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Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library  
**Mary A. Wilson papers MSS13121MSS13121**

Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library

P.O. Box 400110

This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on January 09, 2020.

University of Virginia

Charlottesville, Virginia 22904-4110

URL: <https://small.library.virginia.edu/>

## Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository:</b>	Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library
<b>Title:</b>	Mary A. Wilson papers
<b>ID:</b>	MSS13121
<b>Date [inclusive]:</b>	1940-2001
<b>Physical Description:</b>	150 items 1 Hollinger box
<b>Physical Description:</b>	150 items 1 Hollinger box less than 1 linear foot
<b>Physical Description:</b>	less than 1 linear foot
<b>Language of the Material:</b>	English

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## Biographical / Historical

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Mary Wilson was an African-American student of Lucy Addison High School in Roanoke, Virginia and a nurse at the Piedmont Sanatorium, Burkeville, Virginia.

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## Scope and Contents

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The collection which is about 150 items, 1 Hollinger box and less than 1 linear foot consists of correspondence such as, post cards and graduation greeting cards for Mary A. Wilson along with nursing certificates, newspaper clippings, and photographs of her friends and family from 1940 to 2001. The collection also contains some tax and employment information about Jack Davis who seems to have been her companion. (There is no information about their having been married.)

There is also a diary of Mary A. Wilson in which she describes all of her school activities. Her class listened to the "Columbia American School of the Air Program," almost every day. She also mentions visits from celebrities including, Jessie Owens (May 15, 1940) and a visit from the men's club of the Virginia State Glee Club which sang for them with Director Harold Montague April 30, 1940 (Professor of music at Virginia State University State College for Negroes in 1933). There is a newspaper clipping in the diary about the "Belleville Choral Singers," a famous group of "Negro Singers."

Of interest are the subjects that her class studied such as, the value of education in business; the way that "Negroes" created songs for their hard manual labor; (February 20, 27, 1940); the justice of "police court" and "Negroes" (February 19, 1940); the age of the earth and earthquakes and volcanoes; the Wagner law and labor regulations; immigration; politics; budgets; taxation; hygiene; syphilis; the industrialization of new plastics that helped in building houses; new technology in farming and also topics as basic as learning how to bathe a baby, how to take a pulse, and how to care for people. She briefly mentioned a class assignment in which they were supposed to imagine a conversation between Adolph Hitler and Patrick Henry. (May 2, 1940). She often describes the reciting of the "Lord's Prayer" during school. Other topics mentioned are "tuberculin" tests (April 3, 1940;) the future of newspapers (April 8, 1940;) and a Virginia State-Wide Safety Conference (Program included May 8, 1940)

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Statement

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### Immediate Source of Acquisition

This collection was purchased from Crown Collectibles on October 14, 2004.

### Conditions Governing Access

There are no restrictions.

## **Conditions Governing Use**

There are no restrictions.

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