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### Woodruff family papers, 1839-1963

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#### Recommended Citation

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# **Woodruff family papers**

## **MS.000385**

**Finding aid prepared by the Arkansas State Archives**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Arkansas State Archives  
One Capitol Mall  
Little Rock, Arkansas, 72201  
501-682-6900  
[state.archives@arkansas.gov](mailto:state.archives@arkansas.gov)

## Table of Contents

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<u>Summary Information</u> .....	3
<u>Biographical/Historical Note</u> .....	4
<u>Scope and Contents</u> .....	5
<u>Administrative Information</u> .....	5
<u>Collection Inventory</u> .....	7
<u>Correspondence</u> .....	7
<u>Financial documents</u> .....	11
<u>Legal documents</u> .....	12

## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Arkansas State Archives
<b>Title</b>	Woodruff family papers
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1839-1963
<b>Extent</b>	4.75 Cubic feet 7 boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials</b>	Materials entirely in English.

### Preferred Citation

Woodruff family papers, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

## Biographical/Historical Note

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William E. Woodruff, Sr., newspaper publisher, land agent, businessman, and elected official, was one of Arkansas's earliest and most influential pioneers. He settled in Arkansas Territory in 1819 and spent the remaining sixty-six years of his life in his adopted state, greatly shaping and contributing to its politics, culture, and economy.

Born in Bellport, Suffolk County, New York, on December 24, 1795, Woodruff was the first child of Nathaniel and Hannah Clarke Woodruff. William E. Woodruff's siblings were Matthew Edmund Woodruff, George Brown Woodruff, who died at seventeen; Nathaniel Milton Woodruff, Jehiel Hildreth Woodruff, Mary L. Woodruff, and Phebe Jane Woodruff.

At 18, William Woodruff began an apprenticeship with Alden Spooner, a noted New York printer who published the Suffolk Gazette and the Long Island Star. When the War of 1812 began he enlisted in the reserve corps. He helped defend the city of New York against heavy artillery.

In 1819 he moved to the newly-formed Arkansas Territory to start a newspaper. He bought a small printing press and made the three-month journey by horseback and canoe, landing at Arkansas Post on October 30, 1819. He published the first issue of the Arkansas Gazette on November 20, 1819. When the territorial capitol moved to Little Rock in November 1821, Woodruff followed with his press. The first issue of the Little Rock-based Gazette was published on December 29, 1821.

Woodruff established the state's first circulating library in 1826, and also held a variety of elected offices in city and state government. Outspoken newspaper editorials combined with friendships with politicians like Chester Ashley to make Woodruff powerful force in early Arkansas politics.

Woodruff sold and repurchased the Arkansas Gazette several times. When he was not able to repurchase it in 1846, he founded a new paper, the Arkansas Democrat. When the Gazette was again available, he bought it and merged the two papers into the Arkansas State Gazette and Democrat. He permanently retired from newspaper publishing in 1883 and died June 19, 1885.

In Little Rock Woodruff met Jane Eliza Mills, the daughter of Abraham Mills. They married on November 14, 1827, and had eleven children, four sons and seven daughters.

Alden Mills Woodruff, born August 27, 1828, and died September 30, 1893. At seventeen Alden joined Captain Albert Pike's company of Yell's Mounted Arkansas Regiment during the Mexican War. He was Chief Commissary to General William J. Hardee during the Civil War. Later, he served as Chief Clerk in the Arkansas House of Representatives in 1862 and Chief Secretary of the Arkansas Senate during the Brooks-Baxter War in 1874. At the time of his death Alden Woodruff worked in the Gazette Printing office. He married Eliza Sizer on December 1, 1856. His second marriage was to Clay Sparks on December 2, 1863. His children included one son, George, and two daughters, Janie and Willie.

William Edward Woodruff, Jr. born June 8, 1831, and died July 8, 1907. He became a major during the Civil War after organizing the Woodruff Battery. In 1866, he operated the Arkansas Gazette, along with his brother-in-law, W.D. Blocher. From 1881 until 1890 Woodruff was state treasurer. He married Ruth

Blocher, and they had three children, William E. Woodruff, III, Margaret Woodruff Wilda of New York City, and Elizabeth Woodruff.

Harriet M. Woodruff Jabine was born January 31, 1836 and died January 17, 1918. She was a founder of the Arkansas Pioneers Association, and a charter member of the Memorial Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. She married John Jabine and they had seven children. Mrs. H.C. Rather, Mrs. Claude H. Sayle, Shelby Jabine, C.W. Jabine, Thomas Jabine, Dan Jabine, and Lucien Jabine.

Mary Eliza Woodruff Bell was born April 17, 1838 and died February 20, 1911. She married Samuel Slade Bell of Hamburg, Ashley County, in 1865. They had three children, Eva Bell (Mrs. Francis Bennett) Reynolds, Hatty Woodruff Bell Walt, and Fannie Bell.

Evelina W. Woodruff Vaughan, was born June 21, 1840 and died November 30, 1927. At the time of her death she lived at the Confederate Home in Sweet Home, Arkansas. She married Cradrick R. Vaughan, May 28, 1869. They had two children, William Woodruff Vaughan and Aimee Thompson Vaughan.

Frances Clark Woodruff Martin was born April 4 1843 and died February 6, 1936. She married Joseph A. Martin and they lived in Abilene, Texas and later New Orleans, Louisiana. They had three children, Mrs. Robin A. Jones, Mrs. E.A. Sherrill, and Joseph Martin, Jr.

Jane Georgine Woodruff was born February 23, 1845 and died December 3, 1935. She was a member of the United States Daughters of 1812, the Memorial Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy and was a charter member of the Aesthetic Club of Little Rock, Arkansas.

Chester Ashley Woodruff was born January 12, 1850 and died February 3, 1899. He married Mary Thurston and later married Katherine Elizabeth McIntosh.

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## Scope and Contents

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This collection contains correspondence, financial and legal documents, essays, printed materials, newspapers, a diary, and scrapbooks belonging to Woodruff family.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 05/13/2010

### Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research use.

**Conditions Governing Use**

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**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Unknown.

## Correspondence

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>
Diary	1
1. 1917, Hatty Woodruff Bell	
Family histories	
2. Undated	
<b>Correspondence</b>	
William E. Woodruff, Sr.	
3. 1877-1880	
4. 1881-1883 and undated	
William E. Woodruff, Jr.	
5. 1900-1902	
<b>Harriet M. Woodruff Jabine</b>	



**Mary Eliza Woodruff Bell**

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6. Undated

**Mary Eliza Woodruff Bell**

7. 1871-1907

8. 1908-1909

9. 1911 and undated

**Evelina Woodruff Vaughan**

10. 1890-1904

11. 1916

12. 1917-1918 and undated

**Jane Georgine Woodruff**

13. 1879-1887

14. 1906-1913

15. 1914

**Chester Ashley Woodruff**

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16. 1915-1935

17. Undated

**Chester Ashley Woodruff**

18. 1875-1901

**Janie and Willie Woodruff**

19. 1908

**Fannie Bell**

20. 1920-1929

21. 1932 January-July

22. 1932 August

23. 1932 September-1933 December and undated

**Hatty Bell**

**Box**

2

24. 1913-1917

**Eva Bell Reynolds**

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25. 1918

26. Undated

**Eva Bell Reynolds**

27. 1906-1942

**Francis Bennett Reynolds**

28. Undated

**Averell Reynolds Tate**

29. 1916-1942 and undated

**Hiram Averell**

30. 1839-1849

31. 1850-1879

32. 1880-1889

**Miscellaneous**

Financial documents

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33. 1873-1932 and undated

**Financial documents**

William E. Woodruff Sr., accounts

34. 1851-1868

35. 1859-1867

36. 1866-1872, ferry tract accounts

37. 1867

38. 1868-1871

39. 1869-1870

40. 1870-1871

41. 1872-1879

42. 1873

43. 1880-1881 and undated

**Georgine Woodruff**

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**Georgine Woodruff**

44. 1907-1909

**Eva Bell Reynolds**

45. 1918-1940

**Chester Woodruff**

46. 1925

**Fannie Bell**

47. 1926

**Averell Reynolds Tate**

48. 1927-1963

**Miscellaneous**

49. Undated: Checkbook stubs

**Legal documents**

William E. Woodruff, Sr.

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**William E. Woodruff, Sr.**

**Box**

50. 1841-1843

3

51. 1862-1867

52. 1870-1871

53. 1872-1875 and undated

**Speeches**

54. 1925: Sam Bell Reynolds

55. Undated: Jane Georgine Woodruff

**Essays**

56. Circa 1915: Anne Maria Sevier Churchill

57. Circa 1918: Jane Georgine Woodruff, "Reminiscences"

58. 1967: "History of Curran Hall"

59. Undated: Miscellaneous

**Certificates**

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**Certificates**

60. 1871-1913: Chester Ashley Woodruff

61. 1908-1914: Fannie Bell

**Printed materials**

62. 1850-1860: Real estate tax forms

63. 1860: Lease indenture form

64. 1870-1875: Tax forms

65. 1870s-1880s: Blank checks

66. 1872: "The Galaxy"

67. 1875: "To the farmers of Arkansas"

68. 1882-1884 and undated: Greeting cards

69. Circa 1910: "Historical Arkansas"

70. 1912 June: "The Arkansas History Commission Bulletin of Information number 2"

Miscellaneous

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71. 1925-1938: "The parish organized for service," "Group organization in the parish," and "Order of service for the consecration as a bishop of Reverend Richard Bland Mitchell, D.D."

72. 1928-1932: Speeches of "Honorable J. Thomas Heflin" and "Honorable Huey P. Long"

73. 1932 October and undated: "The Service Bureau for Writers" and "Yearbook 1932 Ohio Editors' Association"

74. 1942 and undated: Miscellaneous

**Miscellaneous**

75. Circa 1874: Election tickets, Pulaski County

76. 1878, 1913-1915 and undated: Clubs and associations

77. 1881: Funeral notice, Cora F. Faust

78. 1881-1955: Christ Church

79. 1883: Arkansas Press Association

80. 1891-1930: Little Rock, Arkansas, high schools

81. 1902: Notebook, Janie Woodruff

82. 1907-1915: United Daughters of the Confederacy



Miscellaneous

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84. 1912-1935: Arkansas Pioneer Association

85. 1912 and undated: United States Daughters of 1812

86. 1922: "Preparing manuscripts for publication"

83. 1911-1952: Aesthetic Club

87. 1924: Memorial, Hatty Woodruff Bell Walt

88. 1926, 1961 and undated: Programs

89. 1942: Note to Averell Tate

90. Undated: Lithographs, Arkansas State Democrat and [Arkansas] Gazette

91. Undated: Music

92. Undated: Poems

93. Undated: Notes

94. Undated: Children's writings and drawings

**Box**

95. Undated: Calling cards

4

Newspaper clippings

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96. Undated: Prints

97. Undated: Recipe

98. Undated: Invitations

99. Undated: Postcards from the Oriental Institute, Chicago, Illinois

100. Undated: Miscellaneous

**Newspaper clippings**

**Box**  
5

101. 1854-circa 1885 and undated: Obituaries of Woodruff, Watkins, and Zimmerman

102. 1894 and undated: Arkansas and the Civil War

103. 1912 and undated: Confederacy

104. 1914-1934 and undated: American history

105. 1926: "The awakening of Arkansas," a pageant

106. 1926-1934 and undated: Arkansas history

107. 1927: Little Rock history

108. Undated: Agriculture

**Newspapers**

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109. Undated: Obituaries

110. Undated: Cures for ailments

111. Undated: Poems

112. Undated: Miscellaneous

**Newspapers**

113. 1882: Christian Standard supplement

114. 1883 May 26: Harper's Weekly

115. 1885 June 19: Arkansas Democrat

116. 1887 January 29: The Bath Plaindealer, Hiram Averell's obituary

117. 1926 July 21: Commerce and Finance

118. 1942 April 16: Arkansas Gazette

119. 1942 April 16: Arkansas Democrat

**Ledgers**

**Box**

6

120. 1862: Receipts for Steamship the 35th Parallel

## Magazines

121. 1871: Daily Journal (business transactions)

122. Undated: Notes on townships and ranges

**Magazines**

**Box**

6

123. 1884-1885: The Arkansas Ladies Journal

124. 1931-1932: Confederate Veteran

**Scrapbooks**

**Box**

7

125. 1879: Newsclippings pasted over the Arkansas House minutes

126. Undated: Newsclippings

127. Undated: Newsclippings

128. Undated: Postcards