

Tudor Place Manuscript Collection  
Sarah (Law) Williams Papers  
MS-11

Introduction

Sarah Virginia (Law) Williams (1837-1912) was the second daughter of George Law, Sr., (1806-1881) and Sarah (Anderson) Law (1810-1883). Her father was a wealthy New York entrepreneur of humble origins who built the New York Eighth and Ninth Avenue surface lines, High Bridge, and extended the New York aqueduct. In 1863 she married Major Laurence Abert Williams (1832-1879), the son of Captain William G. Williams (1801-1846) and America (Peter) Williams (1803-1842), a daughter of Thomas Peter (1769-1834) and Martha (Custis) Peter (1777-1854). The daughter of Sarah (Law) Williams and Major Laurence Abert Williams, Anna Wright Williams (1872-1961), married Armistead Peter, Jr., (1870-1960), in 1894.

These papers include correspondence subject files related to the estates of her father, George Law Sr., and her brother, George Law, Jr., (Birth Date Unknown-1896). The collection also includes diaries, legal documents, bills and receipts, and scrapbook material.

These papers were a part of the estate Armistead Peter placed under the auspices of the Carostead Foundation, Incorporated, in 1966; the name of the foundation was changed to Tudor Place Foundation, Incorporated, in 1987. Use and rights of the papers are controlled by the Foundation. The collection was processed and the register prepared by James Kaser, a project archivist hired through a National Historical Records and Publications grant in 1992. This document was reformatted by Emily Rusch and revised by Tudor Place archivist Wendy Kail in 2020.

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Series Description

CORRESPONDENCE

Series

CORRESPONDENCE

1863-1864

Arranged chronologically

Includes letters from Martha (Williams) Carter that accompanied a wedding gift, and a condolence letter upon the death of an infant child born to Sarah (Law) Williams. One letter from Eliza Sayre.

CORRESPONDENCE

1879

Letters of condolence upon the death of Major Laurence Abert Williams from Ellen [Mary Marcy] McClellan [Mrs. General George Brinton McClellan], E. P. Rogers, Maria M. Lowe, Elizabeth Lawler, Reverend Doctor G. H. Houghton, E. Lawrence, and M. E. W. Sherwood.

CORRESPONDENCE

1882-1883

Includes letters of condolence upon the death of Sarah (Law) Williams' mother, Sarah (Anderson) Law.

CORRESPONDENCE

1890-1891

Letters from Reverend Doctor G. H. Houghton, her sister Josephine (Law) May Haines, J. G. Campbell, J. Beck, E. V. C. Lewis, John Henry Upshur, and Mary (Custis) Lee upon the death of Sarah (Law) Williams' son George Law Williams.

CORRESPONDENCE

1892-1893

General social correspondence and letters upon the death of George Law, Jr. One letter from her cousin Robert Law congratulates Sarah (Law) Williams upon the engagement of her daughter Anna Wright Williams to Armistead Peter, Jr.

CORRESPONDENCE

1894-1896

Letters of congratulation on the marriage of Anna Wright (Williams) Peter to Armistead Peter, Jr., in 1894 and on the birth of Armistead Peter 3rd in 1896.

CORRESPONDENCE

1899

Letters of condolence upon the death of Josephine (Law) May Haines from John Stuart and W. E. Wright.

CORRESPONDENCE

1902-1903

Letters of condolence upon the death of George Granville Wright.

CORRESPONDENCE

1905-1906

Two thank you notes from the Bishop of New York state.

CORRESPONDENCE

1908-1909

Consists of social correspondence including two letters from Reverend Doctor G. H. Houghton.

CORRESPONDENCE

1911-1912

Includes one letter from Agnes (Peter) Mott about the death of Britannia (Peter) Kennon, one letter from Armistead Peter, Jr, concerning business matters, a letter from George Augustine Haines, a thank you note from cousin Elizabeth (Peter) Peter, and a letter from farmhand Joseph Kane.

CORRESPONDENCE

ND

Five pieces of undated social correspondence.

CORRESPONDENCE: BRITANNIA (PETER) KENNON

1883-1893, scattered

Letters of condolence, invitations, and thank you notes.

CORRESPONDENCE: BRITANNIA (PETER) KENNON

1895-1899, scattered.

Includes three letters consisting of a thank you note, a Christmas greeting, and a social note.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER 3rd

1902

Includes two type-written notes.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER 3rd

Ca.1902

Thank you notes and holiday greetings.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER 3rd  
1905  
Includes thank you notes.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER 3rd  
Ca.1905  
Includes thank you notes.

CORRESPONDENCE: ARMISTEAD PETER 3rd  
1906-1909  
Letters consisting mostly of thank you notes.

## SUBJECT FILES

### Series

CAMBRIDGE [NEW YORK] PUBLIC LIBRARY  
1904  
Correspondence, resolutions of thanks, and newspaper clippings from library officials concerning donations made by Sarah (Law) Williams.

ESTATE OF GEORGE LAW, SENIOR: APPLICATION FOR LETTERS  
OF ADMINISTRATION  
1901  
Unsigned copy of Sarah (Law) Williams' application to be an administrator for the estate of George Law, Sr.

ESTATE OF GEORGE LAW, SENIOR: DECREE  
1900  
Decree settling the accounts of the estate of George Law, Sr., administered by George Law, Jr., and James Affleck.

ESTATE OF GEORGE LAW, SENIOR: DECREE  
1903  
Decree settling the estate of George Law, Sr.

ESTATE OF GEORGE LAW, SENIOR: IN THE MATTER OF THE  
LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT  
1901  
Legal documents related to unexecuted trusts created under George Law, Sr.'s, will.

ESTATE OF GEORGE LAW, SENIOR: SECURITIES  
1901  
List of securities belonging to the estate of George Law, Sr.

ESTATE OF GEORGE LAW, SENIOR: STATEMENT OF INCOME  
AND DISBURSEMENTS

1902

Income and disbursement statement for 1902.

ESTATE OF GEORGE LAW, SENIOR: STATEMENT OF INCOME AND  
DISBURSEMENTS

1903

Income and disbursement statement for 1903.

ESTATE OF GEORGE LAW, SENIOR: SUBPOENA

1902

Subpoena to appear at the judicial settlement of the estate of George Law, Sr.

ESTATE OF GEORGE LAW, SENIOR: NOTES

ND

Financial notes.

ESTATE OF GEORGE LAW, JUNIOR: DECREE

1896

Decree settling estate of George Law, Jr.

TRIP TO ALASKA

1895

Postcards, circulars, newspaper clippings, and passenger lists.

LITERARY PRODUCTIONS

Series

DIARY

1898

Consists of brief daily entries, most of which were made while Sarah (Law) Williams was in residence in New York City, but also Washington, D. C., and Cambridge, New York. During the year she had daily contact with Armistead Peter, Jr., Anna (Williams) Peter, and the infant Armistead Peter 3rd. George Freeland Peter, who was studying at Union Theological Seminary in New York City, was a frequent guest. A great deal of cabling back and forth to her sister Josephine (Law) May Haines. Entries usually record daily activities and business matters without comment.

DIARY

1899

Very similar to 1898 diary in content. Mention of Britannia (Peter) Kennon's illnesses in February and March.

## DIARY

1900

Entries typically include the times Sarah (Law) Williams rose and retired, lists of mail she received and sent, books she read, purchases she made, and visits. Written in New York City, Washington, D. C., and Cambridge, New York.

## DIARY

1909

Format identical to earlier diaries. Mentions an extended visit by George Augustine Haines. Includes many entries that list sums of money given to members of the Peter family. Illness in late March and early April was serious enough to prevent Sarah (Law) Williams from making any entries in her diary. Entries in October and November from aboard the private railroad car *Colonial* on a trip across the country to Seattle, Washington, and return.

## DIARY

1910

Format identical to earlier diaries. Includes entries made in October and November aboard the private railroad car *Colonial* on a trip across the country to Portland, Oregon, and through California.

## DIARY

1911

Format identical to earlier diaries, June through October at Content Farm, Cambridge, New York, and aboard the private railroad car *Colonial* on a trip west to St. Louis and south through Kentucky and Virginia.

## DIARY

1912

Format identical to earlier diaries. Entries made in New York City and Washington, D. C. Diary ends June 1, the day of her death.

## NOTES

1888-1906

Includes genealogical notes, a copy of America (Peter) Williams' epitaph, and a list noting flowers sent and their costs.

## LEGAL DOCUMENTS

Series

### LEASE

1912

Lease agreement for rooms in the Plaza Hotel, New York City, signed by Sarah (Law) Williams.

WILL: JOSEPHINE (LAW) MAY HAINES

1896

Copy of will with items bequeathed to Sarah (Law) Williams, Anna (Law) Wright, Anna (Williams) Peter, George Granville Wright, and Armistead Peter, Jr.

FINANCIAL DOCUMENTS

Series

LEDGER

Mar-Jul 1912

A complete financial record, including amounts paid out for wages, gifts, and charities.

BILLS AND RECEIPTS

1889-1912

Arranged alphabetically by type and then chronologically.

SCRAPBOOK MATERIAL

Series

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

1894-1911

Arranged under general heading alphabetically by subject and then chronologically.

Includes obituaries of Major Laurence Abert Williams, Reverend Doctor G. H. Houghton, Britannia (Peter) Kennon, and George Granville Wright, as well as articles relating to family history, and a number of articles on the marriage of Armistead Peter, Jr., to Anna Wright Williams.

ITINERARIES

ND

For the private railroad car *Colonial*.

POEMS

1856-1862; ND

Handwritten copies of poems and some original works concerning Law family members.

LISTS

Series

ADDRESSES

ND

Includes several loose sheets and an address book.

CHRISTMAS LISTS

1907-1909

Includes names and amount of gift money.

LIST: SAFE DEPOSIT STORAGE

1908

Furnishings in storage at the Lincoln Safe Deposit Company.

PRINTED MATERIAL

Series

CONFIRMATION CERTIFICATE

1867

Certificate of Sarah (Law) Williams from St. James Church in Batavia, New York.

BOOK:

1876

Law, Robert R. *History and Genealogy of the Law Family*.

PROGRAMS

1897-1907

Two programs, one from the funeral of Reverend Doctor G. H. Houghton.

RELIGIOUS PAMPHLETS

1886-1911; ND

Includes poems and pamphlets from Reverend Doctor G. H. Houghton.

PAMPHLET: THE INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF THE YOUNG MEN'S  
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS

1901

*For the Men Behind the Guns*

POSTCARDS

ND

Includes humorous and travel postcards.

POSTCARDS: TINTERN ABBEY

ND

A set of postcards with views of Tintern Abbey.

ENVELOPES

Series

ENVELOPES

1908; ND

Envelopes unmatched to correspondence.



MS-11  
Box 1

| Folder |  |                      |
|--------|--|----------------------|
| 1      | Correspondence   | 1863-1864            |
| 2      | Correspondence   | 1879                 |
| 3      | Correspondence   | 1882-1883            |
| 4      | Correspondence   | 1890-1891            |
| 5      | Correspondence   | 1892-1893            |
| 6      | Correspondence   | 1894-1896            |
| 7      | Correspondence   | 1899                 |
| 8      | Correspondence   | 1902-1903            |
| 9      | Correspondence   | 1905-1906            |
| 10     | Correspondence   | 1908-1909            |
| 11     | Correspondence   | 1911-1912            |
| 12     | Correspondence   | ND                   |
| 13     | Correspondence: Britannia (Peter) Kennon                             | 1883-1893; scattered |
| 14     | Correspondence: Britannia (Peter) Kennon                             | 1895-1899            |
| 15     | Correspondence: Armistead Peter 3rd                                  | 1902                 |
| 16     | Correspondence: Armistead Peter 3rd                                  | Ca.1902              |
| 17     | Correspondence: Armistead Peter 3rd                                  | 1905                 |
| 18     | Correspondence: Armistead Peter 3rd                                  | Ca.1905              |
| 19     | Correspondence: Armistead Peter 3rd                                  | 1906-1909            |
| 20     | Cambridge [New York] Public Library                                  | 1904                 |
| 21     | Estate of George Law, Sr.: Application for Letters of Administration | 1901                 |
| 22     | Estate of George Law, Sr.: Decree                                    | 1900                 |

|    |  |      |
|----|--|------|
| 23 | Estate of George Law, Sr.: Decree  | 1903 |
| 24 | Estate of George Law, Sr.: <i>In the Matter of the Last Will and Testament</i> ,<br>New York Supreme Court | 1901 |
| 25 | Estate of George Law, Sr.: Securities  | 1901 |
| 26 | Estate of George Law, Sr.: Statement of Income and Disbursements   | 1902 |
| 27 | Estate of George Law, Sr.: Statement of Income and Disbursements   | 1903 |
| 28 | Estate of George Law, Sr.: Subpoena  | 1902 |
| 29 | Estate of George Law, Sr.: Notes   | ND   |
| 30 | Estate of George Law, Jr.: Judicial Settlement   | 1896 |
| 31 | Trip to Alaska   | 1895 |
| 32 | Diary  | 1898 |

MS-11  
Box 2

| Folder |       |      |
|--------|-------|------|
| 1      | Diary | 1899 |
| 2      | Diary | 1900 |
| 3      | Diary | 1909 |
| 4      | Diary | 1910 |
| 5      | Diary | 1911 |
| 6      | Diary | 1912 |

MS-11  
Box 3

| Folder |   |              |
|--------|---|--------------|
| 1      | Notes   | 1906         |
| 2      | Notes: Genealogical                                   | 1888; 1889   |
| 3      | Lease: Plaza Hotel [New York City]                    | 1912         |
| 4      | Will: Josephine (Law) May Haines, Copy                | 1896         |
| 5      | Ledger  | Mar-Jul 1912 |
| 6      | Bills and Receipts: Miscellaneous                     | 1891-1909    |
| 7      | Bills and Receipts: Miscellaneous                     | 1910-1912    |
| 8      | Bills and Receipts: Apparel and Dry Goods             | 1894-1911    |
| 9      | Bills and Receipts: Charitable                        | 1894-1911    |
| 10     | Bills and Receipts: Dental/Medical                    | 1895-1911    |
| 11     | Bills and Receipts: Content Farm, Cambridge, New York | 1890-1905    |
| 12     | Bills and Receipts: Content Farm, Cambridge, New York | 1907-1909    |
| 13     | Bills and Receipts: Content Farm, Cambridge, New York | 1910         |
| 14     | Bills and Receipts: Content Farm, Cambridge, New York | 1911, 1912   |
| 15     | Bills and Receipts: Floor Coverings                   | 1890-1911    |
| 16     | Bills and Receipts: Florists/Gardeners                | 1890-1905    |
| 17     | Bills and Receipts: Florists/Gardeners                | 1905-1908    |
| 18     | Bills and Receipts: Florists/Gardeners                | 1909-1912    |
| 19     | Bills and Receipts: Food                              | 1909         |
| 20     | Bills and Receipts: Food                              | 1910         |
| 21     | Bills and Receipts: Food                              | 1911; 1912   |
| 22     | Bills and Receipts: Hotels                            | 1894; 1908   |

|    |                            |      |
|----|----------------------------|------|
| 23 | Bills and Receipts: Hotels | 1909 |
| 24 | Bills and Receipts: Hotels | 1910 |
| 25 | Bills and Receipts: Hotels | 1911 |

MS-11  
Box 4

| Folder |  |           |
|--------|--|-----------|
| 1      | Bills and Receipts: Laundry                                  | 1910-1911 |
| 2      | Bills and Receipts: Livery                                   | 1890-1909 |
| 3      | Bills and Receipts: Livery                                   | 1910-1912 |
| 4      | Bills and Receipts: Luxury Goods/Gifts                       | 1889-1894 |
| 5      | Bills and Receipts: Luxury Goods/Gifts                       | 1895-1900 |
| 6      | Bills and Receipts: Luxury Goods/Gifts                       | 1901-1903 |
| 7      | Bills and Receipts: Luxury Goods/Gifts                       | 1904-1905 |
| 8      | Bills and Receipts: Luxury Goods/Gifts                       | 1906-1907 |
| 9      | Bills and Receipts: Luxury Goods/Gifts                       | 1908-1911 |
| 10     | Bills and Receipts: Private Railroad Cars                    | 1899-1900 |
| 11     | Bills and Receipts: Private Railroad Cars                    | 1901      |
| 12     | Bills and Receipts: Private Railroad Cars                    | 1902      |
| 13     | Bills and Receipts: Private Railroad Cars                    | 1903      |
| 14     | Bills and Receipts: Private Railroad Cars                    | 1904      |
| 15     | Bills and Receipts: Private Railroad Cars                    | 1905      |
| 16     | Bills and Receipts: Private Railroad Cars                    | 1907      |
| 17     | Bills and Receipts: Private Railroad Cars                    | 1908-1912 |
| 18     | Bills and Receipts: Sale of 259 Fifth Avenue [New York City] | 1901      |
| 19     | Bills and Receipts: Shipping                                 | 1910-1912 |
| 20     | Bills and Receipts: Storage                                  | 1900-1911 |
| 21     | Bills and Receipts: Taxes                                    | 1902-1910 |
| 22     | Newspaper Clippings  | ND        |

|    |  |            |
|----|--|------------|
| 23 | Newspaper Clippings: Obituaries                                | ND         |
| 24 | Newspaper Clippings: Obituaries, Reverend Doctor G.H. Houghton | 1897       |
| 25 | Newspaper Clippings: Obituaries, Britannia (Peter) Kennon      | 1911       |
| 26 | Newspaper Clippings: Obituaries, George Granville Wright       | 1903       |
| 27 | Newspaper Clippings: Wedding of Armistead Peter, Jr.           | 1894       |
| 28 | Itineraries  | ND         |
| 29 | Poems  | 1856; 1862 |
| 30 | Poems  | ND         |
| 31 | Poem: Robert R. Law [cousin] to George Law, Jr.                | ND         |
| 32 | Addresses  | ND         |
| 33 | Lists: Christmas Gifts   | 1907-1909  |
| 34 | List: Safe Deposit Storage                                     | 1908       |
| 35 | Confirmation Certificate                                       | 1867       |

MS-11  
Box 5

Folder

|    |   |            |
|----|---|------------|
| 1  | Law, Robert R. <i>History and Genealogy of the Law Family</i>   | 1876       |
| 2  | Church Programs   | 1897; 1907 |
| 3  | Religious Pamphlets   | 1911; ND   |
| 4  | Gorham, Edwin S. <i>The First Christmas Tree</i>  | 1911       |
| 5  | The International Committee of the Young Men's Christian Associations, <i>For the Men Behind the Guns</i> | 1901       |
| 6  | <i>The Albany Church Record</i> , Volume 19, Number 1   | June 1912  |
| 7  | Postcards   | ND         |
| 8  | Postcards: Tintern Abbey  | ND         |
| 9  | Stereo Card: Woman in donkey cart, children, servant  | ND         |
| 10 | Envelopes: Unmatched to Correspondence  | 1908; ND   |
| 11 | <i>Washington County Post</i> , Cambridge, New York   | 1891       |
| 12 | <i>Washington County Post</i> , Cambridge, New York   | 1899       |
| 13 | <i>Washington County Post</i> , Cambridge, New York   | 1912       |
| 14 | Labels: George Granville Wright   | ND         |
| 15 | Calling Cards   | ND         |
| 16 | Invitation: Mr. and Mrs. George Law, At Home  | ND         |
| 17 | Engraving: <i>Marquise de Lafayette</i>   | ND         |
| 18 | Scrapbook: Newspaper Clippings  | 1879-1881  |