

Collection #
M 0460
OM 0181

MARY DEAN WILLIAMS COLLECTION, 1850–1986

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July 1989

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28 November 1994

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Indianapolis, IN 46202-3269

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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

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 1986.0392, 1987.0161, 1989.0690X

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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Birth certificate for Maria Louisa Witmer 1850	OM 0181
Indianapolis scrapbook 1836–1936	OM 0181
Diary and letter excerpts written by the mother and grandmother of Mary Dean Whitmer, 1901–1928	Box 1, Folder 1
Whitmer-Williams letters 1922–1928	Box 1, Folder 2
Letters from Mary Dean Whitmer—1925	Box 1, Folder 3
Letters from Mary Dean Whitmer—1926–27	Box 1, Folder 4
Correspondence 1942–1943	Box 1, Folder 5
Memoirs 1975–1986, pp. 1–93	Box 1, Folder 6
Memoirs 1975–1986, pp. 94–187	Box 1, Folder 7
Heirloom inventory 1975–1986—pp. 1–110	Box 1, Folder 8
Heirloom inventory 1975–1986, pp. 111–210	Box 1, Folder 9
“Indianapolis, Indiana—Ellenberger Street in the 1930s” written by Mrs. Leah VonKlock (formerly Leah Jane Kline) 5 pp., typed	Box 1, Folder 10
Lucy Wilson of Bartholomew feeding chickens	Photographs: Folder 1 4x5 Polyester negatives: Negative 1
Copy photographs of portraits of Mary Witmer and John Baptist Witmer taken in the home of Lucy Wilson after her death in 1968	Photographs: Folder 1 4x5 Polyester negatives: Negative 2 and 3

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

OVB Photographs:
Box 1

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

OVC Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 1

Grandma Moore
(Delbert's maternal grandmother)

OVC Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 2

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]

OVC Photographs:
Box 1, Folder 3

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.