

Memorandum on Parker Willis Papers

TO: Mr. Allan Sproul
FROM: Mildred Adams
DATE: February 29, 1956

As I think you know, the papers of H. Parker Willis were left by will to his son, Parker B. Willis, who is in the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

In March of 1954 Mr. Parker B. Willis told me that his father's papers are in the Willis house in Staten Island, and are in two lots. Those papers concerning the period up to 1920 came out of the Willis house in Washington, were put into four or five boxes, and stored in the cellar of the Staten Island house. Papers since 1920 (drafts, hearings, correspondence, etc.) are in the attic.

Mr. Willis offered at that conference to go over the papers and see if they included material of value to us, provided that you would ask for a two weeks' leave of absence for him on that ground.

My own preference, as you know, would be for the papers to go intact to Columbia, to be sorted, classified and catalogued there by people who have no family stake in any of the old controversies in which he was concerned. The University itself has an interest in the papers, stemming from Dr. Willis' position as a member of the faculty, and I would hope that the family was about ready to let go of them. After all, Dr. Willis died in 1937, which is nearly twenty years ago.

Mildred Adams