

# **Finding Aid to the William E. Wilson Photographs, Photograph Album, and Gelatin Dry Plate Negatives MS 1375**

**Finding aid prepared by E. Ielmini, 1996.**

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This finding aid was produced using the Archivists' Toolkit

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

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## Summary Information

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<b>Repository</b>	Georgia Historical Society
<b>Creator</b>	Wilson, William E., -1905.
<b>Title</b>	William E. Wilson photographs, photograph album, and gelatin dry plate negatives
<b>Date [inclusive]</b>	1883-1892
<b>Extent</b>	3.25 cubic feet (7 boxes)
<b>Language</b>	English

### Preferred Citation

[item identification], William E. Wilson photographs, photograph album, and gelatin dry plate negatives, MS 1375, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia.

## Biographical Information

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William E. Wilson (ca. 1853-1905) was born in London, England. He was the son of artist and photographer James T. Wilson. William, at the age of two, moved with his parents to Charleston, South Carolina. Soon thereafter they moved to New York and later to Mobile, Alabama. William married Ellen Alice Brill in New York City around 1881. They had three sons, William T., Richard E., and Earnest T. (all born in Savannah, Georgia). Like his father, William Wilson became a photographer. He and Ellen moved to Savannah, Georgia, in 1882. By 1884 Wilson had opened his own studio at 60 Bull Street and by the following year moved the business and his home to a building at 25 Drayton Street.

William made his living chiefly as a portrait photographer but also worked as a landscape photographer. His work demonstrates documentary photography. The lives of the black sharecroppers and the day-to-day activities of this region were important to Wilson, and his photographic documentation of commonplace realities, such as aspects of the cotton industry and modes of transportation, provides us with the unsentimental view of the South he experienced during the late 1880s and early 1890s.

By 1894, Wilson had returned to Mobile, where he resided until his death on October 23, 1905.

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## Scope and Content Note

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This collection consists of two boxes containing an album of Savannah and Coastal Georgia photographs taken between 1883 and 1892 and loose photographs created by Wilson. There are approximately 252 images in the album and an additional 33 loose images. The images from the album have been photocopied for easy research. These copies follow the inventory.

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## Administrative Information

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### Publication Information

Georgia Historical Society

### Access Restrictions

Collection is open for research.

## **Publication Rights**

Copyright has not been assigned to the Georgia Historical Society. All requests for permission to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted in writing to the Division of Library and Archives. Permission for publication is given on behalf of the Georgia Historical Society as the owner of the physical items and is not intended to include or imply permission of the copyright holder, which must also be obtained by the researcher.

## **Custodial History**

Unknown.

## **Accruals**

No accruals are expected.

## **Acquisition Information**

Unknown, 1988.

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## **Controlled Access Headings**

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### **Genre(s)**

- Gelatin dry plate negatives.
- Photograph albums.
- Photographs.

### **Geographic Name(s)**

- Chatham County (Ga.)
- Effingham County (Ga.)
- Savannah (Ga.)

### **Occupation(s)**

- Photographers.

### **Personal Name(s)**

- Wilson, William E., -1905.

### **Subject(s)**

- African Americans--Georgia.
- Landscape photography--Georgia.

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## **Physical and Technical Access Restrictions**

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Glass plate negatives are restricted from patron use. Due to its fragile condition, the photograph album is restricted; the album has been digitized and digital scans can be viewed in the Digital Image Catalog. Digital Image Catalog.

## Collection Inventory

	<b>Box</b>
Album	1
<b>General note</b>	
<b>Online Inventory Contains Digitized Items</b>	
	<b>Box</b>
1375-001 William E. Wilson with his camera, exterior	1
1375-002 William E. Wilson with wedding party, exterior	1
1375-003 Wilson's studio garden, 60 Bull Street at corner of Hull Street	1
1375-004 Wilson's studio at corner of Broughton and Drayton Streets	1
1375-005 E.L. Byck, "Segar and Tobacco" shop, corner of Broughton and Drayton	1
1375-006 Mrs. William E. Wilson (Ellen Alice Brill Wilson) and two of his sons	1
1375-007 William E. Wilson in studio, interior	1
1375-008 William E. Wilson in his studio in Mobile, Alabama, prior to 1905	1
1375-009 Stonewallis, war horse with unidentified man, #101	1

1375-010 unidentified scene showing path of live oak trees, #102	1
1375-011 men barbequing, #103	1
1375-012 men barbequing, #104	1
1375-013 stack of rice	1
1375-014 three black men with ox and wagon stacking rice	1
1375-015 black man in ox wagon hauling rice	1
1375-016 flooded rice field	1
1375-017 rice field	1
1375-018 unidentified river, #110	1
1375-019 unidentified river, #111	1
1375-020 black man with moonshine still, #112	1
1375-021 live oak trees, #113	1
1375-022 live oak trees, #114	1
1375-023 Ogeechee canal, #115	1



1375-024 yard of City Hospital, #116	1
1375-025 Martello Tower, Tybee Island, #117	1
1375-026 Green Island, #118	1
1375-027 palmetto trees, Tybee Island, #119	1
1375-028 sand dunes, Tybee Island	1
1375-029 Fort Jackson (?)	1
1375-030 cactus in Oglethorpe Square	1
1375-031 cork tree	1
1375-032 cork tree	1
1375-033 Ogeechee Road, #129	1
1375-034 Deptford Plantation, #130	1
1375-035 resin fire on Savannah wharf, #131	1
1375-036 oak tree at Fort Burton (?), #132	1
1375-037 Confederate breast works, #133	1

1375-038 Whitfield tree, #134	1
1375-039 Hotel Tybee, Tybee Island, #135	1
1375-040 yucca plant at Liberty and Price streets, #136	1
1375-041 "a bit at Tusculum", (Effingham County), #137	1
1375-042 Mrs. Wilsons and two of their sons, #138	1
1375-043 lumber floating in river, #139	1
1375-044 Salzburger house, built in 1772, #140	1
1375-045 cypress swamp, #141	1
1375-046 Confederate breast works, #142	1
1375-047 shipwreck of the <i>Adonis Kragero</i> in the Tybee River, #143	1
1375-048 Ogeechee River at Flat Ford, #144	1
1375-049 Confederate breast works, Harmons near Savannah, #145	1
1375-050 Confederate breast works, Harmons near Savannah, #146	1
1375-051 creek in Effingham County, #147	1

1375-052 Darien, Georgia, #148	1
1375-053 breast works, Green Island, #149	1
1375-054 Fort Jackson (?)	1
1375-055 Wesley Oak, St. Simons Island, #151	1
1375-056 Deptford Plantation, #152	1
1375-057 Liberty County, GA, street showing man with ox cart, #155	1
1375-058 Bethesda Orphans Home, #160	1
1375-059 Washington Guns, #162	1
1375-060 Washington Guns, #164	1
1375-061 Revolutionary fort built by Salzburgers at Ebenezer, Savannah River	1
1375-062 Saltzburger house, built 1772	1
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>	
SEE ALSO 1375-044	
1375-063 Old Midway Church and cemetery	1

1375-064 Midway cemetery	1
1375-065 unidentified group of black men carrying axes and saws for cutting trees	1
1375-066 unidentified black family (possibly on St. Catherines Island)	1
1375-067 cabin on Deptford Plantation	1
1375-068 slave cabins on St. Catherines Island, #203	1
1375-069 black women wood gatherers, #204	1
1375-070 slave cabins on St. Catherines Island, #205	1
1375-071 old black minister and wife on St. Catherines Island, #206	1
1375-072 black Sunday school children and teachers, #207	1
1375-073 wharf scene, #208	1
1375-074 Topsy's wedding (black family), #209	1
1375-075 slave cabins on Deptford Plantation, #210	1
1375-076 slave cabins on St. Catherines Island, #211	1
1375-077 unidentified black man, #212	1

1375-078 unidentified group of black women (Liberty County ?), #213	1
1375-079 black school, Liberty County, GA, #214	1
1375-080 black school, Liberty County, GA	1
1375-081 two black men in an ox cart, #216	1
1375-082 three unidentified black children, #217	1
1375-083 three unidentified black children in front of Bonaventure gate	1
1375-084 unidentified black family in front of cabin, #219	1
1375-085 men weighing cotton, #220	1
1375-086 man in horse cart on West Broad Street, Savannah, GA, #221 (tower of First African Baptist Church in background)	1
1375-087 cotton bales sitting on wharf, Savannah, GA, #222	1
1375-088 George Ringwood schoolhouse, #223	1
1375-089 cotton bales sitting on wharf, Savannah, GA, #224	1
1375-090 "cracker cart" (2 mule cart) on West Broad Street, #225	1

1375-091 cotton plants in bloom, #226	1
1375-092 cotton field, #227	1
1375-093 naval stores, barrels on wharf, #228	1
1375-094 naval stores, barrels on wharf, #229	1
1375-095 naval stores being loaded on ship, #230	1
1375-096 two black men with mule cart, #231	1
1375-097 naval stores on wharf, #232	1
1375-098 ox cart w/ group of men on Barnard and York Streets, Savannah, GA, #233 (Telfair Academy in background)	1
1375-099 black man in ox cart on Drayton Street, Savannah, GA, #234	1
1375-100 unidentified black family on steps of cabin, #235	1
1375-101 "Dadagota and wife" on steps of cabin, #236	1
1375-102 "gate keeper", unidentified black male child, (Bonaventure Cemetery ?), #237	1
1375-103 "Aunt Tilly," #239	1

1375-104 cotton bales on Central Railroad wharf, #240	1
1375-105 people picking unidentified vegetable, #241	1
1375-106 logs at saw mill, #242	1
1375-107 turpentine still, #243	1
1375-108 two black children riding an ox, #244	1
1375-109 picking cotton, #245	1
1375-110 picking cotton, #246 1375-110 picking cotton, #246	1
1375-111 unidentified black girl	1
1375-112 unidentified black woman with basket of cotton balanced on her head	1
1375-113 young black woman with basket of cotton, #249	1
1375-114 cabin near Bilbo Canal, #250	1
1375-115 grinding cane, #251	1
1375-116 making cane syrup, #252	1
1375-117 "Susan's Hut", unidentified black family in front of cabin, #253	1

1375-118 mosaic of several prints, #254	1
1375-119 group of black children at "Tusculum", (Effingham County), #255	1
1375-120 "cracker cart," ox attached to buggy, # 256	1
1375-121 Bonaventure Cemetery, #301	1
1375-122 Bonaventure Cemetery, #302	1
1375-123 Bonaventure Cemetery, #303	1
1375-124 Bonaventure Cemetery, #304	1
1375-125 Bonaventure Cemetery, #305	1
1375-126 Thunderbolt, GA, #306	1
1375-127 Hermitage Plantation, #307	1
1375-128 slave cabins on Hermitage Plantation, #308	1
1375-129 Hermitage Plantation, #309	1
1375-130 slave cabins on Hermitage Plantation, #310	1
1375-131 Bonaventure Cemetery, #311	1



1375-132 Thunderbolt Road, #312	1
1375-133 Hospital or Overseers house on Hermitage Plantation, #313	1
1375-134 Hermitage Plantation bell post, #314	1
1375-135 Hermitage Avenue, #315	1
1375-136 Hermitage Avenue, #316	1
1375-137 portico on Hermitage Plantation house, #317	1
1375-138 Greenwich Park, #318	1
1375-139 Thunderbolt, GA, #319 (Savannah Yacht Club in background)	1
1375-140 Thunderbolt, GA, #320	1
1375-141 Bonaventure Cemetery, #321	1
1375-142 Bonaventure Cemetery, #322	1
1375-148 Savannah River, #406	1
1375-143 Bonaventure Cemetery	1
1375-144 unidentified view (Thunderbolt ?), #324	1

1375-145 Drayton Street, northeast corner of Broughton Street	1
1375-146 Flat Ford, June 24th, 1892	1
1375-147 Savannah River, #405	1
1375-149 Savannah River	1
1375-150 South Broad Street (now Oglethorpe Avenue) looking southeast towards Drayton Street, #408	1
1375-151 Bull Street, Botts residence	1
1375-152 Liberty Street, #411	1
1375-153 Liberty Street looking east from Whitaker Street, #412	1
1375-154 Chippewa Square, Savannah, GA, #414	1
1375-155 Christ Church, Savannah, GA	1
1375-156 Mickve Israel Synagogue, Savannah, GA	1
1375-157 Forsyth Park, Savannah, GA, #419	1
1375-158 Forsyth Park, Savannah, GA, #420	1

1375-159 Forsyth Park, sphinx at entrance, Savannah, GA, #421	1
1375-160 Forsyth Park, Savannah, GA #422	1
1375-161 Forsyth Park, Savannah, GA #423	1
1375-162 Forsyth Park, Savannah, GA #424	1
1375-163 Forsyth Park, Savannah, GA #425	1
1375-164 Forsyth Park, Savannah, GA #426	1
1375-165 Forsyth Park Fountain, Savannah, GA #427	1
1375-166 Gordon Monument, Savannah, GA, #428	1
1375-167 Jasper Monument, Savannah, GA, #429	1
1375-168 Green Monument, Savannah, GA, #430	1
1375-169 Pulaski Monument, Savannah, GA, #431	1
1375-170 Confederate Monument in Forsyth Park, Savannah, GA, #432	1
1375-171 Confederate Monument in Forsyth Park, Savannah, GA, #433	1
1375-172 waterworks, #434	1

1375-173 Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, #435	1
1375-174 Telfair Hospital, #436	1
1375-175 Telfair Hospital, #437	1
1375-176 Elias Weil house, Bull and Gordon Streets, Savannah, GA, #438	1
1375-177 water tower in Franklin Square, Savannah, GA	1
1375-178 Savannah Cotton Exchange, #440	1
1375-179 Masonic Temple, northwest corner, Liberty and Whitaker Streets, #441	1
1375-180 Savannah Trust Company, southwest corner, Bay and Drayton Streets, #442	1
1375-181 Merchants Bank, #443	1
1375-182 National Bank, #444	1
1375-183 Central Railroad Bank and Custom House, both on Bay Street, #445	1
1375-184 City Exchange and Pulaski House, #446	1
1375-185 United States Bank, #447	1
1375-186 Olmsteads Bank, #448	1

1375-187 Alfred B. Kent's house, 13 West Broad Street, "cannonball house," #449	1
1375-188 Orleans Square, showing Bulloch-Habersham House, #450	1
1375-189 Heywood's residence, Whitaker Street south of Hodgson Hall	1
1375-190 I.K. Tefft house, southwest corner, Jones and Bull Streets	1
1375-191 Owens-Thomas House, #453	1
1375-192 Savannah Theater, Chippewa Square, #454	1
1375-193 Green-Meldrim House, Sherman's headquarters, #455	1
1375-194 DeSoto Hotel, #456	1
1375-195 DeSoto Hotel, #457	1
1375-196 DeSoto Hotel and Sorrel-Weed House, #458	1
1375-197 DeSoto Hotel, #459	1
1375-198 DeSoto Hotel, #460	1
1375-199 wall around Colonial Cemetery, #461	1
1375-200 Confederate dead, Laurel Grove Cemetery, #462	1

1375-201 Independent Presbyterian Church, #463	1
1375-202 Weed's residence, #464	1
1375-203 portico on Bulloch-Habersham House, #465	1
1375-204 Abercorn Street ramp, #466	1
1375-205 Whitaker Street ramp, #467	1
1375-206 Whitaker Street ramp, #468	1
1375-207 Barnard Street ramp, #469	1
1375-208 Emmett Park retaining wall, #470	1
1375-209 portico of Bulloch-Habersham House, #471	1
1375-210 Chatham County Courthouse, #472	1
1375-211 Savannah River looking from Emmett Park, #473	1
1375-212 Chatham County Courthouse, #474	1
1375-213 Chatham County Courthouse	1
1375-214 Orleans Square, #476	1

1375-215 Laurel Grove Cemetery	1
1375-216 Laurel Grove Cemetery	1
1375-217 Savannah River, #479	1
1375-218 McAlpin residence, #480	1
1375-219 Forsyth Park Fountain, #481	1
1375-220 Ocean tramp loading cotton, #482	1
1375-221 loading cotton, #483	1
1375-222 English tramp loading cotton, #484	1
1375-223 DeSoto Hotel, #485	1
1375-224 Colonial Cemetery wall on South Broad Street (now Oglethorpe Avenue), #486	1
1375-225 DeSoto Hotel, #487	1
1375-226 Green-Meldrim House, #488	1
1375-227 Birds Eye view showing corner of Drayton and Liberty Streets	1

1375-228 Trinity Church, #490	1
1375-229 Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, before the spires, #491	1
1375-230 Telfair Hospital, #492	1
1375-231 Chatham Academy, Bull Street and South Broad Street (now Oglethorpe Avenue), #493	1
1375-232 Independent Presbyterian Church, #494	1
1375-233 Factors Walk, #495	1
1375-234 Factors Walk, #496	1
1375-235 Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, interior	1
1375-236 Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, interior	1
1375-237 Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, interior	1
1375-238 Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, interior	1
1375-239 Pulaski House, #503	1
1375-240 Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences, interior, #501	1



1375-241 Wetter House		1
1375-242 Johnson Square, #505		1
1375-243 Savannah Board of Trade, corner of Bay and Drayton Streets, #509		1
1375-244 Christ Church, interior, #510		1
1375-245 Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, interior, #512		1
1375-246 Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences		1
1375-247 35 President Street, home of William E. Wilson in 1884		1
1375-248 Oglethorpe Barracks		1
1375-249 Fort Pulaski		1
1375-250 Harris Street and Abercorn Street		1
1375-251 cactus plant		1
1375-252 Independent Presbyterian Church		1
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
loose photographs	2	1

**General note**

**Online Inventory Contains Digitized Items**

	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1375-253 Greenwich Park	2	1
1375-254 Birds Eye view showing Wright Square, #401	2	1
1375-255 Baptist Church and Hardee mansion, #415	2	1
1375-256 unidentified railroad tracks, #121	2	1
1375-257 unidentified river, #124	2	1
1375-258 waterworks	2	1
1375-259 South Broad (now Oglethorpe Avenue), east of Bull Street, #409	2	1
1375-260 unveiling of Jasper Monument	2	1
1375-261 Oglethorpe Barracks	2	1
1375-262 First Presbyterian Church	2	1
1375-263 Hermitage Plantation	2	1
1375-264 Hermitage Plantation	2	1

1375-265 Hermitage Plantation	2	1
1375-266 Hermitage Plantation	2	1
1375-267 Hermitage Plantation	2	1
1375-268 slave cabins at Hermitage Plantation	2	1
1375-269 slave cabins at Hermitage Plantation	2	1
1375-270 slave cabins at Hermitage Plantation	2	1
loose photographs	2	2
<b>General note</b>		
<b>Online Inventory Contains Digitized Items</b>		
	<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>
1375-271 Old Masonic Hall, corner of President St. and Whitaker St., #506	2	2
1375-272 unidentified black male, #258	2	2
1375-273 unidentified group	2	2
1375-274 unidentified river, #122	2	2

1375-275 unidentified group on a dock	2	2
1375-276 fire on — Street	2	2
1375-277 fire on — Street	2	2
1375-278 Negro college, Thunderbolt, Ga., #159	2	2
1375-279 First Presbyterian Church, #416	2	2
1375-280 Coast Line Railroad train/trolley	2	2
loose photographs	2	2

### General note

#### Online Inventory Contains Digitized Items

	Box	Folder
1375-281 unidentified group	2	2
1375-282 Republican Blues at Tybee	2	2
1375-283 Vevie Minis, Eugenia Minis, Nellie Penrose, Callie Ellis, Eugenia Johnston, and Mrs. J.P.S. Houstoun, playing tennis, taken at "The , April 4th, 1883"	2	2
1375-284 unidentified church, interior	2	2

1375-285 "Washington's Headquarters, 1791," northwest corner of Barnard and State Streets	2	2
1375-286 pageant in the sesqui-centennial celebration, 12th February 1883 representing the meeting of Oglethorpe and Tomochichi	2	2
duplicates of images from album	2	3-6
<b>Scope and Contents note</b>		
1375-005, 1375-011, 1375-015, 1375-020, 1375-022, 1375-025, 1375-035, 1375-039, 1375-043, 1375-044, 375-061, 1375-062, 1375-070, 1375-076, 1375-081, 1375-088, 1375-090, 1375-099, 1375-105, 1375-106, 1375-107, 1375-108, 1375-113, 1375-115, 1375-116, 1375-117, 1375-120, 1375-125, 1375-126, 1375-128, 375-129, 1375-130, 1375-133, 1375-134, 1375-137, 1375-148, 1375-159, 1375-160, 1375-161, 1375-162, 1375-164, 1375-174, 1375-186, 1375-193, 1375-194, 1375-199, 1375-204, 1375-205, 1375-206, 1375-207, 375-208, 1375-217, 1375-238, 1375-243, 1375-246, 1375-247		