Pondicherry (India)--Religion.

United States--Economic policy--20th century.

United States--Politics and government--1901-1953.

### Related Names

McAdoo, Eleanor Wilson, 1889-1967. Eleanor Wilson McAdoo papers (1911-1950)

Wilson, Margaret Woodrow, 1886-1944. Margaret Woodrow Wilson papers (1912-1943)

## Administrative Information

### Provenance:

The papers of the Wilson-McAdoo families consist of the papers of Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo, Margaret Woodrow Wilson, and other members of the Wilson and McAdoo families. The papers were purchased by the Library of Congress in 1983.

### Processing History:

The collection was arranged and described in 1990. The finding aid was revised in 2008.

### Copyright Status:

The status of copyright in the unpublished writings of the Wilson and McAdoo families 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, Wilson-McAdoo Families Papers, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C.

## Biographical Note

### Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1889, Oct. 16	Born, Middletown, Conn.
1914	Married William Gibbs McAdoo (divorced 1934)
1937	Published, <i>The Woodrow Wilsons</i> . New York: Macmillan Co.
1946	Published, <i>Julia and the White House</i> . New York: Dodd, Mead & Co.
1962	Published, <i>The Priceless Gift: The Love Letters of Woodrow Wilson and Ellen Axson Wilson</i> . New York: McGraw-Hill
1967, Apr. 6	Died, Santa Barbara, Calif.

### Margaret Woodrow Wilson

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event</i>
1886, Apr. 16	Born, Gainesville, Ga.
1903-1905	Student, Goucher College, Baltimore, Md.
1905-1906	Studied voice and piano, Peabody Conservatory of Music, Baltimore, Md.
1915	Professional debut, Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Central New York Music Festival, Syracuse, N.Y.
1917	Concert tour for American Red Cross, midwestern and southern United States
1918-1919	Sang in Allied army camps in France, Belgium, and England

1928	Entered advertising business
1930	Consultant and writer, Blow Agency, New York, N.Y.
1938	Moved to Pondicherry, India, to follow the teachings of Sri Aurobindo, a Hindu mystic
1944, Feb. 14	Died, Pondicherry, India

## Scope and Content Note

The papers of the Wilson-McAdoo families span the years 1860-1966 with the majority of the papers concentrated from 1912 through 1943. The bulk of the papers are those of Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo and Margaret Woodrow Wilson, the daughters of President Woodrow Wilson. Additional family members represented in this collection include William Gibbs McAdoo, Jessie Wilson Sayre, and Ellen Axson Wilson. The collection is divided into three series: [Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo Papers](#), [Margaret Woodrow Wilson Papers](#), and [Other Family Papers](#).

The papers of [Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo](#), 1911-1950, are divided into three groups: family correspondence, general correspondence, and miscellany. Family correspondence, 1911-1939, contains primarily letters of family members to Eleanor McAdoo concerning family matters, local news, and occasionally national politics. The majority of the correspondence is from McAdoo's husband, William Gibbs McAdoo. His letters pertain chiefly to his work as Woodrow Wilson's secretary of treasury and director general of railroads and his legal practice in Los Angeles, California, from 1920 through 1932. William McAdoo's early correspondence contains love letters to Eleanor prior to their marriage in 1914. Also included are letters from Eleanor McAdoo's sister, Margaret Woodrow Wilson, most of which document Wilson's life in Pondicherry, India. The general correspondence, 1913-1950, contains letters to Eleanor McAdoo from friends, acquaintances, and the general public concerning primarily her articles and books about the Wilson family. Miscellany files, 1914-1937, include financial papers, certificates, and other printed matter documenting McAdoo's personal activities. One item worthy of note is Ellen Wilson McAdoo's baptism certificate, which contains her grandfather's (Woodrow Wilson's) signature as one of her sponsors.

The [Margaret Woodrow Wilson Papers](#), 1912-1943, are also divided into three groups: family correspondence, general correspondence, and miscellany. The family correspondence, 1912-1943, consists mainly of letters to Margaret Wilson from various family members concerning family and local news. The majority of the correspondence is from her sisters, Eleanor McAdoo and Jessie Wilson Sayre. McAdoo's early letters focus on her husband and children and occasionally national politics. Correspondence after 1936 relates to McAdoo's writings about the Wilson family. Several letters written in 1943 concern a movie about Woodrow Wilson's life. Jessie Sayre's letters pertain primarily to her husband, Francis B. Sayre, and their children but occasionally contain news about Woodrow Wilson and his second wife, Edith Galt Wilson. Also included in this series are a number of letters from Margaret Wilson to Jessie Sayre.

The other two groupings in the [Margaret Wilson Papers](#) are general correspondence and miscellany. The general correspondence, 1912-1943, consists mostly of letters to Margaret Wilson from friends, acquaintances, and the general public. The majority of the early correspondence relates to Wilson's brief singing career and her interest in promoting American schools as community centers. Correspondence after 1937 pertains primarily to her life in Pondicherry, India, as a follower of the Hindu mystic, Sri Aurobindo Ghose, and her efforts to get Aurobindo's writings published. The miscellany files, 1917-1943, include Wilson's writings, financial papers, certificates, and other material documenting her activities and interests.

The final series in this collection is [Other Family Papers](#), 1860-1966, and is divided into two subgroups: general correspondence and miscellany. The most prominent correspondents in the general correspondence, 1860-1966, are William Gibbs McAdoo, Jessie Wilson Sayre, and Ellen Axson Wilson. Other correspondence in this series includes incoming and outgoing correspondence between family members and their friends. Topics focus mainly on their daily activities, family matters, and local news. The Miscellany, 1912-1935, includes unidentified speeches, statements, and writings; financial papers; photographs; and other papers pertaining to the Wilson-McAdoo families.

## Arrangement of the Papers

This collection is arranged in three series:

- [Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo Papers, 1911-1950](#)
- [Margaret Woodrow Wilson Papers, 1912-1943](#)
- [Other Family Papers, 1860-1966](#)

## Description of Series

*Container*

*Series*

BOX 1-4

**Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo Papers, 1911-1950**

Family correspondence, primarily to Eleanor McAdoo, general correspondence, financial receipts and statements, certificates, calling cards, and other printed matter.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX 4-7

**Margaret Woodrow Wilson Papers, 1912-1943**

Family correspondence, primarily to Margaret Wilson, general correspondence, writings, financial papers, biographical material, maps, programs, certificates, and other printed matter pertaining to Wilson's activities and interests.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

BOX 7-8

**Other Family Papers, 1860-1966**

General correspondence, sent and received by the Wilson-McAdoo families, speeches, statements, writings, financial papers, photographs, programs, invitations, clippings, and other printed matter.

Arranged alphabetically by type of material.

# Container List

<i>Container</i>	<i>Contents</i>
BOX 1-4	<b>Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo Papers, 1911-1950</b> Family correspondence, primarily to Eleanor McAdoo, general correspondence, financial receipts and statements, certificates, calling cards, and other printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 1	Family correspondence
BOX 1	Axson, Stockton (uncle), 1929
BOX 1	Bones, Helen W. (cousin), 1922-1937, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 1	Howe, Ellen Wilson (cousin), 1936
BOX 1	Hoyt, Florence S. (cousin), 1924
BOX 1	King, Benjamin (cousin), 1935
BOX 1	King, Marjorie Brown (cousin), 1933-1936
BOX 1	McAdoo, Molly (daughter-in-law), 1935
BOX 1	McAdoo, William Gibbs (husband) 1913-1927 (8 folders)
BOX 2	1928-1937, n.d. (9 folders)
BOX 2	Sayre, Francis B., Sr. (brother-in-law), 1932-1934
BOX 2	Sayre, Francis B., Jr. (nephew), n.d.
BOX 2	Sayre, Jessie Wilson (sister), 1925-1932, n.d.
BOX 2	Smith, Mary R. (cousin), 1934-1935
BOX 2	Wilson, Margaret Woodrow (sister) 1911, 1922-1933 (2 folders)
BOX 3	1934-1939, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 3	General correspondence
BOX 3	"A-R" miscellany, 1913-1937, n.d. (13 folders)
BOX 3	Smith, Lucy M., 1925, 1932, 1938
BOX 3	"S-W" miscellany, 1917-1950, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 3	Unidentified, 1937, n.d.
BOX 3	Miscellany
BOX 3	Calling cards, n.d.
BOX 3	Financial receipts and statements, 1927-1937
BOX 3	Marriage
BOX 3	Announcement, 1914
BOX 3	Certificate, 1914
BOX 4	McAdoo, Ellen Wilson

## Eleanor Randolph Wilson McAdoo Papers, 1911-1950

### Container

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BOX 4	Baby book, 1915
BOX 4	Baptism certificate, 1915
BOX 4	Pharmacy prescription, n.d.
BOX 4-7	<b>Margaret Woodrow Wilson Papers, 1912-1943</b> Family correspondence, primarily to Margaret Wilson, general correspondence, writings, financial papers, biographical material, maps, programs, certificates, and other printed matter pertaining to Wilson's activities and interests. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 4	Family correspondence
BOX 4	Axson, Stockton (uncle), 1929, n.d.
BOX 4	Bones, Helen W. (cousin), 1924-1942, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 4	Brown, Mary C. "Meemee" (cousin), 1922-1923, n.d.
BOX 4	King, Benjamin (cousin), n.d.
BOX 4	King, Marjorie Brown (cousin), 1925-1939, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 4	McAdoo, Eleanor Randolph Wilson (sister), 1922-1943, n.d. (3 folders)
BOX 4	McAdoo, Mary Faith (niece), 1934-1937, n.d.
BOX 4	McAdoo, William G. (brother-in-law), 1930-1931
BOX 4	Sayre, Ellen Axson (niece), n.d.
BOX 4	Sayre, Francis B., Jr. (nephew), 1928, 1941-1942
BOX 4	Sayre, Francis B., Sr. (brother-in-law), 1937
BOX 4	Sayre, Jessie Wilson (sister)
BOX 4	1912-1925
BOX 5	1926-1932, n.d. (3 folders)
BOX 5	Sayre, Woodrow Wilson (nephew), 1928, n.d.
BOX 5	Smith, Mary R. (cousin), 1928, n.d.
BOX 5	Wilson, Ellen Axson (mother), n.d.
BOX 5	Wilson, Josephine (cousin), 1924-1943
BOX 5	General correspondence
BOX 5	"A" miscellany, 1921-1942, n.d.
BOX 5	Bateman, Lady Marian, 1940-1943
BOX 5	Biow, Miller H. and Sophie, 1924-1925
BOX 5	Bose, A. E., 1938-1942
BOX 5	"B" miscellany, 1925-1943
BOX 5	Clark, Eliot, 1937-1939, n.d.
BOX 5	Clark, Percival L., 1926, 1939-1940
BOX 5	Cooper, David B. (Ely), 1926-1928, 1939
BOX 5	"C" miscellany, 1919, 1925-1940, n.d.
BOX 5	Davis, Charles Hall, 1925, n.d.
BOX 5	"D-E" miscellany, 1920-1943 (2 folders)
BOX 6	Fisher, Boyd, 1924-1942, n.d.

## Margaret Woodrow Wilson Papers, 1912-1943

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BOX 6	"F-J" miscellany, 1927-1943 (3 folders)
BOX 6	Kellogg, Lois, 1938-1942, n.d.
BOX 6	Kellogg, Spencer, Jr., 1941, n.d.
BOX 6	Kohl, Edwin and Flora, 1933-1943
BOX 6	"K-L" miscellany, 1917-1942
BOX 6	MacLeod, Gwen, 1924, n.d.
BOX 6	MacLeod, Josephine (Tantine), 1939-1942
BOX 6	"M" miscellany, 1936-1943, n.d.
BOX 6	Nikhilananda, Swami, 1937-1943
BOX 6	"N-O" miscellany, 1929, 1937-1943
BOX 6	Pickett, L. C. (Mother Pickett), 1921-1925, n.d.
BOX 6	Plautiff, Ellen, 1937-1942, n.d.
BOX 6	Pritchett, E. Esther, 1924, 1930
BOX 6	Pritchett, Thomas J., 1924-1931, n.d. (3 folders)
BOX 6	Roberts, Elta C., 1941-1943
BOX 6	"R" miscellany, 1937-1942, n.d.
BOX 6	Sen, Boshi and Gertrude, 1937-1943
BOX 4	Smadbeck, Warren, 1937-1943
BOX 7	Stephens, Frederick L., 1923
BOX 7	"S-V" miscellany, 1920-1943, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 7	Wyckoff, Constance, 1942-43, n.d.
BOX 7	"W-Y" miscellany, 1912-1919, 1938-1942, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 7	Unidentified, 1913-1943, n.d. (3 folders)
BOX 7	Miscellany
BOX 7	Biographical file, n.d.
BOX 7	Financial receipts and statements, 1920-1943
BOX 7	Maps, 1918-1919
BOX 7	Writings by Margaret Woodrow Wilson, 1922, n.d.
BOX 7	Writings by others, 1943, n.d.
BOX 7	Miscellany, 1917-1919, n.d.
BOX 7-8	<b>Other Family Papers, 1860-1966</b> General correspondence, sent and received by the Wilson-McAdoo families, speeches, statements, writings, financial papers, photographs, programs, invitations, clippings, and other printed matter. Arranged alphabetically by type of material.
BOX 7	General correspondence
BOX 7	Alphabetical
BOX 7	McAdoo, William Gibbs, 1913-1937, n.d. (2 folders)
BOX 7	Sayre, Jessie Wilson, 1923-1931, n.d.

## Other Family Papers, 1860-1966

### *Container*

### *Contents*

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BOX 7	Wilson, Ellen Axson, 1897, 1912, 1933
BOX 7	Chronological
BOX 7	1860-1866, n.d. (4 folders)
BOX 8	Fragments, n.d.
BOX 8	Miscellany
BOX 8	Calling cards, n.d.
BOX 8	Clippings, 1933-1934, n.d.
BOX 8	Democratic National Convention program, 1912
BOX 8	Financial receipts and statements, 1927-1935
BOX 8	Photographs, 1924, n.d.
BOX 8	Presidential
BOX 8	Dinner, seating plan, 1919
BOX 8	Inauguration, invitations and program, 1913
BOX 8	Speeches, statements, and writings, 1918, n.d.
BOX 8	Miscellany, 1924, n.d.