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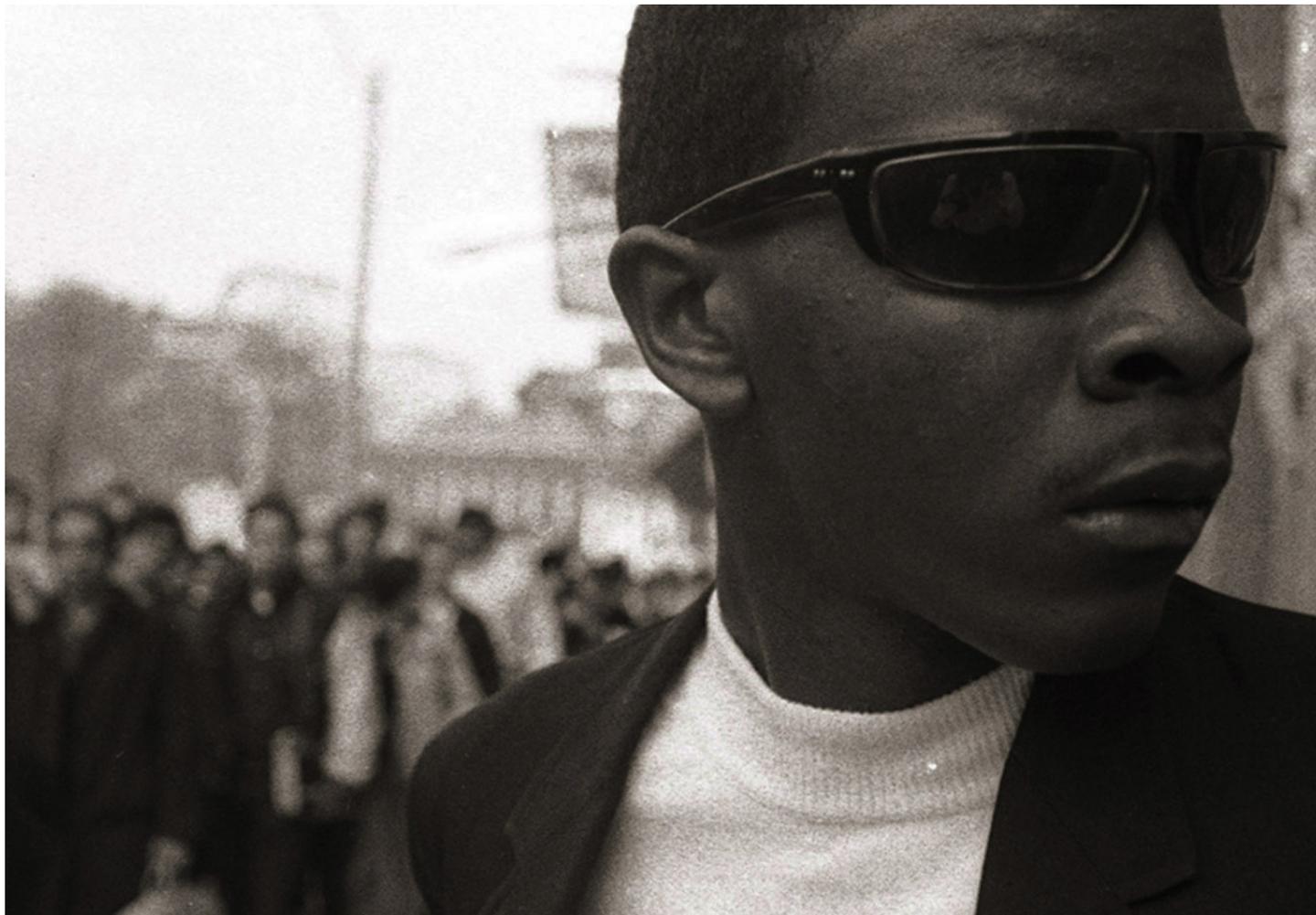
UMass Amherst Libraries 

Marshall P. Wilder Collection

1848-1886

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A merchant and amateur horticulturalist from Dorchester, Mass., Marshall P. Wilder (1798-1886) was a key figure in American pomology during the mid-nineteenth century and a major supporter of agricultural education. A supreme organizer and institution builder, he was a founder and president of the American Pomological Society and United States Agricultural Society, and president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and New England Historic Genealogical Society. His 1849 address before the Norfolk Agricultural Society is often credited as an important catalyst for the creation of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, and he served as trustee of the College from its opening in 1867 until his death in 1886.

The Wilder Collection consists primarily of printed works written or collected by Marshall P. Wilder, including materials pertaining to early meetings of the American Pomological Society and the United States Agricultural Society, his 1849 address to the Norfolk Agricultural Society, and his address to the first graduating class at MAC. Among the handful of manuscripts are a draft proposal to hold a national meeting of fruit growers (the inaugural meeting of the American Pomological Society), two letters regarding his donation of a large number of books to the MAC library, and a bound set of 22 beautiful watercolors of pear varieties painted by Louis B. Berckmans.

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Agricultural education

Botany and horticulture

Mass Agricultural College (1863-1931)

UMass administration

Background on Marshall P. (Marshall Pinckney) Wilder

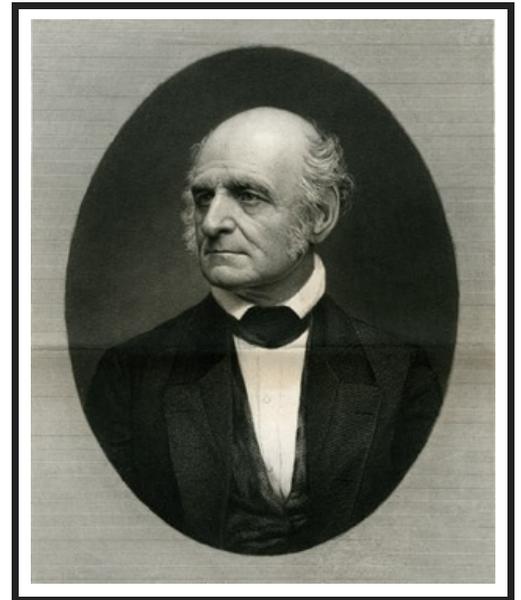
A merchant and amateur horticulturalist from Dorchester, Mass., Marshall P. Wilder was a key figure in American pomology during the mid-nineteenth century and an important supporter of agricultural education in Massachusetts. Born in Rindge, New Hampshire, on September 22, 1798, Wilder was presented at 16 with a choice of attending college, starting a farm, or working in the family store, and elected to farm. Following the death of an uncle two years later, however, he was called upon to join his father in their burgeoning wholesale business, remaining there until he set out for the larger markets of Boston in 1825. As senior partner in the firms of Wilder and Payson and Wilder and Smith, Wilder enjoyed considerable success within the city's mercantile community. In 1837, he joined Isaac Parker and Abraham W. Blanchard in the commission dry goods trade, to create a notably prosperous and long-lived firm, Parker, Blanchard, and Wilder (later Parker, Wilder and Co.).

In 1831, Wilder purchased an estate in then-suburban Dorchester from Gov. Increase Sumner where he turned to his avocation, horticulture, with extraordinary zeal. He rapidly transformed Hawthorne Grove into a model in horticultural experiment. Noted particularly for his work with camellias and azaleas, as well as flowers, Wilder experimented extensively with new cultivars, importing or developing as many as 1,200 varieties of pear, for example, including the wildly popular Bartlett from England and the Beurre d'Anjou from France. The inevitable setbacks did little to dampen his industry. Although a greenhouse fire in 1839 cost him all but two of his eight hundred camellias, Wilder had rebounded sufficiently quickly that a year later he was able to exhibit three hundred varieties to a touring group from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society.

Perhaps the most notable feature of Wilder's career in horticulture was his remarkable energy and organizational capacity. A regular at horticultural fairs, he was a founding member of the New England Horticultural Society in 1829 and the Massachusetts Academy of Agriculture (a reform school for boys) in 1845, president of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society (1840-1848), a founder and president of the American Pomological Society (1848-1886), the Massachusetts Agricultural Club, the Norfolk Agricultural Society, and the United States Agricultural Society, among many other organizations. Outside of horticulture, he was president of the New England Historic Genealogical Society (1868-1886), an officer in the state militia in New Hampshire and later in the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, and he was elected to single terms in the Massachusetts General Court (1839), the state Executive Council (1849), and the state senate, of which he predictably chosen president (1850).

Wilder's 1849 address on agricultural education before the Norfolk Agricultural Society was considered instrumental in building support for establishing an agricultural college in the Commonwealth. Although he was not the first to propose the idea of an agricultural college for Massachusetts, he may have been its most persistent advocate. To build political support for agriculture, Wilder helped establish the State Board of Agriculture in 1852 (it was first constituted unofficially the year previously), and although it was more than a decade before the college became a reality, Wilder did not flag in his support. A trustee of MAC from 1863 until 1886, Wilder was singled out for the honor of addressing its first graduating class in 1871. He was similarly important in supporting the founding of MIT, though only after William B. Rogers agreed that the college would provide instruction in pomology and horticulture.

Wilder died in Dorchester on December 16, 1886.



Marshall P. Wilder

Scope of collection

The Wilder Collection consists primarily of printed works of the pomologist Marshall P. Wilder, reflecting his broad commitments to American horticulture, agricultural education, and the Massachusetts Agricultural College. These include strong runs of programs and president's addresses for the early meetings of the American Pomological Society and United States Agricultural Society, both of which he helped found, and most of his presidential addresses to the New-England Historic Genealogical Society. Among the miscellaneous publications are several addresses to regional agricultural societies, including his seminal 1849 address to the Norfolk Agricultural Society, and seven copies of his address to the first graduating class of Massachusetts Agricultural College.

The small number of manuscript items in the collection include a draft copy of the proposal to hold a national meeting of fruit growers -- the first meeting of what would become the American Pomological Society -- and two letters relating to gifts of books to the MAC library. Of special note is a volume of 22 watercolors by the Belgian-American artist Louis E. Berckmans (d. 1883) of pear varieties.

Inventory

Manuscripts and Miscellanea

1848-1920

Box 1

Berckmans, Louis E.: illustrations of pears

1886 January 14

Watercolors, bound

Box 1: bound

22 original watercolor paintings of pears: Abbott, Howell, Philadelphia, Sheldon, Nouveau Porteau, Beurré Sterckmans, St. Michael Archange, Dunmore, Sterling, Gen. Dutilleul, Columbia, Brandywine, Walker, Beurré Pairgeau, Andrews, Lodge, Frédérica Brémer, Theodore Van Mons, Beurré d'Anjou (not finished), Gédéon Paridant, Gustave Bourgogne.

Great National Convention of Fruit Growers

1848

ADfS, 4pp.

Box 1: 1

Joint proposal from the Massachusetts Horticultural Society and Pennsylvania Horticultural Society to hold a national convention of fruit growers in New York. Wilder is a representative for MHS.

Hassam, F. F.: to Marshall P. Wilder

1886 Jan. 3

ALS, 1p., 4pp. incl.

Box 1: 2

Re: Queen of Silly's bulb. Includes samples of 18th century New Hampshire currency printed from original plates and Civil War "shin plaster."

Kirtland Society of Natural History: membership certificate for Marshall P. Wilder

1870 Feb. 9

PrDS, 4pp.

Box 1: 3

Massachusetts Agricultural Club

1857 July

ADS, 1p., photo [both photostat]

Box 1: 4

Document commemorating founding of club and photo of original members.

New England Historic Genealogical Society 250th Anniversary of Boston ribbon

1880 Sept. 17

1 item

Box 1: 5

Newspaper clippings

1852-1929

5 items

Box 1: 6

Miscellaneous newspaper clippings by and about Wilder

Wilder, Marshall P.: to Henry H. Goodale

1886 January 29
ALS, 3pp., bill of lading
Box 1: 7
Sending boxes of books for MAC library.

Wilder, Marshall P.: to J.C. Greenough
1886 January 14
ALS, 4pp.
Box 1: 8
Sending boxes of books for MAC library.

Printed Material

1849-1920

Box 1-3

American Pomological Society

1849-1885

Box 1

Proceedings of the North American Pomological Convention, Held at Syracuse (Syracuse: V.W. Smith, 1849)

1849

Box 1: 9

American Pomological Society: Catalogue of Fruits for Cultivation in the United States and Canadas; In Two Divisions (Boston: Sam's Chism, 1868)

1868

Box 1: 10

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address Delivered at the Fourth Session of the American Pomological Society (Boston: Franklin Printing House, 1856)

1856

Box 1: 11

Proceedings of the Seventh Session of the American Pomological Society (S.l.: The Society, 1858)

1858

Box 1: 11

Includes President's Address by Wilder

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address Delivered at the Eighth Session of the American Pomological Society (Boston: S. Chism, 1860)

1860

Box 1: 11

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address Delivered at the Ninth Session of the American Pomological Society (Boston: McIntire & Moutlon, 1862)

1862

Box 1: 12

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address Delivered at the Twelfth Session of the American Pomological Society (Boston: The Society, 1869)

1869

Box 1: 12

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address Delivered at the Thirteenth Session of the American Pomological Society (Boston: Wright and Potter, 1869)

1871

Box 1: 12

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address Delivered at the Fourteenth Session and the Quarter-Centennial Celebration of the American Pomological Society (Boston: The Society, 1873)

1873

2 copies

Box 1: 13

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address Delivered at the Fifteenth Session of the American Pomological Society (Boston: The Society, 1875)

1875

Box 1: 13

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address Delivered at the Seventeenth Session of the American Pomological Society (Boston: The Society, 1879)

1879

Box 1: 13

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address Delivered at the Nineteenth Session of the American Pomological Society (s.l.: The Society, 1883)

1883
2 copies
Box 1: 14
Wilder, Marshall P.: Address Delivered at the Twentieth Session of the American Pomological Society (Boston: The Society, 1885)
1885
Box 1: 14
Biographical Works
1871-1920
Box 1
Bay State Monthly 1, 1 (1884)
1884
Box 1: 15
Includes article: John Ward Dean, "Hon. Marshall P. Wilder"

Biographies of Marshall Pinckney Wilder
1878?
2 copies
Box 1: 15
Knapp, F. N.: "The 'Georgics' and the Boston Maecenas"
1887
2 copies
Box 1: 16
Offprint of tribute to Wilder

Massachusetts Agricultural Club
ca.1886
Box 1: 16
Memorial tribute to Wilder

Parker, Wilder, & Co.: Looking Back One Hundred Years From the Beginning in 1820 to the Present in the History of Parker, Wilder, & Co. (Boston: Parker, Wilder, & Co., 1920)
1920
Box 1: 16
Sketch of the Life and Services of Marshall P. Wilder (Boston: Alfred Mudge & Son, 1871)
1871
Box 1: 17
Some of the Principal Published Writings of Marshall Pinckney Wilder, 1835. 1878
1878
2 copies
Box 1: 17
Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture
1854-1874
Box 1
Annual Reports
1854-1874
Box 1-2
First Annual Report of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture (Boston: William White, 1854)
1854
Box 1: 18
Excerpt only.

Fourth Annual Report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture (Boston: William White, 1857)
1857
Box 1: 18
Excerpt only.

Seventh Annual Report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture (Boston: William White, 1860)
1860
Box 1: 18
Excerpt only.

Tenth Annual Report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture (Boston: Wright & Potter, 1863)
1863
Box 1: 18
Excerpt only.

Seventeenth Annual Report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture (Boston: Wright & Potter, 1870)
1869
Box 1: 18
Excerpt only.

Eighteenth Annual Report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture (Boston: Wright & Potter, 1871)
1871
Box 1: 19
Excerpt only.

Nineteenth Annual Report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture (Boston: Wright & Potter, 1872)
1872
Box 1: 19
Excerpt only.

Twenty-First Annual Report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture (Boston: Wright & Potter, 1874)
1874
Box 2: 1
Excerpt only.

Twenty-Third Annual Report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture (Boston: Wright & Potter, 1876)
1876
Box 2: 1
Excerpt only.

Twenty-Fifth Annual Report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture (Boston: Rand, Avery & Wright, 1878)
1878
Box 2: 1
Excerpt only.

Thirty-Fourth Annual Report of the Secretary of the Massachusetts Board of Agriculture (Boston: Wright & Potter, 1887)
1887
Box 2: 1
Excerpt only.

Proceedings of the State Board of Agriculture (Boston: White and Potter, 1853)
1853
Box 2: 2
Excerpt only.

Publications
1874-1878
Box 2

Agassiz, Louis: Structure and Growth of Domesticated Animals: The Last Lecture Delivered Before the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture, at Fitchburg (Boston: Wright and Potter, 1874)
1874
Box 2: 3

Wilder, Marshall P.: History and Progress of the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture for the First Quarter of a Century, With a Report on Fruits... (Boston: and, Avery, & Co., 1878)
1878
2 copies
Box 2: 4

Wilder, Marshall P.: Importance, Progress and Influence of Rural Pursuit: A Lecture Delivered Before the Massachusetts State Board of Agriculture (Boston: Wright and Potter, 1874)
1874
2 copies
Box 2: 5

New England Historic Genealogical Society

1879-1887

Box 2

Chamberlain, N. H.: Paper on New-England Architecture (Boston: Crosby, Nichols, & Co., 1858)

1858

Box 2: 6

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address of the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, at the Annual Meeting of the New-England Historic Genealogical Society (Boston: The Society, 1871)

1871

Box 2: 7

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address of the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, at the Annual Meeting of the New-England Historic Genealogical Society (Boston: The Society, 1879)

1879

Box 2: 7

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address of the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, and the Other Proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the New-England Historic Genealogical Society (Boston: The Society, 1880)

1880

Box 2: 7

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address of the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, PhD., and the Other Proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the New-England Historic Genealogical Society (Boston: The Society, 1882)

1882

Box 2: 8

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address of the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, PhD., and the Other Proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the New-England Historic Genealogical Society (Boston: The Society, 1884)

1884

Box 2: 8

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address of the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, PhD., and the Other Proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the New-England Historic Genealogical Society (Boston: The Society, 1885)

1885

Box 2: 8

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address of the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, PhD., and the Other Proceedings at the Annual Meeting of the New-England Historic Genealogical Society (Boston: The Society, 1886)

1886

Box 2: 9

Wilder, Marshall P.: Posthumous Address of the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder, PhD., President of the New-England Historic Genealogical Society (Boston: The Society, 1887)

1887

Box 2: 9

Publications by Wilder

1849-1883

Box 2

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address Delivered at the Annual Exhibition of the Norfolk Agricultural Society, at Readville (S.I.: The Society, 1870)

1870

Box 2: 10

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address Delivered at the Semi-Centennial Anniversary of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, September 12, 1879 (Boston: Tolman & White, 1880)

1880

Box 2: 11

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address Delivered Before the Berkshire Agricultural Society at its Annual Exhibition (Boston: T.R. Marvin, 1852)

1852

Box 2: 12

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address Delivered Before the Bristol Agricultural Society, on the Occasion of its Twenty-Sixth Anniversary (Taunton: Hall's Press, 1849)

1849

Box 2: 13

Wilder, Marshall P.: Address Delivered Before the Norfolk Agricultural Society, on the Occasion of its First Annual Exhibition, at Dedham (Boston: The Society, 1849)

1849

Box 2: 14

Wilder, Marshall P.: "American Pomological Society," Report of the Commissioner of Agriculture for the Year 1870 (Washington: GPO, 1871)

1871

Box 2: 15

Excerpt on the American Pomological Society

Wilder, Marshall P.: Historical Address Delivered Before the Massachusetts Agricultural College, on the Occasion of Graduating its First Class (Boston: Wright and Potter, 1871)

1871

7 copies

Box 2: 16-17

Wilder, Marshall P.: Horticulture of Boston and Vicinity (Boston: Toman & White, 1881)

1881

Box 2: 18

Wilder, Marshall P.: Lecture on the Hybridization of Plants, and the Production of New Varieties from Seed (Boston: Wright and Potter, 1872)

1872

Box 2: 19

Wilder, Marshall P.: Mr. Wilder's Address Before the Berkshire Agricultural Society, on the Occasion of Their Annual Exhibition, October 2, 1851 (Boston: T.R. Marvin, 1851)

1851

Box 2: 20

United States Agricultural Society

1853-1883

Box 2-3

Field Trials

1857-1858

Box 2

First National Field Trial of Reapers, Mowers, &c., By the United States Agricultural Society, at Syracuse, N.Y. (Washington, D.C.: s.n., 1857)

1857

2 variant copies

Box 2: 21

Poore, Ben Perley, ed.: Field Trial of Reapers, Mowers, and Harvest Implements, By the United States Agricultural Society, at Syracuse, N.Y. (Boston: Bazin & Chandler, 1857)

1857

Box 2: 21

Wilder's speech extracted, but present.

Field Trial of Reapers, Mowers, and Harvest Implements by the United States Agricultural Society (Boston: Bazin & Chandler, 1858).

1858

Box 2: 21

Excerpt of speech by Wilder

Meetings

1853-1883

Box 3

Wilder, Marshall P.: First Annual Meeting of the United States Agricultural Society, February 2, 1853. President's Address (Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo, & Co., 1853)

1853

2 copies

Box 3: 1

First National Exhibition of Horses

1853

Box 3: 1

Excerpt containing Wilder's speech only.

National Cattle Show

1854

Box 3: 2

Excerpt with Wilder's speech

National Exhibition of Cattle to be Held by the U.S. Agricultural Society at Springfield, Ohio (Springfield: The Republic Office, 1854)

1854

Box 3: 2

Wilder, Marshall P.: Second Annual Meeting of the United States Agricultural Society, February 22, 1854. President's Address (Washington: s.n., 1854)

1854

Box 3: 2

Wilder, Marshall P.: Third Annual Meeting of the United States Agricultural Society, February 25, 1855. President's Address (Washington: s.n. 1855)

1855

Box 3: 3

Third National Exhibition by the United States Agricultural Society to be Held in the City of Boston (Boston: Franklin Printing House, 1855)

1855

Box 3: 3

Fourth National Exhibition by the United States Agricultural Society to be Held in the City of Philadelphia (Washington: s.n., 1856)

1856

Box 3: 4

List of the Committees of Judges to Award the Prizes at the Exhibition of the United States Agricultural Society, to be Held at Philadelphia (Philadelphia: Inquirer, 1856)

1856

Box 3: 4

Opening of the Exhibition

1856

Box 3: 4

Excerpt with Wilder's address.

Fifth National Exhibition by the United States Agricultural Society to be Held in the City of Louisville (Louisville, Ky.: C. Settle, 1857)

1857

Box 3: 5

Wilder, Marshall P.: Fifth Annual Meeting of the United States Agricultural Society

1857

Box 3: 5

Includes address by Wilder

Wilder, Marshall P.: Sixth Annual Meeting of the United States Agricultural Society, Held at Washington, D.C., Jan. 13, 1858. President's Address

1858

Box 3: 6

Premium List and Regulations of the Eighth National Exhibition of the United States Agricultural Society at Cincinnati, Ohio 1860

Box 3: 7

Proceedings of the Twenty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the United States Agricultural Society, January 14, 1880, with the Charter, Lists of the Members, and an Address to the Members (Washington: R.O. Polkinhorn 1880)

1880

Box 3: 8

Proceedings of the 31st Annual Meeting of the United States Agricultural Society, Held at Washington, D.C. (Washington, D.C.: R.O. Polkinhorn, 1883)

1883

Box 3: 9

Periodicals

1855-1862

Box 3

Journal of Agriculture 7, 4 (1859)

1859

Box 3: 10

Journal of the United States Agricultural Society 2 (1855)

1855

Box 3: 11

Excerpt only.

Journal of the United States Agricultural Society 3 (1856)

1856

2 items

Box 3: 12

One complete issue, one excerpt of Wilder's speech

Monthly Bulletin of the United States Agricultural Society 1, no. 2,3, 5-11 (1858)

1858

Box 3: 13

Duplicates of nos. 5,7,10

Quarterly Journal of Agriculture 7, 1 (1859)

1859

2 copies

Box 3: 14

Quarterly Journal of Agriculture 7, 2 (1859)

1859

2 copies

Box 3: 15

Quarterly Journal of Agriculture 7, 3 (1859)

1859

Box 3: 16

Quarterly Journal of Agriculture 10, 1 (1862)

1862

Box 3: 17

Administrative information

Access

The collection is open for research.

Provenance

Acquired from Marshall P. Wilder.

Separated Material

The following bound items were removed from the collection and transferred to the rare books stacks:

Biography of Marshall P. Wilder [spine title]. Includes: John H. Sheppard, "Marshall P. Wilder," *Bay State Monthly* 1, 1 (1887); "Hon. Marshall P. Wilder," from *Boston Past and Present*; "Marshall Pinckney Wilder," *California Farmer* (April 27, 1871); Penn. Horticultural Society, "Brief Notice of the Life and Public Services of Marshall P. Wilder"; Jerome V.C. Smith, "A well spent life," *Chronotype* 1 (1873); "Wilder, Marshall Pinckney," from *Biographical Encyclopaedia of Massachusetts of the Nineteenth Century. Catalogue of the Library of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society* (Boston: A.A. Kingman, 1873). Bound interleaved with blank pages for notes.

Memorials: Marshall Pinckney Wilder (Boston: s.n., 1889). Miscellaneous published memorials.

Marshall P. Wilder Memorial. Miscellaneous published memorials.

Proceedings at a Banquet Given by His Friends Given to the Hon. Marshall Pinckney Wilder, PhD., on His Birthday, September 22, 1883, to Commemorate the Completion of His Eighty-Fifth Year (Cambridge: University Press, 1883). Three copies.

Peabody, Andrew P., *Memorial Address on the Late Marshall Pinckney Wilder, President of the New-England Historic Genealogical Society* (Boston: The Society, 1888)

Sheppard, John M., *Memoir of Marshall P. Wilder* (Boston: David Clapp & Sons 1867). Inscribed by Wilder to William Smith Clark Wilder, Marshall P., *California* (Boston: Wright & Potter, 1871)

Wilder, Marshall P., *Historical Address Delivered Before the Massachusetts Agricultural College, on the Occasion of Graduating its First Class* (Boston: Wright and Potter, 1871). 2 copies.

Wilder, Marshall P., "Notes of a Horticultural Visit to California," *Tilton's Journal of Horticulture and Florists' Companion* 8 (1870)

Wilder, Marshall P., *Southern Horticultural Trip* (s.l.: s.n., 1869?). From *Tilton's Journal of Horticulture and Florists' Companion*

Related Material

Many books and periodicals donated by Wilder to the MAC library are located in the library's general collection.

Language:

English

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Search terms

Subjects

Agricultural exhibitions
American Pomological Society
Horticulture--Massachusetts
New-England Historic Genealogical Society
Pomology--Massachusetts
United States Agricultural Society
University of Massachusetts. Trustees

Contributors

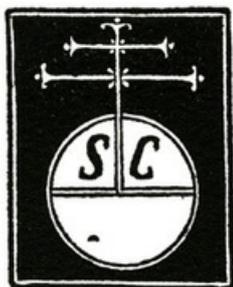
Wilder, Marshall P. (Marshall Pinckney), 1798-1886 [main entry]

Genres and formats

Letters (Correspondence)

Link to similar SCUA collections

Agricultural education
Botany and horticulture
Mass Agricultural College (1863-1931)
UMass administration



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