

James Wood papers, 1865-1964, bulk 1865-1921
HC.Coll.1218
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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections

2009.12.20

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Summary Information

Repository	Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections
Creator	Wood, James, 1839-1925
Title	James Wood papers
Date [bulk]	Bulk, 1865-1921
Date [inclusive]	Bulk, 1865-1921 1865-1964
Extent	10.5 Linear feet
General Physical Description note	21 containers and one rolled document
Language	English
Abstract	<p>James Wood (1839-1925) was “interested in education, philanthropy, in the various branches of agriculture, in archaeology, history, Indian lore, anthropology, science, in prison reform and above all, in the Bible and religion,” (ABS, 2). He was also a business man, serving as President of the Genesee Salt Company in Piffard, New York. The James Wood papers are divided into twelve series: “Biographical Material;” “Agriculture;” Business and Financial Material;” “Collected Quaker Material;” “Correspondence;” “Hugh Barbour Writings and Talks regarding James Wood;” “Journals;” “Organizations;” “Photographs and Albums;” “Political Involvement;” Prison Reform;” and lastly, “Writings by James Wood.” This collection contains many materials, including correspondence, photographs, record books, awards, and printed material such as newspapers and pamphlets. Given Wood’s heavy involvement in agriculture, this collection has high research value for those interested in farming methods, live stock breeding, and general agriculture history from</p>

the late nineteenth to early-twentieth centuries. Also of note to researchers is a series covering Wood's work in female prison reform, which includes several official reports and newspaper stories in this area.

Preferred Citation note

Haverford College Library, Haverford, PA, Quaker Collection, James Wood Papers, Coll. No. 1218.

Biographical note

James Wood was born on November 12, 1839 to Stephen and Phoebe (Underhill) Wood on a farm just north of Mt. Kisco, New York. He was the youngest of seven children, and “started his early religious training with his parents at Mt. Kisco.” (American Bible Society (ABS)). His formal education included the local Bedford Academy, the Westtown School of Pennsylvania (1850-1851) and Haverford College (1853-1857). While at Haverford College, Wood was the editor of the “Collegian,” and president of the Henry Society. Listed as a graduate of 1858, Wood also received an honorary master’s degree in 1883 after “he gave an illuminating course of historical lectures at Haverford College,” (Jones). James Wood married Emily Hollingsworth Morris on June 6 (or possibly 7), 1866 and fathered three children: Ellen M., Carolena M. and Levi Hollingsworth. After graduating from Haverford College, Wood’s activities diversified. According to the American Bible Society’s biography of Wood, he was “interested in education, philanthropy, in the various branches of agriculture, in archaeology, history, Indian lore, anthropology, science, in prison reform and above all, in the Bible and religion,” (ABS, 2). Professionally, Wood served as President of the Genesee Salt Company in Piffard, New York. Yet he was also committed to agricultural work; becoming one of the first American breeders of Ayrshire cattle and Hampshire Down sheep, as well serving as the president of the Bedford Farmers’ Club. He also served on the Board of Managers of Haverford College from 1885 to 1925 and as a trustee of Bryn Mawr College starting in 1902, and eventually becoming a board chairman from 1914 to 1918.

His interest in prison reform can be seen in his involvement in founding the New York State Reformatory for Women at Bedford, serving as president of the Board of Managers from 1900 to 1916; as a member of the Executive Committee of the New York Prison Association; and as the president of Westchester Temporary Home for Destitute Children. Wood was known as “a leader in prison reform and methods of correction.” (ABS, p. 2). Politically, Wood unsuccessfully ran for Congress in 1886, and acted as the town supervisor of Bedford, New York from 1862 to 1863.

Among Wood’s many interests, the Bible and religion were extremely important to him. According to the American Bible Society, he was “one of the outstanding leaders and a spokesman of his own church, the Society of Friends,” (ABS, page 6). From 1855 to 1925, Wood served in many capacities with several Quaker organizations. His roles include serving as the presiding clerk of the New York Yearly Meeting of Friends, the president of the General Conference of Friends in 1887, chairman of the Westchester County Bible Society from 1893 to 1925, vice president of the American Bible Society from 1903 to 1911, the 14th President of the American Bible Society from 1911 to 1919, and president Emeritus of the American Bible Society from 1919 to 1925. Additionally, in 1893, Wood was asked to present the “views and ideals of the Society of Friends at the Congress of Religions held at the Columbian Exhibition in Chicago.” (ABS) He also wrote a pamphlet entitled “The Distinguished Doctrines of the Religious Society of Friends,” in 1898. In 1902, Wood and his daughter Carolena served as delegates to the 4th Quinquennial Conference of the Society of Friends in Indianapolis.

Wood died on December 19, 1925 in Mt. Kisco, New York. According to the American Bible Society, James Wood’s grandson, (also named James Wood), followed his grandfather by graduating from Haverford College in 1950, serving as a trustee of Bryn Mawr College, and as President of the American

Bible Society from 1984 to 1989. Wood is remembered as someone “who served his church on a national and world level as well as in his own community,” (ABS, p. 14).

Bibliography:

American Bible History. http://www.americanbiblehistory.com/james_wood.html (accessed July 7, 2010).

American Bible Society Remembrance of James Wood, undated (Box 1).

Jones, Rufus M. "James Wood," *The American Friend*, Vol. XIII, No. 53, December 25, 1925.

Scope and Contents note

The James Wood papers are divided into twelve series: “Biographical Material;” “Agriculture;” Business and Financial Material;” “Collected Quaker Material;” “Correspondence;” “Hugh Barbour Writings and Talks regarding James Wood;” “Journals;” “Organizations;” “Photographs and Albums;” “Political Involvement;” Prison Reform;” and lastly, “Writings by James Wood.” This collection contains many materials, including correspondence, photographs, record books, awards, and printed material such as newspapers and pamphlets. Given Wood’s heavy involvement in agriculture, this collection has high research value for those interested in farming methods, live stock breeding, and general agriculture history from the late nineteenth to early-twentieth centuries. Also of note to researchers is a series covering Wood’s work in female prison reform, which includes several official reports and newspaper stories in this area.

The “Biographical” series contains records spanning Wood’s time at Haverford in 1865 to notices of his passing in 1925 and 1926. Highlights of this series include the “Clippings” folder, which contains several newspaper articles about James Wood. Also included in this series is his 1865 Haverford College paper titled “Journeys,” as well as obituaries from many newspapers. The Westchester County Historical Society and American Bible Society published their own remembrances of Wood, which are included in this series. Also found in this series is Wood’s Marriage Certificate from 1866, and an autograph album from 1886. Researchers looking for biographical information on James Wood should use this series as well as the “Hugh Barbour Writings and Talks regarding James Wood” series.

The series “Agriculture” contains writings and materials collected by James Wood, regarding his farming activities and involvement. The series is divided into the following six subseries: “Writings by James Wood;” “Collected Materials;” “Sheep Material;” “Farm Dog Material;” “Horse Material;” and “Poultry Material.” “Writings by James Wood” include his speeches and published works, as well as his paper, “Ideas on Horticulture.” Within “Collected Materials,” are “Collected farming documents and materials” that Wood kept, such as pamphlets regarding local taxation affecting farms, lists of farming materials and other related items. Also included within “Collected Materials,” is the “History of the Bedford Farmers Club” by Wood, his certificate of nomination to National Farmer’s Congress, and the New York Farmers Proceedings.

Also within the series, "Agriculture," are the following four subseries: "Sheep Material;" "Farm Dog Material;" "Horse Material;" and "Poultry Material." These four subseries hold materials such as clippings, notes, records, and awards. Of the four, "Sheep Material," is the most extensive. Included in this subseries are "Writings on Sheep in various publications by others;" "Writings on Sheep by James Wood in the *Cultivator* and *Country Gentleman*" from 1884 and 1887; and "Correspondence regarding Bulk Sheep." Also found within the subseries is additional correspondence, clippings, competition materials, photographs, and flock records.

The "Business and Financial" series contains Wood's records of the Genesee Salt Company, Arizona Improvement Company, and Erie Barge Canal. Wood was involved with these companies from 1896 to 1906. Included in this series are many of his financial records from Hamilton Bank, the Dickinson Family Estate, and Insurance information.

The "Collected Quaker Material" series reflects Wood's great involvement in Quaker affairs. Included are various clippings and publications on Quaker events, as well as Quaker meeting materials from the New York Yearly Meeting (1893-1925), the Five Years Meeting at Braewold (1902), and the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting (undated).

The series "Correspondence" consists of letters sent to and from Wood. These are arranged as the following: "To James Wood" (alphabetically by sender's last name); "From James Wood" (alphabetical by recipient's last name); "To James Wood" (alphabetical by country or city of sender): and "Invitations and Cards to James Wood." Within those arranged by country or city of origin, are letters sent to James Wood from across the world, including Austria, Holland, Panama, Cuba, and Scotland.

The "Hugh Barbour Writings and Talks regarding James Wood" series include works by Barbour related to James Wood. A biographer of Wood from the 1990s onwards, Barbour wrote on Wood's life in Mount Kisco, and his involvement in the Quaker movement at Braewold. Barbour presented these writings at the Earlham School of Religion (1994) and at the Quaker Historian and Archivists Meeting (1996).

The series "Journals" contains two journals kept by Wood, one of which is titled "Journeyings" from 1864 which contains the notes on the paper, of the same title, written by Wood as a student at Haverford College. The other spans many years, detailing information from 1881 through 1916.

The "Organizations" series contains records of Wood's involvement in several organizations, including the American Bible Society, the town of Bedford, Braewold Meeting, Bryn Mawr College, Haverford College, the Good Roads, and White Plains Court House. Researchers should consult the folder containing Wood's resignation as the President of the American Bible Society as it summarizes his involvement with the Society.

"Photographs and Albums" is the ninth series within the collection. This series contains photograph albums from Egypt; England; Europe; Germany and Switzerland; and the Palestine. These albums have been carefully created, and each photograph is accompanied by a caption. Also found in this series is a Postal Souvenirs postcard album, holding photo postcards from his travels. Additionally, researchers will find individual photographs of James Wood and his family within this series.

The "Political Involvement" series contains predominately newspaper clippings related to James Wood's unsuccessful candidacy for National Congress in 1886.

The “Prison Reform” series contains newspaper clippings, published New York State reports, and statements by James Wood on reforming women’s prison conditions in New York. Also included are newspaper clippings written by others regarding Wood’s work in this area. This series has high research value for anyone interested in prison reform from the period spanning the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

The final series, “Writings by James Wood,” contains his “Addresses and Lectures,” writings “On Topics,” and “Notes.” “Addresses and Lectures” contains such titles as “The Distinguishing Doctrine of the Religious Society of Friends,” given in 1908 at the 12th Street Meeting House in Philadelphia and a “Historical Address,” delivered to the Presbytery of Westchester in 1888. Wood wrote on a variety of topics and subjects, such as art and public worship, Quaker principles, education and social reform, immigration and development, and many others.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Haverford College Quaker & Special Collections 2009.12.20

Conditions Governing Access note

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use note

Copyright restrictions may apply. Please contact the Archives with requests for copying and for authorization to publish, quote or reproduce the material.

Processing Information note

The processing of this collection was made possible through generous funding from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, administered through the Council on Library and Information Resources’ “Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives” Project.

This collection was *minimally processed* in 2009-2011, as part of an experimental project conducted under the auspices of the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries to help eliminate processing backlog in Philadelphia repositories. A minimally processed collection is one processed at a less intensive rate than traditionally thought necessary to make a collection ready for use by researchers. When citing sources from this collection, researchers are advised to defer to folder titles provided in the finding aid rather than those provided on the physical folder.

Employing processing strategies outlined in Mark Greene's and Dennis Meissner's 2005 article, *More Product, Less Process: Revamping Traditional Processing Approaches to Deal With Late 20th-Century*

Collections, the project team tested the limits of minimal processing on collections of all types and ages, in 23 Philadelphia area repositories. A primary goal of the project, the team processed at an average rate of 2-3 hours per linear foot of records, a fraction of the time ordinarily reserved for the arrangement and description of collections. Among other time saving strategies, the project team did not extensively review the content of the collections, replace acidic folders or complete any preservation work.

Related Materials

Related Archival Materials note

Haverford College: L. Hollingsworth Wood papers, 1175

Bryn Mawr College: Jean Scobie Davis papers, 1892-1985, M85

Controlled Access Headings

Corporate Name(s)

- American Bible Society.
- Bedford Farmers' Club (Bedford (Westchester County, N.Y.)).
- Bryn Mawr College.
- Five Years Meeting (Society of Friends: U.S.).
- Haverford College.
- New York State Reformatory for Women (Bedford Hills, N.Y.).
- New York Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.
- Society of Friends.
- Westchester County Bible Society (Westchester County, N.Y.).

Genre(s)

- Autobiographies
- Awards
- Bookkeeping records.
- Business records

- Clippings
- Correspondence.
- Diaries.
- Financial records
- Lecture notes
- Manuscripts
- Pamphlets
- Photograph albums
- Photographs.
- Trade catalogs
- Travel photography

Geographic Name(s)

- Bedford (Westchester County, N.Y.)
- Haverford (Pa.)
- Mount Kisco (N.Y.)

Personal Name(s)

- Barbour, Hugh
- Fox, George, 1624-1691
- Wood, Carolina Morris, 1871-1936
- Wood, James, 1839-1925

Subject(s)

- Agriculture
- Prison reformers
- Quakers
- Religion
- Travel

Series I. Biographical Material

Collection Inventory

Series I. Biographical Material 1865-1919	
	Box
Clippings undated	1
Journeyings, paper written while a student at Haverford College 1865	1
End of Civil War clipping 1865 February 23	1
Marriage Certificate 1866	1
Travel Documents (Passports, Financial) undated	1
Autograph Album circa 1886	1
Power of Attorney to L. Hollingsworth Wood (Son of James) 1910 June 4	1
American Bible Society Remembrance of James Wood 1919-1998	1
Will 1923	1

Series II. Agriculture

Historical Society Reference 1924-1991	1
Letters to Carolena Wood Morris, Ellen M., and Levi Hollingsworth Wood (James' children) regarding James Wood Death 1925-1926	1
Newspaper Obituaries of James Wood 1925-1926	1
Series II. Agriculture	
Subseries a. Writings by James Wood	
	Box
Collected Writings 1880-1889	2
Speeches 1884, 1888	2
<i>Ideas on Horticulture</i> 1910	2
Subseries b. Collected Materials	
	Box
List of Agricultural Societies and Farmers Clubs 1876	2

Subseries c. Sheep Material

New York Farmers Proceedings 1884-1886 2

New York Agricultural Society 1890 2

Collected farming documents and materials circa 1890s 2

Live Stock Journal 1891 Almanac 1891 2

The Bureau of Agriculture: Worlds Columbian Commission 1893 2

History of the Bedford Farmers Club by James Wood 1895 February 20 2

New York Certificate of Nomination to National Farmer's Congress 1899 2

Subseries c. Sheep Material**Box**

Writings on Sheep in various publications by others 1880-1889 3

Writings on Sheep by James Wood in *The Cultivator* and *Country Gentleman* 1884, 1887 3

Correspondence and Clippings 1886-1902 3

Subseries d. Farm Dog Material

Hampshire Down Flock Record 1890 1890	4
Hampshire Down Flock Record 1891-1892	4
Hampshire Down Flock Record 1895-1896	4
Competition materials 1896-1899	5
Correspondence regarding Bulk Sheep 1897-1901	5
Photographs undated	5
Subseries d. Farm Dog Material undated	Box 6
Subseries e. Horse Material 1884-1888	Box 6
Subseries f. Poultry Material 1876	Box 6
Series III. Business and Financial Material	
Arrangement note	
Arranged by the importance in James Wood's career.	
	Box
Genesee Salt Company (3 folders) 1896-1906	7-8

Series IV. Collected Quaker Material

	8
Arizona Improvement Company undated	
Erie Barge Canal 1903	8
Hamilton Bank and Checks undated	8
Dickinson Estate 1896-1908	8
Insurance Information 1905-1924	8
Income 1904-1923	8
Income Tax 1914-1921	8
Assorted records 1888-1925	8
Series IV. Collected Quaker Material	
	Box
"The Discipline" 1887-1890	9
New York Yearly Meeting 1893-1925	9

Series V. Correspondence

<i>The Friend</i> 1900	9
<i>Friends Quarterly Examiner</i> 1900	9
Five Years Meeting at Braewold 1902	9
"Spirit and Politics of Relief," Professor David McFadden 1996	9
Clippings from Quaker Events undated	9
Philadelphia Yearly Meeting undated	9
Publications and Clippings undated	9
Series V. Correspondence	
Subseries a. To James Wood (alphabetically by sender's last name)	
	Box
Allen, Edward and William	10
Braithwaite, J.N.	10

Subseries a. To James Wood (alphabetically by sender's last name)

Burroughs, E.M.	10
Cross, Emeline	10
Doyle, Elizabeth	10
Friends (Quaker)	10
Grauf, Frances Louis	10
Harris, J. Rendel	10
Harrison	10
High Point Normal and Industrial School	10
Male, William H.	10
Peace Congress	10
Rhoades, J.E.	10
Robinson	10

Subseries b. From James Wood (alphabetical by recipient's last name)

Speakman, Martha

10

Wood, Ellen Morris

10

Unidentified

10

Subseries b. From James Wood (alphabetical by recipient's last name)**Box**

Shinn, James 1891 March

10

Wood, Ellen Morris

10

Wood, Carolena; Levi Hollingsworth; Ellen

10

Subseries c. To James Wood (alphabetical by country or city of sender)**Box**

Austria

11

Caledonia (steam ship)

11

Canada

11

Subseries c. To James Wood (alphabetical by country or city of sender)

	11
Cuba, Mexico, Texas, California, Utah, Colorado, Chicago, New York	
Dresden 1891	11
England	11
Europe (2 folders) 1881, 1890, 1891, 1892	11-12
France	12
Germany	12
Holland	12
Ireland	12
Isle of Mann	12
Italy	12
Norway	12
New York City	12

Subseries d. Invitations and Cards to James Wood

Panama	12
Scotland	12
Switzerland	12
Wales	12
Subseries d. Invitations and Cards to James Wood	Box 12
Series VI. Hugh Barbour Writings and Talks regarding James Wood	
	Box
"New York Friends as a Model of American Quaker History," presented at Earlham School of Religion dinner 1994 November 9	13
"James Wood: Letters and Papers at Braewold" 1995	13
"The Woods of Mount Kisco" 1996-1997	13
"The Woods of Mount Kisco," presented at Quaker Historian and Archivists Meeting 1996	13
"Quaker Cross-Currents" 1990s	13

Series VII. Journals

American National Biography submission 2001	13
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Series VII. Journals	
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	Box
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"Journeyings" journal notes (regarding paper written as a student at Haverford College) 1864	14
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1881-1916	14
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Series VIII. Organizations	
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	Box
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American Bible Society: James Wood Presidential Resignation 1919	15
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Bedford: Biographical Sketches of past town Supervisors 1994	15
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Braewold: Writings about James Wood 1867-1901	15
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Bryn Mawr (3 folders) 1896-1963	15
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Haverford College material undated	15
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Series IX. Photographs and Albums

New York Appointment of James Wood to represent Good Roads Conference 1895	15
White Plains Court House 1864	15
Series IX. Photographs and Albums	
	Box
Egypt photo album undated	16
England photo album 1890s	16
Europe photo album undated	17
Germany and Switzerland photo album undated	17
Palestine photo album undated	18
Postal Souvenirs, postcard album undated	18
Photographs of James Wood and Family (3 Folders) undated	18
Photographs of Emily Wood undated	18
	Oversize

Series X. Political Involvement

Unidentified photograph undated	Roll
Series X. Political Involvement	
	Box
Clippings regarding James Wood undated	19
Congressman candidacy 1886	19
Series XI. Prison Reform	
	Box
Publications, Reports, and Clippings regarding Women Prison 1913-1996	19
Series XII. Writings by James Wood	
Subseries a. Addresses and Lectures	
	Box
Historical Address, (Delivered to the Presbytery of Westchester) 1888	20
"The Society of Friends and its Mission" 1893	20

Subseries b. On Topics

"The Bi-Centennial of the New York Yearly Meeting: An Historical Sketch," (An Address Delivered at the Celebration at Flushing) April 29, 1895 20

"The Purchase Meeting," (Quaker Hill Series) 1905 20

"George Fox," (Fox Oaks in Flushing) 1907 20

"The Distinguishing Doctrines of the Religious Society of Friends," (A lecture delivered at 12th Street Meeting House, Philadelphia) 1908 January 24 20

Untitled, (Friends Church) 1909 20

Subseries b. On Topics**Box**

Art and Public Worship undated 20

Colonies and Governments undated 20

Confederation and Constitution undated 20

The Development of Doctrine in the Progress of the Protestant Reformation in England undated 20

Subseries b. On Topics

Discovery and Settlement undated	21
Early Christianity and War undated	21
Education and Social Reform undated	21
European Letter undated	21
Extemporaneous Speaking undated	21
Haverford College undated	21
Immigration and Development undated	21
The Indians of the West undated	21
Irish Home Rule undated	21
The New Constitution and Discipline undated	21
Nine Partners Celebration undated	21
Pastoral Needs of our Congregation undated	21

Subseries c. Notes

The Pastoral Question undated	21
Periods of American History undated	21
Principles of Government undated	21
Quaker Freedom or Thought undated	21
Quaker Principles and Church Government undated	21
Questions for Ministers or Elders undated	21
Reasons for the Existence of the Religious Society of Friends undated	21
The Relation of Quaker Doctrine to Modern Thought undated	21
Subseries c. Notes	Box
	21