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### Willson-Harkey family papers, 1886-1963

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# **Willson-Harkey family papers**

## **MS.000617**

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

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June 02, 2020

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)

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Arkansas State Archives
<b>Creator</b>	Harkey, Mary Leah Willson, 1889-1979
<b>Title</b>	Willson-Harkey family papers
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1886-1963
<b>Extent</b>	1.0 Cubic feet 2 boxes
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Language of Materials</b>	Materials entirely in English.

### Preferred Citation

Willson-Harkey family papers, Arkansas State Archives, Little Rock, Arkansas.

## Biographical/Historical Note

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Mary Leah Willson was born December 30, 1889, at Dardanelle, Yell County, Arkansas, the daughter of James A. and Minnie McElwee Willson. She was the granddaughter of Dr. Curtis Reed Willson, a surgeon in the Confederate Army. She graduated from Ouachita Baptist College and later attended the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. In 1915, she married Opal Noils Harkey, a merchant and banker with businesses in Ola, Plainview, and Dardanelle, Arkansas. In 1937, the Harkeys moved to Conway, where they operated a number of retail businesses, including a women's clothing store. Opal died January 9, 1940.

In 1949, Mrs. Harkey became the director of the Arkansas Confederate Home at Sweet Home. In 1953, she supervised the relocation of the home's inmates to a new building on the campus of the Arkansas School for the Deaf in Little Rock, Arkansas. She also oversaw the closing of the home in 1963. Mrs. Harkey's brother-in-law, Judge Clarence Price Newton (1879-1958), served as the second superintendent of the Confederate Home from 1913 to 1918.

Mary Willson Harkey was a member of many professional and patriotic organizations including the United Daughters of Confederacy, the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Welfare Forum. She died in Little Rock on April 3, 1979, and was buried next to her husband in the Sandlin Cemetery at Ola, Arkansas. The couple had two children, Virginia Harkey Hilton and James Willson Harkey.

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## Scope and contents

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This collection contains photographs, newsclippings, business records, correspondence, publications, and scrapbooks from the personal and professional files of Mary Leah Harkey. It contains information related to her tenure as superintendent of the Arkansas Confederate Home in Little Rock, Arkansas.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Arkansas State Archives 10/20/2010

## **Conditions Governing Access**

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## **Conditions Governing Use**

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## **Immediate Source of Acquisition**

Mary Charlton, Fayetteville, Arkansas, 2004.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Personal Name(s)**

- Charlton, Mary
- Newton, Clarence Price, 1879-1958

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>
1. Biographical/Genealogical material: Willson, Harkey, Newton families	1
<b>Arkansas Confederate Home</b>	
2. Minutes and correspondence: Confederate Home Board of Control, 1950-1962	
3. Personal: 1949	
4. Guestbook: 1955-1962	
5. Newsclippings	
6. Photographs	
7. Ledger: 1886-1889, Dr. Curtis Reed Willson, Dardanelle and Ola, Arkansas	
<b>Business</b>	
8. 1887-1938	
9. 1876-1939	

**James F. Willson**

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10. 1889-1922

11. 1889-1944

12. 1943-1944, includes probate records, O.N. Harkey

13. 1909-1917: includes deeds, Baptist church in Plainview, Arkansas

14. Harkey family correspondence: 1937-1959

15. Photographs

Organizations, 1945-1963

16. Arkansas Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs

17. Daughters of the American Revolution

18. United Daughters of the Confederacy, Little Rock Chapter

**James F. Willson**

19. Miscellaneous

20. 1926-1936: Scrapbook

21. 1937-1939: Scrapbook



**Confederate veterans publications**

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22. Photograph album: C.P. Newton, 1921–1923

23. Southern Governor's Conference, 1960

**Confederate veterans publications**

24. 1916 September: "Confederate Veteran"

25. 1931: Souvenir program, "Forty-first United Confederate Veterans Reunion"

26. Newsclippings

**Publications****Box**

2

27. 1899: "The Complete Medical Packet–Formulary"

28. 1911: "Speech of Senator Jeff Davis Delivered at Morrilton, Arkansas"

29. 1913: "Jeff Davis Governor and U.S. Senator: His Life and Speeches"

30. 1951: "The Golden Book of Favorite Songs"

31. 1945: "American Red Cross First Aid Textbook"

32. 1912: "Ouachitonian" (yearbook of Ouachita College)

33. Ledger: O.N. Harkey accounts, 1935–1939