

**College of the Holy Cross
Archives and Special Collections
Collection Inventory**

Accession Number:

Collection Name (Title): Williams, Edward Bennett Autograph Collection

Dates of Material:

Size of Collection: Framed Items

Arrangement:

Restrictions: None

Related Material:

Preferred Citation: Edward Bennett Williams Autograph Collection

Processed on: September 2016

Biography/History:

Edward Bennett Williams was born in Hartford, CT in 1920 and graduated from Holy Cross in 1941. He studied law at Georgetown University and founded the law firm of Williams & Connolly. Williams represented many high-profile clients including Senator Joseph McCarthy, Frank Sinatra, Jimmy Hoff and John Hinckley, Jr.

Williams was part owner of the Washington Redskins football team and later owned the Baltimore Orioles baseball team. He had numerous real estate holdings and was politically connected, though he never ran for public office. He died in 1988 and Williams Hall at Holy Cross is named for him.

Scope and Content Note:

The Williams Autograph Collection was donated to Holy Cross by the Williams Family. It consists of framed autographs of the presidents of the United States as well as autographed documents of historical and literary figures collected by Williams. Letters and documents signed by many of the more recent presidents and personalities are addressed to Williams.

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P.O. Box 3A, Worcester, MA 01610-2395

Box and Folder List:

- 1) George Washington. as Commander-in-Chief of the Armies of the United States, Newburgh (NY), July 10, 1783. Discharge for Amos Derby, soldier in the 3rd Mass. Signed also by Jonathan Trumbull, Jr.
- 2) John Adams. Montezillo, Dec. 14, 1819, to Dr. Mitchell. Adams introduces Rev. Mr. Andrews Norton, Prof. at, Cambridge University.
- 3) Thomas Jefferson. while Virginia Governor, Williamsburg, July 17. 1779. to Richard Henry Lee. Refers Lee for some articles to Jefferson's letters to field officers of Northumberland.
- 4) Thomas Jefferson & James Madison. Washington, May 29, 1801, grant of 340 acres in Ohio Territory to John Scott, subaltern in the Virginia Line for 3 years. Signed by Jefferson as President and by Madison as Secretary of State.
- 5) Thomas Jefferson. Monticello, July 10, 1822, to Judge Spencer Roane expressing concern as to Roane's health and referring to "the great Sydenham" ("The English Hippocrates") "*who found nothing to be relied on but long journies on a hard trotting horse*", refers to Jefferson's numerous family of grandchildren and regrets that his property when divided among them "*will be barely a subsistence to each*" although his property is "considerable".
- 6) James Madison. Montpelier, Sept. 19, 1830, to Wm. Blunt, publisher of the *Annual Register*, sends \$15 payment for three volumes Madison has decided to retain.
- 7) James Madison. Third person ("J. Madison ...), Monday, March 6, 1809 to Caesar Augustus Rodney, his Attorney General, requests Rodney's presence at a meeting of the new Administration at the White House for a consultation.
- 8) John Quincy Adams. as Secretary of State, Department of State, Washington, Jan. 22, 1818, to John Scott, notifying him that Mr. Sergeant Hall of Missouri Territory is appointed to publish Acts of First Session of Fifteenth Congress in his newspaper in St. Louis, the name of which Adams requests Scott forward to Department.
- 9) Andrew Jackson. Washington, Feb. 23, 1831, commission of First Lieutenant John Harris as Captain of Marines. Signed also by Navy Secretary John Branch.
- 10) Martin Van Buren. as New York US Senator and Vice President-elect, Washington, Feb. 14, 1833, to J. N. Yates. Van Buren requests a short sketch of what was done by commissioners between New York and New Jersey in an old dispute. Senators from New Jersey are highly dissatisfied and Van Buren notes a bill is pending before the Senate on mode of trial between states.
- 11) Martin Van Buren. as President, Washington, July 30, 1839, authorization to the Secretary of State to affix the Seal of the United States to an Exequatur granted to Frederick Frey as Consul of the Grand Duke of Baden for the Port of New Orleans.
- 12) William Henry Harrison. as aide-de-camp (to Gen. Anthony Wayne), Greenville, March 21, 1794. Return for issue of 18 rations for barge crews.

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- 13) John Tyler. Washington May 29, 1844, to A. G. Benson. Dr. William Crump of Virginia, recently appointed Charge d'Affaires in Chile. Has had Benson's store recommended to ship his furnishings to the Pacific. Tyler inquires if accommodations can be furnished and when the ship sails.
- 14) James K. Polk. Washington, May 26, 1847. Commission for Fitz H. Ripley as Second Lieutenant in 13th regiment of infantry. Signed also by War Secretary William Marcy.
- 15) Zachary Taylor. Baton Rouge, February 28, 1848 (approx. three months before being nominated by Whig Party for presidency) to W. W. Tyler, Washington. Taylor thanks Tyler for his interest in Taylor's well-being and for his suggestions.
- 16) Millard Fillmore. Buffalo, March 19, 1862, to Erastus Corning, first President of New York Central Railroad. Returns pass on Central Rail Road as he seldom has occasion to use it but is grateful for the friendly compliment, sends his and his wife's regards to he and Mrs. Coming.
- 17) Franklin Pierce. as President, May 1, 1855. Secretarially signed land grant.
- 18) Franklin Pierce. as President, October 1, 1855. Secretarially signed land grant.
- 19) James Buchanan. Lancaster, June 26, 1835, to 7 named men. Thanking them for their invitation to celebrate Independence Day with fellow Democratic citizens of the 3rd Congressional District--his engagements at home prevent his attendance, but sends sentiment honoring Richard M. Johnston, apparently deceased.
- 20) Abraham Lincoln. as President, Washington, August 1, 1864. Commissions R. G. Rutherford as Captain in the Veteran Reserve Corps. Signed also by Secretary of War Edwin Stanton.
- 21) Abraham Lincoln. as President, Washington, April 27, 1861, to the Commanding General of the Army. Authorization for him to suspend the writ of habeas corpus if resistance occurs at any point in the vicinity of military lines between Philadelphia and Washington via Perryville or Annapolis.
- 22) Abraham Lincoln. Facsimile Dec. 23, 1862, to Mrs. Fanny McCullough on death of her father.
- 23) Andrew Johnson. as President, Washington, Jan. 24, 1867. Authorization to Secretary of State to affix Seal to warrant for pardon of J. D. Thomson.
- 24) Ulysses S. Grant. as President, Washington, October 23, 1869. Authorization to the Secretary of State to affix the Seal to a warrant for the pardon of Michael Ray.
- 25) Rutherford B. Hayes. as President, Washington, Jan. 31, 1881. Authorization to Secretary of State to affix the seal to a warrant for the pardon of William Wells.
- 26) James A. Garfield. as Republican presidential nominee, Mentor, Ohio, Aug. 27, 1880, to Gen. George B. Wright, Indian Police Department. Garfield has received a copy of his open letter to Forney (William H. Forney, Brigadier General, Alabama Democrat US Rep). "*A man who has turned his coat so many times can hardly have very much influence.*"
- 27) Chester A. Arthur. as President, Washington, April 26, 1882. Authorizes the Secretary of State to affix the U. S. seal to the envelope addressed to the President of Argentina containing a letter on the recall of Don Manuel R. Garcia, Minister to Washington.

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- 28) Grover Cleveland. as President, Washington, July 5, 1888, to Hon. William English. Cleveland thanks English for his recent letter regarding "the political situation", appreciates that much of the fight will be concentrated in English's state (Indiana, also home of Republican candidate Benjamin Harrison, nominated for presidency June 25th) and that "the tried and true Democracy of the party there will be tried to the utmost."
- 29) Benjamin Harrison. March 12, 1900, to Mrs. E. J. Phelps, New Haven, Conn. Extends sympathies on the death of her husband.
- 30) William McKinley. Washington, March 7, 1899, to C. D. Carter, National Secretary of the Chickasaw Nation. Approving Act of the Tribal Legislature, signed also by Carter as National Secretary, with tribal embossed seal.
- 31) Theodore Roosevelt. as President, Washington, October 19, 1908, to Senator Hemenway (Indiana). Roosevelt cannot do what Watson desired and authorize publication of statements but is delighted to have his sentiments get out in the way Hemenway noted.
- 32) William H. Taft. as Chief Justice of the United States, Supreme Court of the U. S, Dec. 25, 1926, to Mrs. Campbell Forrester. Sends thanks for Christmas card and New Year wishes.
- 33) Woodrow Wilson. as Governor of New Jersey, March 16, 1911, to H. Henson, Muskogee, Oklahoma. Thanking him for his letter of March 11th.
- 34) Warren G. Harding. as President, Washington, Dec. 26, 1921, to Martin Luther Miller, Marion, Ohio, his former partner. Harding reminisces about his time at the newspaper.
- 35) Calvin Coolidge. as Vice President, Washington, Feb. 6, 1923, to journalist Clarence Barron. Coolidge is glad Barron liked Coolidge's Reynoldsville speech sufficiently to use it in his paper.
- 36) Herbert Hoover. Waldorf-Astoria Towers, New York, Feb. 10, 1958, to EBW, in full: "*Herewith a mystery to me, but perhaps you can reply to it. With kind regards.*"
- 37) Franklin D. Roosevelt. March 4, 1933. Typescript of the last three paragraphs of Roosevelt's first Inaugural Address, signed at conclusion.
- 38) Franklin D. Roosevelt. photograph of the President's Cabinet, seated at the table in the Cabinet Room at the White House, signed by Roosevelt, Vice President Wallace, and Secretaries Morgenthau, Biddle, Knox, Wickard, Perkins, Jones, Ickes, Walker, Stimson and Hull..
- 39) Harry S Truman. as President, Washington, Oct. 26, 1948, to his friend David Morgan, Eureka, Kansas. Commenting on the election a week away, Truman states he is making progress, trend is in his direction and even polls show that. In hand-written unsigned postscript adds: "*Hope that ankle is all right.*"
- 40) Dwight D. Eisenhower. (ca. 1964) Last page of text for his foreword to the Overseas Press Book. Eisenhower mentions necessary censorship in Operations TORCH and OVERLORD and salutes the cooperation of reporters: "*the interest of the war reporters is not merely the story, it is also the success of the ...and sacrifice the nation must make to win the war.*"

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41) John F. Kennedy. As U.S. Senator, to Mary Wheelwright, Pittsfield, Mass. Kennedy states that "Bacon Wood Burke" is the most unforgettable figure JFK has met this year. He had dinner with her friends the Redmonds and Sylvia, and her "vigorous young fiancé", will see her when Sylvia is married July 28th, looking forward to another one of "our chats". In postscript, he adds: "*Hope your husband isn't there!!*"

42) John F. Kennedy. as President, Washington, Aug. 8, 1961, to Annette Cusson, Democratic National Committee, Providence, Rhode Island. Kennedy thanks her for her message on behalf of the Democratic Women of Rhode Island, and he is encouraged they are in accord with his legislative recommendations, and is glad of assurance of their support.

43) Lyndon B. Johnson & Lady Bird Johnson. Jan. 15 & Jan 19, 1973, both to Williams concerning LBJ's invitation, and acceptance of LBJ's invitation, to come to Austin as part of the LBJ Library and LBJ School of Public Affairs Distinguished Lecture series. LBJ and Lady Bird welcome his visit, LBJ adding in his own hand his invitation to Williams "*and your charming lady for a night or two at the Ranch*". Second letter notes Johnsons will be gone February and back in March; in initialed postscript invites them to stay at the Ranch for a night or two or as long as they can stay.

Note: Lyndon B. Johnson died January 22, 1973. With Lady Bird Johnson, Feb 6, 1973 noting it was one of LBJ's last pleasures knowing Williams was coming to Austin to speak, he was deeply grateful, she knows Williams will miss him along with her. In postscript she adds how LBJ took pleasure in knowing of Williams' good opinion of Chuck (Robb, Virginia Governor and Senator).

44) Richard M. Nixon. Feb. 21, 1985. Nixon has not read the book but is glad Williams found "*...the account of my post White House years interesting. Fate cast us in opposite camps after our warm friendship during my days in Congress, the Senate & as Vice President. But time changes attitudes & I look forward to reestablishing our relationship in the future.*"

45) Richard M. Nixon. copy of his Aug. 9, 1974 letter to Secretary of State Kissinger resigning from the Presidency.

46) Gerald R. Ford. Washington, Dec. 9, 1976, to Edward Bennett Williams. Ford sends Williams a book of Bicentennial speeches to express his gratitude for Williams' service on the Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board.

47) Gerald R. Ford. Rancho Mirage, California, March 8, 1982, to Williams. Ford was glad to see Williams in New York; glad he is recovering and has the prayers of Ford and Betty for a full and rapid return to health. Sends (not present) a copy of Justin Dart's letter regarding Ford not knowing Ronald Reagan changed his mind and would have accepted Vice Presidential nomination (in 1976).

48) Gerald R. Ford. Rancho Mirage, California, Sept. 30, 1986. Betty and he hope Williams enjoyed being in Grand Rapids for the Conference on Humor and the Presidency, Williams' keynote speech was terrific and set a tough standard to follow.

49) Gerald R. Ford. May 19, 1983, to Williams. Ford deeply appreciates Williams' "more than generous comments" at Georgetown University dinner honoring Henry Kissinger. Sends historic photograph of Presidents Reagan, Nixon, Carter and Ford at The White House taken October 9, 1981, signed by all four Presidents. This photograph was taken before Carter, Ford & Nixon left to attend the funeral of assassinated President Sadat of Egypt

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50) Bill Clinton. Washington, March 24, 1999, to Agnes (Mrs. Edward Bennett Williams): *"enjoyed our visit last night -and meeting your son. Thanks for the Hitler biography. I look forward to reading it. Sincerely, Bill Clinton."*

NON PRESIDENTS

51) Abigail Adams. as wife of Vice President and President-elect John Adams, Quincy, Mass., Dec. 31, 1796, to Elbridge Gerry (Mass. Signer of Declaration of Independence, Governor, Vice President of US), on the election of Thomas Jefferson as Vice President: *"I have long known him, and entertain for him a personal friendship, and though I cannot accord with him in some of his politicks, I do not believe him culpable to the extent he has been represented."*

52) John Brown. Abolitionist. Akron, Ohio, Dec. 21, 1853, to Ralph McIntosh, Vernon, New York. Brown has had to *"...make a considerable search amongst the rubbish & receipt of our Boston case..."* is glad to learn *"...that our Warren suit is at all progressive."* Brown really hopes they may not lose that case *"...for since the dastardly...surrender made of me at Boston I have felt like repudiating the world; & letting no one hear further from me."*

53) Aaron Burr. Philadelphia, Feb. 24, 1793, to his daughter Theodosia, New York. Senator Burr apologizes for delay in answering her letter and for putting her name on a list of his correspondents, her letters are of consequence to Burr; mentions her fable and riddle, cannot solve riddle and will seek assistance.

54) Charles, Lord Cornwallis. Calcutta, Nov. 29, 1786, to Rt. Hon. Henry Vardas. Letter of introduction for Lt. Col. Blaine, officer from Calcutta, and requesting his return,

55) David Crockett. New York, May 11, 1834, to Mr. Sanderson at Exchange. Crockett is pleased with his eastern tour, has examined his factory in Lowell and hopes to see him next day in Philadelphia.

56) Alexis De Tocqueville. Paris, Jan. 9, 1844. In part: *"I shall never become indifferent to the destiny of the United States of America, nor cease to wish the best for the great peoples which inhabit them. I believe that from now on Americans will have nothing to fear but themselves ..."*

57) Ralph Waldo Emerson. Concord, Sept. 23, 1857, to Mr. Dennot. Thinks he can come to Blackstone Thursday, December 18, and if he comes, Association will pay Emerson \$20.

58) Horace Greeley. New York, Nov. 16, 1852, to Theodore Parker. Greeley has looked over Parker's speech on Daniel Webster and offers corrections, including on Webster's Faneuil Hall speech. Mentions Tyler's veto of 1842 Tariff Bill, Webster's opposition to admission of Texas as a slave state and extension of slavery. Mentions Burn, Clay, Calhoun, etc.

59) John Hancock. as President of the Continental Congress, Nov. 21, 1776. Commission of John Hooghkerk as First Lieutenant of Co. G, First Battalion of New York Forces, signed also by Secretary Charles Thomson.

60) Benjamin Harrison. Virginia Signer of the Declaration of independence, father of President William Henry Harrison, great-grandfather of President Benjamin Harrison. While Governor of Virginia Aug. 27, 1783, to Mr. Isaacs, orders two coarse readymade shirts: *"...and the service by you shall have the money"*.

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61) Oliver W. Holmes, Jr. MacKellar's Hotel, London, July 18, 1896, to (?) Hunt. Holmes regrets engagements prevent him from coming to luncheon.

62) (Massachusetts Bay Colony), Essex, Massachusetts Bay, August 5, 1692. Indictment issued against widow Margaret Scott of Rowley on charges of witchcraft, for bewitching Frances Wycomb of Rowley. With document indicates she was sentenced to be hanged on September 17, 1692.

63) Nelson Rockefeller, as Vice President, Washington, Jan. 14, 1977 to Williams. Rockefeller expresses gratitude for Williams ' assistance and cooperation during his term as Vice President, adding they share special pride in their part in a historic Presidency, praises Ford, etc.

64) Carl Sandburg. Copy of his poem "Chicago" inscribed to Alexander W. Hannah, Chicago, 1933.

65) Al Smith. 1928 Democratic presidential candidate, first Catholic nominated for presidency, lost to Herbert Hoover. Autographed card with copy of signed photograph of Smith.

66) Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Vermont, June 11, 1977. English translation typed below S. Solzhenitsyn praises Williams ' defense of Aleksandr Ginzburg before the Senate Committee on Security and Cooperation, which shows how Williams grasped "*...problems of Soviet life which are generally so difficult to understand for Western people...*"

67) Alexander Solzhenitsyn. July 10, 1978. Autograph Sentiment Signed in English: "*To Edward Bennett Williams with sincere gratitude for your astute, forceful and effective participation in the defense of freedom which is common to all of us.*" Signed and dated with photograph.

68) Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Feb. 26, 1977. Requests Williams assume legal supervision of case against Alexandr Ginzburg in USSR.

69) Earl Warren. from his Chambers as Chief Justice Retired, to Williams. Regarding Williams' interview by David Frost on causes and cure of crime, thanks for hospitality at Redskins game, gives opinion on Redskins play.