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## Jillson, Willard Rouse, 1890-1975 (MSS 682)

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Manuscripts & Folklife Archives  
Department of Library Special Collections  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 682 JILLSON, Willard Rouse, 1890-1975**

1 box. 15 folders. 127 items. 1922-1957.  
Originals, photocopies, photographic negatives.

SC2022.11.5

***BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE***

Willard Rouse Jillson, the son of Willard Rogers Jillson and Anna Delle Bailey, was born in Syracuse, New York on 28 May 1890. He graduated from Syracuse University in 1912, and proceeded to graduate work in geology at the University of Washington in Seattle (where he earned a master's degree in 1915), the University of Chicago, and Yale University. In 1917, he came to Kentucky, where he married Oriole Marie Gormley, taught at the University of Kentucky, and began work in 1918 as an assistant geologist with the Kentucky Geological Survey. In 1919, he was appointed State Geologist. Jillson was awarded honorary doctorates by Syracuse University (1921) and Berea College (1925).

At the time of his resignation as State Geologist in 1932, Jillson had produced maps for every Kentucky county as well as numerous publications on the geological and mineral resources of Kentucky. From 1924-1932, Jillson served as the first chairman of the Kentucky State Park Commission, overseeing the establishment of the state's first four state parks. After leaving state employment, he consulted for coal, oil and gas companies, taught at Transylvania University (1947-1951), and devoted time to the acquisition of gas and coal properties in Kentucky.

Jillson was a member of numerous scientific and professional societies and a prolific author of books, pamphlets and articles on geology and natural resources; he was also an avid historian and the author of numerous books and bibliographies on Kentucky history. Jillson died in Louisville, Kentucky on 4 October 1975 and was interred at Frankfort Cemetery.

***COLLECTION NOTE***

This collection consists mostly of writings and supporting materials produced by Willard Rouse Jillson in connection with his professional work as a geologist and an author of works on Kentucky history. Included are miscellaneous photographic negatives, manuscripts and page proofs, and promotional pamphlets for some of his books.

**SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Willard Rouse Jillson</b>	<b>1922-1957</b>	<b>127 items</b>
Folder 1	Inventory and obituary		2 items
Folder 2	Correspondence with Kentucky Library regarding his publications and donations	1931-1957	37 items
Folder 3	Articles, addresses, editorials:	1922-1927	12 items
	“Thoughts on Evolution (An Editorial)”		
	“A New Tennessee Oil Pool”		
	“Geology of the Harpeth River Dome, Cheatham County, Tennessee”		
	“Early Mineral Explorations in the Mississippi Valley (1540-1840)”		
	“The Volcanic Activity of Mount St. Helens and Mount Hood in Historical Time”		
	“Preliminary Note on the Occurrence of Vertebrate Footprints in the Pennsylvanian of Oklahoma”		
	Tribute to Professor Stuart Weller		
	“Nest of Sinking Streams”		
	“Valley-Filled Areas of the Western Kentucky Coal Field”		
	“New Evidence of a Recent Volcanic Eruption on Mt. St. Helens, Washington”		
	“Geology of the Amory Gas Field”		
	Comments on the Kentucky mineral industry, 1927		
Folder 4	Articles on Kentucky mineral resources:	1924-1926	4 items
	“Kentucky Mineral Development Prerequisites,” by Willard Rouse Jillson		
	“Oil Shales of the East and South,” by Roland B. Day		
	“Neekamp Writes Interesting History and Description of Coal Fields of This Section” (Ashland, Ky.), by C. J. Neekamp		
	“Present Activities in the Oil Shale Industry,” by Victor C. Alderson		

Folder 5	Photographic negatives:  Property of United Rock Asphalt Company in Kentucky and Alabama, 1926 W. R. Jillson's office, 1927 Big Sandy coverlets, 1922 Mastodon teeth, Magoffin County, Kentucky, n.d. Kentucky State Highway Commission Resolution regarding budget appropriation for topographical mapping, 1925 Lewisport Coal Company Stripping Operation map, Hancock County, Kentucky, 1924 E. H. Fluorspar Company maps of Faircloth Mine, Woodford County, Kentucky, 1926, and Dean Mine, Mercer County, Kentucky War Fork Land Company properties, Jackson County, Kentucky, n.d.	1922-1927	17 items
Folder 6	<i>Lincoln Back Home</i> – Page proofs	1932	1 item
Folder 7	Poem, "The Glory of the Hills"	1933	3 items
Folder 8	<i>Pioneer Kentucky</i> – Draft	1934	1 item
Folder 9	<i>Filson's Kentucke</i> – Page proofs	1934	1 item
Folder 10	<i>The Land Adventures of George Washington</i> – Page proofs	1934	1 item
Folder 11	<i>The Drennon Abandoned Channel of the Kentucky River</i> – Draft and blueprint sketch	1944	2 items
Folder 12	Biographical sketch of Irvin Shrewsbury Cobb	1944	1 item
Folder 13	<i>The Kentucky River</i> – Illustrations	1945	10 items
Folder 14	Promotional material for books	1925-1943	30 items
Folder 15	Miscellaneous	1924-1932	5 items

**BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD**

MSS JILLSON, Willard Rouse, 1922-1957  
682 1890-1975

Writings and supporting materials of Willard Rouse Jillson, State Geologist of Kentucky, author and historian. Includes manuscripts, page proofs, photographic negatives, and promotional pamphlets for his books.

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**SUBJECT ANALYTICS**

## Authors

Boone, Daniel, 1734-1820 – Relating to B1,F15

Coal industry and trade

Cobb, Irvin Shrewsbury, 1876-1944 – Relating to B1,F12

Evolution – Comments about, 1922 B1,F3

Frankfort – Relating to B1,F15

Geologists

Geology – Kentucky

Lincoln, Abraham, 1809-1865 – Relating to B1,F6

Mines, mining and mineral resources

Moore, Mary (Taylor) Leiper, 1885-1973 – Letters to B1,F2

Petroleum industry and trade

Pioneer life B1,F8,9

Poems B1,F7,15

Rivers – Kentucky

Volcanoes – Washington – Mount St. Helens B1,F3

Washington, George, 1732-1799 – Relating to B1,F10

Weller, Stuart, 1870-1927 – Relating to B1,F3

Niedermeier 04/08/2022