



# THE URBANA FREE LIBRARY

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Charles Henry Willard  
Account Books, 1876-1893

Collection 208

## Champaign County Historical Archives

**Compiled by:** Kyle Durango and Sherrie Bowser  
**Creator/Corporate Name:** Charles Henry Willard  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1876-1893, bulk 1876-1879  
**Physical Description:** 1 box, (0.25 linear ft.)  
**Language:** English

### Provenance:

The Charles Henry Willard ledgers were donated to the Champaign County Historical Archives.

### Access:

These records are accessible to the public within applicable copyright restrictions and limited to use at the Champaign County Historical Archives of The Urbana Free Library.

### Harmful Language in Archives:

The Champaign County Historical Archives at The Urbana Free Library is committed to developing inclusive collections that capture the diverse history of our communities. However, some language used in our collections and collection descriptions may be outdated or harmful. Please refer to our statement on [Harmful Language in Archives](#) to learn how we are addressing language concerns in our collections.

### Biographical Note:

Charles Henry Willard (1822-1906) was born in Mississippi and worked on the steamboats sailing from New Orleans to Cincinnati. He settled in Champaign County in 1861 and bought 40 acres in Urbana Township. He slowly expanded his farming business, eventually purchasing a tract of land and laying out the village of Gifford. He erected a grain elevator in Gifford for \$10,000.

Willard was married twice, first to Malinda Smith (c.1829-1865) in Indiana in 1852, and secondly to Ruth Ann Ditto Sampson (1841-1920) in 1866. After retiring from farming, he lived in Urbana at 706 South Market Street.

Charles Henry Willard died March 13, 1906. His funeral was held in Urbana's Universalist Church and two special interurban cars took the funeral party to Mayview Cemetery where he was buried.

### Scope and Content Note:

The collection contains two photocopies of account books belonging to Charles Henry Willard. The books appear to be for the grain elevator in Gifford, Illinois. They date from 1876-1894, with the bulk of the transactions occurring 1876-1879. The photocopies were made in April 1995.

### Arrangement:

The collection is arranged chronologically.



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**Subject Terms:**

Account books  
Gifford (Ill.) – History.  
Grain elevators – Accounting.

**Name Terms:**

Willard, Charles Henry

**Container List**

**Box 1**

Folder 1: Account Book, 1876-1877

[Missing pages: 43-44, 53-54, 57-60]

Folder 2: Account Book, 1878-1893, bulk 1878-1879

[Missing pages: 5-10, 54-55, 58-60, 69-72]