



**Collection Name:** Charles Frederick Williams Papers  
**Collection #:** MSS 928  
**Size:** 0.5 cf, 8 folders  
**Dates:** 1847–1991 (bulk 1913-1948)  
**Processed:** November 2007/KJG  
**Restrictions:** None

**Biographical Note:**

Charles Frederick Williams was born at “Red House” in York, South Carolina on 6 August 1875 to LeRoy Russell Williams and Clementine Virginia Wallace Williams. He was educated in private schools and later attended the University of Maryland School of Medicine, from which he earned his medical degree. Williams began his medical practice in York, SC in 1901. Soon after, he was commissioned in the United States Army as acting assistant surgeon, saw service in the Philippines in 1902, and resigned in 1903. Williams became city physician of Columbia, SC in 1904. From 1908–1911, he served as South Carolina’s first State Health Officer. After postgraduate work in Europe, Williams returned to Columbia to practice internal medicine. In 1915, Governor Manning appointed Williams as Superintendent of the South Carolina State Hospital, a position he held until his retirement in 1945. Williams’ tenure at the State Hospital was marked by steady improvement in the care and treatment of the patients, and the modernization of the hospitals’ facilities. Upon his retirement as superintendent, he became Director of Research for the institution. Williams was active in numerous professional organizations on the local and national level including: Columbia Medical Society (President, 1912); South Carolina Medical Association (President, 1923); South Carolina Hospital Association; American Psychiatric Association (President, 1934); National Committee for Mental Hygiene (Director); and South Carolina Society for Mental Hygiene (Director). Honors bestowed upon Williams include: Algernon Sydney Sullivan medal; honorary Doctor of Laws (University of South Carolina); and South Carolina American Legion plaque for distinguished service. Dr. Williams died at his country home near Columbia, SC on 3 June 1948. His wife, May Pressley Wilson Williams, preceded him in death by sixteen years. He was survived by three daughters.

**Scope and Content Note:**

The Charles Frederick Williams Papers, 1847–1991 (bulk 1913-1948), consist of 0.5 cubic feet of materials documenting Dr. Williams’ career in the field of psychiatry. The collection is divided into two series: Personal and Professional. The Personal series consists of one folder containing biographical materials, including published histories, a posthumous biography presented before the Columbia Medical Club, and a questionnaire completed by Williams’ daughter. The Professional series is the most abundant and contains materials related to Williams’ career, particularly his tenure as Superintendent of

the South Carolina State Hospital. Materials include: lectures, articles, and addresses written by Williams on various aspects of mental health care and bibliographies of his work; a scrapbook containing newspaper clippings and ephemera detailing Williams' work at the State Hospital; photographs; pamphlets from organizational annual meetings; published annual reports; and miscellaneous materials (treatment records for one patient, insurance policy, one piece of correspondence, address included in a time capsule). The original newspaper clippings included in the scrapbook have been replaced with preservation photocopies.

**Citation Form:** Charles Frederick Williams Papers, MSS 928, Waring Historical Library, MUSC (Charleston).

**Subject Headings:**

Williams, Charles Frederick, 1875–1948  
Mental Disorders—therapy—history--South Carolina  
Hospitals, Psychiatric—history--South Carolina.  
Preventive Medicine—history--South Carolina  
Mental Health—history--South Carolina  
Psychiatry—history--South Carolina.

**Inventory:**

Personal  
Folder 1: Biographical materials  
Professional  
Folder 2: Writings and bibliographies  
Folder 3: Scrapbook  
Folder 4: Photographs  
Folder 5: Annual Meetings  
Folder 6: Annual Reports (1 of 2)  
Folder 7: Annual Reports (2 of 2)  
Folder 8: Miscellaneous