

Please note that this finding aid should be used in conjunction with the updated finding aid located on the PAHRC website: [http://www.pahrc.net/faids/view.php/Willcox\\_Mary.xml](http://www.pahrc.net/faids/view.php/Willcox_Mary.xml). The collection has been rearranged, however, so the box and folder numbers below are outdated.

RG 10 WILLCOX, MARY BRACKETT, 1796-1886

Box    Folder

- |    |   |  |
|----|---|--|
| 1  | 1 | Correspondence to Willcox, 1834-1855, re:Documents of Brackett & Willcox Families.   |
|    | 2 | Correspondence to Willcox, 1834-1855 (undated) re: describing the Mission house and the growth of Catholicity.   |
|    | 3 | Family correspondence, 1843-1856. re:Letters of "Dearest Mother" "Your Adopted Child", "Your affection Child", etc.  |
|    | 4 | Letter from son Joseph Willcox given condolences on John Wilcox's death. Also letter from Bishop Chanbonelle on sources to use to be a good Catholic. Letter to Mrs. Willcox on death of her child John from Ladies of the BVM Sodality. |
|    | 5 | Small booklet written in Latin on Dies, etc. Also Postcard picture of Arc of Triumph. Rough notes on Ivy Mills.  |
|    | 6 | Notes on Treovaro near Tivoli, eyes of Madonna move.   |
|    | 7 | Paper on "An act of Recourse & Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus". Also letter to "My Dearest Brother" requesting proof of many RC doctrines.  |
|    | 8 | Papers addressed to "Dearest Sister" Dear Emilie" on God's Wisdom and plans for us etc. and we to have Faith on these.   |
|    | 9 | Papers on Christ Doctrine.   |
| 10 |   | Hardback cover book re: letters to Willcox, Archbp. cannot be at meeting . Expression of good wishes from Cathedral Residence. Also receipt of payments for tombstones.  |
| 2  | 1 | Letters to Mary Willcox from St. Charles Seminary, Other letters and papers from Virgil H. Barber Whitemarsh, comments on question about Naples & Miraculous liquifaction of Sacred Blood of St. Januarius.                              |
|    | 2 | Letters to Willcox from Alexander Frasi re: Articles explanatory of the Catholic Ordination & other Catholic Ceremonies. Also letters from Joseph Gallagher.   |

<u>Box</u>	<u>Folder</u>	
2	3	Letters to Willcox from J.P. Jennings, Pgh. 1844 from Robt. Kleinerman Buxler Pgh. 1847 From Wm. C. Kuffer, St. Vincent's College 1852. re: catholic doctrine, etc.
	4	Letters to E. Willcox from Seminary Rector, Mariano Maller 1844 to 1847. Also letters from St. Louis 1847, Cape Gerardeau 1847, St. Louis 1848, Emmisttsburg Md., 1853, from Phila, and Baltimore. Letters from F. McAtee (student at St. Charles) , Sr. Michaela 1846, and P.E. Moriarty 1846.
	5	Letters to E. Willcox from Rcihard O'Connor, Phila. 1844, Anthony Panco 1845, B. Rollando, Galveston 1845-1847.
	6	Letters to E. Willcox from P.F. Sheridan, 1844. from Edw. Sourin 1842-1846 re: death & strength of God, etc.
	7	Letters to E. Willcox from Tornatore 1850, Perry- ville Co. 1855 (Ill with fever), Perryville, Mi. 1856 (Pleurisy), from M. Wingfeld, St. Charles 1847.

BIOGRAPHY

On September 9th, 1796 at Quincy, Mass., a little daughter was born to Captain James Brackett and his wife, Elizabeth Odiorne, of Exeter, New Hampshire. The Bracketts had lived in Massachusetts for many generations, having emigrated to this country with the early Puritans.

In an intellectual home she grew to womanhood, and at the age of 23, on November 1, 1819 she became the wife of James M. Willcox.

From that time forth, her home was at Ivy Mills, Delaware County, Pa.; a spot the very name of which is linked for generations past with that of the Willcox family, and held by all the "county people" as the very heart and centre of Catholicity.

Mrs. Willcox was a New England Protestant; and for more than 20 years after her marriage, she silently "Protested" under a Catholic roof....But Catholic influence surrounded her day and night. At last she yielded, and according to her nature she brought all the wealth of her affections into the Catholic Church.

Mrs. Willcox died on March 21, 1866....The following obituary notice appeared in a paper of the day:

"Last Friday, Ivy Mills witnessed a sorrowing spectacle.. The mortal remains of Mrs. Mary B. Willcox were consigned to their last home, to rest there till Judgment Day, beside those of her husband, James M. Willcox, in the old family burying ground. About twenty Clergymen including the Rt. Rev. Bishop, a personal friend of the deceased for more than 20 years, led the procession composed of more than 50 relatives and a vast number of sorrowing friends.

For nearly 50 years had the hospitable mistress of Ivy Mills discharged her duties to God and man. For a long time (during 134 years) the only place where the Catholics of the neighborhood could assemble for the Holy Sacrifice, was a Chapel in the old Willcox mansion, but about 15 years ago, owing to her generous exertions, of St. Thomas was erected, which is now the centre of a flourishing congregation."

The town of Braintree, near Boston, is frequently mentioned in the following pages as the home of many of the Brackett family, and of many persons who have intermarried with it. This town was called Mount Wollaston until it was incorporated as Braintree on May 13, 1640, and was known as Quincy after February 23, 1792.