

Meredith Sue Willis, Author, Papers A&M 4448

Meredith Sue Willis, Author, Papers
ca. 1979-2010



Title Statement

Meredith Sue Willis, Author, Papers A&M 4448

Author: Grace Musgrave

Publication Statement

Publisher: West Virginia and Regional History Center

1549 University Ave.
P.O. Box 6069
Morgantown, WV 26506-6069
Business Number: 304-293-3536
wvrhcref@westvirginia.libanswers.com
URL: <https://wvrhc.lib.wvu.edu>



2019/08/15-2020/02/13

Profile Description

Creation: This finding aid was produced using ArchivesSpace on 2026-06-18 14:01:39 -0400.

Language Usage: English

Descriptive Rules: Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Descriptive Summary

Unit ID

A&M 4448

Unit ID

[Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

[Previous Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID

/repositories/2/resources/6565

Unit Date

ca. 1979-2010

Language

English

Extent

2.5 Linear Feet 2 ft. 6 in. (2 record cartons, 15 in. each)

Physical Location

West Virginia and Regional History Center / West Virginia University / 1549 University Avenue / P.O. Box 6069 / Morgantown, WV 26506-6069 / Phone: 304-293-3536 / URL: West Virginia & Regional History Center

Repository

West Virginia and Regional History Center

Administrative Information

Conditions Governing Access

No special access restriction applies.

Conditions Governing Use

Permission to publish or reproduce is required from the copyright holder. For more information, please see the Permissions and Copyright page on the West Virginia and Regional History Center website.

Preferred Citation

[Description and date of item], [Box/folder number], Meredith Sue Willis, Author, Papers, A&M 4448, West Virginia and Regional History Center, West Virginia University Libraries, Morgantown, West Virginia.

Biographical / Historical

Meredith Sue Willis is a novelist and teacher. She teaches novel writing at New York University's School of Professional Studies. Willis was educated in the public schools of Shinnston, West Virginia, where her father was her science teacher. Her mother was also trained as a teacher, and all four of her aunts and uncles on both sides of the family were teachers.

After attending Bucknell University for two years, MSW spent a year as a Volunteer in Service to America (VISTA) in Norfolk, Virginia. She fictionalized this experience in the second book of her Blair Morgan trilogy, *Only Great Changes* (1985, 1997). After the year in VISTA, she transferred to Barnard College in New York City where she was involved in work against the Vietnam War as a member of the Students for a Democratic Society. She participated in the 1968 Columbia University anti-war sit-ins, fictionalized in *Trespassers* (1997).

She graduated from Barnard College Phi Beta Kappa and Magna Cum Laude. She then took a Master of Fine Arts degree from Columbia University, studying with Anthony Burgess, Lore Segal and others. The most important connection she made during her time at the Columbia School of the Arts was a program formed by Phillip Lopate at P.S. 75 that included Karen Hubert, Terry Mack, and others. This program, through Teachers & Writers Collaborative, was one of the earliest of the arts-in-education organizations. At the end of the 1970s, MSW had her first novel accepted for publication: *A Space Apart* (1979). It was followed by *Higher Ground* (1981, 1996), *Only Great Changes* (1985, 1997), and *Trespassers* (1997).

MSW has continued to work as a writer-in-the-schools through various arts organizations, including Teachers & Writers and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. She has given workshops and keynote addresses to teachers and students from Massachusetts to New York, New Jersey, Texas, and California. Teachers & Writers publishes two of her books about writing and the teaching of writing: *Personal Fiction Writing* (1984; 2000) and *Deep Revision* (1993). Her other books about writing are *Blazing Pencils* (1990, 2013) and *Ten Strategies to Write Your Novel* (2012).

She has also written novels for children and young adults, including *Billie of Fish House Lane*, *The Secret Super Powers of Marco* (1994, 1995, 2001) and *Marco's Monster* (1996, 2001), and *Meli's Way* (2015). Other books include *Oradell at Sea* (2002), a collection of short stories, *Dwight's House and Other Stories* (2004), and a science fiction novel, *The City Built of Starships* (2004). Her recent Appalachian short stories are in *Out of the Mountains* (2010). Other recent books include *Re-Visions: Stories from Stories* (2011), *Love Palace* (2014), and *Their Houses* (2018).

MSW has given many workshops and performances of her writing and won many prizes including fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. She has participated in the Circuit Writers program of the West Virginia Humanities Council and presented at many workshops and conferences.

She received the Literary Award of the West Virginia Library Association and was the 1990 West Virginia Italian Heritage Festival Non-Italian Woman of the Year. In May 2004, she received an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from West Virginia University.

(Adapted from "Biography of Meredith Sue Willis." Meredith Sue Willis Author and Teacher. undated. Accessed February 13, 2020.)

Scope and Contents

Papers and manuscript drafts of Meredith Sue Willis, an author from Clarksburg, West Virginia. Willis is known for her fiction based in West Virginia (notably *Higher Ground* [1981], *Only Great Changes* [1985], and *Trespassers* [1997]) and her non-fiction writing guides.

Includes:

Series 1. Fiction Manuscripts, Drafts, and Other Material (boxes 1-2), 1970-2014

Series 2. Children's Fiction Manuscripts, Drafts, and Other Material (box 2), 1994-1996

Series 3. Non-fiction Manuscripts, Drafts, and Other Material (box 2), 1989-2012

Keywords

Authors, American -- West Virginia

American fiction -- West Virginia

Description of Subordinate Components

Series 1. Fiction Manuscripts, Drafts, and Other Material (boxes 1-2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/98468

Unit Date 1970-2014

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Titles include:

A Space Apart (1979) *Higher Ground* (1981) *Only Great Changes* (1985) *Trespassers* (1997) *Oradell at Sea* (2002) *The City Built of Starships* (2005) *Love Palace* (2014)

"Five Galatians" draft (working title for "A Space Apart")

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115290

Unit Date 1975

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

"Soap Opera" drafts (working title for "A Space Apart")

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115291

Unit Date ca. 1979

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

"A Threefold Cord" draft (working title for "Higher Ground") [Folder 1 of 2]

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115292

Unit Date 1979

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

"A Threefold Cord" draft (working title for "Higher Ground") [Folder 2 of 2]

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115293

Unit Date 1979

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

"South Jenkins" draft (working title for "Only Great Changes")

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115294

Unit Date 1968

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

"South Jenkins: Helping Themselves" thesis-version draft (working title for "Only Great Changes")

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115295

Unit Date June 1972

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

"Helping Themselves" drafts (working title for "Only Great Changes")

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115296

Unit Date 1970

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Maps, plans, and notes for "South Jenkins" (working title for "Only Good Things")

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115297

Unit Date ca. 1970

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 8 (Folder)

"Helping Themselves" Masters of Fine Arts thesis draft (working title for "Only Great Changes")

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115298

Unit Date September 1972

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

"Only Great Changes" draft

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115299

Unit Date 1976-1977

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

"Only Great Changes" draft and other material

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115300

Unit Date ca. 1985

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

Drawings from "Only Great Changes" draft

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115301

Unit Date ca. 1985

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 12 (Folder)

"Love and Chagrin" draft (working title for "Trespassers") [Folder 1 of 2]

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115302

Unit Date 1984

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

"Love and Chagrin" draft (working title for "Trespassers") [Folder 2 of 2]

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115303

Unit Date 1984

Mixed Materials 1 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

"Oradell at Sunset" correspondence with agents and publishers and other material (working title for "Oradell at Sea") [Folder 1 of 2]

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115304

Unit Date 2001-2004

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 1 (Folder)

"Oradell at Sunset" correspondence with agents and publishers and other material (working title for "Oradell at Sea") [Folder 2 of 2]

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115305

Unit Date 1999-2001

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 2 (Folder)

Correspondence with agents and others regarding "Oradell at Sunset" (working title for "Oradell at Sea")

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115306

Unit Date 1988-2004

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 3 (Folder)

"Oradell at Sunset" draft and notes (working title for "Oradell at Sea"

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115307

Unit Date 1998/06/01

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 4 (Folder)

"Mauve City of the Oligarch" draft outtakes

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115308

Unit Date 1988-1989

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 5 (Folder)

"Love Palace" blurb and e-book copies

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115309

Unit Date ca. 2014

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 6 (Folder)

"Out of the Mountains" correspondence and manuscript [Folder 1 of 2]

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115310

Unit Date 2009

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 7 (Folder)

Series 2. Children's Fiction Manuscripts, Drafts, and Other Material (box 2)

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/98469

Unit Date 1994-1996

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Titles include:

The Secret Super Powers of Marco (1994) Marco's Monster (1996) Billie of Fish House Lane (2006)

"Marco's Monster" draft

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115311

Unit Date 1994/10/18

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 9 (Folder)

"Marco's Sister Ritzi Runs Away" partial draft

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115312

Unit Date ca. 1994

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 10 (Folder)

"Marco's Sister Ritzi Runs Away" full draft

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115313

Unit Date ca. 1994

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 11 (Folder)

"Jemma of Fish House Lane" drafts and other material (working title for "Billie of Fish House Lane") [Folder 1 of 2]

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115314

Unit Date 1996-1997

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

"Jemma of Fish House Lane" drafts and other material (working title for "Billie of Fish House Lane") [Folder 2 of 2]

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115315

Unit Date 1996-1997

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 13 (Folder)

Series 3. Non-fiction Manuscripts, Drafts, and Other Material (box 2), 1989-2012

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/98535

Unit Date 1989-2012

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Scope and Contents

Titles include:

Blazing Pencils: A Guide to Writing Fiction and Essays (1990) Ten Strategies to Write Your Novel (2010)

Correspondence regarding "Blazing Pencils: A Guide to Writing Fiction and Essays" and writer participation

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115316

Unit Date 1989

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 14 (Folder)

"Blazing Pencils: A Guide to Writing Fiction and Essays" work copy and other material

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115317

Unit Date 1990, 2012

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 15 (Folder)

"10 Strategies to Write Your Novel" drafts and other material [Folder 1 of 2]

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115318

Unit Date ca. 2009

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 16 (Folder)

"10 Strategies to Write Your Novel" drafts and other material [Folder 2 of 2]

Unit ID [Archival Resource Key](#)

Unit ID /repositories/2/archival_objects/115319

Unit Date ca. 2009

Mixed Materials 2 (Box)

Container 17 (Folder)