

Collection #
SC 3208

**A. DONALD WILES II
REMINISCENCES, 2012**

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COLLECTION INFORMATION

VOLUME OF COLLECTION: 1 folder (64 photocopies pages)

COLLECTION DATES: 2012

PROVENANCE: A. Donald Wiles II

RESTRICTIONS: None

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ALTERNATE FORMATS:

RELATED HOLDINGS:

ACCESSION NUMBER: 2012.0107

NOTES:

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

A. (Albert) Donald Wiles II (1938–) was the second child of Albert Donald Wiles I (1899–1983) of Ripley, Ohio, and Emma Deane Miller Wiles (1912–1970) of Joelton, Tennessee. Their other children were Jacqueline Wiles (1935–) and Diane Wiles Elliot (1946–). All three children were born at the family's home at 4225 Graceland Avenue, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana. Wiles' father owned and operated the A.D. Wiles Company, a printing company in Indianapolis, for over sixty years.

Wiles graduated from Shortridge High School in 1957. He then attended Princeton University, graduating in 1961, and Columbia Law School, graduating in 1966. Between college and law school, he spent a year and a half working for his father at the A.D. Wiles Company and six months of active duty in the Air Force Reserves.

Wiles married Jeanette Marie Broyhill (1943–) in her hometown of Hopewell, Virginia, in 1965. Together they had three children: Gregory Broyhill Wiles (1971–), Bradford B. Wiles (1973–), and Kenton Broyhill Wiles (1976–). As of 2012, A. Donald Wiles II lived in Noblesville, Hamilton County, Indiana.

Sources:

Information in collection.

Ancestry, Library edition, Accessed 27 January 2017.

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

This collection contains sixty-four photocopied pages of a handwritten document written by A. Donald Wiles II for his sons in 2012. In a preamble to the reminiscences, Wiles notes that there is no particular logic to the order of his reminiscences and that they are simply presented in the order in which they were written. His purpose in reminiscing is to give his sons some information about their father and "a world which no longer exists."

Neither comprehensive nor chronological, Wiles divides his reminiscences into short sections with the following titles:

- "Born at Home," recounting his and his sisters' births at the family home in Indianapolis. He notes here that this was very rare at the time, but because his maternal grandfather was a doctor who often complained about hospitals, his mother resolved never to give birth in one.
- "Homes," recalling his two childhood homes in Indianapolis (4225 Graceland Avenue and 38 West 42nd Street) and various memories associated with them.
- "Horses," recalling that during his childhood horses were still utilized for transportation and trash pick-up.
- "Transportation – Streetcars," explaining the Indianapolis streetcar system and how his family was dependent on them until after World War II.
- "Transportation – Bus & Trolley," explaining other modes of public transportation that his family occasionally used.
- "Transportation – Cars," noting that his father purchased the family's first car in 1947 or 1948 and telling two stories of when Wiles drove the car over one hundred miles per hour. He calls this "the stupidest thing I've ever done."
- "Transportation – Train," explaining that he did not travel aboard a train until he left for college in 1957.
- "Airplanes," explaining how air terminals worked in the 1950s.
- "Buses," explaining the inter-city bus system which often took him from Noblesville to Indianapolis.
- "Kindergarten," recounting a few memories of his time in kindergarten.
- "Education," listing all the schools he attended from kindergarten to law school.
- "School Integration," detailing his experiences when Indiana began to end segregation in schools. The General Assembly passed the Indiana School

Desegregation Act in 1949, five years before *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954); Wiles writes that this happened in 1948. He also writes that his mother vehemently opposed integration and often attended legislative sessions to object. Beyond detailing the process of integration (which did not affect him until high school), Wiles does not voice his own opinion.

- "Playmates," recounting the names of his childhood friends.
- "Jim's Father," a brief anecdote about the father of one of his friends.
- "World War II," recalling what little he remembers about living through World War II in Indianapolis. He was too young to understand the realities of the battles or the political implications of the war, but he does remember various aspects of the home front including planting victory gardens, saving tin cans, seeing news reels before movies, using ration booklets (though he writes he does not know how they worked), performing air raid drills, buying war bonds through school, and attending the VJ Day parade in Indianapolis.
- "Mom & Pop Stores," detailing all the small businesses his family used to shop from.
- "Television," recalling the first television his family owned in the late 1940s.

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CONTAINER

Box 1, Folder 1