



Guide to the Wilson Family Papers

This finding aid was created by UNLV Special Collections and Archives staff. This copy was published on July 24, 2023. Please contact special.collections@unlv.edu for questions regarding this collection.

Persistent URL for this finding aid: <http://n2t.net/ark:/62930/f1zp46>

© 2023 The Regents of the University of Nevada. All rights reserved.

University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.

Box 457010

4505 S. Maryland Parkway

Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-7010

special.collections@unlv.edu

Table of Contents

Summary Information	3
Biographical Note	3
Scope and Contents Note	4
Arrangement	4
Administrative Information	5
Related Materials	5
Names and Subjects	6
Collection Inventory	6

Summary Information

Repository:	University of Nevada, Las Vegas. University Libraries. Special Collections and Archives.
Creator:	Wilson, James Bernard, Sr., 1828-1906
Contributor:	Anderson, George
Contributor:	Wilson, James Bernard, Jr., 1874-1943
Contributor:	Wilson, George Tweed, 1876-1959
Contributor:	Sandstone Ranch
Title:	Wilson Family Papers
ID:	MS-00125
Date [inclusive]:	1875-1918
Physical Description:	1.35 Cubic Feet (2 boxes)
Physical Description:	1.62 Linear Feet
Language of the Material:	English
Abstract:	The Wilson Family Papers (1875-1918) document the personal and professional lives of James B. Wilson Sr., James B. Wilson Jr., and George Twison "Tweed" Wilson, early pioneers in Southern Nevada. The collection is comprised of personal correspondence, invoices and advertisements from the Wilson family business, the Sandstone Ranch, and photographs of the extended Wilson family.

Preferred Citation

Wilson Family Papers, 1875-1918. MS-00125. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Biographical Note

James B. Wilson Sr. settled in Southern Nevada after his release from military service at Fort Mojave, Arizona in 1864. In 1875, Wilson Sr. and his business partner George Anderson obtained a piece of property near Blue Diamond, Nevada and began raising cattle and running a goods delivery service at what they named Sandstone Ranch. Anderson married a Paiute woman from a

nearby reservation, who had one child. However, Wilson Sr. convinced her to name her firstborn James Jr. after him. She and Anderson had an additional child together, George Twison "Tweed" Anderson. Anderson's wife died giving birth to Tweed, and Anderson died a few years later. James Wilson Sr. adopted the the two boys and they both took his last name

The family's primary source of income was cattle ranching and raising sheep, although Wilson Sr. mined for ore and other minerals to augment their income. Wilson Sr. deeded the land to his sons in 1902, and passed away in 1906. James Jr. and Tweed operated the Sandstone Ranch until financial difficulties forced them to sell the land in 1929. Willard George, a California furrier and long-time friend of the Wilson family, bought the land from them but allowed the Wilsons to remain on the property in their house. James Jr. passed away in 1943, but Tweed Wilson lived at Sandstone Ranch until his death in 1960. George sold the property in 1949 to Chester Lauck of the "Lum and Abner" comedy duo, who later sold it to Baroness Vera Krupp in 1955. The property changed hands several more times until the Nevada Division of State Parks purchased it in 1973 and developed a plan with the Bureau of Land Management for a state park. The Wilson's Sandstone Ranch is now part of the Spring Mountain Ranch State Park and the Red Rock Conservation Area, which was entered in the United States National Register of Historic Places on April 02, 1976.

Source: "History of Spring Mountain Ranch State Park." Nevada State Parks. Accessed March 21, 2018. <http://parks.nv.gov/learn/park-histories/spring-mountain-ranch-history>.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Scope and Contents Note

The Wilson Family Papers (1875-1918) document the lives of James B. Wilson Sr., James B. Wilson Jr., and George Twison "Tweed" Wilson and their business, the Sandstone Ranch, located in Clark County, Nevada. Materials include personal correspondence, business invoices, and advertisements for ranching and farming equipment. Also included is a family photo album and additional loose photographs with a brief list of identified individuals, including James B. Wilson Sr. and his brother, Thomas J. Wilson.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Arrangement

Materials are arranged by topic.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Administrative Information

Access Note

Collection is open for research.

Publication Rights

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyrights and other rights. See [Reproductions and Use](#) on the UNLV Special Collections website for more information about reproductions and permissions to publish.

Acquisition Note

Materials were donated in 1973; accession numbers 1973-001 and T1.

Processing Note

Materials were processed by Special Collections Staff. In 2015, as part of a legacy finding aid conversion project, Franklin Howard revised and enhanced the collection description to bring it into compliance with current professional standards. In 2018, as part of an archival backlog elimination project, Sarah JONES rehoused the collection and revised the collection description.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Related Materials

Related Collections

The following resources may provide additional information related to the materials in this collection:

James B. Wilson Photographs. PH-00011. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

Nevada State Park System Records, 1863-1981. MS-00136. Special Collections and Archives, University Libraries, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Las Vegas, Nevada.

[^ Return to Table of Contents](#)

Names and Subjects

- photographs
- Nevada -- Las Vegas -- History -- Pioneer
- Spring Mountain Ranch State Park (Nev.)

Collection Inventory

Title/Description	Containers	
Business correspondence, 1885-1910	box 01	folder 01
Tweed Wilson correspondence, 1904-1918	box 01	folder 02
George Anderson correspondence, 1880-1888	box 01	folder 03
Miscellaneous correspondence, 1875-1909	box 01	folder 04
James B. Wilson correspondence, 1881-1909		
Letter from J.W. Botkins to J.H. Wilson, 1905 October 9	box 01	folder 05
Letter from Deborah A. Hamilton to James B. Wilson, 1883 May 11	box 01	folder 06
Letter from Mrs. Hermina Adam to James B. Wilson, 1889 December 9	box 01	folder 07
Letter from Mrs. Hermina Adam to James B. Wilson, 1890 August 21	box 01	folder 08
Letter from A.G. Campbell to James B. Wilson, 1891 March 13	box 01	folder 09
Letter from A.G. Campbell to James B. Wilson, 1892 September 21	box 01	folder 10
Letter from S.W. Cass to James B. Wilson, 1886 February 11	box 01	folder 11
Letter from Jane A. Cullison to James B. Wilson, 1881 September 26	box 01	folder 12
Letter from Jane A. Cullison to James B. Wilson, 1881	box 01	folder 13
Letter from Jane A. Cullison to James B. Wilson, 1891 October 24		

Guide to the Wilson Family Papers

	box 01	folder 14
Letter from Jane A. Cullison to James B. Wilson, 1892 March 6	box 01	folder 15
Letter from Jennie Clark to James B. Wilson, 1891 March 8	box 01	folder 16
Letter from Jennie Clark to James B. Wilson, 1892 February 29	box 01	folder 17
Letter from Samuel Clemens to James B. Wilson, 1909 April 5	box 01	folder 18
Letter from Mollie Crowell to James B. Wilson, 1890 February 20	box 01	folder 19
Letter from Mollie Crowell to James B. Wilson, 1891 April 14	box 01	folder 20
Letter from A.E. Davis to James B. Wilson, 1902 June 12	box 01	folder 21
Letter from Nellie Divon to James B. Wilson, 1903 August 9	box 01	folder 22
Letter from Mr. and Mrs. C.H. Finley to James B. Wilson, 1902 March 6	box 01	folder 23
Letter from Mrs. Myrtie Gillett to James B. Wilson, 1890 December 28	box 01	folder 24
Letter from Myrtie Gillett to James B. Wilson, 1891 July 6	box 01	folder 25
Letter from Myrtie Gillett to James B. Wilson, 1891 September 26	box 01	folder 26
Letter from Myrtie Gillett to James B. Wilson, 1891 March 4	box 01	folder 27
Letter from Myrtie Gillett to James B. Wilson, 1891 March 18	box 01	folder 28
Letter from Myrtie Gillett to James B. Wilson, 1904 October 9	box 01	folder 29
Letter from Irene Le Cass to James B. Wilson, 1882 December 18	box 01	folder 30
Letter from Irene Le Cass to James B. Wilson, 1883 February 28	box 01	folder 31
Letter from W.N. Smith to James B. Wilson, 1882 October 15	box 01	folder 32
Letter from P.I. William to James B. Wilson, 1882 October 19	box 01	folder 33
Letter from P.I. William and Cassie to James B. Wilson, 1888 May 22		

	box 01	folder 34
Letter from James H. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1890 October 12	box 01	folder 35
Letter from J.L.C. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1890 December 27	box 01	folder 36
Letter from J.L.C. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1904 November 30	box 01	folder 37
Letter from J.L.C. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1892 June 26	box 01	folder 38
Letter from T.J. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1882 February 26	box 01	folder 39
Letter from T.J. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1903 October 13	box 01	folder 40
Letter from Eleanor Clark to James B. Wilson, 1882 December 20	box 01	folder 41
Letter from T.J. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1882 July 7	box 01	folder 42
Letter from T.J. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1883 January 21	box 01	folder 43
Letter from T.J. Wilson to James B. Wilson [typed transcription only], 1883 September 17	box 01	folder 44
Letter from T.J. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1889 July 16	box 01	folder 45
Letter from T.J. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1889 November 11	box 01	folder 46
Letter from T.J. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1890 September 4	box 01	folder 47
Letter from T.J. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1891 September 30	box 01	folder 48
Letter from T.J. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1892 February 26	box 01	folder 49
Letter from W.A. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1883 September 30	box 01	folder 50
Letter from W.A. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1904 October 15	box 01	folder 51
Letter from W.F. Wilson to James B. Wilson, 1882 August 20	box 01	folder 52
Letter from S.E. Yates to James B. Wilson, 1905 June 11	box 01	folder 53
Letter from Tishie to James B. Wilson, 1882 October 8		

Guide to the Wilson Family Papers

	box 01	folder 54
Letter from A.E. Thomas to James B. Wilson, 1890 December 8	box 01	folder 55
Letter from W.B. Stanley to James B. Wilson, 1891 January 22	box 01	folder 56
Letter from unknown sender to James B. Wilson, 1890 August 16	box 01	folder 57
Letter from W.B. Stanley to James B. Wilson, 1891 December 10	box 01	folder 58
Letter from W. Schnoke to James B. Wilson, 1909 April 12	box 01	folder 59
Letter from Chas Milliken to James B. Wilson, 1905 October 9	box 01	folder 60
Land Office records, 1884-1906	box 01	folder 61
Brown-Gosney Co. invoices and correspondence, 1901-1904	box 01	folder 62
Yount & Fayle invoices and correspondence, 1901-1916	box 01	folder 63
Sandstone Ranch invoices, 1884-1910	box 01	folder 64
Advertisements, 1909-1913	box 01	folder 65
Government publications relating to the U.S. military and the Department of Agriculture, undated	box 01	folder 66
Willard George invoices and correspondence, undated	box 01	folder 67
Various members of the Wilson family including William L. Wilson, Rebecca Mellick, and John Wilson: photographic prints, approximately 1880 to 1899	box 01	folder 68
Wilson family photo album, undated	box 02	