

**WILSON, ALPHEUS W.  
(ALPHEUS WATERS), 1834-1916.  
Alpheus W. Wilson papers, 1821-1916**

Emory University  
Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library  
Atlanta, GA 30322  
404-727-6887  
rose.library@emory.edu

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### **Descriptive Summary**

**Creator:** Wilson, Alpheus W. (Alpheus Waters), 1834-1916.  
**Title:** Alpheus W. Wilson papers, 1821-1916  
**Call Number:** Manuscript Collection No. 417  
**Extent:** .5 linear feet (1 box) and 1 oversized papers box (OP)  
**Abstract:** Papers of Methodist bishop and Baltimore author Alpheus Waters Wilson, his wife, and his father including correspondence and diaries.  
**Language:** Materials entirely in English.

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### **Administrative Information**

#### **Restrictions on Access**

Unrestricted access.

#### **Terms Governing Use and Reproduction**

All requests subject to limitations noted in departmental policies on reproduction.

#### **Source**

Purchase, 1963, with subsequent additions.

#### **Citation**

[after identification of item(s)], Alpheus W. Wilson papers, Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library, Emory University.

#### **Processing**

Processed by MRD, July 20, 1964.

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## Collection Description

### Biographical Note

Alpheus Waters Wilson (February 5, 1834-November 21, 1916) was born in Baltimore, Maryland, the son of Reverend Norval and Cornelia Laurence (Howland) Wilson. Wilson attended Columbian (now George Washington) University and married Susan B. Lipscomb, March 4, 1857. He was received on trial, 1853, in Baltimore Conference Methodist Episcopal Church and later joined the Church's Southern branch. In 1878 he was made secretary of the board of missions and in 1882 was chosen to the episcopacy, which office he held until his death. He took Episcopal tours around the world, 1886, 1888, 1890; to Japan, Korea, and China, 1898-1900 and 1907; was a delegate to the Ecumenical Conference in London 1881, 1901; Washington, 1891; and Toronto, 1911; and visited Brazil on mission inspection, 1892-1903. His wife died in 1908. He wrote many religious articles and papers. His two most important books are "Missions" and "Witness to Christ," the latter being a collection of his "Cole Lectures" delivered at Vanderbilt University.

Norval Wilson, Alpheus' father, (1802-1876) was converted to Methodism in 1819 while studying law but in March, 1821 was licensed as a preacher. He spent most of his years on the Baltimore, Winchester, and Alexandria Circuits. He was appointed a presiding elder when twenty-six years old and in 1861 wrote the resolutions severing the Baltimore Conference from the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

### Scope and Content Note

The collection consists of the papers of Alpheus W. Wilson, his wife and father from 1821 to 1916. It includes 121 letters, 69 by Alpheus W. Wilson and 52 by Mrs. Wilson and a small bound notebook containing a list of names (arranged alphabetically) apparently of friends and acquaintances with a notation beside each as to whether the person were dead or the kind of response they had made, e. g. "regrets," "present," etc., to some situation or invitation, perhaps on the occasion of Bishop Wilson's death. Also included is a copy of the "Discipline, 1914" of the M. E. Church, South with the Bishop's name stamped on the cover and a sermon based on the Text, Colos. 3: 1-4.

Additions include two volumes of a diary kept by Norval Wilson, father of Alpheus Wilson. The first volume of the diary covers from February 3, 1821-August 28, 1841; the second, extends from August 1, 1841-November 14, 1858. A second series of additions includes a collection of documents regarding the Wilsons' academic and ministerial qualifications and a newspaper clipping documenting Alpheus Wilson's career.

### Arrangement Note

Arranged by record type.

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## Container List

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Content</b>
1	1	Certificates of ordination, A.W. Wilson
OP1	1	Certificate of ordination as Bishop, A.W. Wilson
1	2	Certificates of ordination, Norval Wilson
1	3	Church-related papers
1	4	Correspondence from Alpheus W. Wilson to Susan Lipscomb Wilson, November 1854-December 25, 1886
1	5	Correspondence from Alpheus W. Wilson to Susan Lipscomb Wilson, April 6 1890-September 4, 1891
1	6	Correspondence from Alpheus W. Wilson to Susan Lipscomb Wilson, July 21, 1892-April 29, 1905.
1	7	Correspondence from Alpheus Waters Wilson to daughters, 1866 November 29-October 31, 1916
1	8	Correspondence from Susan Lipscomb Wilson to daughters, April 10-July 18, 1907
1	9	Correspondence from Susan Lipscomb Wilson to daughters, August 6-August 30, 1907
1	10	Correspondence from Susan Lipscomb Wilson to daughters, September 1-December 28, 1907
1	11	Diary, February 3, 1821 - August 28, 1841, Norval Wilson
1	12	Diary, August 1, 1841 - November 14, 1858, Norval Wilson
1	13	Printed material, A.W. Wilson
1	14	Sermon, A.W. Wilson

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