

# **Wilbur Israel Cogshall Papers**

## **M.MSS.0001**

**Finding aid prepared by Jennifer Fleischmann, Jennifer Thomas**

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Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Albion College Archives and Special Collections  
2005 February  
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## Summary Information

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|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| <b>Repository</b>       | Albion College Archives and Special Collections |
| <b>Title</b>            | Wilbur Israel Cogshall papers                   |
| <b>Date [bulk]</b>      | Bulk, 1854-1901                                 |
| <b>Date [inclusive]</b> | 1854-1977                                       |
| <b>Extent</b>           | 1.0 Linear feet 1 box                           |
| <b>Language</b>         | English   |
| <b>Language</b>         | The material is in English.                     |

### Preferred Citation

[item], folder, box, [Title], United Methodist Church West Michigan Conference Archives, Archives and Special Collections, Stockwell-Mudd Library, Albion College. Albion, MI.

## Biographical/Historical note

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**Wilbur Israel Cogshall** was born on 1850 February 13 in Concord, Michigan. His father was Reverend Israel Cogshall, a well-known preacher who served four times as presiding elder. Wilbur converted at the age of seventeen, while working at Berkey & Gay Furniture factory in Grand Rapids. He soon felt the urge to follow in his father's footsteps and moved to Israel Cogshall's district at the age of twenty with his wife. Soon after he joined the Conference on trial. He was sent first to Parkville, but served in seventeen more communities before retiring in 1916, having spent a total of fifty-eight years in the ministry.

He and his wife, Mattie Leavitt, had five children together, Nellie, Grace, Wilbur A., Fred C., and Mattie. Nellie died in childhood, but the other four went on to success in academics.

Wilbur received an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Albion College where he was a trustee from 1890-1896. He was one of the youngest people to be elected a delegate to the General Conference, and went on to be elected four times over. He was also a member of the Committee on Conference Relations for thirteen years, served on the Conference board of Trustees for fourteen years, Assistant Secretary for 7 years, and Secretary for seven years.

Wilbur was often sought out by others to answer questions on church law as he had a legal mind and was considered one of the best councils during Conference judicial proceedings. Those who knew him described him as funny, with a quick sense of humor. He loved stories, both hearing them and telling them, and could generally be found entertaining a large crowd during Conference sessions. He was skilled in the art of rhetoric, with extensive knowledge of the Bible, and both his debates and sermons left distinct impressions on those fortunate enough to hear them.

Wilbur Israel Cogshall died at the age of seventy-eight on 1928 October 13 in South Haven, Michigan.

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## Scope and Contents note

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The **Reverend Wilbur Israel Cogshall papers** contains material from the years 1854-1977, the bulk of which is from 1854-1901. The collection consists of a variety of materials related to the family, life, and work of Reverend Wilbur Israel Cogshall.

The collection consists of five series:

Series I: Art, 1941- 1942 This series can be found in Folder 1. It is a painting done by Mattie Cogshall-Taylor depicting a man on the porch of her cabin.

Series II: Correspondence 1854- 1977, undated Series II, Correspondence, contains three subseries: To Reverend Israel Cogshall, To Reverend Wilbur Israel Cogshall, and About Reverend Wilbur Israel Cogshall. To Reverend Israel Cogshall consists of letters written to Rev. Wilbur I. Cogshall's father, Rev.

Israel Cogshall, regarding his ministry. Reverend Wilbur Israel Cogshall are letters written to Rev. Wilbur I. Cogshall regarding his work, ministry, family, and personal life between 1878-1921. About Rev. Wilbur I. Cogshall consists of letters about Rev. Wilbur I. Cogshall's life, ministry, work, and family.

Series III: Newspaper Articles, 1865-1914, undated Newspaper Articles, contains two subseries: Clippings and Transcriptions. The series is comprised of newspaper articles saved by Rev. Wilbur I. Cogshall throughout his life.

Series IV: Obituaries, 1889, 1918 Series IV contains two obituaries, one of Jeremiah H. Bayliss' and, the other, of Sarah Anne Britton.

Series V: Manuscripts, 1866-1911, undated Series V, Manuscripts, contains two subseries: Books and Documents. Books contains a memo book (author unknown), a ledger belonging to Rev. Wilbur I. Cogshall's son, and two scrapbooks, one contains mainly political articles and cartoons while the other has political, personal, and religious articles within it. Documents consist of five papers Rev. Wilbur I. Cogshall collected during his life. The Centennial of Methodism, a sermon delivered by J.H. Bayliss, a Thanksgiving Proclamation, a facsimile copy of the Gettysburg Address, and pamphlets regarding the Knights of Columbus and the Ritual of Third Degree.

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## **Administrative Information**

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### **Publication Information**

Albion College Archives and Special Collections 2005 February

### **Conditions Governing Access**

This collection is open for research.

### **Rights**

The literary rights to this collection are assumed to rest with the person(s) responsible for the production of the particular items within the collection, or with their heirs or assigns. Researchers bear full legal responsibility for acquisition to publish from any part of said collection per Title 17, United States Code. The Albion College Special Collections Department may reserve the right to intervene as intermediary at its own discretion.

### **Immediate Source of Acquisition note**

Collection donated by Sarah Hand, daughter of Wilber Cogshall.

## **Bibliography**

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Floyd, John C. (1929). Wilbur Israel Cogshall. Minutes of the Michigan Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 24(2).

Wilbur Israel Cogshall folder, College History Files Collection, Special Collections, Stockwell-Mudd Libraries, Albion College, Albion, MI.

## Collection Inventory

| <b>Series 1 Art</b>                          |            |               |
|--|------------|---------------|
|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Painting by Mattie Cogshall-Taylor 1941-1942 | 1          | 1             |
| <b>Series 2 Correspondence</b>               |            |               |
| <b>Subseries 2.1 To Rev. Israel Cogshall</b> |            |               |
|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| E.O. Haven 1854                              | 1          | 2             |
| T.A. Morris 1857                             | 1          | 3             |
| Bishop Waugh 1858                            | 1          | 4             |
| E.R. Ames 1859-1872                          | 1          | 5             |
| T.M. Eddy 1859                               | 1          | 6             |
| Durbin Missionary 1861                       | 1          | 7             |
| M. Simpson 1861-1866                         | 1          | 8             |

## To Rev. Wilbur I. Cogshall

|   |            |               |
|---|------------|---------------|
| E. Andrews 1861                                 | 1          | 9             |
| S.Y. Monive (?) 1866                            | 1          | 10            |
| Bishop W.L. Harris 1870-1872                    | 1          | 11            |
| John Evans 1872                                 | 1          | 12            |
| S.M. Wiley 1872                                 | 1          | 13            |
| <b>Subseries 2.2 To Rev. Wilbur I. Cogshall</b> |            |               |
|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| William L. Harris 1878                          | 1          | 14            |
| J.F. Hurst 1886                                 | 1          | 15            |
| Via Italy 1887                                  | 1          | 16            |
| Author 1887                                     | 1          | 17            |
| John Newman 1892                                | 1          | 18            |
| W.M. Puffer 1899                                | 1          | 19            |
| Michigan Anti-Saloon League 1899                | 1          | 20            |



**About Rev. Wilbur I. Cogshall**

|  |            |               |
|--|------------|---------------|
| C.L. Barker 1900                                   | 1          | 21            |
| Author Unknown 1900                                | 1          | 22            |
| Re: Martin Ruter 1901                              | 1          | 23            |
| A.O. Carmen 1921                                   | 1          | 24            |
| <b>Subseries 2.3 About Rev. Wilbur I. Cogshall</b> |            |               |
|  | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
| Bishop Wiley to H.C. Peck 1873                     | 1          | 25            |
| D.A. Cogshall to her children 1895                 | 1          | 26            |
| T.R. Coggeshall to Mrs. Delia Coggeshall 1896      | 1          | 27            |
| C.H. Fowler to J.C. Floyd 1899                     | 1          | 28            |
| Sarah C. Hand to Mr. Miller 1977                   | 1          | 29            |
| Sarah C. Hand to Dr. Held 1977                     | 1          | 30            |
| From Rev. Cogshall undated                         | 1          | 31            |
| <b>Series 3 Newspaper Articles</b>                 |            |               |

## Clippings

**Subseries 3.1 Clippings**

|           | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|-----------|------------|---------------|
| 1865-1914 | 1          | 32            |
| undated   | 1          | 33            |

**Subseries 3.2 Transcriptions**

|                     | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|---------------------|------------|---------------|
| 1905, 1910, undated | 1          | 34            |

**Series 4 Obituaries**

|                                     | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|-------------------------------------|------------|---------------|
| Obituary of J.H. Bayliss 1889       | 1          | 35            |
| Obituary of Sarah Anne Britton 1918 | 1          | 36            |

**Manuscripts****Subseries 4.1 Books**

|   | <b>Box</b> | <b>Folder</b> |
|---|------------|---------------|
| Ledger (W.A. Cogshall) and Memo Book (Author Unknown) undated | 1          | 37            |

## Documents

|  |   |    |
|--|---|----|
| Scrapbooks (Rev. Wilbur I. Cogshall) undated | 1 | 38 |
|--|---|----|

### Subseries 4.2 Documents

|  | Box | Folder |
|--|-----|--------|
| The Centennial of Methodism 1866                                       | 1   | 39     |
| Sermon (J.H. Bayliss) 1868   | 1   | 40     |
| Thanksgiving Proclamation 1911   | 1   | 41     |
| Gettysburg Address [Facsimile copy] undated                            | 1   | 42     |
| Re: Knights of Columbus and Ritual of Third Degree [Pamphlets] undated | 1   | 43     |