MARY DEAN WILLIAMS COLLECTION, 1850–1986

Collection Information

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Cataloging Information

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July 1989
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28 November 1994
Revised by
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September 2013

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Indiana Historical Society
450 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

www.indianahistory.org
COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION:  
**Manuscript Materials**: 1 document case, 1 oversize folder  
**Visual Materials**: 1 OVB box of photographs, 1 OVC box of photographs

COLLECTION DATES:  
Inclusive 1850–1986; bulk 1922–1986

PROVENANCE:  
Mary Dean Williams, 5921 East 12th Street, Indianapolis IN 46219, 6 June 1986,  
Mary Dean Williams, Waunakee, Wisconsin, 1987, 1989

RESTRICTIONS:  
None

COPYRIGHT:  
None

REPRODUCTION RIGHTS:  
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ALTERNATE FORMATS:  

RELATED HOLDINGS:  

ACCESSION NUMBER:  

NOTES:  

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Mary Dean Williams (ca 1902–ca 1990) was born Mary Dean Whitmer in Geneva, Shelby County, Indiana. She graduated from business college and was employed in several office jobs in Indianapolis; after her marriage in 1925 to businessman Russell Williams, she was a homemaker and mother as well.

In 1943 Williams stayed in Cambridge, Massachusetts, with her brother Charles Whitmer while his wife was fatally ill. In her later years, 1975–1986, she methodically wrote an account of her life experiences, as well as a careful inventory of her family heirlooms.

Sources:
Materials in the collection

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The manuscript materials, stored in one small manuscript box and one oversize folder, contain correspondence, photocopies of memoirs, a scrapbook, and a birth certificate. The materials are arranged by category, and chronologically within category.

The visual materials are comprised of 1 folder of snapshots and four large portrait photographs of Whitmer and Moore family members. These are stored in one Photographs folder, one OVB photograph box, and one OVC photograph box.

OM 0181 contains the Shelby County birth certificate, in German, of Maria Louisa Witmer, as well as a scrapbook of clippings of a newspaper series on Indianapolis's "first century, 1836–1936."

In Folder 1 are photocopied excerpts from the diaries and letters of Williams and her female relatives, 1901–1928.

Folders 2–5 contain correspondence 1922–1943 between Williams and members of her family.

In Folders 6–7 are photocopies of the memoirs Williams wrote at the end of her life, and in Folders 8–9 photocopies of the inventory of heirlooms, with comments, which she wrote at the same time.

Folder 10 contains a history of Ellenberger Street in the 1930s written by a former neighbor and childhood friend of Mary’s daughter, Leah VonKlock (formerly Leah Jane Kline).
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CONTENTS

Birth certificate for Maria Louisa Witmer 1850

Indianapolis scrapbook 1836–1936

Diary and letter excerpts written by the mother and grandmother of Mary Dean Whitmer, 1901–1928

Whitmer-Williams letters 1922–1928

Letters from Mary Dean Whitmer—1925

Letters from Mary Dean Whitmer—1926–27

Correspondence 1942–1943


Heirloom inventory 1975–1986—pp. 1–110

Heirloom inventory 1975–1986, pp. 111–210

“Indianapolis, Indiana—Ellenberger Street in the 1930s” written by Mrs. Leah VonKlock (formerly Leah Jane Kline) 5 pp., typed

Lucy Wilson of Bartholomew feeding chickens

Copy photographs of portraits of Mary Witmer and John Baptist Witmer taken in the home of Lucy Wilson after her death in 1968

CONTAINER

OM 0181

OM 0181

Box 1, Folder 1

Box 1, Folder 2

Box 1, Folder 3

Box 1, Folder 4

Box 1, Folder 5

Box 1, Folder 6

Box 1, Folder 7

Box 1, Folder 8

Box 1, Folder 9

Box 1, Folder 10

Photographs:

Folder 1

4x5 Polyester negatives:

Negative 1

Photographs:

Folder 1

4x5 Polyester negatives:

Negative 2 and 3
Anna Moore Whitmer
[formal portrait seated in chair]
[enhanced photograph on oval convex mount]

Grandpa Moore
(Delbert’s maternal grandfather)
[enhanced portrait photograph]

Grandma Moore
(Delbert’s maternal grandmother)

Mary Dean Whitmer (left)
Velda Edith Whitmer (right)
daughters of Camoleon and Delbert Whitmer
Taken about 1905, Noble Township, Shelby County
[enhanced portrait photograph of two small girls]
CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog: http://opac.indianahistory.org/

2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.

3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.

4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, M 0460).

5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.