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Finding Aid for the WILLS FAMILY PAPERS, ca. 1720-1926

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RESTRICTIONS

No restrictions

ABSTRACT

Papers relate to the first settlement of Burlington, NJ at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and include deeds, wills, marriage certificates and other papers, particularly of Wills family members

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Quaker Daniel Wills (1803-1878) was a member and overseer of Burlington Monthly Meeting and Rancocas Particular Meeting. Quaker Samuel Wills (1765-1852) was an elder of Burlington Monthly Meeting.

(Information from obituary notices in *The Friend* and *Friends Review* respectively)

SUBJECT HEADINGS

Wills, Aaron (1734-1805)  
Wills, Daniel (1803-1878)  
Wills, Samuel (1765-1852)  
Wills family

Quakers – New Jersey  
New Jersey -- History

## SCOPE AND CONTENTS OF THE COLLECTION

Papers include correspondence, miscellaneous personal papers, pictures, financial accounts, legal papers, and genealogical papers of the Wills family. Notable among the correspondents are Aaron Wills, 1734-1805, Samuel Wills, 1765-1852, and Daniel Wills, 1803-1878. Miscellaneous papers include copy of an account by Daniel Wills, 1633-1698, of the first settlement of Burlington, N. J., in 1677. Financial accounts are mainly bills and receipts of Daniel Wills, 1689-1760, Aaron Wills, and Samuel Wills. Legal papers include copy of will of Wm. Wills, 1671; copy of deed to Daniel Wills and Thomas Olive of lands in West Jersey, 1676, with notes on initial divisions of land in New Jersey and on the Commissioners who handled them; also miscellaneous bonds, deeds, marriage certificates, other. Genealogical papers cover main descendants of Daniel Wills, 1633-1698, up to 1879, with some as far as 1956; also some notes on the Davis and Pennell families. Also included are Epistles from Philadelphia and London Yearly Meetings of Women Friends and extracts from the Minutes of Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, Burlington Monthly and Preparative Meetings, and Ancocas [Rancocas] Preparative Meeting; also, some printed booklets, tracts, and clippings, including newspaper account of a talk by Dr. E. Newbold Cooper, "Glimpses of 17th Century Rancocas."

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE COLLECTION

### **Box 1: Correspondence,**

Note: Correspondence is chronologically arranged

1. [G?] Binny to Aaron Wills, 1734-1805. [n.p., n.d.]
2. [ ] to Katherine Payton. Ballitore, 4mo. 3, 1757.
3. Wm. Dillwyn to Aaron Wills, 1734-1805. Burlington, 7mo. 13, 1776.
4. Joseph Whitall to Aaron Wills, 1734-1805. at Rancocas. Mount, 8mo. 25, 1790.
5. John Hunt to Aaron Wills, 1734-1805. [n.p.] 12 mo. 23, 1798.
6. William Allinson to Aaron Wills, 1734-1805, at Ancocas. Burlington, 7mo. 2, 1799.
7. Joseph Wetherill to Aaron Wills, 1734-1805, at Ancocas. Burlington, 2mo. 15, 1800.

8. J H to Aaron Wills, 1734-1805, at Ancocas. [n.p.] 1mo. 16, 1803.
9. Hannah Wills, 1793- to Grace Wills, c/o Samuel Wills, near Burlington, N.J. Weston [Westtown] School, 11mo. 24, 1806.
10. Hannah Wills, 1793- to [Grace Wills] addressed to Samuel Wills, near Burlington. Weston School, 10mo. 20, 1807.
11. Grace Wills, d. 1825, to Samuel Wills, 1765-1852, near Burlington, N.J. Newport, R.I., June 17, [ca. 1810]
12. John Tatum, Jr. to Samuel Wills, 1765-1852, Rancocas, N.J. Woodbury, 1mo. 27, 1817
13. Daniel Wills, 1803-1878, to Samuel Wills, Rancocas, N.J. West-Town, 3mo. 31, 1818.
14. Daniel Wills, 1803-1878, to Samuel Wills, [Westtown] School, 4/22/18
15. Daniel Wills, 1803-1878, to Grace, [Westtown] School, 5mo. 6, 1818.
16. Daniel Wills, 1803-1878, to Samuel, [Westtown] School, 7mo. 10, 1818.
17. Susanna Richardson Wills and Daniel to Rebecca G Richardson. 10mo. 11, 1828.
18. H. Lippincott, with daughter B.R.L., to daughter Elizabeth [at Westtown] Westfield, 5mo. 30, 1833.
19. Daniel Wills to Samuel Wills, Trentown [Trenton] N.J. Mt. Holly, N.J., 11mo. 25, 1835.
20. Ann Wills, 1830- to Daniel Wills, Rancocas, N.J. Westtown, 8mo. 7, 1844.
22. Daniel and Susanna Wills to Sarah H. Lippincott. Rancocas, 11mo. 1, 1856.
23. Daniel and Susanna Wills to Josiah H. Newbold and wife. Rancocas, 11mo. 1, 1856.
24. Daniel and Susanna Wills to Mary Roberts. Rancocas, 11mo. 1, 1856.
25. Daniel and Susanna Wills to Hannah C. Wills. Rancocas, 11mo. 1, 1856.

26. John W. and Amy Y. Tatum to Daniel Wills. Wilmington, 6mo. 4, 1861.
27. Daniel Wills to Clayton N. Wills, 1839- 10mo. 14, 1863.
28. Mary H. Pennell to Hannah C. Wills, 1846- West Philadelphia, [1mo., 1864]
29. C[layton] N[ewbold] and R[achel] P[ennell] Wills to Daniel Wills and daughter. Philadelphia [1mo 1874]
30. William R. Wills, 1831- invitation to him, to attend funeral of Mary C. Coles. 10mo 4, 1881.
31. Ellwood and Rachel P. Cooper to Hannah C. Wills and Wm. R. Wills [12mo. 1885]
32. [ ] to grandparents of E. Newbold Cooper. 1926- West Chester, Sept 19, 1926.

## **II. Miscellaneous Personal Papers, Pictures, etc.**

1. [ ] Quotations from Isaac Pennington and the Bible. 2 p. A.D.. [n.p.,n.d.]
2. [ ] Commentary on Bryant's poem, "The Death of the Flowers." 1l. A.D. [n.p.,n.d.]
3. [ ] Page 19 out of typed carbon copy of history of Rancocas Friends School and Meeting. [n.p.,n.d.]
4. Wills, Daniel, 1633-1698. Account of the first settlement of Burlington, N.J., in the year 1677. 4 p. (copy) A.D. [n.p.,n.d.]
5. [ ] Memorandum of visit made by Robert Willies, Aaron Wills, Mary Stevenson, and Jane Ridgway to families of Old Springfield Meeting, 11mo. 9-13, 1788. 1l. A.D. [n.p.,n.d.]
6. Wills, Samuel, 1765-1852. Journal, 1788-ca. 1798.
7. Wills, Susanna N. (Richardson) Silhouette, cut Dec. 6, 1824.
8. Wills, Samuel, 1765-1852. Invitation to funeral of, Rancocas, 9mo. 20, 1852.
9. Pennell, Hill. Invitation to funeral of, Darby, 11mo. 24, 1854.
10. Wills, Susanna N. (Richardson). Invitation to funeral of, Rancocas, 6mo. 3, 1861.
11. Wills, Clayton Newbold 1839- Envelope addressed to Clayton N. Wills, containing notice of death of Robert D. Pennell, July 24, 1873, notice

of marriage of Clayton N. Wills to Rachel Pennell, 1mo. 27, 1864, and small ms. booklet of aphorisms inscribed from      to "her esteemed Friend Rachel." Laid in: clipping of death notice of Aaron Wills.

12. Wills, Daniel, 1803-1878. Obituary tribute by the Board of Directors of the Mt. Holly Insurance Company, Aug. 3, 1878. 1l. A.D.S. Signed by Allen Fenimore, Pres., and G. W. Haywood, Secy.

13. Wills, Hannah C., 1846- Invitation to wedding of Hannah C. Wills and Wm. Scattergood, 10mo. 19, 1886. Invitation to reception enclosed.

14. 3 pictures. Samuel Wills (engraving)  
House, Pine View, Rancocas, N.J., exterior and interior (central hall)

### **III. Accounts:**

1. Daniel Wills. 1689-1760. Receipt from Abraham Bickby, 2mo. 2, 1720.
2. Daniel Wills. Receipt from William Cox, 6mo. 26, 1728. (May be Daniel, 1692-1742)
3. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Simon Bozarth, 2mo. 6, 1731.
4. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Jane Cox, Feb. 27, 1735.
5. Daniel Wills. Receipt from John Hudson, Mar. 4, 1736.
6. Daniel Wills. Receipt from George Ryll. July 26, 1736.
7. Daniel Wills. Receipt from John Wills, 1mo. 23, 1738.
8. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Levi Shinn, Sept. 18, 1738.
9. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Mordecai Moore, July 25, 1739.
10. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Jonas Cattell, Mar. 14, 1740.
11. Daniel Wills. Receipt from John S. [Slintham?] Nov. 25, 1740.
12. Daniel Wills. Received bill from James Pennell? Aug. 10, 1741.
13. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Abraham Griffith, 11mo. 29, 1742.
14. Daniel Wills. Bill from John Thomas, May, 1742, receipted by Anthony Sykes, 6mo. 2, 1744.
15. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Thomas [Shreve?] Mar. 3, 1743.

16. Daniel Wills. Request to pay Walter Reves, Jr.. Signed Samuel Laning, July 14, 1743.
17. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Joshua Bispham, Mar. 28, 1755.
18. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Timothy Taler [Taylor] 7mo. 29. 1743.
19. Daniel Wills. Receipt from James [Guest?] April 28, 1746.
20. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Oliver Curty, May 9, 1746.
21. Daniel Wills, IOU to John Burr, Aug. 15, 1747. Received, 3mo. 31, 1748.
22. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Thomas Dunphy, Apr. 22, 1747.
23. Daniel Wills. Receipt from John Hartshorne, Feb. 20, 1749.
24. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Arch Campbell, Oct. 11, 1751.
25. Daniel Wills. Note payable to Arch Campbell, Burlington, Oct. 30, 1751. Promise to pay, signed Thomas Atkinson, on back.
26. Daniel Wills. Promisory note to Jacob Lamb, May 13, 1752. Received, May 22, 1754.
27. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Joseph McVinyard, 7mo. 12, 1753.
28. Aaron Wills, 1734-1805. Receipt from Joseph Hollinshead, Aug. 9, 1753.
29. Aaron Wills. Receipt from Joseph Hollinshead, Nov. 7, 1753.
30. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Joseph Hollinshead, Apr. 6, 1754.
31. Daniel Wills. Bill from Thomas Conarro, May 14, 1754.
32. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Thomas Conarro, May 17, 1754.
33. Aaron Wills. Receipt from Dan Smith, 8mo. 22, 1754.
34. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Thomas Lawrance, 9mo. 28, 1754.
35. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Benjamin [?] Sept. 17, 1759.
36. Daniel Wills. Receipt from Peter Andrews, 2mo. 24, 1774.

37. Samuel Wills, 1765-1852. Receipt from Peter Worrall, 1mo. 20, 1786.
38. Friends School, Ancocas. Account of expenses in building house for schoolmaster. 5mo. 1, 1788.
39. Samuel Wills. Receipt from Hugh Hollinshead, 2mo. 20, 1792.
40. Samuel Wills. Receipt from Joseph Pierce, 1mo. 12, 1796.
41. Aaron Wills. Receipt from bill collector C. N. Hughes, Aug. 29, 1799.
42. Samuel Wills. Receipt from Isaac Comly, 10mo. 25, 1800.
43. Samuel Wills. Receipt from Isaac Comly, 10mo. 16, 1801.
44. Aaron Wills. Account of distribution of goods of deceased wife, Rachel, 1801-1804.
45. Samuel Wills. 2 receipts for schooling from Jacob Burr, Mar. 16, 1804.
46. Samuel Wills. Receipt from Mahlon Budd, 7mo. 10, 1804.
47. Samuel Wills. Account book, ca. 1805.
48. Job Borden. Receipt from Joseph Burr, "by the hands of Samuel Wills," July 29, 1807.
49. Samuel Wills. 4 receipts from John Gummere for tuition paid for other people's children at Gummere's school, 1807-1811.
50. Samuel Wills, Receipt from Jesse Cox and Sons, Mt. Holly, June 22, 1812.
51. Samuel Wills. Receipt from John Comly, 2mo. 27, 1813.
52. Samuel Wills. Receipted bill from Spencer and Simmons, 11mo. 25, 1815.
53. Samuel Wills. 8 receipted bills for tuition at Westtown School, 1816-1818.
54. Samuel Wills. Receipt from Susan Haines, 3mo. 18, 1825.
55. Samuel Wills. Receipt from Wm. J. Allinson, 2mo. 27, 1832.
56. Daniel Wills. Receipt book, 1850-1872.
57. W[illiam] R. Wills, 1831- Receipt from the Pennsylvania Railroad Co., 3/6/1882.

58. Ella S. Cooper. Receipt from John Wanamaker, Nov. 1, 1893.

**IV. Legal papers:**

1. Daniel Wills. Plot of lots in Rancocas, showing property of Daniel Wills. [n.d.]
2. William Wills. Copy of will, made in Barbados, Oct. 2, 1671. [n.p., n.d.] (Brother of Daniel, 1633-1698, who went to Barbados to settle this will and died there.)
3. Daniel Wills, 1633-1698. Copy of deed to a Hundredth of lands in West N.J. to Daniel Wills + Thomas Olive, from William Penn, Gawen Lawrie, and Nicholas Lucas, trustees for Edward Byllynge, Jan. 21, 1676. Notes on back by R.B. Hull. giving history of initial divisions of land in N.J. and of Commissioners who handled them, including Daniel Wills.
4. John Wills, 1660-1746. Power of attorney from Benjamin and Elizabeth Olive to John Wills, Sr., Feb. 4, 1711.
5. John Wills. Record of survey of 50 acres of John Wills' land and 50 acres of George Elkinton's land in Northampton Twp., Burlington Co., N.J. May 20, 1720. Signed by Titan Leeds, Deputy Surveyor.
6. John Wills. Indenture leasing 100 acres of land to John Hayward of Hunterdon Co. for 5 years. Witnessed by [James?] Dolan and Thomas Wetherill. Oct. 2, 1731.
7. John Wills. Power of attorney to Daniel Wills for collecting rents overdue from John Howard [Hayward] of Hunterdon Co., N.J. Oct. 15, 1731.
8. Daniel Wills. Bond to Richard Smith of Burlington. June 25, 1734.
9. Daniel Wills. Bond to Richard Smith of Burlington. May 14, 1735.
10. Daniel Wills. Bond to Nevel Elton of Northampton, Burlington Co. and Sarah Rogers of Burlington, executors of John Rogers. Sept. 10, 1740.
11. Daniel Wills. Bond to Paul Watkinson of Burlington. April 29, 1742. (Signature torn off)
12. Daniel Wills. Bond to Jacob [Fonbon?] of Philadelphia. Oct. 5, 1742. (Signature torn off)

13. Daniel Wills. Bond to Joseph Reuss, Northampton, Burlington Co., N.J. Mar. 1, 1745.
14. Daniel Wills. Bond to George Kimbal, Northampton, Burlington Co., N.J. (Signature torn off) April 1, 1745.
15. John Wills, 1660-1746. Will (incomplete) [ca. 1745]
16. Daniel Wills. Bond to Samuel Lippincott. Mar. 26, 1747.
17. Daniel Wills. Bond to Paul Watkinson of Burlington. May 26, 1752. (Signature torn off)
18. Daniel Wills. Bond to Thomas Buzby of Willingborough. 1mo. 15, 1754. Receipts on back for interest, 1755, '56,'57, '58.
19. Aaron Wills, 1734-1805. Indenture (mortgage) to Elizabeth Sharp of Gloucester [Gloucester] N.J., for land in Gloucester [Gloucester] Co. Witnessed by John Woolman. 10mo. 16, 1755.
20. Jonathan Wills, 1730- Deed to Samuel Smith for 56 acres of land in Northampton. June 7, 1759. (Signatures cutoff)
21. Henry Worington. Inventory and appraisal of his estate. 7mo. 25, 1769. (Incomplete)
22. Dell Pennell. Deed from Nathan and Rachel Sharpless of Middletown, Del. Co., Pa., giving Dell Pennell rights to the water in Chester Creek and to the Old Forge dam across it. Feb. 2, 1786. Parchment. Impressed seal affixed.
23. Samuel Wills, 1765-1852, and Grace (Rogers) Wills. Marriage certificate from Evesham Monthly Meeting. Dec. 17, 1789.
24. Daniel Wills, 1803-1878, and Susanna (Richardson) Wills. Marriage certificate from Middletown Monthly Meeting, Bucks Co., Pa. 10mo. 23, 1828, Parchment.
25. Hill Pennell and Rachel (Jess) Pennell. Marriage certificate from Philadelphia Monthly Meeting. 6mo. 6, 1833. Parchment.
26. Hill Pennell and Mary (Hill) Pennell, Marriage certificate, issued by Mayor John Swift of Philadelphia. Jan. 7, 1836.
27. Samuel Wills. Record of disposition of his estate. Oct., 1856.

28. Daniel Wills of Willingborough, Burlington Co. Copy (1878) of will, Nov. 16, 1871.

29. Daniel Wills, 1803-1878. Inventory of his effects. 8mo. 3, 1878. Also record of goods taken at appraisement by the heirs.

#### **V. Genealogical papers:**

1. Will Family Genealogy,, 1633-1879. Compiled from other material in folder by A. Whittelsey, 1963. (3 copies)

2. Genealogy of descendants of Daniel Wills, 1633-1698, up to 1879.

3. Genealogy of descendants of Daniel Wills, 1633-1698, up to 1846.

4. Notes on the Daniel Wills Family of Northampton, Eng., and Burlington Co., N.J., in relation to the family of E. Newbold Cooper of Phil., Pa. Notes made by G. Norwood Comly. (2 copies)

5. Notes on the children of Samuel Wills, 1765-1852, and Grace (Rogers) Wills.

6. Memorandum on Samuel Wills and Grace (Rogers) Wills by their granddaughter, Hannah C. Scattergood. 6mo., 1931. (Ms. and 2 copies)

7. Letter to Elizabeth Dunn from Hilda [ ], May 1, 1956, containing genealogical data about the Pennell family.

8. Notes on genealogy of Davis and Pennell families, probably also by Hilda [ ]

#### **VI. Epistles and Minutes of Friends Meetings:**

1. [ ] Quarterly Meeting. Minute sent to preparative Meetings concerning behavior of Friends on First Days and in and around Meeting. [n.p., n.d.]

2. Preparative Meeting of Friends at Ancocas. Agreement between subscribers regarding financing of Friends School. [1777?]

3. Burlington Monthly Meeting. Extract from the Minutes made by Samuel Allinson, Clerk, 12mo. 1, 1777, concerning establishment of Friends Schools.

4. Burlington Preparative Meeting. Copy of Minute setting up Board of Trustees of Friends School in Burlington and establishing regulations for School. [1779?]

5. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, 1790. Epistle to Quarterly Meetings.

6. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting. 1788. Extract from the Minutes containing report of Committee appointed to investigate the excessive use of spiritous liquors.

7. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, 1791. Epistle to Quarterly Meetings concerning supplying of young people with Bibles and teaching them to read them.

8. London Yearly Meeting of Women Friends. Epistle to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, 1791.

9. London Yearly Meeting of Women Friends. Epistle to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, 1794.

VI. Epistles and Minutes of Friends Meetings, cont.:

10. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Women Friends. Extract from Minutes, 1796.

11. London Yearly Meeting of Women Friends. Epistle to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, 1796.

12. Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Women Friends. Extract from the Minutes. 1797. (Copy sent to Ancocas Meeting)

13. London Yearly Meeting of Women Friends. Epistle to Philadelphia Yearly Meeting of Women Friends, 1798.

14. Burlington Preparative Meeting. List of members deceased, disowned, and removed, 1811-1838.

**VII. Printed materials:**

1. A Brief Testimony to the Great Duty of Prayer. Bound booklet containing also, "God's Answer to Prayer," and Postscript by John Field. [ca. 1725] ( Incomplete)

2. Love Without Artifice: or, The Disappointed Peer. London, 1733.

3. Watts, Isaac. A Near Prospect of Heaven. seen in a Vision. Phil., 1774.

4. Bishop Barclay. Some Advice to Governesses and Teachers. New Bedford, Mass. 1795. (Erroneous note from Aaron Wills on front gives date as 1787.)

5. Some Passages of the Life of John Jeffrys, to which is added A Serious Address to the People of the Church of England, &c. N.Y., 1802.

6. Vision of Joseph Hoag. Printed copy of his account of vision in 1803.  
[n.p., after 1803]
7. Constitution of the Burlington and Monmouth County Pursuing and Detecting Society. 1824. (Robert Woodward's copy)
8. Schimmelpenninck, M[ary] A[nn] Manuel of La Mere Agnes, or A Gift from an Abbess to her Nuns. Phil., 1830.
9. Philadelphia Public Ledger. Vol. I - No. 1, Fri., Mar. 25, 1836.
10. Wills, Clayton Newbold, 1839- Card advertising his drug store. Recipes on back. [Phil., after 1839]
11. "How to Use It!" Small clipping on Lyon's powder and pills. [ca. 1850?]
12. Wills, Samuel, 1765-1852, and Grace (Rogers) 1771-1825. Obituary card, giving birth and death dates of both, with tribute to Grace.
13. The New York Herald, Sat., April 15, 1865. Contains the Extra announcing death of Abraham Lincoln.
14. Clipping dated Thursday, Oct. 8, 1953:  
"Mark First Meeting House in Rancocas 250 Years Ago."  
Tells of talk by Dr. E. Newbold Cooper, descendant of Daniel Wills, entitled "Glimpses of 17th Century Rancocas."