

# Guide to the Albert H. Wilbur Family Papers

WA MSS S-3656



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2019 May

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## Collection Overview

**REPOSITORY:** Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library  
P. O. Box 208330  
New Haven, CT 06520-8330  
(203) 432-2977  
beinecke.library@yale.edu  
<http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/>

**CALL NUMBER:** WA MSS S-3656

**CREATOR:** Wilbur, Albert H. (Albert Harper), approximately 1857- , author

**TITLE:** Albert H. Wilbur Family Papers

**DATES:** 1849-1908

**PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:** 0.42 linear feet (1 box)

**LANGUAGE:** English

**SUMMARY:** Correspondence and papers documenting the life of Albert H. Wilbur, a railroad employee, and members of the Wilbur family, including George W. Wilbur and Sarah Ann Cook Wilbur, 1849-1908.

**ONLINE FINDING AID:** To cite or bookmark this finding aid, please use the following link: <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.ahwilbur>

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## Requesting Instructions

To request items from this collection for use in the Beinecke Library reading room, please use the request links in the HTML version of this finding aid, available at <https://hdl.handle.net/10079/fa/beinecke.ahwilbur>.

To order reproductions from this collection, please send an email with the call number, box number(s), and folder number(s) to [beinecke.images@yale.edu](mailto:beinecke.images@yale.edu).

Key to the container abbreviations used in the PDF finding aid:

b.      box

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## Administrative Information

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

Purchased from Vigilante Rare Documents on the Frederick W. and Carrie S. Beinecke Fund for Western Americana, 2012, 2015, and 2018; and from Michael Ginsberg Books on the William Robertson Coe Fund No. 3, 2017.

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### Conditions Governing Access

The collection is open for research.

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## Conditions Governing Use

The Albert H. Wilbur Family Papers is the physical property of the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Yale University. Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors or their legal heirs and assigns. For further information, consult the appropriate curator.

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## Preferred Citation

Albert H. Wilbur Family Papers. Yale Collection of Western Americana, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Processing Information

Collections are processed to a variety of levels, depending on the work necessary to make them usable, their perceived research value, the availability of staff, competing priorities, and whether or not further accruals are expected. The library attempts to provide a basic level of preservation and access for all collections, and does more extensive processing of higher priority collections as time and resources permit.

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## Related Materials

George W. Wilbur Family Papers (WA MSS S-1611), Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

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## Albert H. Wilbur

Albert Harper Wilbur, son of George Wilbur (1823-1858) and Sarah Ann Cook Wilbur (1816-1904), grew up in Belvidere, Illinois, with his brother, George Willis Wilbur (1851-1931). He moved west in 1875, first working in Nebraska for the Union Pacific Railroad Company. From there, he went to the Utah Territory and worked at the Western Union Telegraph Company as a telegraph operator, transferring to Carson City, Nevada, and then Reno, where he served as office manager until 1879. In 1879, Wilbur moved to Bodie, California, where he worked for G. L. Porter & Company, a lumber company, as bookkeeper and later as business manager. In 1880, he moved to Maricopa, Arizona Territory, and then to Lathrop, California, working for railroads as train master and agent. In 1883, he moved to Deming, New Mexico; San Francisco; then Suisun, California, where he stayed for 4 years, working as an agent for the Central Pacific Railroad. He married Laura Bofinger in Red Bluff, California, in 1890. After moving to Pomona, California, the couple had a daughter, Helen, born 1892 January 26. In 1896, Wilbur worked for the Southern Pacific Company in Toano, Nevada, eventually retiring to Los Angeles by 1923.

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## Content Description

Correspondence and papers documenting the life of Albert H. Wilbur and members of the Wilbur family, 1849-1908. Includes autograph letters, signed, from Albert H. Wilbur to his brother, George W. Wilbur, and mother, Sarah Ann Cook Wilbur, in Illinois, 1875-1890, undated. Letters touch on Albert H. Wilbur's career and the health of his mother. There are also autograph letters, signed, from George W. Wilbur to Sarah Ann Cook Wilbur, and his wife, Ellen Rice Wilbur, 1870-1902, undated. Present is an autograph account, unsigned, of Albert H. Wilbur's trip to Southern California, written on verso of a map of California, 1876; an indenture, signed by George Wilbur and Sarah Ann Cook Wilbur, 1850; and manuscript business papers of George W. Wilbur, 1884-1890. There are also manuscript and typescript papers of the Parke & Lacy Machinery Company of San Francisco, California, 1883-1889; miscellaneous manuscript correspondence, 1869-1887; and empty envelopes, 1880-1897, undated.

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## Arrangement

Organized into two series: I. Correspondence, 1870-1902, undated. II. Papers, 1850-1890, undated.

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## Collection Contents

### Series I: Correspondence, 1870-1902, undated

#### English

Series I contains correspondence from Albert H. Wilbur to his brother, George W. Wilbur, and his mother, Sarah Ann Cook Wilbur, in Illinois. Letters touch on Albert H. Wilbur's career as a railroad employee and the health of his mother. There are also letters from George W. Wilbur to Sarah Ann Cook Wilbur, and his wife, Ellen Rice Wilbur. Additional letters are between "Bayard" and "Jo", from J. W. Cook to "Thomas", from Sarah Ann Cook Wilbur's sister to Sarah, and from A. H. Yale to an aunt. There is also a postcard to Susan W. Wilbur and unidentified correspondence. Accompanied by empty envelopes.

Series I is arranged chronologically.

b. 1

## **Series II: Papers, 1850-1890, undated**

English

Series II contains an autograph account, unsigned, of Albert H. Wilbur's trip to Southern California, recorded in 1876. There are also business papers of George W. Wilbur as well as those of the Parke & Lacy Machinery Company of San Francisco, California. Present are an indenture signed by George Wilbur and Sarah Ann Cook Wilbur, 1855, and a landlord agreement for A. H. Rice, 1855.

Series II is arranged chronologically.

b. 1

## **Selected Search Terms**

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the Library's online catalog. They are grouped by name of person or organization, by subject or location, and by occupation and listed alphabetically therein.

### **Subjects**

Railroads -- United States -- Employees

### **Genres / Formats**

Family papers  
Maps

### **Geographic Names**

California -- Description and travel

### **Names**

Wilbur, Ellen Rice, -1932  
Wilbur, George W. (George Willis), 1851-1931  
Wilbur, Sarah Ann Cook, 1816-1904

### **Families**

Wilbur family

### **Corporate Body**

Parke & Lacy Machinery Company

### **Contributors**

Wilbur, Albert H. (Albert Harper),  
approximately 1857- , author  
Wilbur, George W. (George Willis), 1851-1931  
Wilbur, Sarah Ann Cook, 1816-1904

### **Acquired From**

Vigilante Rare Documents , bookseller