

# A Guide to the Bettie Hiter Willis Papers, 1864-1942 SC 0224

Bettie Hiter Willis Papers  
1864-1942



## Title Statement

A Guide to the Bettie Hiter Willis Papers, 1864-1942 SC 0224

**Author:** Chelsea Tholen

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820 Madison Drive  
MSC 1706  
Harrisonburg, Virginia 22807  
Telephone: (540) 568-3612  
library-special@jmu.edu  
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## Profile Description

**Creation:** This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2025-10-10 07:02:47 -0400.

**Language Usage:** Description is written in: English, Latin script.

**Descriptive Rules:** Describing Archives: A Content Standard

## Revision Description

**April 2019** Digital files were arranged and described by Sarah Roth-Mullet

## Descriptive Summary

**Unit ID**

SC 0224

**Unit ID**

/repositories/4/resources/225

**Unit Date**

1864-1942

**Language**

English

**Abstract**

The Bettie Hiter Willis Papers, 1864-1942, is comprised of digitized diary entries and letters from Willis, including documents created during the Civil War.

**Creator**

Willis, Bettie Hiter, 1850-1923

**source**

Angelil, MaryMay

**Extent**

0.48 Gigabytes 41 digital files

**Repository**

James Madison University Libraries Special Collections

## Administrative Information

**Access Restrictions**

Collection is open for research. Researchers must register and agree to copyright and privacy laws before using this collection. Please contact Research Services staff before visiting the James Madison University Special Collections Library to use this collection.

**Use Restrictions**

The copyright interests in this collection have been transferred to the James Madison University Special Collections Library. For more information, contact the Special Collections Library Reference Desk. (library-special@jmu.edu).

**Immediate Source of Acquisition**

The items loaned to Special Collections by MaryMay Angelil in September 2012 for scanning, after which, the originals were returned to the donor.

**Processing Information**

The pages were flattened and then scanned on an Epson 10000 XL scanner at 600 dpi. The scans have been separated into the original journal segments and letters. The collection was kept in the original order for scanning. The scans were created as TIF files and assigned sequential unique identifiers. These files were subsequently converted to pdfs for access, and the files were renamed by form of content and the date of creation. The collection was formerly assigned collection number SC 5053.

**Preferred Citation**

[identification of item], Bettie Hiter Willis Papers, 1864-1942, SC 0224, Special Collections, Carrier Library, James Madison University, Harrisonburg, Va.

## Biographical / Historical

This collection contains digital images of the correspondence and diaries of Bettie Hiter Willis, including journals from 1864-1865 and 1878-1879. She writes about her experiences with the Civil War as well as personal relations. She lived in the Culpepper, VA, and for a short period in the Shenandoah Valley, and wrote about local deaths in the War as well as her own personal take on Abraham Lincoln's assassination. The collection begins at age 13, in 1864, and continues with her children's correspondence until 1942.

## Scope and Contents

The Bettie Hiter Willis Papers, 1864-1942 consist of 41 digital files that were created by Special Collections from thirty-eight letters, three journal segments, and one poem. The bulk of the letters were written to family members in Virginia. Several letters and diary entries written by Bettie Hiter Willis as a young girl describe local events from the Civil War.

## Keywords

Letters (correspondence)

North American women's letters and diaries

Diaries  
Postcards  
Postcards -- United States -- 20th century  
Poetry  
Virginia -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865  
Virginia -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865 -- Personal narratives  
Virginia -- History, Local  
Angelil, MaryMay  
Hiter family  
Willis family

## Provenance

MaryMay Angelil is the great-granddaughter of Bettie Hiter Willis. The letters have been in the family's possession since the Civil War.

## Arrangement

The material is arranged into two series:

- Journals, 1864-1874, undated, is comprised of scanned excerpts of journals written by Bettie Hiter Willis, and further arranged by date. The scanned documents are accessible as 3 pdfs.
- Correspondence, 1867-1942, undated, is comprised of scanned letters, a postcard and a poem, and further arranged by date. The scanned documents are accessible as 39 pdfs.

## Description of Subordinate Components

### Journals

**Unit ID** 1

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18644

**Unit Date** 1864-1874, undated

#### Journal

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18645

**Unit Date** 1864 May 15-1865 October 2

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

#### Journal

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18646

**Unit Date** 1873 December 28-1874 August 30

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

#### Journal

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18647

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-001 (Digital-Materials)

### Correspondence

**Unit ID** 2

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18648

**Unit Date** 1867-1942, undated

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18649

**Unit Date** 1867 February 19

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18650

**Unit Date** 1869 September 22

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18651

**Unit Date** 1869 November 27

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18652

**Unit Date** 1876 September 24

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18653

**Unit Date** 1880 February 27

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18654

**Unit Date** 1899 March 26

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18655

**Unit Date** 1917 March 1

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18656

**Unit Date** 1917 October 28

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18657

**Unit Date** 1920 August 18

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18658

**Unit Date** 1921 December 15

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18659

**Unit Date** 1921 January 9

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18660

**Unit Date** 1921 January 11

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18661

**Unit Date** 1922 January 1

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18662

**Unit Date** 1923 March 8-14

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18663

**Unit Date** 1923 June 29

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18664

**Unit Date** 1923 December 18

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18665

**Unit Date** 1923 March 1

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18666

**Unit Date** 1923 February 24

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18667

**Unit Date** 1924 January 3

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18668

**Unit Date** 1934 December 9

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18669

**Unit Date** 1939 January 9

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letters**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18670

**Unit Date** 1942 September 11

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letters**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18671

**Unit Date** 1942 September 16

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18672

**Unit Date** 1942 September 17

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Envelope, R.A. Freeman**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18673

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter (partial)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18674

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter from Sallie (partial)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18675

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter from Sue (partial)**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18676

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter to Bess**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18677

**Unit Date** December 8

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter to Bess**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18678

**Unit Date** June 28

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter to Bess, Sunday night**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18679

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter to Bess, Wednesday morning**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18680

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter to Bob, Saturday night**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18681

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter to Bob, Saturday night**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18682

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter to Daughter**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18683

**Unit Date** May 30

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter to Mick, Sunday night**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18684

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Letter to Mick, Thursday afternoon**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18685

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Postcard**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18686

**Unit Date** 1911

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)

**Poem, A. O. Body**

**Unit ID** /repositories/4/archival\_objects/18687

**Unit Date** undated

**Mixed Materials** SC0224-SET-002 (Digital-Materials)