

C Willett Family, Papers, 1883-1982
4233 1.5 cubic feet (34 folders), 10 volumes

This collection is available at The State Historical Society of Missouri. If you would like more information, please contact us at shsresearch@umsystem.edu.

INTRODUCTION

The papers of the Willett Family document the professional and civic activities of Rollin and Seena Willett family of Columbia, Missouri, including their involvement with the White Shrine of Jerusalem and the Athens Rebekah Lodge.

DONOR INFORMATION

The papers were donated to the State Historical Society of Missouri by Dennis E. Graham on 24 July 1989 (Accession No. 2658).

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Rollin O. Willett was born in Bond County, Illinois, on September 11, 1885, to Cicero and Sophia Payne Willett. In 1910 he married Seena L. Becker of Greenville, Illinois. They had no children. Rollin Willett graduated from Valparaiso University in Vandalia, Illinois, with a degree in law. He practiced law with his brother in Indianapolis, Indiana, and at the same time was employed by Standard Oil Company, for whom he procured oil lease land.

In 1925 he moved to St. Louis and entered the funeral business, relocating to Columbia in 1927, where he opened the Willett Funeral Home. Willett and his wife were active in the community and fraternal organizations, including the Twilight Masonic Lodge, York Right, Scottish Rite, Moolah Shrine of St. Louis, White Shrine of Jerusalem, Tiger Shrine Club, Boone Chapter of Eastern Star, Rebekah Lodge of Columbia and Odd Fellow Lodge of Columbia. He died in 1975 at the age of 86. Seena followed in 1984 at the age of 96. They are buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Columbia, Missouri.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The papers have been divided into the following six series: **Professional and Family Life, Civic Organizations, Correspondence and Photographs, Writings and Clippings, Miscellaneous, and Oversize**. The **Professional and Family Life** series contains the family history and papers concerning the operation of the Willett Funeral Home. It is organized chronologically. The **Civic Organizations** series contains information about the various fraternal and civic organizations with which the Willett family was associated. The **Correspondence and Photographs** series contains the correspondence of family and friends, as well as photographs of the Willett family. Also includes material pertaining to a trip to Mexico as well as a memorandum book containing notes written by R.O. Willett. Where possible it is organized chronologically. The **Writings and Clippings** series contains a variety of materials including the personal writings of R.O. Willett, clippings collected by the Willetts and the ads for various

businesses. It has been organized chronologically. The **Miscellaneous** series contains materials the Willett family found of interest. The **Oversize** series consists of the business ledgers, specifically records of cash payments, of the Willett Funeral Home from 1937-1973.

FOLDER LIST

Professional and Family Life Series

- f. 1 Willett Family History, 1964
- f. 2 Marriage Certificate, 1910
- f. 3 Letters of Reference, 1913-1918
- f. 4 Willett Funeral Home, n.d.
- f. 5 Clients and Organizations, 1942-1953
- f. 6 Financial 1937-1949
- f. 7 Expense Book, 1957-1959

Civic Organizations Series

- f. 8 Carnation Camp, 1929
- f. 9-15 White Shrine of Jerusalem, 1933-1952
- f. 16 In Memorium Resolutions, 1958-1972
- f. 17 Scottish Rite Club, 1946
- f. 18 Columbia Garden Club, 1952
- f. 19 - 21 Rebekah Lodge, 1941-1952
- f. 22 Lakeside Club, 1943-1969
- f. 23 Past Oracle Club, 1935-1945

Correspondence and Photographs Series

- f. 24-25 Correspondence, 1930-1982
- f. 26 Photographs, n.d.
- f. 27 Mexico, 1937
- f. 28 Memorandum Book, 1939-1940

Writings and Clippings Series

- f. 29 Writings, 1883-1890
- f. 30 Clippings, 1917
- f. 31 Business Ads, 1937
- f. 32 Life Insurance, n.d.

Miscellaneous Series

- f. 33-34 Miscellaneous

Oversize series Location Mezzanine, Row 4, V-24

- v. 1 Willett Funeral Home business ledger, 1930-1936
- v. 2 Willett Funeral Home business ledger, 1937-1938
- v. 3 Willett Funeral Home business ledger, 1939-1940
- v. 4 Willett Funeral Home business ledger, 1941-1942
- v. 5 Willett Funeral Home business ledger, 1943-1944
- v. 6 Willett Funeral Home business ledger, 1945-1946
- v. 7 Willett Funeral Home business ledger, 1947-1948
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- v. 10 Willett Funeral Home business ledger, 1968-1973

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