

**Kingston Public Library: Local History Room**  
**Manuscript Collection Finding Aid**  
**May 10, 2001**

**W. Wyeth Willard (1905-1999)**  
**Assorted Papers**  
**Manuscript Collection, MC-12**

1 Box (3 linear inches)

**Biographical sketch:** W. Wyeth Willard was born on July 12, 1905 at Marshfield Hills, Massachusetts. He received a B.A. in 1927 from Brown University, and went on, in 1931, to receive a Masters degree from Princeton Theological Seminary. In the late 1920s he established a summer camp in Forestdale, Massachusetts, Camp Good News, which continues in operation. Willard served, briefly, as pastor of the Federated Church in Kingston, Massachusetts, prior to enlisting as a chaplain during World War II. According to the *Brown Alumni Magazine*, Willard was “credited with serving more consecutive days under constant enemy fire than any chaplain in the history of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps.”

Willard wrote four books, most notably *The Leathernecks Come Through* which chronicles Willard’s personal experiences and observations during the military campaigns at Guadalcanal and Tarawa in 1942 and 1943. Willard’s last pastorate was at the First Presbyterian Church of Waltham, Mass., where he served for 22 years before retiring in 1982. Willard’s obituary appeared in the May/June 2000 issue of the *Brown Alumni Magazine*.

**Scope and Content Note:** This Collection contains an assortment of newsletters and fliers published by or about W. Wyeth Willard, together with newspaper clippings documenting his life and activities, a biographical sketch about Willard titled “Combat Chaplain” which appeared in the November 1980 issue of *Leatherneck Magazine* and a blueprint map of Camp Good News.

**Box and Folder List:**

<b>Box</b>	<b>Folder</b>	<b>Item</b>
1	1	Newsletters (with images) from Willard and from Camp Good News 1964 – 1988); programs (1935 – 1967)
	2	Order forms for <i>The Leathernecks Come Through</i> , by Chaplin W. Wyeth Willard, Lieutenant U .S. Naval Reserve <i>Combat Chaplin</i> , Tom Bartlett. <i>Laetherneck: Magazine of the Marines</i> , November 1980
	3	Newspaper article: <i>Retiring pastor served God, nation, and city well</i> , Art Illman, The News-Tribune, May 4, 1982 Obituary: Grace Willard, The News-Tribune, June 3, 1982 Newspaper article: <i>Faith Willard keeps faith</i> , The News-Tribune, May 5, 1982
	4	Blueprint of Camp Good News
	5	Biographical information from the Brown University web site 2000.

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**Acquisition:** Donated by the Helen Foster estate.

**Access:** Unrestricted

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**Processor:** Archivist Andrew Pollock originally organized this Collection. Archivist Carrie Elliott reworked the finding aid in March 2004.