

Collection: WILEY, CALVIN HENDERSON, Papers
Greensboro and Winston, North Carolina
Jonesboro, Tennessee

1755-1925 (mainly 1835-1884)

Physical Description: c.2200 items in 7 mounted volumes and 13 boxes; letters, biographical sketch, sermons, speeches, school reports, questionnaires, bonds, contracts, agreements, circulars, advertisements, price lists, prospectus, newspapers, certificates, inventories, form letters, telegrams, resolutions, accounts, statements, receipts, surveys, deeds of trust, and a novel.

Acquisition: Biennial Reports: 1906-1908, c. 900 items (1836-1902) presented by Mrs. Calvin H. Wiley of Winston-Salem, mounted and bound in 7 volumes; 1924-1926, c. 1040 items given by Miss Mary C. Wiley of Winston-Salem; and a copy of Adventures of Old Dan Tucker and His Son Walter (Part I and II) by Calvin H. Wiley from Stuart H. Hill, New York City: [1851 edition of Roanoke].

Additional gifts from Miss Mary C. Wiley: August 10, 1938, 16 letters (1855-1876); April 11, 1950, letters, addresses, and fragments (1851-1877, mostly undated); October 1, 1950, 55 letters, parts of addresses and 2 newspapers; October 27, 1955, 1 box of family correspondence and religious writings; June 7, 1956, Guilford County deeds from C. N. McAdoo to William Wiley (1839) and from William Wiley to David Wiley (1775); November 5, 1956, letters, deeds, and receipts (1785-1923).

Description: Correspondence of Calvin Henderson Wiley (1819-1887; for biographical sketch see Samuel A. Ashe (ed.) Biographical History of North Carolina, Vol. II, pp. 427-441) includes many family letters from Wiley to his wife and to his mother; from his mother-in-law to his wife; and after his death, letters concerning him by his daughter Mary C. Wiley and his nephew David Cyrus Rankin.

Correspondence of 1835-1849 refers to literary societies, publication arrangements for his second novel, Roanoke, and Whig politics. Included are letters of encouragement from John Pendleton Kennedy and Kenneth Rayner, Wiley's impressions of Philadelphia [Whig convention, 1848], and letters to and from Wiley in Washington, D. C. regarding a political appointment.

In 1850-1852 correspondence concerns him as a legislator and the author of the North Carolina Reader, with several references to the "Fitz Van Winkle" [Joseph Hooper] criticism in the Raleigh Register by Seaton Gales, E. J. Hale, David L. Swain, and others. Letters between Wiley and W. D. Cooke, superintendent of the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind Institute in Raleigh, concern their editing of the [Southern] Weekly Post [Raleigh]. John A. Gilmer letters refer to Whig politics; Braxton Craven's, the Normal School [Trinity College]; and John H. Wheeler's, Historical Sketches of North Carolina to 1851. Others refer to the second edition of Roanoke, renamed Utopia, "an answer to Uncle Tom's Cabin"; Wiley's election as superintendent of common schools; and the sale of the copyright of the Reader.

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Correspondence in 1853-1860 includes letters of instruction from Wiley to the county superintendents. Letters from superintendents ask for interpretation of school laws, procedure for distribution of funds, etc.; cite need for higher salaries, uniform textbooks, and responsible committeemen; and present myriad problems, such as the dishonest superintendent, adults and Negroes as pupils, and prejudices against universal education. Of 62 questionnaires returned in 1854, outstanding are those from Burke, Cleveland, Davidson, Gaston, Hyde, Mecklenberg, New Hanover, Rowan, and Randolph Counties. There are letters concerning the Journal of Education and the state teachers' association, as well as a memorial from the association to the constitutional convention of 1861 requesting the school fund be left intact. Of particular interest are letters of Charles Phillips describing the free schools of Cambridge, Mass. and Jonathan Worth reporting on schools in Randolph County. By 1859 letters indicate acceptance of common schools, contain inquiries from South Carolina, Florida, Wisconsin, Georgia, and California, and include an invitation to Wiley to address a national teachers' convention in Cincinnati. Letters over a span of sixteen years (1851-1866) deal with speculation in coal lands (Bingham) and a gold mine (Graham) by Wiley and others.

Correspondence from superintendents during the early war years indicates some schools were flourishing (Columbus County) and others were poorly administered (Forsyth County). Later, the overriding subject was the disposition of the school fund and depreciation of Confederate money and bonds. Brief mention is made of the publication of a series of Confederate textbooks at Greensboro (1862) and of an "Educational Association of the Confederate States of America." Many letters are from prominent Presbyterians, several of which refer to Wiley's book, Scriptural Views of Affliction During National Trials (1864). In 1865 letters from John W. Cunningham concern attitudes toward the war; from the president of Yadkin College, the graded school bill; and from Governor Zebulon Vance, the institution of slavery. On May 3, 1865, a letter from Vance states he will not evacuate his family from the capital city for fear the citizens will panic.

Included in the 1865-1868 period are letters from northern churchmen in North Carolina regarding education of the Negro; William H. Coleman on Negro suffrage and equality before the law; Jonathan Worth and Governor Holden concerning Wiley's position as superintendent; Patrick H. Winston, Jr., the Holden-Worth campaign for governor; and John W. Cunningham, the economic and political climate of Person County. After Wiley's appointment (1867) to the Literary Board, references are to sources of school revenue in the drainage of swamplands and from stock in the Cape Fear Navigation Company. Letters from Josiah Turner concern a new name for the Raleigh Sentinel and from Samuel S. Ashley, a plan to prescribe textbooks.

From the 1869-1874 period are several letters from Wiley to his family in Jonesboro, Tennessee. Other correspondence refers to the Peabody Fund,

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his failure to be elected superintendent of North Carolina schools (1872) because of political disability, and his failure to be appointed later by Governor Caldwell because of his out-of-state residence.

Of the few letters after Wiley's transfer to Winston, North Carolina, some concern a misunderstanding over the trustees' board of inquiry at the University of North Carolina (1880); attempts to interest publishers in a new edition of the North Carolina Reader; and a letter of praise from Wiley to Zebulon B. Vance (1876). After Wiley's death (1887), there are proposals for memorials, such as a statue of Wiley in Capitol Square and an extended biography by Robert D. W. Connor.

Miscellaneous items are a few sermons and speeches (some fragments), including an address on the education of women; a chapter on Wiley's early life and an outline of significant events in his life by D. C. Rankin for R. D. W. Connor; a description by Wiley's young brother-in-law of the reaction in Raleigh to Governor Holden (1865); a letter in a newspaper outlining Wiley's views on Negro education; and a description of the curriculum at West Point (1832) by Jeremy F. Gilmer. In addition to family deeds and other property records (12 items, 1775-1839), textbook advertisements, and price lists, of uncommon interest are the letters of three decades from John W. Cunningham, Wiley's college roommate and a state senator from Person County, requesting Wiley to draft graceful letters and speeches for Cunningham to present to his constituents and his peers.

Arrangement of Papers:

- P.C. 28.1 Letters and Papers, 1835-1852 (mounted volume)
- 28.2 Letters and Papers, 1852-1854 (mounted volume)
- 28.3 Letters and Papers, 1854-1855 (mounted volume)
- 28.4 Letters and Papers, 1855-1857 (mounted volume)
- 28.5 Letters and Papers, 1857-1858 (mounted volume)
- 28.6 Letters and Papers, 1858-1861 (mounted volume)
- 28.7 Letters and Papers, 1862-1902, n.d. (mounted volume)
- 28.8 Correspondence, 1834-1853
- 28.9 Correspondence, 1854-1856
- 28.10 Correspondence, 1857-1858
- 28.11 Correspondence, 1859-1860
- 28.12 Correspondence, 1860-1861
- 28.13 Correspondence, 1862-1869
- 28.14 Correspondence, 1870-1925, n.d.
- 28.15 Speeches, sermons, notes, etc.
- 28.16 Common School Reports
- 28.17 Miscellaneous; deeds, novel (2 parts)

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Arrangement of Papers (Cont'd.)

- P.C. 28.18 Typescripts, 1850-1855, Series I [P.C. 28.1-28.7]
28.19 Typescripts, 1856-1872, Series I
28.20 Typescripts, 1856-1858, Series II [P.C. 28.8-28.14]
28.21 Typescripts, 1859-1886, Series II

Finding Aids:

Main Entry Card

Autograph Cards

Ashley, S[amuel] S[tanford]	Kennedy, J[ohn] P[endleton]
Badger, Geo[rge] E[dmund]	Kerr, W[ashington] C[aruthers]
Barnes, A. S. & Co.	Lacy, Drury
Barringer, Victor C[lay]	Lippincott, Grambo & Co.
Battle, Kemp P[lummer]	Lippincott, J. B. Co.
Battle, R[ichard] H.	McIver, Charles D[uncan]
Baxter, Jno.	McKay, N[eil]
Bingham, W[illiam] J[ames]	McPheeters, A[lexander] M[iller]
Brewer, Fish P.	McRae, D[uncan] K[irkland]
Busbee, Quentin	Manly, Cha[rles]
Cherry, J[ohn] B.	Merriam, C[harles]
Coleman, W[illiam] M.	Mordecai, Geo[rge] W.
Connor, R[obert] D[igges] W[imberly]	Nevin, Alfred
Cooke, W[illiam] D.	Noble, M[arcus] C. S.
Cowles, Calvin J.	Phillips, Charles
Craven, Braxton	Pool, Geo[rge] D.
Cunningham, Jno. W.	Rankin, D[avid] C[yrus]
Curtis, M[oses] A[shley]	Ransom, M[atthew] W.
Daves, Graham	Rayner, K[enneth]
Davidson, Ja[me]s Wood	Richardson, D. S.
Deems, Charles F[orce]	Ruffin, T[homas], Jr.
Dick, Rob[ert] P[aine]	Sanger, Geo[rge] P[artridge]
Draper, Lyman C[opeland]	S[aunder], R[omulus] M[itche]ll
Elliott, H[enry] B.	Slade, W[illiam]
Ellis, John W[illis]	Steele, W[alter] L[eak]
Gales, Seaton	Swain, D[avid] L[owry]
Gilmer, Jeremy F.	Thompson, Jno. R[euben]
Gilmer, John A[dams]	Turner, Josiah, Jr.
Goodloe, D[aniel] R[eaves]	Vance, Z[ebulon] B[aird]
Graham, W[illiam] A.	W[addell], H[ugh]
Hale, E[dward] J[ones]	Wheeler, Jno. H[ill]
Holden, W[illiam] W[oods]	Winston, P[atrick] H[enry], [Sr.]
Holt, W[illiam] R[aine]	Winston, P[atrick] H[enry], Jr.
Horner, J[ames] H[unter]	Worth, Jonathan
Hubbard, F[ordyce] M.	Woodfin, N[icholas] W[ashington]
Jones, H[amilton] C., [Sr.]	Yates, W[illiam] J.

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Finding Aids (Cont'd.)

Date Cards

1845-1849 (P.C. 28.1 & 28.8)
1850-1859 (P.C. 28.1 - 28.6; 28.8-28.11)
1860-1869 (P.C. 28.6 - 28.7; 28.11 - 28.14)
1870-1876 (P.C. 28.7 - 28.14)

Geographic Cards

North Carolina, Guilford County, Greensboro (P.C. 28.1 - 28.13)
North Carolina, Forsythe County, Winston (P.C. 28.7, 28.14, 28.15)
Tennessee, Jonesboro (P.C. 28.13-28.14)

Subject Cards

Agassiz, Louis (1851)
American Union Freedman's Commission (1865)
Bancroft, George (1851)
Bingham School (1864)
Bragg, Thomas (1858)
Caldwell Institute (1839)
Caldwell, Tod R. (1872)
Cape Fear Navigation Company (1867)
Catawba College (1853)
Colleges (denominational), state funds (1852)
Common Schools (1853-1872)
Common Schools, Catawba County (1853)
Common Schools, Georgia (1857-1858)
Common Schools, questionnaires (1854)
Common Schools, Raleigh (1865)
Common Schools, Salem (1863-1864)
Common Schools, Sampson County (1853)
Common Schools, South Carolina (1856)
Common Schools, Stokes County (1853)
Confederate National Teachers' Association (1864)
Confederate Textbook Series (1862)
Connor, Robert Digges Wimberly
Constitutional Amendments, North Carolina (1872)
Curtis, Moses Ashley (1853)
Davidson College (1855)
Davidson County, boundary lines (1852)
Disabilities, office seekers (1872)
Education of Women (1859)
Emigration, North Carolina to Alabama (1866)
Emigration, North Carolina to Arkansas (1870)
Emigration, North Carolina to Missouri (1860)
Freedman's Bureau (1865-1866)
Gates County, description (1850)
Hendersonville County, description (1850)
Freedmen (1866, 1868)

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Finding Aids (Cont'd.)

Subject Cards (cont'd.)

Historiography of North Carolina (1835-1884)
Holden, Joseph W. (1867) (1868) Holden, William W. (1868)
Immigration, Canada to North Carolina (1872)
Institute for the Deaf and Dumb and the Blind, Raleigh (1852)
Insurance Company, North Carolina (1870)
Johnson, Mary (novelist) (1900)
Johnston, Richard Malcolm (1860)
Journal of Education, North Carolina (1857)
Literary Fund (1853-1867)
Memminger, Christopher (1857)
Minerals, North Carolina (1852)
Minerals, coal fields, Deep River (1851-1866)
Minerals, gold mine (Graham), Alamance County (1866) (1858-1866)
Mining, coal (1851-1866)
Mining, gold (1858-1866)
Mitchell, Elisha (1854)
Moore, Bartholomew Figures (1846)
Negroes, education (1852, 1859, 1865, 1878)
Negroes, freed (1865)
Negro Suffrage (1865)
Normal College [Trinity College] (1850, 1852)
Normal Schools (1860)
North Carolina Presbyterian, Fayetteville (1860)
North Carolina Reader (1851, 1853)
North Carolina Reader, "Fitz Van Winkle" criticism (1852)
Oil Operations, Chatham County (1866)
Page, Walter Hines (1900)
Peabody Education Fund (1868)
Peace College (1860)
Peace Party (1863)
Politics, conservative convention (1872)
Politics, forecast (1855)
Politics, gubernatorial election (1865)
Politics, Locofocoism (1860)
Politics, repudiation of debts (1866)
Politics, usury law (1877)
Presbyterian Synod (1860)
Presbyterians, Chapel Hill (1860)
Railroad, Daniel Boone Trail (1871)
Raleigh, observations (1864-1865)
Raleigh Register (1851)
Raleigh Sentinel (1868)
Rayner, Kenneth (1855)
Reconstruction, Person County (1865, 1868)
Revolutionary War Pensions (1851, 1857)
Ruffin, Thomas, Sr. (1866)
Sears, Barnas (1868)
Secession, Missouri (1861)

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Finding Aids (Cont'd.)

Subject Cards (cont'd.)

Sheep raising, North Carolina (1852)
Slavery (1855, 1859, 1865) Slave traders (1866)
Society of Friends (1865-1866)
Superintendent, common schools (1853, 1872)
Swamp Lands, education fund (1867)
Temperance Legislation, proposal (1858)
Textbook Selection, dangers (1869)
Theological Seminary, Columbia, S. C. (1859)
Thornwell, James Henley (1859)
Treasurer of North Carolina, duties (1865)
U. S. Military Academy, West Point (1832)
University of North Carolina, escheat lands (1853-1854)
University of North Carolina, literary societies (1838)
University of North Carolina, official inquiry (1880)
University of North Carolina, science courses (1853)
University of North Carolina, student dances (1878)
Vance, Zebulon Baird (1876)
Wake Forest College (1852)
Wall Street (1854)
[Southern] Weekly Post (1851)
Wheeler's Historical Sketches of North Carolina, criticism (1851-1852)
Whigs, state and national (1846-1854)
Wiley, Calvin H., biographical (1902)
Wilksboro, description (1860)

See also:

Letters from Calvin H. Wiley:

Cathey, Joseph (P.C. 214), 1856
Graham, William A. (P.C. 61), 1851, 1861
Saunders, William L. (P.C. 27), 1883
Swain, David L. (P.C. 84), 1849
Vance, Zebulon B. (P.C. 15), 1863, 1864, 1865, 1881, 1886
Worth, Jonathan (P.C. 49), 1865

Southern Historical Collection, University of North Carolina

Calvin H. Wiley Papers (1850-1888)
John W. Cunningham Papers (1854-1869)
John W. Ellis Papers (1842-1861)
Marmaduke Robins Papers (1848-1887)
Thomas Ruffin Papers (1853-1888)

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See also

Trinity College Historical Society, Duke University
Calvin H. Wiley Papers (1852-1862), 3 items

Biographical Material:

Connor, R. D. W., "Program of Exercises for North Carolina Day,"
Historical and Biographical Papers, December 22, 1905.

Articles from the North Carolina Historical Review:

Bannerman, Howard, "Calvin H. Wiley's North Carolina Reader,"
XXIX, (October, 1952), 500-522.

Walser, Richard (ed.), "Letters of a Young Novelist: Calvin
Henderson Wiley," XXXI, (July, 1954), 410-421; XXXI,
(October, 1954), 550-575.

Wiley, Mary C., "Childhood Recollections of My Father," XXXIV,
(October, 1957), 517-529.

Wiley, Mary C. (ed.), "Unpublished Letters of Calvin Henderson
Wiley," XXIX, (January, 1952), 91-103.

Wiley, Mary C. (ed.), "With Calvin H. Wiley in Tennessee
Through Unpublished Letters," XXXVI, (January, 1959),
72-95.

Finding Aid completed by Ellen Z. McGrew 27 May 1966.