



The New York Public Library
Manuscripts and Archives Division

Guide to the

Isaiah Thornton Williams papers

ca. 1833-ca. 1921 [bulk 1850-1880]

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Compiled by John D. Stinson.

Summary

Creator: Williams, Isaiah Thornton, 1819-1886

Title: Isaiah Thornton Williams papers

Date: ca. 1833-ca. 1921 [bulk 1850-1880]

Size: 58.23 linear feet (150 boxes; 2 microfilm reels)

Source: Gift of Constance Williams and Mrs. George D. Mackay, (granddaughters of Isaiah Thornton Williams), 1947

Abstract: The bulk of the collection consists of legal case files, legal correspondence and miscellaneous legal papers of Isaiah Thornton Williams (1819-86), an attorney who practiced law in Buffalo, New York and in New York City from 1844 until his death in 1886. The bulk of the collection consists of legal case files, legal correspondence and miscellaneous legal papers of Isaiah Thornton Williams (1819-86), an attorney who practiced law in Buffalo, New York and in New York City from 1844 until his death in 1886.

Access: Advance notice required.

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Processing note: Compiled by John D. Stinson.

Creator History

Isaiah Thornton Williams (1819-86) was born at New Ipswich, N.H. He was descended on his father's side from one of the Pilgrims who arrived in the New World on the "Mayflower." His maternal uncle (Judge Tenney) was a jurist and member of the Louisiana Supreme Court. Williams received his early education at the Academy at Exeter (N.H.) where he became acquainted with Ralph Waldo Emerson and through Emerson with A. Bronson Alcott and Henry D. Thoreau with whom he established friendships. In 1836 he was apparently briefly employed as "an assistant in the counting room" of the Hampshire Manufacturing Company at Ware (Mass.). Afterwards he began the study of law in the offices of Henry K. Smith and Millard Fillmore at Buffalo (N.Y.). By 1844 he had begun to practice law in

Buffalo as an attorney and counselor of the Supreme Court of Erie County. During the presidency of Millard Fillmore he was often a guest at the White House where he was introduced to many prominent political figures. In 1854, with the help of Millard Fillmore who recommended Williams to his New York friends, he went to New York City where he quickly established his reputation as one of the outstanding members of the New York bar.

In the 1850's Williams conducted his legal practice in partnership with Henry M. Barnard (Williams & Barnard) and also with an attorney named Hyde (Williams, Hyde & Barnard). In 1867, his health broken by overwork, he retired from his practice to become register in bankruptcy for New York County. In 1877 he returned to his law practice, entering into partnership with Minott M. Silliman at White Plains (Westchester County). In 1881, his partnership with Silliman dissolved, he reopened his law office in New York City where his son, Elliot Williams, also an attorney, collaborated with him. His practice, which was various in scope, included maritime law, domestic relations, adultery, libel and slander, negligence, personal injury, landlord-tenant relations and bankruptcy. Horace Greeley, with whom he had developed a close friendship, retained him as counsel in several libel cases involving the New York Tribune.

In politics Williams supported the Whig, and later, the Republican Party. In the presidential campaign of 1864 he defended in public speeches Lincoln's conduct of the war urging his reelection. Earlier, during the gubernatorial campaign of 1862, he denounced what he regarded as the moral and political bankruptcy of the state's Democratic Party and its gubernatorial nominee, Horatio Seymour.

In religious matters Williams was a disciple of Emanuel Swedenborg. He became, however, disillusioned with the leadership of the New Church while attending its national convention held at Philadelphia in 1870, and abruptly resigned his membership in it although he apparently continued to accept its teachings. He remained in close friendship with the prominent Swedenborgian, Benjamin Fisk Barrett. In the 1860's Williams frequented the seances of a spiritualist medium who, supposedly, placed him in contact with a deceased sister. In his later years he experienced a spiritual crisis which plunged him into despondency and despair.

In 1849 Williams married Ellen E. White, daughter of Ferdinand Elliot White of Boston. She died in 1877 after a long illness. In 1860 Williams and his family settled at Fordham (then in Westchester Co.) where he remained until 1869 when he purchased a farm at Chappaqua (Westchester Co.) near the residence of his friend, Horace Greeley. He died there on April 5, 1886. He had three sons, Elliot, Kenneth and Reginald; and two daughters, Elizabeth Williams (Girod) and Josephine Williams (Bumstead).

Scope and Content Note

About 75% of the papers reflect the professional career of Isaiah Thornton Williams, an attorney who began the practice of law in Buffalo (N.Y.) in 1844 before removing to New York City where he continued to practice law from 1854 until his death in 1886. Included are legal case files arranged alphabetically by case title, legal correspondence arranged chronologically, and miscellaneous legal papers reflecting the litigation of cases before various courts in Erie and Westchester Counties and in New York City. The remainder of the collection consists of Williams' personal papers including correspondence, speeches, writings, bills and receipts, canceled checks and personal miscellany; and family correspondence and papers including correspondence with his wife, his children, brothers and sisters; papers of his sons, Elliot Williams, also an attorney, and Kenneth Williams; and printed ephemera.

Arrangement: The Isaiah Thornton Williams papers are organized in the following series: Series I.

Papers of Isaiah Thornton Williams Series II. Family Correspondence and Papers Series III. Printed Ephemera and Oversized Papers

Key Terms

Subjects

Law -- Cases

Law firms -- New York (State)

Law offices -- Records and correspondence

Occupations

Lawyers

Geographic Names

New York (State) -- Politics and government -- To 1898

United States -- Politics and government -- 1849-1877

Names

Williams, Isaiah Thornton, 1819-1886

Greeley, Horace, 1811-1872

Williams, Elliot

Williams, Kenneth

Williams, Thornton

Container List

Series I. Papers of Isaiah Thornton Williams

This series contains case files, legal correspondence, miscellaneous legal papers, personal correspondence, speeches and writings, personal miscellany; and financial papers

I.A. Case Files

The bulk of the case files consist of clients' files, which are arranged alphabetically by case title. The files include depositions, pleadings, bills of complaint, bills of particular, trial transcripts, court orders, motions, trial notices, summonses, stipulations, notes and memoranda and other papers. The case files also contain some correspondence with attorneys and clients although the bulk of the legal correspondence is contained in Section I. B. Legal Correspondence. The files represent Williams' practice before various courts including the Supreme Courts of Erie and Westchester Counties, Surrogate's Court of Westchester County, and courts in New York City including New York Superior Court, City Court of Brooklyn, City Court of New York, Marine Court and the Court of Common Pleas. Following the clients' files is a file of personal cases in which Williams appeared either as plaintiff or defendant.

Williams' practice covered a wide variety of case law including bankruptcy, negligence, foreclosure, adultery, libel and slander, assault and battery, fraud, alienation of affections, and unlawful confinement. Several cases were publicized in the local press. The cases of *Accessory Transit Co. vs. Garrison* and that of *MacDonald vs. Garrison* contain extensive testimony relative to events in Nicaragua during the Filibuster War of 1855-60 including the smuggling of men, arms and munitions from San Francisco to Nicaragua, conditions in Nicaragua during the war, and the activities of General William Walker.

The case of *Strong vs. Bennett*, also widely publicized, involved a suit for libel brought by State Senator Demas Strong against the Brooklyn Daily Times, which accused the senator of bribing members of the state legislature. (Williams' extensive oral summation of the case was published separately in pamphlet form).

Included are cases involving Horace Greeley and the New York Tribune. In the case of *Cook vs. the Tribune Association* Williams defended the newspaper against a suit for libel brought by Isaac Cook, Postmaster General of Chicago, who had been described by the Tribune in a published article as a "full blown scoundrel in charge of a den of thieves". The case of *Greeley vs. Bean* involved a suit over a tract of land in North Carolina which was sold to Greeley as timberland but which was later determined to be swampland on which Greeley and the Tribune had planned to establish a colony of freed slaves. Included is a stenographic transcript of Greeley's testimony. The case of *Manning and Storrs vs. Camp* concerns a suit brought by Greeley's executors to recover sums owed to his Estate.

Other papers relating to Greeley in the case files (Box #27) include correspondence (1864-72) from Greeley to Williams; a letter (1882) from Gabrielle Greeley to Williams; and five letters (1864-67) to Greeley from other persons. There is also (Box 28) a draft of Greeley's last will and testament and papers relating to the probate of his will in Surrogate's Court, Westchester County.

In another libel case (*Browne vs. Jones*) brought against a New York newspaper, Williams represented an Atlanta rabbi (Edward B. M. Browne) who accused the publisher of the New York Times of maligning his character by reporting that his failure to be reelected to the Hebrew Benevolent Congregation of Atlanta was due to the congregation's conviction that he was dishonest and morally unfit.

In the case of *Tait, et al vs. The Ship "Hound"* there are depositions by ship's officers relative to the coolie trade (1857-58) between Macao and Havana. The depositions describe the forcible recruitment of coolies at Macao and the shipboard conditions which led to their "rising" during a voyage to Havana.

In the case of *USA vs. Callicott*, another case, which attracted considerable publicity, Williams defended Theophilus C. Callicott, collector of customs at Brooklyn, against the charge of traffic in illegal liquor brought against him by the district attorney, Benjamin F. Tracy. The file includes extensive transcripts of trial testimony; correspondence from Callicott who was imprisoned at King's County Penitentiary; and memoranda in Callicott's hand of conversations between himself and the district attorney. Williams fought for a new trial for Callicott on the grounds that the judge in the case was prejudiced and should have recused himself.

Case files are arranged alphabetically.

Series I. Papers of Isaiah Thornton Williams (cont.)

I.A. Case Files (cont.)

Clients' Cases

- b. 1 Aberhall - Alexander
- b. 2 Allen - Avery
- b. 3 Bacon - Bank
- b. 4 Barlow - Barr
- b. 5 Barr - Bent
- b. 6 Bininger - Borck
- b. 7 Branam - Brower
- b. 8 Brown - Browne
- b. 9 Bruce - Burt
- b. 10 California - Calkin
- b. 11 Camp - Chambers
- b. 12 Chapman - Cocks, Jacob
- b. 13 Cocks, Jacob - Cocks, Lydia
- b. 14 Cocks, Lydia
- b. 15 Coleman - Collins, John
- b. 16 Collins, John - Cook, Isaac
- b. 17 Cook, Isaac - Crawford
- b. 18 Cronk - Cunningham
- b. 19 Darrow - Denham
- b. 20 Deyermant - Duffield
- b. 21 Dyckman
- b. 22 Efner - Everett
- b. 23 Farnum - Fischer
- b. 24 Fish - Fraser
- b. 25 Freygang - Fuller
- b. 26 Garezyski - Gorsuch
- b. 27 Graham - Greeley
- b. 28 Greeley - Griffith
- b. 29 Haggerty - Haney
- b. 30 Harlan - Havens
- b. 31 Havens - Heath
- b. 32 Heilbronner - Hexamer
- b. 33 Hexamer - Hodges
- b. 34 Hodges - Hunter
- b. 35 Hunter - Hyatt
- b. 36 Ingersoll - Ireland
- b. 37 Ireland - Keezeler
- b. 38 Kelly - Kelsey
- b. 39 Kerr - Knox
- b. 40 Landgraaf - Lyon

Series I. Papers of Isaiah Thornton Williams (cont.)

I.A. Case Files (cont.)

Clients' Cases (cont.)

- b. 41 McBride - McClean
- b. 42 MacDonald
- b. 43 MacDonald - Macy
- b. 44 Magenta - Merritt
- b. 45 Meyer - Morgan
- b. 46 Morgan - Mutual
- b. 47 New - Orange
- b. 48 Palmer - Parks
- b. 50 Parks - People
- b. 51 People
- b. 52 Perine - Potts
- b. 53 Potts - Pullen
- b. 54 Pullen - Read
- b. 55 Remington - Riorden
- b. 56 Robbins - Russell
- b. 57 Russell - Ryder
- b. 58 Sargeant - Secor
- b. 59 Seward - Sherwood
- b. 60 Sherwood - Smith
- b. 61 Smith - Sniffin
- b. 62 Sniffin - Sutton
- b. 63 Summers - Sweet
- b. 64 Taintor - Tait
- b. 65 Tait - Terrill
- b. 66 Thacker - Tice
- b. 67 Tice - Tompkins
- b. 68 Totten - Tyler
- b. 69 Tyler - U.S.A.
- b. 70 U.S.A.
- b. 71 U.S.A. - Voorhees
- b. 72 Wait - Walker
- b. 73 Walker
- b. 74 Walker - Washburn
- b. 75 Watson - Weston
- b. 76 White - Willets
- b. 77 Williams - Woodcock
- b. 78 Woodcock - Wright
- b. 79 Wright
- b. 80 Yerks - Younglove

Personal Cases

Series I. Papers of Isaiah Thornton Williams (cont.)

I.A. Case Files (cont.)

Personal Cases (cont.)

- b. 81 **Defendants A-G**
Williams vs. various defendants Williams vs. Anderson, John (c1870-72) Williams vs. Bloom, Samuel (1875) Williams vs. Camp. John (1884) Williams vs. Conkling, Rachel (1869) Williams vs. Glenn, William H. (1854-55) Williams vs. Goodwin, William F. (1868)
- b. 82 **Defendants G-Q**
Williams vs. Goodwin, William F. (cont'd.) Williams vs. Graham, John (1866) Williams vs. Griffith, Charles B. (1879-80) Williams vs. Kelly, Joseph (1877) Williams vs. The Mayor...of New York (1875-76) Williams vs. Quackenbush, David, et al (1885-86)
- b. 83 **Defendants S**
Williams vs. Smith, James M., et al (1879) Williams vs. Sniffen, Merwin (1882)
- b. 84 **Williams as Defendant**
Various persons vs. Williams Birdsall, Elizabeth H. vs. Williams (1872-73) Collins, Elijah J. vs. Williams (1882) Joice, Rodman L. vs. Williams (1863) Latimer, John G. vs. Williams (1855) Marvin, Aaron B. vs. Williams (1864) Morgan, William F. vs. Williams (1870)
- b. 85 **Williams as Defendant**
Morgan, William F. vs. Williams (1870), cont'd

I. B. Legal Correspondence

The correspondence (1852-86 and undated) which is arranged chronologically (by year/month) consists mainly of incoming correspondence from attorneys practicing in New York City and from clients relative to cases pending before the courts. There are a few drafts by Williams of outgoing letters. Included are three letters (12/28/53, 10/17/56, 1/27/57) written by Millard Fillmore recommending Williams to his New York friends. Some legal correspondence is also filed in Section I. A. Case Files.

Legal correspondence is arranged chronologically

- b. 86 1852 - 1855, Apr.
- b. 87 1855, May - Dec
- b. 88 1856, Jan - Aug.
- b. 89 1856, Sept. - 1867
- b. 90 1868 - 1869, May
- b. 91 1869, June - 1871, Mar.
- b. 92 1871, Apr. - 1873, Aug.
- b. 93 1873, Sept. - 1875, June
- b. 94 1875, July - 1877, Mar.
- b. 95 1877, Apr. - 1878, June
- b. 96 1878, July - 1879, June
- b. 97 1879, July - Dec.
- b. 98 1880
- b. 99 1881 - 1882, June
- b. 100 1882, July - 1883, Sept.
- b. 101 1883, Oct. - 1885, June
- b. 102 1885, July - 1886
- b. 103 n.d.; unidentified

Series I. Papers of Isaiah Thornton Williams (cont.)

I.C. Miscellaneous Legal Papers

The bulk of the miscellaneous legal papers (1844, 1850-87) which are arranged chronologically (by year only) consist of miscellaneous documents including deeds, agreements, indentures, powers of attorney, and other papers which could not be readily identified or associated with a specific case in the case files (in Section I. A.). Following the chronological file is a file of miscellaneous notes on the law and legal procedure arranged by subject.

This series is arranged chronologically and by subject

Chronological Files

- b. 104 1844, 1850-70
- b. 105 1871-82
- b. 106 1883-87, n.d.
- b. 107 undated

Subject Files

- b. 108 Notes on the Law and Legal Procedure

I. D. Personal Correspondence

The personal correspondence consists of a chronological file (1833-86) of mainly incoming letters from friends and acquaintances, followed by an alphabetical file.

The chronological file includes letters from the following notables: Charles P. Daly (5/9/86); Gabrielle M. Greeley (10/10/82, 4/14/83); Henry James [Sr.] (10/2/69); Cornelius Matthews (5/2/79, 5/12/79, 8/15/79, 8/22/79, 9/17/79); Theophilus Parsons (11/14/70, 8/13/71, 5/6/76); Franklin Benjamin Sanborn (3/21/83); William H. Storey (9/9/56); and Whitelaw Reid (7/24/72).

The alphabetical file contains substantial correspondence with the American Society for Psychical Research, Benjamin Fisk Barrett, Henry B. Dawson, William H. Holcombe, and Martha U. Osgood.

Included also is a separate file of correspondence and papers (1881-86) relating to the Westchester Temporary Home for Destitute Children consisting of miscellaneous correspondence of its board of managers including I. T. Williams, Sarah N. Worthington, and Charles W. Woolsey ; by-laws; typescript of a speech by I. T. Williams; reports, circular letters and other miscellany.

The correspondence (1869-85) from Benjamin Fisk Barrett (1808-92) relates to Barret's activities as pastor of the first Swedenborgian church in Philadelphia; his devotion to the theological teachings of Swedenborg; his religious writings and his editorship of the "Swedenborg Library"; his criticisms of the New Church leadership; and to his social relationship with Williams. Included is a lengthy draft letter (10/5/70) from Williams in which he expresses his disillusionment with the New Church.

The correspondence (1881-83) from William H. Holcombe of New Orleans [La.] relates to Holcombe's search for salvation in the theological teachings of Swedenborg and his efforts to renew Williams's faith in those teachings. Included is a lengthy manuscript narrative of Holcombe's "conversations" with a Swedenborgian mystic (S. W. Christy).

The correspondence (1876-84) from Martha U. Osgood describes her social life at Bar Mills (Maine); her frequent meetings with the Shakers (Elders John, Vance, and Sister Gillespie); her readings and spiritual thoughts; her delight in New England's seasons and countryside; her visits to Boston and Cambridge where she attended lectures and literary gatherings and where she met William Dean Howells; and other matters. Her letters contain frequent admonishments relative to Williams' melancholy and despondency, which he evidently revealed in his letters to her, which he requested be destroyed.

This series is arranged chronologically and by subject

- b. 109 1833-1886 & n.d.
- b. 110 A-O
American Society for Psychical Research Barrett, Benjamin Fisk Dawson, Henry B. Holcombe, William H. Osgood, Martha U.

Series I. Papers of Isaiah Thornton Williams (cont.)

I. D. Personal Correspondence (cont.)

b. 111 Westchester Temporary Home for Destitute Children

I. E. Speeches, Writings, & Personal Miscellany

The bulk of the speeches, which are arranged chronologically, reflect William's' views on national, state and local politics. The earliest speech (1842), a eulogy on the death of William Henry Harrison, was delivered to the Young Men's Association of Buffalo. In a speech (1859) to the "Republican City Convention" during a local ward election in New York City he urged the nomination of Solomon L. Hull over that of E. Delafield Smith. During the New York State gubernatorial campaign of 1862 he made several speeches in support of the Republican Party candidate, James Samuel Wadsworth, in which he defended Lincoln's conduct of the war and excoriated the State's Democratic Party and its gubernatorial candidate, Horatio Seymour. He also spoke on the New York City Draft Riots, and the problem of political corruption during the war. Included is a lengthy transcript of his testimony before the Railroad Committee of the New York State Assembly regarding approval of a franchise to run cars on the 3rd Avenue rails (the "Bull's Head" line).

The writings include manuscript drafts on the law of bankruptcy prepared for the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. Senate; a memorandum on lawyers practicing in Erie County in 1840; commentaries on good works, and on spiritualism and the New Church.

The personal miscellany consists of notes on places visited in Paris during Williams' European trip (1857); miscellaneous notes on religion; notes of his seances with a spiritualist medium who supposedly placed him in communication with a deceased sister; spirit writings by the medium; three cabinet photographs and a tintype of unidentified family members; and miscellaneous papers.

b. 112 Speeches

b. 113 Writings and Personal Miscellany

I. F. Financial Papers

The bulk of the financial papers consist of bills and receipts (1853-86) of mainly personal and household expenditures. Included also are canceled checks (1855-86) and check stubs.

Bills and Receipts

b. 114 1853-64

b. 115 1865-69

b. 116 1870-74

b. 117 1874-78

b. 118 1879-83

b. 119 1884-86 & n.d.

Canceled checks

b. 120 1855-79

b. 121 1880-86; check stubs

b. 121 Bank books

Series II. Family Correspondence and Papers

Series includes family correspondence; the papers of Elliot Williams, and the papers of Kenneth Williams, both sons of Isaiah Thornton Williams

Series II. Family Correspondence and Papers (cont.)

II. A. Family Correspondence

The family correspondence is arranged alphabetically by the family member's first name (excepting for Williams' in-laws and for his own and his wife's correspondence, which are interfiled by their last names). Included are correspondence of Williams with his sisters, Anna Williams (Curtis); Josephine Williams (Bumstead); Lucy Williams (Bond); Martha Williams (Mabbs); with his brothers, Charles C. Williams; Gibson T. Williams; and John M. Williams; his brothers-in-law, H[erbert] P[elham] Curtis and John Gardner White; with his sons, Elliot, Kenneth, Reginald and Thornton; and with his daughter, Elizabeth Williams (Girod). Included also are correspondence between Williams and his wife, Ellen (White) Williams; correspondence to Mrs. Williams from White family members and from friends; a few letters to Williams from his nieces, nephews and others; and unidentified family correspondence and papers. The bulk of the correspondence relates to family and social affairs. The correspondence (1869-84) from Charles C. Williams describes his life in Angola (N.Y.) where he was engaged in the lumbering business; and his life in Oregon City (Ore.) where he emigrated with his family in 1875. The letters describe economic and social conditions near Oregon City, the climate, and beauties of the landscape.

The correspondence (1862-83) from Elliot Williams describes his life as a student at Cornell University; his travels (1870) in France, Ireland and England; his social life during a lengthy convalescence in Louisville and Lexington (Ky.); family matters, and his law practice.

The correspondence (1871-83) from Reginald Williams relates mainly to his life as a student at Williams College.

The correspondence (1867-83) from Thornton Williams describes his life as a student at Dartmouth College and at Williams College; and his life in Baker City (Ore.) where he settled in 1881 to take up the practice of law.

The correspondence (1868-84) from H[erbert] P[elham] Curtis, Deputy Advocate General of the U.S. Army, relates mainly to family and social affairs. Many of the letters were written from Omaha (Neb.) and San Francisco where Col. Curtis was stationed.

- b. 122 Williams, Anna (Curtis) 1878-1883
Sister of ITW
- b. 122 Williams, Charles C. 1869-1884
Brother of ITW
- b. 122 Curtis, H[erbert] P[elham] 1868-1884
Brother-in-law of ITW
- b. 122 Williams, Elizabeth (Girod) 1861-1885
Daughter of ITW. Includes letters to her father and mother, and one letter to her brother, Kenneth
- b. 123 Williams, Elliot 1857-1909
Son of ITW. Includes letters to his father, mother and siblings, 1862-83; letters from his father (and others), 1857; 1883-85; and letters to his brother, Kenneth, 1906-09.
- b. 123 Williams, Fanny undated
- b. 123 Williams, Gibson T. 1854-1885
Brother of ITW
- b. 123 Williams, John M. 1855-1885
Brother of ITW
- b. 123 Williams, Josephine (Bumstead) 1877-1883
Sister of ITW. Letters to and from ITW and others
- b. 123 Williams, Kenneth 1887, 1883
Son of ITW. Includes letter to ITW, and report card
- b. 123 Williams, Lucy (Bond) 1873-1874
Sister of ITW
- b. 123 Williams, Martha (Mabbs) 1876-1885
Sister of ITW

Series II. Family Correspondence and Papers (cont.)

II. A. Family Correspondence (cont.)

- b. 123 Williams, Reginald 1871-1918
Son of ITW. Includes letters to/from ITW and to his brother, Kenneth
- b. 123-124 Williams, Thornton 1856-1893
Son of ITW. Contains letters to his father and mother, and other family members
- b. 124 White, John Gardner 1836-1881
Brother-in-law of ITW. Contains letters to his brother-in-law and sister, 1836-81; and a letter from ITW, 1877
- b. 123124 Williams, Ellen (White) 1841-1877
Wife of ITW. Includes letters from White family members and friends, and to ITW
- b. 125 Williams, Isaiah Thornton 1839-1883
Includes letters to his wife, 1866-75; letters to ITW from nephews, nieces and other family, 1839-83; and miscellaneous and unidentified family letters and papers

II. B. Papers of Elliot Williams

Elliot Williams [d.1917], son of Isaiah T. Williams, was educated at Cornell University. In the mid-1870's he entered into the practice of law in New York City in association with his father, and after the latter's death, carried on his own legal practice in New York City and in Westchester County where he was justice of the peace.

The papers (c.1875-1911) are arranged into case files, correspondence, miscellaneous legal papers, and financial papers. The case files, correspondence, and miscellaneous legal papers reflect Williams' practice of general law, including estates, real estate, contracts, landlord-tenant, before the Supreme Court of New York County and the Surrogate's Court of Westchester County. The case files are arranged alphabetically by case title; the correspondence (1875-1911) and miscellaneous legal papers (1878-1909) are arranged chronologically. The case files and miscellaneous legal papers consist of legal briefs, opinions, trial testimony, notices, decrees and other papers. The correspondence is mainly with attorneys and clients. The financial papers consist of bills and receipts (1886-1911); canceled checks (1886-1909); a cashbook (1908-10); and bank books (1886-98).

Case Files

- b. 126 Albee - Bunzl
- b. 126 Collins - Hunt
- b. 127 Johnson - Long

Correspondence

[placeholder]

Miscellaneous Legal Papers

[placeholder]

Financial Papers

[placeholder]

- b. 142 II. C. Papers of Kenneth Williams

Kenneth Williams (b. 1865), son of Isaiah T. Williams, was admitted to the bar in 1887 and began the practice of law at Portland (Ore.) before removing to Montana where he was elected (1888) attorney for Choteau County. Subsequently (1891) he settled in San Francisco where he practiced law until his appointment as examiner of the California Title Insurance and Trust Co. Before going West he had been associated (during the 1880's) with his father' law firm in New York City and had resided at Chappaqua (N.Y.). By 1902 he had returned to New York where he settled with his wife and family in Brooklyn. The papers (1886-1918) consist of miscellaneous personal correspondence received relating to family and social affairs; and miscellaneous papers.

Series III. Printed Ephemera and Oversized Papers

The printed ephemera consists of a chronological file (1855-1908) of miscellaneous ephemera; a file of court calendars (1875-1909); miscellaneous trade and calling cards; and other miscellany including a pamphlet endorsed by Elliot Williams entitled Discipline of the Yearly Meeting of Friends, Held in New York; for the State of New York and Parts Adjacent (N.Y., Baker & Duyckinck's Steam Presses, 1856).

The oversized papers include shipping articles for the ships "Palestine" (1850, Henry C. Scott, Master), the Clipper Steam Schooner "Peytona" (1853, James S. Nash, Master); accounts (1854-56) of the Steamships "Peytona" and "Polynesian"; and wage receipts (1855) for the Steamship "Peytona". The shipping articles list names of members of the crew, their stations, birthplace, age, height, and monthly wages.

b. 143 Ephemera 1855-1908, undated

Court Calendars

b. 144 1875-79

b. 145 1880-1907

Some years missing

b. 146 Trade & Calling Cards

b. 147 Oversized Papers