Guide to the William B. "Willie" Pape Scrapbooks
MSS.3689

This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit
May 22, 2013
Describing Archives: A Content Standard
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## Summary Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Repository</th>
<th>University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title</td>
<td>William B. &quot;Willie&quot; Pape Scrapbooks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>1862-1875</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent</td>
<td>1.0 Linear feet</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Physical Description note**

Both scrapbooks are in fairly sad repair. Many of the pages of the books are loose or very brittle. The programs and letters themselves though are in relatively good shape.

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

Two scrapbooks kept by Willie Pape during his years in England as well as a bound volume of his sheet music.

**Preferred Citation note**

William B. "Willie" Pape Scrapbooks, W.S. Hoole Special Collections Library, The University of Alabama
Biographical/Historical note

William Barnesmore "Willie" Pape was born on 27 February 1850, son of William O. and Tabitha McBride Pape. Willie's talent for music was discovered at a very early age and in 1854, his father began giving him music lessons. He was so talented that even at the age of thirteen he was able to play many of the most demanding piano sonatas from memory.

Willie and his father traveled to New York in preparation for going to Europe just as the American Civil War erupted. In fact, Alabama seceded from the Union while they were on their way to New York in January 1861. Rather than traveling abroad as planned, they stayed in New York for two years. Willie continued his studies under Sebastian Bach Mills. After brief concert tours to Havana, Cuba, and Canada, Willie and his father finally left for England in 1863.

Willie's first public performance in England on 27 April 1863 was a huge success and eventually led to the patronage of the Prince and Princess of Wales in 1864. He spent several more years in England, performing and touring, until returning to the United States in 1875 and resettling in Mobile. He was married twice; first to Ella Anderson (around 1880) who died on 9 August 1889; and then to her sister, Mary Anderson. Ella and Willie had three daughters, Ethel, Ella, and Hazel; Mary and Willie had one son, William Sherwood.

When he left England, Willie gave up the piano and studied medicine. In 1882, he graduated from the Medical College of Mobile with his M.D. and began his practice in Mobile. He was also on the faculty of his alma mater where he was Professor of Physiology and Hygiene. He died on 30 August 1901.

Scope and Contents note

The collection contains two scrapbooks kept by Willie Pape during his years in England as well as a bound volume of music and an incomplete copy of the sheet music "Brook". The first scrapbook, which is also the larger of the two, contains programs and newspaper clippings of the child musical prodigy and pianist to the Prince and Princess of Wales while the second scrapbook is strictly letters. Also, the larger one is mostly in chronological order; the other isn't in any discernable order. The each piece of music in the bound volume, "Chanson des Anges, morceau de Salon", has a hand-written note indicating when and where the piece was performed and who performed it.

Administrative Information
Publication Information
University Libraries Division of Special Collections, The University of Alabama October 2012

Conditions Governing Access note
None

Conditions Governing Use note
None

Provenance
gift of William Pape Wood, Sr., 2012

Processed by
Martha Bace, 2012

Controlled Access Headings

Personal Name(s)

- Pape, Willie
- Wood, William Pape, Dr.

Subject(s)

- Alabama
- Music and Performing Arts
# Collection Inventory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Box</th>
<th>Folder</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scrapbook of Notices and Programmes</td>
<td>3689.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scrapbook of Letters</td>
<td>3689.002</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Brook&quot; sheet music (incomplete)</td>
<td>3689.003 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>&quot;Chanson des Anges, morceau de Salon&quot; by Willie Pape (bound volume)</td>
<td>3689.003 2</td>
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