R.P.C. Wilson II Papers
(C1040)

Collection Number: C1040

Collection Title: R.P.C. Wilson II Papers

Dates: 1910-1939

Creator: Wilson, R.P.C., II, 1876-1953

Abstract: Correspondence and papers of a doctor who specialized in the treatment of the “feeble-minded” and epileptic who was superintendent of the Missouri State Colony for the Feeble-Minded and Epileptic in Marshall, Missouri, from 1912-1920, 1933-1940, and 1949-1953. The institution is now called the Marshall Habilitation Center.

Collection Size: 1.9 linear feet
(210 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia. If you would like more information, please contact us at columbia@shsmo.org. Collections may be viewed at any research center.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number R.P.C. Wilson II Papers (C1040); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were placed on contract with the University of Missouri by F.M. Wilson II on December 21, 1958 (Accession No. CA3374).

Processed by: Processed by the State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center- Columbia Staff, date unknown. Finding aid revised by Erin Kraus on May 12, 2020.

Historical Note:
R. P. C. Wilson was born in Platte City, Missouri, the son of former Congressman R. P. C. Wilson and brother of Senator Francis M. Wilson, the Democratic nominee for governor in 1928 and 1932. He attended the Ellsworth Medical School in St. Joseph, Missouri, and did graduate work at Bellevue Hospital in New York. He practiced medicine in Platte City until he became appointed superintendent of the Missouri State Colony for Feeble-Minded and Epileptic in 1914. The institution became the Marshall State Hospital and then the Marshall Habilitation Center. He held that position for 26 years. Wilson died on July 12, 1953 at the age of 77.

Arrangement:

The papers have been arranged into the following three series:

General Practice
Correspondence
Marshall State School

Scope and Content Note:

General Practice

The General Practice series contains speeches by Wilson and information pertaining to the conditions of epilepsy and mental impairments.

Correspondence

This series contains correspondence to and from Wilson regarding positions, reports, the death of his brother, treatment of patients and condition of buildings, 1914-1932.

Marshall State School

This series includes correspondence regarding employment and patronage positions, personal information regarding Wilson, his farm, and his son, information regarding issues of the “feeble-minded” particularly bills to sterilize people with impairments, and correspondence regarding upkeep of buildings.

Container List:

General Practice, 1910-1914 Series

f. 1 Article regarding the death of Helen Arehart Wilson, wife of Dr. R.P.C. Wilson. Financial account of various employees owing money to Orville Burk. Material regarding the life of Dr. Wilson. Speech concerning the death of Mildred Cockrill Hauetter.


f. 3 Speech given by Dr. Wilson to Platte County Medical Society, of which he was President. Literature pertaining to the medical treatment of epilepsy.
Material and information concerning "the feeble-minded." Speech by Dr. Wilson concerning the symptoms and characteristics of "feeble-mindedness."

Literature pertaining to "the feeble-minded" and people with epilepsy in Missouri. Causes, cure, and care of indicated patients. Lectures given by William F. Shanahan, M.D., regarding the marriage of people with mental illness.

Literature pertaining to people with epilepsy, "feeble-minded," and people with mental deficiencies.

Literature pertaining to the problem of mental impairment. Endorsements of Helen Arehart in regards to her application for employment.

Correspondence Series

Rough draft of biennial report of Marshall Colony, 1913-1914.
Report concerning conditions at the Marshall State School.
List of recommendations regarding children with mental impairments.
Biennial report of Marshall Colony (rough draft).
Drafts regarding conditions at Marshall Colony.
Literature regarding the sterilization of people with mental impairments and a biennial report of the Marshall Colony, 1914.
Correspondence regarding Miss Helen Arehart's application for a position at the Marshall State School and her accepted application. A statement concerning "the feeble-minded" in Missouri, 1914.
Literature pertaining to "the feeble-minded." Bulletin listing escaped personnel wanted by U.S. Department of Justice, Illinois Institutional Quarterly.
Written report regarding conditions at the Marshall State School.
Material regarding "the feeble-minded," 1916.
Correspondence regarding a biennial report on the progress of the Marshall Colony. A strong rebuttal by Dr. Wilson's predecessor, Dr. Quigg, in which he is very critical of Dr. Wilson's report.
Correspondence from Francis M. Wilson. Letter from F.D. Gardner, Governor of Missouri, general in content.
Correspondence, 1918-1920, regarding Dr. Wilson's appointment; receipt regarding purchase of land by Dr. Wilson. Letter from Francis M. Wilson regarding Pershing Day reception committee badges.
Correspondence regarding the presentation of the Sword of Gold to Gen. Pershing. Letter of appreciation for cooperation to Dr. Wilson from Gov. Gardner. Other correspondence, general in content.
Correspondence regarding people with epilepsy. The appointment of Dr. Wilson as Acting Superintendent of the Marshall Colony.

Statement of management of the Colony at Marshall.

Correspondence regarding the treatment of people with epilepsy.

Correspondence regarding the completion of the sanitarium, Cedarhurst.

Correspondence, general in content. Address given by Sen. Francis M. Wilson at the funeral of Ned Swain. Correspondence pertaining to positions and regarding epileptic patients.

Correspondence, general in content.

Correspondence pertaining to patronage positions, letter from Francis M. Wilson to Gates Wells concerning the indebtedness of Dr. R.P.C. Wilson; from Dr. Wilson to Francis M. Wilson.

Letter from O.E. Hardway regarding veteran benefits; from George O. Bryant, regarding Senator Francis M. Wilson's campaign for Missouri governor; concerning Dr. Alderman.

Correspondence regarding Francis M. Wilson's campaign for governor.

Regarding the gubernatorial campaign and the death of Francis M. Wilson.

Death of Francis M. Wilson.

Patronage positions.

Correspondence regarding applicants for patronage positions and other correspondence, general in content.

Regarding applicants for patronage positions. Other correspondence, general in content, regarding the anticipated appointment of Dr. Wilson as Superintendent of State Institute at Marshall, Missouri.

Regarding applicants for patronage positions.

Correspondence pertaining to positions at the institute at Marshall prior to Dr. Wilson's appointment. Job applicants.

Continued correspondence regarding job applicants. Letter from Lloyd C. Stark concerning the gubernatorial election (1936) and his anticipation concerning that office.

Correspondence of job applicants.

Correspondence, general in content, and pertaining to Gov. Park's health.

Job applicants. Letter from O.E. Hardway, in which he indicates establishing residence at Platte City.

Correspondence from Lloyd C. Stark concerning the death of Francis M. Wilson. Correspondence of job applicants.
f. 61  Letter from James L. Delk congratulating Dr. Wilson on receiving the appointment of Superintendent of the State Institute at Marshall. Correspondence regarding job applicants. Letter from Frank G. Harris, lieutenant governor, pertaining to a job for his brother, James Harris.

f. 62  Correspondence pertaining to employment positions at the Marshall Institute.

f. 63  Letter to Judge Leedy from Dr. Wilson, regarding Leedy's appointment to the Missouri Court. Correspondence pertaining to job appointments and applicants.

f. 64-65 Correspondence regarding employment.

f. 66-67 Correspondence regarding patronage positions at Marshall. Letter from Lloyd C. Stark concerning election lists.


f. 69  Correspondence pertaining to patronage positions.

f. 70-71 Correspondence with Lloyd C. Stark, general in content. Job applicants.


f. 73  Correspondence relating to administrative activities at Marshall.

f. 74  Job applicants pertaining to patronage positions at Marshall. Correspondence pertaining to patronage positions at Marshall. Correspondence pertaining to administration of the Colony at Marshall. Letter to W.E. Jameson, Board of Managers, Eleemosynary Institutions of Missouri from Dr. Wilson, endorsing Edgar Gainhill for a position at Higginsville.

f. 75  Correspondence, general in content. Correspondence pertaining to notes due the Wilson estate. Job applicants and recommendations.

f. 76  Correspondence, general in content. Job applicants and recommendations.

f. 77  Correspondence concerning appointments at Marshall.

f. 78  Correspondence regarding Delt, Dunham, & Kriehn, architects, concerning their work. Correspondence pertaining to vocations at Marshall and other institutions in the state.

f. 79  Correspondence concerning patients—the anticipated return of Marion County patients in particular. Other correspondence, general in content.

f. 80-81 Correspondence regarding employment at Marshall.

f. 82  Continued correspondence regarding employment, and other problems encompassing the administration at Marshall.

f. 83  Correspondence pertaining to employment at Marshall. Correspondence expressing Dr. Wilson's desire to purchase a vehicle for his family.
Correspondence concerning the appointment of F.H. Magruder, his endorsement by J. Pendergast and Judge M. Ross of Kansas City. Other correspondence regarding positions at Marshall State School.

Continued correspondence pertaining to employment at Marshall.

Correspondence between Gov. Park and Dr. Wilson regarding patronage positions. Other correspondence, general in content, pertaining to employment at Marshall.

Correspondence regarding positions at Marshall and problems relating to administration. Correspondence between J.A. Sanders and Dr. Wilson regarding the appointment of Democrats at Marshall.

Correspondence, general in content. Letter from Roy McKittrick, State Attorney General, expressing his interest in John Ragsdale.

Correspondence on administrative problems and employment at Marshall.

Material and correspondence regarding the use and disposal of garbage at the Institute at Marshall. News item dating the death of Francis M. Wilson, October 12, 1932.

Correspondence regarding administration. Letter from Mrs. Francis M. Wilson, general in content.

Correspondence regarding Dr. Wilson's farm at Platte City. Other correspondence, general in content, regarding employment at Marshall Institute.

Correspondence regarding the introduction of a bill pertaining to sterilization of "the feeble-minded" in Missouri, between David G. Taylor and Dr. Wilson. Other correspondence, general in content. Correspondence regarding patronage positions.

Correspondence regarding the interest in notes owed by Dr. Wilson, also correspondence regarding his taxes for 1933.

Correspondence with Lloyd C. Stark and others, general in content.

Correspondence regarding the President's Birthday Ball, held at Marshall. Letter to Lloyd C. Stark, in which a list of prominent people from Marshall is given him by Dr. Wilson.

Correspondence regarding appointments, and general in nature.

Correspondence pertaining to Dr. Wilson's farm; and pertaining to patronage appointments, and other general correspondence.

Literature regarding "Child Health Day."

Letter to Gov. Guy B. Park from Dr. Wilson, in which Dr. Wilson endorses Marion B. Waltner of Kansas City as Judge in Jackson County Circuit Court. Other general correspondence.

General correspondence pertaining to the administration and patronage positions at the institution at Marshall.

Correspondence regarding the enthusiasm for Harry S. Truman for Senator from Missouri. Other general correspondence and correspondence about a political supporter of Francis M. Wilson.
f. 103 Correspondence on positions and pertaining to the office of State Superintendent, and Dr. Wilson's desire to have Lee defeated.

f. 104 Correspondence on Daniel Lynch's desire for a position at the post office at Marshall, and Dr. Wilson's interest in his application for appointment. Application for similar position by John Hall. Letter from F.L. Ayres concerning account of C.T. Ross.

f. 105 Correspondence regarding recent appointments. Receipts from Dr. Wilson's farm near Platte City.

f. 106 Correspondence regarding Dr. Wilson's farm. Other correspondence, general in content. Disciplinary problems at the Institution at Marshall. Telegram from Dr. Wilson to Judge Leedy, congratulating the judge.

f. 107 Correspondence between Lloyd W. King and Dr. Wilson concerning King's election as State Superintendent of Schools. Telegram to Harry S. Truman regarding his election. Continued correspondence regarding T. Ross's account.

f. 108 Correspondence regarding the possibility of selling Dr. Wilson's home near Platte City. Other correspondence, general in content.

f. 109 Correspondence regarding the care of Dr. Wilson's farm. Other correspondence, general in content. Correspondence regarding the improvement of grounds around Marshall. Appointment of Dr. Wilson as a Colonel by Gov. Laffoon of Kentucky.

f. 110 Correspondence concerning Dr. Wilson, farm, insurance, and other correspondence, general in content. Administration of the State School at Marshall.

f. 111 Correspondence from Wilson and Co., Kansas City, regarding a claim against the federal government. Correspondence regarding activities appropriate for that time of year. Correspondence regarding Dr. Charles F. Adams, Pathologist and Bacteriologist to the Missouri State Board of Health at Jefferson City, and his outstanding achievements in that capacity.

f. 112-138 Correspondence pertaining to the maintenance of alleys in Platte City. Letter regarding a patient at the Marshall Institute. Other correspondence, general in content.

f. 113 Job applicants, endorsements, and other correspondence, general in content.

f. 114 Correspondence pertaining to the administration of Marshall, emergency offices retirement benefit, and patients.

f. 115 Correspondence regarding insurance on Dr. Wilson's property, concerning jobs, general in content.

f. 116 Correspondence regarding appointments.

f. 117 Correspondence about Marshall Chamber of Commerce banquet, and about positions.

f. 118 Correspondence pertaining to activities at Marshall and about "the feeble-minded" of Missouri.

f. 119 Letters from job-seeking personnel.

f. 120 Eulogy of Francis M. Wilson by Walter Phariss. Letter from Congressman Nelson to Gov. Park pertaining to Dr. Wilson and W.L. Jameson.
Letter from Lloyd C. Stark to Dr. Wilson pertaining to picnic at Arrow Rock Park. Correspondence returned to Stark concerning construction of new buildings at Marshall. Correspondence pertaining to employment.

Correspondence from Dr. Wilson to Congressman Nelson, pertaining to support of H.R. Bill No. 1629. Other correspondence regarding the admission of patients to the Institute.

Correspondence pertaining to administrative activities in the Institute. Letters pertaining to Dr. Wilson's daughter Caroline and beauty contest.

Continued correspondence pertaining to Caroline. Correspondence from Dr. Wilson in which he requests material for recreational activities at the Institute. Correspondence pertaining to employment with the State of Missouri. Letter from Lloyd C. Stark, in which mention of Caroline is made.

Correspondence relating to the dismissal of Mrs. Alta Morton. Admission of R.P.C. Wilson III to the University of Missouri Law School.

Correspondence regarding employment and dinner engagements.

Letter from Dr. Wilson to E.M. Hardesty in sympathy for his request for parole from state prison. Letters of recommendation. Material from "The Georgia Warm Spring Foundation" and to Dr. Wilson, explaining its activities and progress in the struggle against infantile paralysis.

Letters pertaining to employment.

Correspondence pertaining to the administration of the institution and the renting of Dr. Wilson's farm.

Correspondence from Judge Pat Warren in which he states his desire to be employed at the institution at Marshall. Letter pertaining to improvements at the Institute. Continued correspondence regarding employment. Letter to Hon. W.L. Nelson, Columbia, from Dr. Wilson, in which he requests to have the Institute's pond stocked with fish.

Letter from Congressman W.L. Nelson, regarding Dr. Wilson's farm near Platte City. Letter pertaining to the discharge of an employee at the Institute.

Letter to Congressman W.L. Nelson from Dr. Wilson, regarding the requisition of fish for the pond at Marshall Institute. Continued correspondence from W.L. Nelson about the fish. Letter to Lloyd C. Stark from Dr. Wilson regarding political scene.

Correspondence from Herman S. Major to Dr. Wilson, extending an invitation to attend meeting of Jackson County Medical Society. Dr. Wilson's appointment and affirmative reply.

Correspondence from Congressman Nelson, regarding the shipment of fish to Marshall.

Correspondence from A.L. Wilborn, regarding turkeys received from Dr. Wilson. The death of Mr. Elliott, a close associate of Dr. Wilson.
f. 136  Letter from state representative Hayward, pertaining to employment of a friend. "Two letters to Santa Claus from Jackie & Murray Wilson."

f. 137  Correspondence: administration of the Institute, admittance of patients.

f. 138  Correspondence: employment, admission of patients, exchange of patients.

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f. 140  Correspondence on admission of patients. Letter pertaining to a bad debt incurred by Mr. Crawford. Letter to George Johnson, purchasing agent, regarding supplies needed at the institution.

f. 141  Correspondence pertaining to employment. Letter from Dr. Wilson to Judge R.M. Reynolds, congratulating him on his recent appointment to the Kansas City Court of Appeals. Correspondence pertaining to appropriation of funds to defray the expenses of the annual meeting of the association for the Study of the Feeble-Minded. Letter of recommendation.

f. 142-143  General correspondence

f. 144-145  Information pertaining to "Stark for Governor," including receipt for contributions. Political scene in various counties of Missouri.

f. 146  Correspondence pertaining to a teaching appointment in the Kansas City area for J.W. Scott.

f. 147  Correspondence: "Stark for Governor" campaign; admission of Wilbur Pulliam to the state sanitarium, Mount Vernon, Missouri.

f. 148  Continued correspondence pertaining to teaching positions in the Kansas City area.

f. 149  Continued correspondence pertaining to teaching positions in Kansas City. Invitation from Slater, Missouri, Chamber of Commerce to the fall festival; Dr. Wilson's acceptance.

f. 150  Letter from Daisy Boggs in which mention is made of political climate as it affects Lloyd C. Stark. Eulogy of Francis M. Wilson and repeated correspondence from Daisy Boggs concerning the re-employment of her sister, Blanche Obery. Letter to Sen. B.C. Clark from Db. Wilson, stating his drive to support him in his ambitions for the presidency.

f. 151  Letter to Daisy Boggs from Dr. Wilson pertaining to Mrs. Obery. Correspondence concerning the rental of Dr. Wilson's farm. Newspaper clippings pertaining to the possibilities of Dr. Wilson becoming a candidate for governor. Letter from U.S. Senator B. Champ Clark.

f. 152  Correspondence pertaining to Dr. Wilson for Governor in 1940. Correspondence with Charles L. Cunningham, deputy comptroller, St. Louis, regarding patient, Isaac Gallagher. List of generalized voters at the Institution at Marshall.
Letter regarding the rental of Dr. Wilson's farm. Letter from James Luther Roberts concerning election results in Saline County. Letter to James Pendergast introducing Dr. C.L. Banty. Letter pertaining to the appointment of Mrs. Wallace Sears to the faculty of Marshall. Continued correspondence pertaining to a lecture to be given by Dr. Wilson on "Feeble-Mindedness in Missouri."

Correspondence: admittance of Black children to the Institution at Marshall.

Correspondence: employment; address on "Feeble-Mindedness in Missouri."

Continued correspondence regarding Dr. Wilson's anticipated speech on "the feeble-minded." Letter from Dr. Wilson to son R.P.C. Wilson III concerning a study he was undertaking.

Letter from Dr. Wilson to Holly Hammond concerning voters in Platte County. Letter pertaining to feeble-minded patients.

Continued correspondence pertaining to Dr. Wilson's campaign regarding sterilization of "the feeble-minded."

Repeated correspondence pertaining to "the feeble-minded" and the anticipated sterilization law.

Correspondence pertaining to "the feeble-minded" in Missouri and to employment at Marshall.

Christmas greetings.

Correspondence regarding sterilization for "the feeble-minded."

Correspondence pertaining to employment. Correspondence regarding Gov. Guy B. Park's message to members of Missouri General Assembly.

Letters concerning the admission of patients and letters pertaining to sterilization. Correspondence between Dr. Wilson and other political personnel, in which Dr. Wilson, asks for endorsements for reappointment at the State Institute at Marshall.


Correspondence regarding George C. Johnson and his desire for re-appointment as purchasing agent. Endorsement of W.E. Williams for an appointment in the liquor department.

Admission of Mary Jane Collier to the State Institution at Marshall.

Correspondence regarding employment.

Information concerning the Martin Hardson case, and other correspondence.

Correspondence with Judge Henwood about Dr. Wilson's dismissal of Sam Biggers as an employee at the State Institution. Correspondence pertaining to Tony, Lucy and Ferdonelle Kneuven, and their desire to be appointed as guardians for an afflicted person.

Family matters. Patronage appointments. Family vacation.
Correspondence with Mrs. Mary E. Ryder, executive director, Commission for the Blind, in which Dr. Wilson extends congratulations on her re-appointment. Other congratulatory correspondence.

Correspondence with Gov. Lloyd C. Stark concerning construction projects around the state institutions. Correspondence regarding patients and appointments. Letter from T.J. Pendergast.

Correspondence from the National Encyclopedia of American Biography concerning a biography of Dr. Wilson's father, R.P.C. Wilson I, to be prepared for the new edition.

Correspondence, general in content.

Letter from lawyer, Walter J. Gresham, concerning endorsements for Dr. Wilson's appointment as superintendent at the state institute at Marshall. Correspondence about appointments and job patronage.

Obituary of Mary L. Archart by Dr. Wilson. Produce of Dr. Wilson's farm near Platte City.

Letter from Congressman William L. Nelson, general in content; insurance for Dr. Wilson's property; Allen Eckert's endorsement of Dr. Wilson.


Pertaining to Christmas, with Jess D. Sexton, Missouri Senator, in regard to Dr. Wilson's reappointment.

Letter to Gov. Lloyd C. Stark, from Dr. Wilson, about lighting, heating, and electrical problems at the institute. Correspondence with Jess D. Sexton regarding job patronage.

Letter from Josephine Lay commenting on the political climate in the Kansas City area and other places in Missouri. Letter to Congressman Nelson.
Correspondence pertaining to Dr. Wilson's house in Platte City. Gubernatorial campaign in 1940. Dr. Wilson's interest in the colored people.

Recommendations. General correspondence.

Correspondence: Speaking engagements, local politics in Missouri.

Correspondence with Judge Douglas and Senator Hollingsworth regarding the political scene in Platte County. Letter to Gov. Stark from Dr. Wilson. Wilson family affairs.

Correspondence with Gov. Stark and other political figures regarding election returns.

General correspondence. Family affairs.

Dr. Wilson's farm near Platte City. Correspondence with Sen. Clark regarding positions at the Institute at Marshall. Letter from J. Douglas regarding his election to the Supreme Court of Missouri.

Letter from Sen. Clark to Dr. Wilson regarding Clark's nomination: for U.S. Senator Letter from state representative, J.D. Taylor to Dr. Wilson in regards to an employee at Marshall Institution.


Continued correspondence regarding a position for Mrs. W.A. Dearing, and Dr. Wilson's decision not to employ her.

Administrative activities. Letter to Governor and Mrs. Stark discussing family matters. Dr. Wilson's interest in conservative sterilization of the feeble-minded.

Request by Dr. Wilson for absentee ballots for personnel at the institution. Correspondence with Famous-Barr & Co., St. Louis, in regard to furniture for the institution.

Conditions and employment at the Marshall Institute.

Continued correspondence regarding housing repairs at Marshall Institution.

General correspondence re: medical dues.


Digging of a well at the Marshall Institute. Items produced at the Institute. Letter from Jess D. Sexton, state senator, complimenting Dr. Wilson on the fine work being done by the Institute under his direction.

Correspondence between Mrs. S.R. Selectman and Dr. Wilson regarding a letter written by Dr. Wilson's father to Col. Doniphan in 1875, and the inclusion of that letter. Also Dr. Wilson's interest in Mrs. Selectman's reflections regarding the 1940 gubernatorial campaign.

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