Archives
Pittsburgh Theological Seminary
Pittsburgh Pennsylvania

Samuel Jennings Wilson
(1828--1883)

68:2

Transferred from Family
HISTORY

Samuel Jennings Wilson (68:2) was born in Washington County Pennsylvania on July 19, 1828, a son of Henry and Jane Dill Wilson. He received his early education there. At age nineteen, Wilson began study at Washington College in Washington Pennsylvania where he graduated in 1852 as valedictorian of his class. During his second year in college, Wilson experienced a "blessing" which committed him to Christian ministry.

He proceeded to Western Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. Within a few months of his college graduation, and while a seminary student, the position of Classical Instruction was vacated by the death of Nicholas Murray, and the post was offered to Wilson for the summer session. This experience as educator was to mark his vocation.

Graduating from Western Seminary in 1855, Wilson was licensed to preach by the Presbytery of Washington. He was employed by the seminary to teach Hebrew and History. In 1857 Washington Presbytery ordained Mr. Wilson and General Assembly elected him a Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Homiletics. In time another professor was named to the latter post. From 1862 until 1877, in addition to his seminary post, Dr. Wilson served as pastor of Sixth Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh. Washington College conferred a D.D. and an LL.D.

Dr. Wilson was Moderator of General Assembly in 1874, Moderator of Synod in 1882, and Delegate to the Pan Presbyterian Council three times.

In 1883, Western Theological Seminary honored Samuel Wilson for twenty-five years of service. Four months later he died, his entire adult life spent in service to the Church.

SCOPE

The record group of Samuel Jennings Wilson comprises sermons, lectures, miscellaneous addresses and correspondence (largely personal).

Professor Wilson was party to the organization of the World Presbyterian Alliance and in attendance at the first three of its meetings.
ARCHIVES
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I.  WILSON, Samuel Jennings (68:2).

INVENTORY.  FF 1.

II. Miscellaneous biographical materials.

Photograph, Samuel Jennings Wilson, Pastor, Sixth Presbyterian Church, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania (1862-1877).
Information regarding SJW children and grandchildren.
Memorial Sermon, preached by William H. Jeffers before Synod of Pennsylvania, October 15, 1883.  FF 2.

Testimonials.

Quarter Centenary of Prof. S. J. Wilson, D.D., Western Theological Seminary, First Church, Pittsburgh PA, April 18, 1883, by David A. Cunningham.
A Quarter-Century Professorship.
Testimonial to the Character of Rev. S. J. Wilson, D.D., L.L.D., Board of Trustees, Western Theological Seminary.
Statement, Board of Directors, Western Theological Seminary.  FF 3.

III. Manuscript notes for sermons and miscellaneous addresses.

Themes for Thanksgiving, 1864.
Address, Union Literary Society, September 29, 1854.
Inauguration, SJW, Professor of Ecclesiastical History and Composition and Delivery of Sermons., April 27, 1858.
Handwriting blotted out, March 27, 1864.
The Intercessory Prayer, October 14, 1871.
Stand in awe and Sin not, October 22, 1971.
Romans 7, 19, March 31, 1863.
Atonement, April 1, 1863.
Job 29:18.
Preparatory lecture, October 15, 1864.
Danger is ahead....
The topics of ....
The controversy....
Ignorance, Philanthropy, Patriotism.
Outline.
This is the great Christolyrical period.
Locality.  In Galilee.
Assumption—First Class School, October 10, 1864.
Brethren...Society of Religious Inquiry....March 1, 1872.
In speaking to you....
One of the problems of the times....
Element, Development and Adornments of Character.
Believe on a Divine Redeemer.
The existence of God....May 9, 1889.
The Eagle's Nest, a note.
The Leprosy, April 6, 1863.
In the 1st Epistle to Thessalonians....
The argument....
Heart of stone....
Address: Ninth Anniversary of the...Men's Library Association
of First Church, Pittsburgh, October 11, 1875.
Report to Board, Western Theological Seminary, April 20, 1882.
Miscellaneous notes.

I shall expend but little study....
If Christ in this promis referred....

Should the Bible be excluded from common schools?
A poem, for Mrs. Day.
The Second Persecution.
The Inquisition.
Charlotte Corday, September 17, 1850.
Our Saving Faith....
Description of Washington County, December 10, 1840.
Dissipation of Thought.
The Boy of fifty two, February 17, 1852,
Futurity, December 2, 1840.
Twas a union of truth and talent....
In the days of the revolution....
Mutability of Affairs.
Sublime and awful is the drama....
Indolence, May 22, 1846.
Liberty, 1840.
Virtue, a poem.
The Science of Arithmetic, December 3, 1840.
Love of Fame, December 25, 1840.
The existence, the glorious career....
Oppression and bondage....
Local Attachment, January 17, 1847.
Righteousness as used in the Old Testament....
Great labor essential....May 4, 1847.
Charity, November 13, 1846.
Liberty, March 29, 1847.
Music-Vocal, March 1, 1847.
History of School....December 10, 1846.
Full of hope and the fire....
Memory.
Harmony of Nature, January 10, 1848.
Undeveloped Genius, July 21, 1848.
The Causes of the Reformation.
As ages unfold....
III. On Birds.
Science: conducive to national prosperity.
To vindicate the doctrine of election....
Man is an accountable being....January 14 1848.
American Literature.
The order of the commandments, January 6, 1855.
There are two words....
I Thessalonians 5:23, December 11, 1854.
Which is more coninductive....
Sympathy--Parent of Fanaticism, December 5, 1851.
A Vacation Memorandum.

Various terms...forgiveness.
The Pen and Press, September 15, 1848.
Proposition: Only those....
Question: Should conscience always be obeyed?
Stained garments and ....
American Literature.
The immortality of the soul....August 4, 1848.
Truth and Talent, March 23, 1849.
Prof. Daud of Yale....
Palestine.
While the Laplander was chilled....
Critical Exercises [?].
Nourish Baptism.
American Independence, December 17, 1847.
Thoughts for New Year, December 31, 1846.
It would be amusing....fragment.
It is God-like to unloose....fragment.
On flowers, a poem.

IV. Correspondence.

Rev. Mr. Swift from Jane Wilson, January 11, 1828.
M. Wilson to T. B. Wilson, Esq., September 17, 1838.
Matthew to "my little brother Sam," February 14, 1840.
T. B. Wilson to "brother," January 14, 1847.
W. M Farris[?] to Samuel Wilson, June 19, 1847.
T. B. Wilson to Sam, June [?].
Thomas B. Wilson to Samuel, March 6, 1848.
Thomas B. Wilson to Sameul, December 6, 1848.
W. B. Wilson to Henry Wilson, March 14, 1849.
T. B. Wilson to Sam, May 29, 1849.
William Clemens to Samuel Wilson, October 26, 1849.
Correspondence.

T. B. Wilson to Samuel, November 6, 1849.
T. B. Wilson to Samuel, January 24, 1850.
J. F. Boyd to Samuel J. Wilson, May 6, 1850.
J. F. Boyd to S. J. Wilson, June 22, 1850.
T. B. Wilson to Samuel, September 4, 1850.
Ann M. Dill to Samuel, December 3, 1850.
Jill Jones to Samuel, November 24, 1851.
Samuel J. Wilson to Professor Lee, February 13, 1852.
To Samuel J. Wilson, December 18, 1852.
John W. White to Samuel J. Wilson, March 18, 1855.
Spiecz [?] to Samuel, May 27, 1853.
T. B. Wilson to Samuel, November 23, 1853.
M. Dill to S. Wilson, June 19, 1855.
S. J. Wilson to Samuel J. Wilson, July 10, 1855.
W. to Samuel, February 12, 1856.
S. J. Wilson to Daisy, October 30, 1858.
Mores Rupell [?] to S. Wilson, October 28, 1858.
T. B. W. to Samuel, January 4, 1858.

Denny to S. Wilson, March 27, ?
Member, Congregation to Dr. Wilson, May 27, 1865.
S. Wilson to Daisy, October 15, 1868.
[S. Wilson] to Professor Lee, no date.
[?] to S. Wilson, June 22, 1857.
George A. Kelly to Samuel J. Wilson, June 24, 1857.
Papa [SJW?] to Bob, July 12, 1866.
S. J. Wilson to Daisy, September 14, 1866.
S. J. Wilson to Daisy, August 24, 1870.
S. J. Wilson to Daisy, November 22, 1872.
S. Wilson to Daisy, January 23, 1873.
S. J. Wilson to Daisy, no date.
James M. Maxwell to S. J. Wilson, May 22, 1874.
S. J. Wilson to Daisy, May 26, 1874.
M. Hubbard to S. Wilson, May 26, 1874.
S. J. Wilson to Dr. McCandless, May 27, 1874.
Envelope, May 27, 1874.
Mrs. R. Paxton , September 3, 1874.
Mr. R. Paxton to Uncle (SJW), September 8, 1874.
S. J. Wilson to John R. Paxton, September 11, 1874.
C. R. Burdick to S. J. Wilson, May 28, 1875.
James Prestley to Samuel J. Wilson, April 18, 1876.
SJW to James Prestley, April 22, 1876.
James Prestley to Samuel J. Wilson, May 4, 1876.
Laird Hay to S. J. Wilson, March 20, 1877.
Jim R. P. to S. J. Wilson, October 21, 1878.
SJW to John R. Paxton, November 4, 1878.
Kitty to Pa [SJW], January 12, 1879.
IV. Correspondence.

J. N. Paxton to Samuel Wilson, September 8, 1879.
S. J. Wilson to Bob, September 8, 1879.
Robert H. David to S. J. Wilson, October 6, 1879.
S. J. Wilson to Bob, November 4, 1879.
S. J. Wilson to Daisy, March 5, 1880.
Papa [SJW] to Bob, July 17, 1889.
Papa [SJW] to Bob, November 13, 1880.
Papa [SJW] to Bob, November 17, 1880.
Papa [SJW] to Bob, June 3, 1881.
Papa [SJW] to Bob, October 22, 1881.
Papa [SJW] to Bob, April 27, 1881.
A. R. Day[?] to S. J. Wilson, March 5, 1883.
Alex S. Marshall to B. B. Warfield, April 17, 1883.
W. W. Anderson to S. J. Wilson, April 17, 1883.
J. W. Selison to S. J. Wilson, May 5, 1883.
Elliot E. Swift to Robert D. Wilson, November 27, 1883.
FSC[?] to Bob, August 25, 1884.
Calvin D. Wilson to Kitty, June 25, 1894.
A Spectator to Mssrs. Editors, the Contest, no date.
T. B. Wilson to S. J. Wilson, September 20, 1850.
Molton to Samuel J. Wilson, no date.
Valentín, alias Shon Simons[?], pencil cartoon, no date.

Added, 7/8/96.

Notes on Lectures, 12/28/1865; Miscellanea; Natural Theology No. 1 & No. 2; History of Creeds & Confessions.

Cosmogony; Church History; the Word preached.

Church History lecture.

Added, 7/9/96.

(1) Diploma from Washington College, 1852 (2) Diploma from Western Theological Seminary, 1855. Shelved in Rm.020, cabinet 2, shelf 1 in a metal tube marked 68:2

The reader/researcher will want to examine the circulating volumes in Barbour Library for additional S. J. Wilson's work.
Addendum: 10/28/97

Sketch of the Life of Dr. Samuel Jennings Wilson from June, 1877, to his Death in August, 1883.  

Mary Wilson Sage  
Volunteer

Addendum: 23 August 2004

Memoir/Tributes to Samuel Jennings Wilson.  

FF 15.