

University of Memphis

## University of Memphis Digital Commons

---

Special Collections Finding Aids

Special Collections

---

11-4-2021

### MSS0272. J.G. Taylor collection finding aid

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.memphis.edu/speccoll-findingaids>

---

#### Recommended Citation

"MSS0272. J.G. Taylor collection finding aid" (2021). *Special Collections Finding Aids*. 164.  
<https://digitalcommons.memphis.edu/speccoll-findingaids/164>

This Finding Aid is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections at University of Memphis Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Special Collections Finding Aids by an authorized administrator of University of Memphis Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [khggerty@memphis.edu](mailto:khggerty@memphis.edu).

**University of Memphis Libraries  
Special Collections Department**

126 Ned R. McWhorter Library  
Memphis, TN 38152 - 3250  
Phone: (901) 678 - 2210  
E-mail: lib\_sc@memphis.edu

**J.G. Taylor collection**

**Title:** J.G. Taylor collection  
**Collection No:** MSS.272  
**Extent:** 0.5 cubic feet  
**Inclusive Dates:** 1975-1987

**Abstract:** The collection comprises letters between John Gray Taylor and his boyhood friend, John Flowers Taylor, reminiscing about Tipton County, Tennessee.

**Donor:** Joe Gray Taylor, Lake Charles, La., 1987.  
**Processed by:** Ed Frank, 1988; Gerald Chaudron, 2019  
**Access:** Open to all researchers.  
**Language:** English  
**Preferred Citation:** J.G. Taylor collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

**Publication date:** 2019 October

---

## **Biographical information**

Joe Gray Taylor and John Flowers Taylor (no relation) were neighbors and boyhood friends in Tipton County, Tennessee in the 1920s and 1930s.

Joe Gray Taylor was born on February 14, 1920, the son of Bassil Gray Taylor and Lennie Fee Shinault. He finished high school in Tipton County and became a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse on Island 37 in the Mississippi River. He joined the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1942 and served as bombardier-navigator in the China-Burma-India Theater. He earned a Bachelor of Science from Memphis State College in 1947 and MA and PhD degrees in history from Louisiana State University. A respected scholar, he was head of the History Department at McNeese State University in Lake Charles, Louisiana, and from 1983 until his death on December 8, 1987, he was the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences there.

John Flowers Taylor dropped out of high school in the late 1930s and joined the U.S. Marine Corps. He had assignments in the United States, participated in maneuvers in the Caribbean, and then served in Shanghai, China. The Japanese offensive of December 1941 found him in the Philippines. He was involved in the defense of Corregidor and spent the rest of the war in Japanese prisoner of war camps. He stayed in the Marines after the war, serving in Korea and the U.S. until he retired in 1960 with the rank of sergeant. He then worked for the City of San Diego Parks and Recreation Department for some years.

---

## **Scope and contents**

The correspondence includes the original letters of John Flowers Taylor and the copies of letters written by Joe Gray Taylor. The letters are their reminiscences of Tipton County, including the communities of Covington, Atoka, Braden, and Mason Depot in the 1920s and 1930s. The topics covered include race relations, attitudes toward the Civil War, economic conditions, education in rural/small town West Tennessee and the wartime experiences of both men.

---

## **Subject terms**

Taylor, Joe Gray, 1920-1987.  
Taylor, John Flowers.  
Tipton County (Tenn.)

---

## **Related materials**

Joe Gray Taylor Papers, Frazar Memorial Library, McNeese State University, Lake Charles, La.

---

## Inventory

### Box 1

#### Folder

1 Letter: Joe Gray Taylor to Memphis State University, 1986; J.G. Taylor curriculum vitae and obituary, 1987.

Correspondence: J.G. Taylor to J.F. Taylor:

2 1975, 1984.

3 1985.

4 1986.

5 1987.

Correspondence: J.F. Taylor to J.G. Taylor:

6 1984 January-June.

7 1984 July-November.

8 1985.

9 1986.

10 1987.