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Charles P. Simonton family papers

Title: Charles P. Simonton family papers
Collection No: MSS.67
Extent: 8 cubic feet
Inclusive Dates: 1856-1974

Abstract: The collection contains the papers of Charles P. Simonton (1871-1961) and members of his family who lived in Tipton County, Tennessee.

Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Charles P. Simonton family papers, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis

Publication date: 2022 March
Biographical information

Charles Pressley Simonton was born November 14, 1871, in Covington, Tipton County, Tennessee. He was the son of Charles Bryson (1838-1911) and Mary Andros McDill Simonton (1845-1918). His father served in Company C of the 9th Tennessee Infantry during the Civil War until he was invalided out after the Battle of Perryville. Charles B. later became a lawyer and active in the community, serving as a clerk of the Tipton County circuit court, and as a state representative and a U.S. Congressman. Charles Pressley’s siblings included Anna (1868-1949), Ella (1869-1961), William McDill (1871-1928) and Nannie May (1874-1960). He attended Tipton Male Academy and Byars-Hall High School. He went on to graduate in stenography from Watson’s Business College in Memphis, Tennessee, in 1896. On April 23, 1913, Charles married Lucile Ing Pennel (1887-1970), who was the daughter of George Washington (1851-1906) and Cora Ing (1867-1949) Pennel. George Pennel was his predecessor as Tipton County Clerk. Lucile Pennel was the first female deputy county clerk in the state after Charles secured passage of legislation in the Tennessee Legislature. Charles and Lucile had a daughter, Mary Pennel (1917-2014), who later married Henry Lewis Boothe (1918-2006).

Charles P. Simonton began working as a dry goods and drug clerk and then served as Tipton County Clerk from 1906 to 1922. He served as a Colonel on the staff of Governor Malcolm Patterson from 1907 to 1911. He was also in the Tennessee National Guard from 1903. He volunteered for active service in World War I but was rejected because of a physical disability. Simonton was active in the Democratic Party and a delegate to the Democratic conventions of 1904 and 1912. He served as a member and secretary of the party’s 10th congressional district executive committee. He was elected to the Tennessee state senate and served in the 64th Tennessee General Assembly from 1925 to 1927. He was a noted writer and poet, and a correspondent to the Memphis Commercial Appeal and Nashville Banner. He also composed music and wrote the campaign song, “Roosevelt for Four Years More!” in 1939. Charles Simonton died in Memphis on March 23, 1961, and is interred at Munford Cemetery, Covington, Tennessee.

Scope and contents

For many years Charles P. Simonton was county clerk of Tipton County, Tennessee, and very active in the local Democratic Party. Most of his papers pertain to these activities but there are also documents concerning his family’s church activities, schools, cultural events and other ephemera. He was a senator in the Tennessee General Assembly from 1925 to 1927 but the only papers from this period reflect his membership on the investigating committee of the Senate which looked into the purchase of the University of Tennessee medical campus in Memphis.
Pre-1900 items in the collection probably came from Charles’ father, Charles Bryson Simonton. There is one folder of material from Charles’ sister Anna.

**Processing Information**

The collection was donated by Charles P. Simonton’s daughter between 1971 and 1993. It was arranged and processed in 1991 when many of the published materials were separated to the Special Collections’ book collection, Sheet music collection and Periodical collection. In 2022, the collection was reprocessed to incorporate some post-1991 items and to preserve many of the documents. A binder with pockets that had contained newspaper clippings was discarded in Box 7 (the clippings had previously been placed in envelopes).

**Subject terms**

Covington (Tenn.)
Democrat Party—Tennessee.
Tennessee politics.
Tipton County (Tenn.)
World War, 1914-1918—United States.
World War, 1939-1945—United States.

**Inventory**

**Box 1**

Folder

1 Business papers, 1856-1875.
   Includes: Response to Rev. E.C. Wines, New York Prison Association, on condition of Covington jail, 1869; tax receipts; land tax case, 1871; Act to amend Chapter 18, Tennessee General Assembly.

2 Business papers, 1880-1887.
   Railway passes; Robert F. Dickson land deed, 1881; receipts; promissory note for $25 from George W. Winchester on U.S. House of Representatives stationery, 1882 July 17.

2a Typescript report on conduct of General George Steuart's Brigade, May 5-12, 1864, by S.D. Thurston, 1885.

2b N.H. Murphy land deeds, 1887-1897.

3 Business papers, 1890-1896.
   N.H. Murphy buys patent for ice making machine, 1890 May 28; wedding invitation, Blanker-Leslie, Covington, 1892; first page of letter to “Monkey” from Waverly, Tenn.,
1896 written on verso of program for an elocutionary recital by Mrs. Elsie Malone McCollum.

4 Papers, 1900-1903.
Draft letter to county clerks regarding education funds from Merchants' Privilege tax, 1900 September 19; Tipton County Democratic Executive Committee minutes, 1902 February 15; Land deed: J.W. Lynn, 1902 February 5; Land deed: D.R. Pitman, 1902 May 6; form letter on James Byars monument, 1903 January 12, Tipton County Pest House accounts with Enterprise Company Grocery Department, Covington, 1903.

OS3 Plat: Land holdings between Wolf River and New Randolph Road (now North Seventh Street), Memphis, 1903. Includes: Wisconsin Hoop Company’s Yard, Anderson-Tully Lumber Yard, Bennett Lumber Yard. “Mrs. Gertrude W. McMahon, Covington, Tenn.” is noted on plat.

4a Covington Cotton Oil Company, 1893-1908.
Receipts; charter of incorporation for company, 1902 May 8; contract for machinery, 1902 May 8; specification from F.A. Millard, Burlington, Iowa, for Sioux Corliss engine for Covington Cotton Oil Company (N.H. Murphy), 1897 July 29; business licenses to Covington Cotton Oil Company to run a cotton seed oil mill, 1898-1899.

5 Papers, 1904-1905.
Receipt for National Guard uniform, laundry bills, 1905; resolution of Tipton County Democratic Executive Committee, 1904 March 28; list of delegates to senatorial convention including C.P. Simonton, Memphis, 1904 May 16; form letter from State Democratic Executive Committee re: voting patterns, 1904 September 17; telegram to C.P. Simonton from Nashville Democratic Party headquarters regarding Republicans getting large number of votes in East Tennessee and Blacks voting in Middle Tennessee, "get your vote out", 1904 November 8.

6 Papers, 1906.
Letter from S.J. Everett, mimeographed, asking for support in 16th Judicial Circuit Judgeship election, 1906 January 2; rules governing 16th Circuit Judicial primary election, tally of votes for judicial primary, 1906 February 1; documents relating to August 2 election including tally of votes for Democratic Congressional primary, Tipton County; Circuit Court case, J.J. Green vs. C.E. Tipton et al.; campaign literature from state Democratic Executive committee, 1906 September 20, M.R. Patterson and ‘The Tariff Question” and “The Negro Question”, both speeches delivered in U.S. Congress.

7 Phoenix Cotton Oil Company, 1907-1915.
Abstract of the special inspector's report (fire insurance) on Phoenix Cotton Oil Company, Covington with diagram of the plant, 1907 January 10; tax receipts; correspondence from Phoenix Cotton Oil Company, Memphis, to N.H. Murphy (shareholder), Covington, on Covington plant they have bought; Specifications of Murray Iron Works Co., Burlington, Iowa, to Phoenix Cotton Oil Co. on Corliss engine, 1909 April 29.

8 Papers, 1907-1908.
"Some facts for those who are long of cotton," from Theodore H. Price, about cotton prices, 1907 September 7; 1907 petition to Railroad Commission, Nashville, on freight rates; ; Beethoven Club membership ticket for C.P. Simonton; Phoenix Cotton Oil
Company license for seed oil mill; Tipton County tax receipts; form letter from Knights of Pythias encouraging representation at Boston convention, 1908 March 16; D.L. Lansden to Simonton asking him for support in Supreme Court election, 1908 March 30; J.D.G. Morton to Simonton supporting candidacy of B.D. Bell for Supreme Court, 1908 June 11; list of white Democratic voters in Tipton County qualified as delegates to State Democratic Convention (includes Simonton), 1908 June 15; W.V. Bringle, mayor of Covington, form letter about his candidacy for re-election, 1908 August 6; Democratic Campaign Songbook by Fred T. Loftin, with correspondence; Tipton County gubernatorial convention report; Simonton's report on municipal primary election, November 25, 1908; Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph Company refuses additional telephone Simonton requested, 1908 December 21; Simonton's pledge of $1 to Democratic Party.

Papers, 1909-1911.

Tipton County license to Joseph Hasson to peddle on foot, 1909 January 25; notes on Democratic Executive Committee meeting at Covington Courthouse regarding voters, 1909 July 17, notes on verso dated November 17, 1911, on the same subject; personal receipts; letter to John Trotwood Moore (incomplete) from Simonton on poems for magazine, 1909 December 25; poem: “Soliloquy of Sunny Jim” (Vice-President Sherman) by Simonton, 1910 March 12, election returns, Tipton County, 1910 August 12; form letter from Joe J. Roach on bill in Senate re: payment of clerks, 1911 March 8.

Papers, 1912.

Urey Woodson to Robert Crain, Democratic National Convention Committee, on Baltimore hotel rates during national convention, 1912 March 19; J.D.G. Morton to Simonton re: endorsement of Morton as committee chairman, 1912 May 17; correspondence re: county clerks erroneously sending school funds raised by Merchants' Privilege Tax to the State Treasurer since 1899 Mr. Brister, Superintendent of Public Education is suing the city over it; for letter from Railway Business Association asking recipients to support plank in Democratic National Party platform on regulations of rates, 1912 June 11; Simonton to editor of Munsey’s Magazine, New York, re: poem, "A Defense of Mother Eve and Her Daughters", 1912, September 20; copy of petition to Covington's mayor and aldermen to change Sycamore Street to College Street, 1912 September 30; National Independent Political League (formerly National Negro-American Political League) circular endorsing Woodrow Wilson, 1912 October 22; instructions from Nashville Banner about reporting election returns to newspaper, 1912 November 1; hand painted basket invitation, Grady Club, 1894-1912.

Papers, 1913.

Land conveyance to C.P. Simonton from Jennie Cole, 1913 January 3; letter from John F. Costello, Democratic National Committee, on presidential inaugural reviewing stand seats, includes slip on Suffrage Procession, 1913 February 4; description of dedication of Covington’s 1st Baptist Church, 1913 May 8; statement of Covington's corporate finances, 1913 June 12; Obituary: Belle Boyd Baptist, 1913 July 2; list of Tipton County magistrates, 1913 July; C.P. Simonton announces his candidacy for re-election as County Court Clerk. "The Covington Leader's Unofficial Table of the Recent County election," 1913 August 30, lists voting places and votes each candidate received; report for
Commercial Appeal on Tipton County Democratic primary, 1913 August 30; Tipton County deputy sheriff’s bond, re: R.V. Downing, 1913 November 4.

12 Papers, 1914. Receipts; H.P. Cotton & Company re: washing machine, 1914 January 24; U.S. Congressman Kenneth McKellar to Simonton re: Munford post office, 1914 May 4; Nashville Banner re: instructions given to state officers for state conventions, 1914 May 6; Report on Tipton County delegates to State Democratic Gubernatorial convention, 1914 May 16; M.A. Webb notifies candidacy for Democratic Congressional Committeeman, 1914 May 18; Stuart Towe for George N. Welch, candidate for Railroad Commissioner. Towe wants a list of Tipton County delegates to the state convention for Welch's campaign use, 1914 June 2; letter from Small-Grain Distilling Company, Louisville, Ky., "If Brother Hobson's Nation-wide amendment carries it means this business is headed for the damnition bow-wows.", 1914 June 24; Correspondence relating to County Court Clerk's office.

13 Papers, 1915. Receipts; marriage license: John Ramsey Hendrick and Ougharetta Wilkes, 1915 February 18; menu from American Fish, Game and Oyster Company, New Orleans, La., 1915 April 14; Knights of Pythias and Order of Odd Fellows membership receipts; receipts from Western Hospital for the Insane, Bolivar, Tenn.; license to J.C. O'Brien Georgia Minstrels to give travelling theater performances, 1915 July 13; Engineering Record, Chicago, offers to advertise nationally for contractors to build Big Hatchie River Bridge, 1915 August 9; correspondence from M.R. Patterson's U.S. Senate campaign, manager, 1915 September; letter and campaign button from Luke Lea, running for re-election to Senate, 1915 November 11; re: reception for K.D. McKellar at Lindo Hotel, Covington, 1915 November 13; Dr. F.W. Willard, Chicago, dental advertising letter, 1915; correspondence pertaining to County Clerk's duties such as letters from Tennessee Fish and Game Department on fishing licenses; The Commercial Appeal re: third cotton crop report, 1915 June 16.


14 Papers, 1916. Receipts; cards from Comptroller's Office re: revenue reports of Tipton County Clerk; Tennessee Workshop for the Blind, Memphis, President Thomas B. King notifies committee of his U.S. Congress candidacy, 1916 March 21; Resolution of Tipton County Court to issue bonds to build Hatchie River Bridge; wedding invitation: William L. Walker and Zetta Roberts, 1916 June 20; report on Larimer and Burgett Company of Memphis contract to build bridge over Big Hatchie River (incomplete), 1916 June 27; correspondence relating to County Clerk's office; B.P.O. Elk's Picnic, 1916 August 24; cost estimates from Larimer and Burgett Bridge Company and L.M. Weathers Co., Architects, on Hatchie River Bridge, 1916 December; dues notice, Covington Reelfoot Club.

15 Tipton County vote count by candidates and polling places, 1916.

16 Papers, 1917. Receipts; marriage licenses: Will Smith and Anna Edwin, 1917 January 4, Will Reynolds and Lizzie Maddox, 1917 February 7; correspondence relating to County Clerk's office;
Covington Business Men's Club card; 1st Presbyterian Church, Covington, re: Carnegie Church Organ fund, 1917 March 26; List of fees for W.L. Mason et al., vs. Alma Mason, et. al, 1917; West Tennessee Constitutional Convention League re: Constitutional Convention, 1917 June 1; Tennessee Treasury Department re: State Highway Fund, 1917 June 13; October 19, 1917, land conveyance, W.H. Billings and John Y. Peete., 1917 Oct. 15; report on Bishop Thomas Gailor speaking at 1st Methodist Church, Covington, on World War I, 1917 October 22; 1917, blank registration certificate; Directory of the Memphis Conference, Covington, 1917 November 11.


17 Papers, 1918 January-July.
War bonds: Treasury Department, St. Louis, Mo., “Tennessee Legion” “…this contest is to be decided on number of subscriptions as well as amounts. The fellow who captures the Kaiser is going to get a lot of subscribers and a lot of money.”, 1918 April 24; War-Savings certificate blank; Questionnaire for draft registration (two editions); correspondence from State Game and Fish Department; automobile laws from Department of Highways, 1918 February 15; receipts; receipt from Tennessee Anti-Tuberculosis Association; Belgian Soldiers' Tobacco Fund, administered by Over-seas Club, 1918 February; exemption from Selective Service Act, Franklin County, Mississippi, 1918 March 27; Board of Education re: money needed to run the rural schools of this county for next school year, 1918 March: article on Tipton County candidates for Democratic Primary Election who qualified, 1918 April 15; George R. Ellis announces candidacy for Election Commission, 1918 April 30; Obituary: Joseph W. Simonton, 1918 May 7; obituary: Otha Elam, 1918 July 31; A.H. Roberts for Governor campaign letter 1918 July 30; Commercial Appeal instruction to correspondents about new cotton crop, 1918 July 31; Elks Lodge membership, 1918 April 1; form letter urging support for re-election of Senator John K. Shields, 1918 July 2?

18 Papers, 1918 August-September.
Poem by Simonton, "Lieutenant Quentin Roosevelt", 1918 August 8, sent to St. Louis Post-Dispatch; press reports on the shooting of C.C. Hill, and on the number of young men in Tipton County registered at the local exemption board, 1918 August 24; receipts; account of J.A. Peeler, trustee of County, 1918 August 31; copy of letter to Senator McKellar on Selective Draft Act, 1918 August 26. Simonton suggests changes, and McKellar’s reply, 1918 August 31; "I never hated to vote for a measure more in my life than I did to send the eighteen year old boys."; correspondence of Clerk's Office, including September 4 letter from Bureau of Mines on explosives regulation and from the Department of Game and Fish. Simonton appointed to Tipton County General Committee for 4th Liberty Loan, 1918 September 7; letter from West Tennessee State Normal School, Andrew Kincannon, president, to the County Clerk re: circulars "giving information to draftees about entering school." 1918 September 10. Includes poem on reverse of circular: "My Symphony" by C.P. Simonton, 1918 September 30.

18a Tipton County vote count by candidates and polling places, 1918 August 1.

19 Papers, 1918 October-December.
Receipts; Tipton County receipt for road work, 1918 October 24; "The President's Appeal to You," Wilson asking for Democratic majority in Congress. 1918 October 25; poem by Simonton: "Light of the World," dedicated to Woodrow Wilson, “the Father of World Peace and Democracy.”, 1918 November 8; Copy letter: Simonton to editor of Stars and
Stripes, Paris, 1918 November 20, about sending his "Armageddon" and other poems for publication. Verso, copy letter to editor of Le Temps, Paris, 1918 November 20, submitting poems. "As President Wilson will visit France in the near future, possibly the enclosed verses may be of some interest to you."; Submission to L'Humanite, Paris, 1918 December; County Clerk's correspondence, from U.S. Bureau of Mines on explosives regulation; financial account of Tipton County Democratic Primary Board, 1918 December 7; Simonton to U.S. Senator John Sharp Williams, "Woman's suffrage is undoubtedly going to be a reality in the near future and I hope the Democratic party in Congress will get the credit for passing a woman's suffrage bill...." 1918 December 10; Williams’ reply "...I cannot see my way clear yet, even if I shall later do so, to vote for woman's suffrage, no matter what the political consequences of not voting for it may be.” 1918 December 13; Simonton to Joseph Tumulty, Secretary to the President, 1918 December 14. He wants Tumulty to check the aggregate voting figures to prove that the Democratic Party and Wilson received a majority of the popular vote. Simonton refers to a statement by Columbia University President Nicholas Murray Butler "alleging that President Wilson does not represent American sentiment."; Simonton to U.S. Congressman Hubert F. Fisher, 1918 December 18, on the popular vote count during the Congressional elections. "If you could secure these figures, and they showed that the Democrats secured the popular vote, IT WOULD SHOW THAT A MAJORITY OF THE PEOPLE BY VOTING THE DEMOCRATIC TICKET DID ENDORSE PRESIDENT WILSON,..."; blank pledge card, Second Red Cross War Fund; blank exemption form for Tipton County; Department of Highways sends 1919 license plates, 1918 December 6.

Papers, 1919 January-March.
Covington Business Men's Club card; Receipts; Simonton to Congressman Hubert Fisher about the aggregate vote count, 1919 January 2; editor of Chicago Herald and Examiner re: Hitchcock, 1919 January 14, and further letter, 1919 January 29; Simonton to Senator John F. Shafroth, "Possibly the enclosed original verses answer one of the principal objections to granting suffrage to woman."., includes poem, "Rule of Equal Suffrage", 1919 February 7; 1st Presbyterian Church, Covington, re: Canvass Sunday, 1919 March 3.

Papers, 1919 April-May.
Simonton sends poem "The Cross of Liberty and Peace" to Senator McKellar, 1919 April 4; County business; appointment of John P. Boshers as deputy sheriff, 1919 April 29; form letter asking for money from the Presbyterian Church, Covington, 1919 May 10; article on Covington Grammar School graduation ceremonies at Byars-Hall school, 1919 May 16; McKellar to Simonton, “Apparently we have the votes to pass the original amendment and I believe that it is the only way that it can be passed now.”, 1919 May 19; Senator John K. Shields to Simonton, "I have heretofore consistently opposed all federal interference with the suffrage question, believing it was one wisely left to the States...” 1919 May 27.

Correspondence: Sue S. White, National Woman’s Party, 1919.
Form letters from Sue S. White, National Woman's Party, Tennessee Branch, 1919 February 1, May 3; Simonton to White, 1919 May 6. Sends poem and subscribes to The
"Suffragist. "I think they [verses] are quite apropos in view of the fight soon to be made in Congress for the submission of the equal suffrage amendment and will perhaps do some missionary work in the advancement of the cause." Poem “Rule of Equal Suffrage” on verso; White to Simonton, 1919 May 14. "You can say to any one who is interested that all this talk about Senator Harris ' vote being unnecessary at the time it was pledged is all bosh." She asks him to write to Senators McKellar and Shields to get the Democrats to caucus on the cause; Simonton to White, 1919 May 17. Notes importance of Harris pledge in prompting other senators to support the amendment. "Before receiving your letter, I had written to Senator McKellar, who is my warm personal and political friend, along the lines you suggested."

Papers, 1919 June-July.

Simonton to Senator John K. Shields, re: draft of women's suffrage amendment, 1919 June 1; report on funeral of Sheriff James Beaver, 1919 June 4; Western State Hospital, receipt of a patient Luvina Stimpson, 1919 June 10; County Clerk's correspondence; letter from Governor A.H. Roberts on Dr. Neely's petition, 1919 July 7; report on Tipton County Quarterly Court 1919 July 7; letter from Senator McKellar thanking Simonton for a poem on the League of Nations 1919 July 23; several reports to the Commercial Appeal on baseball games.

Papers, 1919 August-September.

Receipts; correspondence relating to the County Clerk's office, including auto tax collection, correspondence from an investment company about municipal bonds; news stories, mainly on sports; letter from Senator McKellar enclosing an August 28 letter to McKellar from Brice Clagett, assistant to the Director General of Railroads, Washington, D.C., re: Simonton's letter noting "complaints that honorably discharged soldiers have not been given positions with a railroad company in Tennessee as lucrative as those which they held prior to their entry into military service.", 1919 September 3; report for Commercial Appeal on charge of aggravated assault by Jack Black near Gilt Edge, 1919 September 3; Tipton County election returns on holding a new constitutional convention (351 for, 283 against), 1919 September 4; report for Commercial Appeal on a Tipton County Quarterly Court resolution to issue $155,000 highway bonds, 1919 September 8; lettergram from C.J. Mooney, vice-chairman, Memphis, inviting Simonton to a state conference to establish a memorial to the late Theodore Roosevelt, 1919 September 9.

Papers, 1919 October-December.

Personal receipts; County Clerk correspondence on hunting licenses; resolution of Republican Executive Committee of Tipton County to endorse the nomination of B.W. Hooper for governor and other candidates, 1919 October 5; Simonton contributes $25.50 to Roosevelt Memorial Fund. 1919 November 28; report on Dr. R.P. Walker leaving First Presbyterian Church 1919 December 14; from Democratic National Committee, poem on Christmas, politics and donating to the party, 1919 December 20; Simonton to editor of Life submitting poem "The Modern Sphinx" on the U.S. Senate fight over the World War I peace treaty and the League of Nations, 1919 December 20; form letter from Anti-Saloon League of America, 1919 December 23. Simonton made a pledge of $20 in 1917; news story on purchase of Tipton Cotton Mills, 1919 December 24; news story about fire on Public Square, 1919 December 25; returned poem, "High Cost of Dying" by Simonton, 1919 December 26; list of 30 men released from road duty for 1919.

Papers, 1920 January.
Receipts; poem, "John Barleycorn" celebrating prohibition; news story on Dr. R.P. Walker who resigned as pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Covington, moved to Lewisburg, 1920 January 11; editor of New York Sun rejects Simonton’s account of a goat attending a wedding, 1920 January 12; E.A. Kellogg, Tennessee Society in New York to Simonton, requests information whether Alvin York is under contract to George N. Welch or anyone in the state, deplored the idea, 1920 January 14; pencil cartoon of Simonton at his clerk’s desk as a newspaper correspondent by Sailor. Refers to League of Nations, 1920 January 16; story on Colonel M.A. Walker’s appointment by Governor Roberts (copy of telegram included) as chair of a Tipton County campaign to raise $900 for a testimonial for crew of new battleship “Tennessee”, 1920 January 31.

Papers, 1920 February-March.

Receipts; Simonton to Senator John Sharp Williams, sends verses on League of Nations, "Soliloquy of Miss League of Nations of League Reservations" with references to Henry Cabot Lodge, and other "radical reservationists", 1920 February 2; Simonton to Senator McKellar on League of Nations (incomplete copy), "I am glad that you are not a member of the ‘Motherhubbards’ of which order, Senator Lodge is the Grand High Priestess", 1920 February 5; editorials on Governor Robert's campaign and taxes, 1920 February; note from President Wilson’s secretary thanking Simonton for enclosure (possibly poem?), 1920 February 24; Republican State Campaign Committee requests Simonton as Clerk to mark supplied names as Democrat or Republican, 1920 March 8; Simonton to Governor Roberts (incomplete copy), 1920 March 29. Simonton suggests that governor call extra session of legislature on poll tax and he suggests ways to collect poll tax from women as a means to prevent black women from voting but enable white women who wish to vote.

Papers, 1920 March-May.

Receipts; application for license by J.T. Fargason Grocery Company to do business, 1920 March 3; other correspondence relating to office of County Clerk such as Department of Game and Fish; Harris Trust and Savings Bank, Chicago, enquires about the bridge bond issue, 1920 April 13; story on Covington meeting opposed to high cost of street paving, 1920 April 22; Governor A.H. Roberts’ campaign headquarters requests list of delegates appointed at a Covington mass meeting/convention, 1920 May 17; letter supporting George N. Welch’s re-election as Railroad Commissioner, 1920 May 17.

Papers, 1920 June-July.

Poem "Remember me among my flowers," sent to Mr. MacBeath with corrections. 1920 June 2; Receipts; news stories on gubernatorial candidate Elmer L. Wirt's speech in Covington and the funeral of servicemen James Robert Hindman who died of influenza in France, 1920 June 10; contract to stage July 16 an amateur theatrical production of "The Mirobe of Love" "under auspices of Sophia Malone Missionary Society", 1920 June 10; obituary: Dr. James R. Sanford, 1920 June 21; J.N. Fisher, campaign manager of Governor A.H. Roberts, agrees with Simonton’s suggestion of an exemption of ex-servicemen from paying road duty and poll tax and has passed it on to Roberts, 1920 July 21; Voters in Lauderdale County request William Shoaf as a candidate for unexpired term of joint representative in General Assembly, 1920 July 26; J.N. Fisher to Simonton on W.R. Crabtree's assessment "but the Assessor and Equalization Board both of
Hamilton county being Republican in politics I understand have delayed the tax matter all that is possible and are not co-operating with the State Board in any way.", 1920 July 26; news story on Nat A.Tipton-Sarah K. Pennel wedding, 1920 July 28.

Papers, 1920 August-December.
Receipts; correspondence pertaining to County Clerk's office; marriage licenses: Warner J. Dunn and Lizzie Nason, 1920 September 4, Lester Simpson and Lena Northcutt, 1920 September 11; Henry Clews and Co., Bankers, New York, report on "The Cotton Situation" 1920 August 21; from the Wall Street Journal, "Review and Outlook. What are a Candidate’s Immunities", 1920 August 25; State Board of Equalization on tax assessment for Tipton County, 1920 September 29; statement on Tipton County highway bonds held by Union Savings Bank to County Judge John Y. Peete, 1920 October 1; form letter from Tipton County Democratic Campaign Committee, warns of the black vote cultivated by the Republican candidate for governor. "Vote for the protection of your women, your children and our Beloved South land.", 1920 October 26; Democratic National Committee letter to Simonton, "And I am asking you, Mr. Simonton, to stay with us right up to the last minute. Collect every dollar you can and get it to us ...." 1920 October 30; Anti-Saloon League of America, Secretary of Committee on Financial Management letter asking why there have been no further donations since the initial 1917 subscription, 1920 December 27; blank card to subscribe to Tri-State Hotel Building Company, Memphis.

Papers, 1921.
Receipts; papers pertaining to County Clerk's office; H.C. Evans appointed guardian of Dell Gwinn Evans, 1921 February 4; land sales contract between First Presbyterian Church of Covington and Church of Christ, Covington, 1921 March 11; resolutions passed by county Democratic Executive Committee, 1921 June 25

Papers, 1922.
Land sale contact, S.B. and Lena Wagner to R.W. Sanford and W.A. Barret, 1922 August 3; Senator McKellar to Simonton, sends copy of Cordell Hull's letter regarding the collection of women Democrats' poll taxes to enable their vote. McKellar asks about his candidacy in Tipton County and the Patterson vote, 1922 May 3; Simonton to County Clerks of Henry and Henderson Counties asking for list of members of the Quarterly County Courts with their political affiliations, 1922 June; news story on shooting of Mrs. Lee Rankin Elzey by husband, 1922 June 13; “The Perils of Paternalism” by A.O. Stanley of Kentucky, 1922 January 12; W.W. Craig, candidate for Democratic nomination for Congress, issues public letter to Democratic voters in 9th Congressional District; Receipts; uncompleted land sale contract between Anna Roane Carey and an unidentified party of Greene County, Missouri; re; land in Springfield, Mo., 1922 April.

Papers, 1923.
Jewish Christian Association seeks funds for a memorial for Rev. Aaron A. Lichtenstein. 1923 September 15; receipts; William McClanahan, secretary, to Simonton on meeting to consider selling the Elks home on East Liberty St., Covington, 1923 October 10; U.S. Department of Agriculture Bureau of Entomology questionnaire on methods of boll weevil poisoning, 1923 October 14; Simonton to Commercial Appeal editor on needed changes to a story on wedding of John L. Johnson and Mrs. Nell Ebersole he has
submitted 1923 October 18; statement of the condition of Tipton County-Farmers Union Bank, 1923 November 10; Joseph G. Ciprian, pipe organ builder, Paducah, Ky. to Simonton, will be in Covington in early January to look at problem with organ. "In the meantime I don't think it right for anybody to fool or experiment with the organ." 1923 December 26.

Major M.A. Walker sells M.A. Walker and Company including Covington Milling Co., 1924 January 15; First Presbyterian Church, Covington, announces fund raising campaign, 1924 March 14; obituary Henry R. Rose, 1924 March 30; bill and advertisement about fur storage, J. Summerfield, Memphis, 1924 April 24; receipts; subscription renewal request from Christian Observer, Louisville, Ky., 1924 May 1; story for Nashville Banner, Commercial Appeal on Tipton County Democratic primary vote count, 1924, May 10; Judge Nathan Bachman, candidate for US Senate, campaign to Simonton, "Of course, we regret very much your inability to manage Judge Bachman's campaign in Tipton County.", 1924 May 15; Democratic National Committee to Simonton about the collection of dues from members of the party’s Victory Club for 1924, 1924 May 16; Cordell Hull, chairman, Democratic National Committee, to Simonton on increasing membership of Victory for Club, 1924 May 21; story on Rev. L.G. Hickman’s revival service in Covington, 1924 May 24.

Receipts; notice of directors' meeting, Tipton County Farmers Union Bank, June 10, 1924; R.E. Maiden, Dresden, Tenn., to Simonton in support of Nathan Bachman's campaign for the U.S. Senate, 1924 June 10; Simonton to David L. Rockwell, William McAdoo's campaign manager with advice on convention tactics; 1924 June 21; campaign letter and pamphlet supporting Nathan Bachman for Senate, 1924 August 7; Will A. Mathes, candidate for assistant clerk of the state Senate, asks for Simonton's support, 1924 August 30; filled out form for report on crops to Commercial Appeal Cotton Department, 1924 September; story re: General Harvey Hannah to speak at Covington Court House on October 16, 1924 October 15; Simonton to Jere L. Cooper, vice-chairman of State Democratic Executive Committee re: ballots that should be printed by Democratic printers of newspapers, "for otherwise, it would be very easy for some of the ballots to fall into the hands of some of our Republican friends (?) prior to the election, and they could be used in training schools to teach illiterate Republicans how to mark their ballots, etc.", 1924 October 15; Ernest Haston, State Democratic Executive Committee, to Simonton, re: Democratic presidential candidate John W. Davis Reception Committee, 1924 October 16; list of honor pupils at Byars-Hall High School 1923-1924; Red Cross membership card.

Draft income tax return on estate of N.H. Murphy.

OS2  "School Money: The Comptroller’s Semi-Annual Apportionment, Edgar J.
Graham, Comptroller, 1924 July 1; 1925 January 1.

State Senate, 1925.

O.W. Hyman, University of Tennessee, Memphis, to Simonton, re: statement about "why we think the University of Tennessee should have the appropriation included in Governor Peay's administration program.,” 1925 March 7; Majority Report, University Investigating Committee, Tennessee Assembly, 1925 March 19; Alumni Catechism; Majority Report, University of Tennessee Investigating Committee, 1925 March; Minority and Majority Reports, University of Tennessee Investigating Committee. Simonton was member of the committee.

Box 6

1 Investigation by Special Legislative Committee of the affairs of the University of Tennessee, 1925. Session at Memphis, Tenn., 1925 March 2-4. Report of Proceedings.
2 Stenographer's Report of Legislative Investigations of University of Tennessee, provided for by House Resolution No. 10 of the 64th General Assembly. Hearing at Farragut Hotel, Knoxville, Tenn., February 18, 1925. Typescript.
3 University of Tennessee - Memphis Scrapbook, 1925. Newspaper clippings on the financial status of the university and the purchase of the Memphis campus. p. 1. University of Tennessee financial status; p. 5. On purchase of land by university of medical school in Memphis; p. 5 verso. map from newspaper of area bought in Memphis.

Box 1

36 Papers, 1925-1929.
Receipts; Newspaper Men's Club of Memphis re: Gridiron Dinner 1925 October; Eva Murphy Block estate, re: monies received from Norman H. Murphy estate, C.P. Simonton administrator, and disbursement, 1926 April/May; recommendation for building gravel roads in Tipton County made to Quarterly County Court, 1927; report about Covington banks stockholders' meeting, 1928 January 10; Butterfly card, 1929?, re: concert. Mary Pennell Simonton performs.
Papers relating to Simonton's role as executor of John Peete estate; contract: P.H. and B.G. Buford sell land to F.R. Fisher and J.H. Flippin, with payment to Peete, 1928 February 11; receipt: J.L. Keel, sharecropper, for work done on John Peete farm, 1928 September 8.
38 Papers, 1930-1933.
Recipes from Radio Household Institute, New York, 1930; postcards re: attendance at Presbyterian Church, Covington, synod, 1930 September. Cards indicate who will attend and which church they represent; Columbia Broadcasting System program "Carol Service", December 24, 1932, with cover letter to Mrs. C.P. Simonton from the director of the "Cathedral Hour"; programs from "Cathedral Hour", 1933 January-September; form letter Nashville Chamber of Commerce to William Shoaf, Covington, about an organizational meeting of TVA with brochure, 1929 April 29; “Adopted Tipton County High School Textbooks, 1931-1936”, Baltzer’s.
OS3 Plat: Lot 39 and part of Lot 40, Weakley Tract between Second Street and Wolf River, Memphis, surveyed by Frank G. Mullen, 1930 February 17.
Papers, 1934-1935.

OS2
Broadside: Public sale, estate of W.S. Mayes by Simonton as executor, 1934 February 27.

Papers, 1936-1941.

Papers, 1942 January-August.

Box 2

1 Papers, 1942 December-1965 May.

2 Poetry, handwritten and typescript, undated.
"Do-Re-Mi-Fa-So-La"; "Thanksgiving"; "Oh! McAdoo"; "I am going far away, Norah"; "Crossing the Bar"; in form of cross - "We are the Martyred Dead of Ev'ry Age"; "Will McAdoo Do?"; "Cross of Liberty and Peace"; "Day, Night and Day"; "Peace Treaty and Thou League of Nations Speak."

3 Poetry, handwritten and typescript, 1919-1920 and undated.
Includes: "Justice to Shirt-Waist Delegates to National Democratic Convention;" "Sunrise and Cloudless Morn"; "Theodore Roosevelt"; "The Everready Daylo"; "When I Can Reed My Title Clear"; "Mother"; "Remember Me Among my Flow'rs; "Woman's Suffrage"; "Soliloquy of Miss League of Nations"; "A Defense of Mother Eve and Her Daughters"; "Mother Dear"; "Rule of Equal Suffrage"; "Regrets"; "Modern Sphinx"; "Life"; "The Cross of Liberty and Peace".

4 Newspaper articles, handwritten and typescript drafts.

5 World War II papers.
Functions of Tipton County Civilian Defense Council, Charles P. Simonton, coordinator; Correspondence on price controls, sale of tires, FBI War Traffic School, pamphlet on British experience of Home Front Mobilization; program: Lord and Lady Halifax in Memphis, 1943 April 5.

6 Miscellaneous correspondence.

7 Church related papers.
8 Court cost papers, 1911, 1914 and undated. Lists of itemized court costs for legal cases.
9 Political papers.
Note promoting Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Association; election report: "Harding Appeals to Germans and Negroes," warning to Southerners, 1920; counts of votes for various elections. Poll of U.S. Senate on suffrage amendment.
Gov. Calvin Coolidge's remarks, from Salesmen's Bureau, Republican National Committee. Simonton's "Information blank for Senate Roster";
10 “Canvass Book - State of Tennessee, County of Shelby”, alphabetical list of voters, undated.
11 Papers pertaining to County Clerk's Office.
Brief for Brinkley estate, Selby vs Street, et al., undated; State vs B.T. Harrold, Criminal Court of Shelby County; order to Simonton to recover Merchants' Privilege and Advalorem taxes; oath to "well and truly try issue" between J. L. Hudson and Ada B. McGregor re: latter's insanity.
12 Temperance papers.
Blank receipt from Tennessee Anti-Saloon League, Nashville; advertisement for “Stroh’s Temperance Beer or non-intoxicating lager beer”.
13 Publishers letters.
14 Correspondence related to advertising.
15 Letterheads, blank checks and deposit slips.
16 Receipts.
17 Essays and speeches, 1883 and undated.
Chrysanthemums; The Ghost of the Club News Speaks: The Debt We Owe to Italy; Music as Expression; A Christmas Story or A Sad Christmas and a Merry Christmas, 1883.
18 Miscellaneous papers, 1.
19 Miscellaneous papers, 2.
20 First Baptist Church, Covington, 1915-1921. Church bulletins, program flyer.
21 First Presbyterian Church, Covington, 1905-1931.
Programs for Missionary Society meetings; Yearbooks of Ladies Missionary Society.
22 First Presbyterian Church Bulletins, 1914-1924.
23 First Presbyterian Church Bulletins, 1925-1961.
24 Miscellaneous Presbyterian Church printed items, 1871-1953.
“Earnest Worker”, Richmond, Va., Vol.8 New series:3, 1879 March; Covington Cumberland Presbyterian Church programs; Memphis Presbyterian Church programs; “Hebrew Christian”, St. Louis, Mo., 7:2, 1915 April, 10:1, 1918 January; Salem Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church Centennial Program,1936; 50th Anniversary Program, Associated Reformed Presbyterian Church, Covington, 1953; “Third Annual Report of the Superintendent of the Woman’s Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church, U.S., 1914-1915”.
28 First Methodist Church, Covington, directories, 1959-1965
31 Tipton County Schools, 1909, 1931. Program: Covington High School, Graduating exercises, 1909 (copy); program: City Grammar School, Covington, Closing Exercises, 1931 May 12; Program: Tipton County High School, Brighton, Tenn., Literary and Musical Evening, 19?? February 25.
32 Byars-Hall School, Covington, 1913-1937 and undated. Programs.
33 Tipton Female Seminary, 1888-1894. Graduation programs; “Catalogue of the Teachers and Pupils of Tipton Female Seminary, Covington, Tenn., 1888-9” (copy). Mentions Simonton girls.
34 Clarksville Female Academy, Clarksville, Tenn., 1878-1897. Catalogue and Announcement, 1878-1879; Shakespeare programs, 1895-1896; Fiftieth Annual Register and Announcement, 1896-1897.
37 Cumberland City Academy, Cumberland City, Tenn., 1898-1905. Catalogue, 1898-1899; program: Thanksgiving Recital, 1898 November 24; Primary Department, 1905-1906 list of faculty and pupils.
38 Marion Seminary, Marion, Alabama, 1903. Program: Graduating recital, 1903 May 1; "The Seminarium" published by members of the Senior and Junior Classes, 1903.
39 Monteagle Assembly, Monteagle, Tenn., 1887-1913.
“Monteagle Annual”, 1887; 17th Annual session programs, 1899; catalog with panorama photo of Mall, 1913 July-August; daily programs.

40 Tennessee School for the Blind, 1903.
Musical and Literary Entertainment program and ticket complementary to legislators.

41 Tennessee College for Women, Murfreesboro, 1931.


42 Southwestern Baptist University, Jackson, Tenn., 1881.
“College Lancet”, Vol. 1:8, 2:3, 1881 April, November

43 Silliman Collegiate Institute, Clinton, La., 1899, 1901.
Graduation and musical programs. Anna Simonton was a teacher.

44 Erskine College, Due West, South Carolina, 1889.
Annual catalogue, 1889-1890.

45 Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tenn.

46 Stephens College, Columbia, Missouri, 1933-1934.

47 Vanderbilt University, 1887.
Publication: "Two Harvests: A poem read before the Alumni Association of Vanderbilt University at the Annual meeting of the Association, June 13, 1887. By W.R. Sims."

48 Miami University, Oxford, Ohio.


50 Trevecca College, Nashville, Tenn., 1925.
Catalogue, 1925-1926; Pamphlet promoting college attendance in Tennessee.

51 1949-50 Rules and Regulations, Tennessee State Board of Education.

52 United Daughters of the Confederacy, 1903-1947.
Program: West Tennessee District Conference, 1924; prize lists of Historical Division, Tennessee Division, 1942, 1946, 1947; “Echoes from Dixie, a Souvenir of Tennessee”, by Lizzie Dixon Temple; program: Seventh Annual Convention, Tennessee Division, 1903; 1910-1912 program, History Committee, Tennessee Division; John Lauderdale Chapter, luncheon menu, Dyersburg, Tenn. 1923; Tennessee Division, By-laws rules and regulations; guidelines for Southern Cross of Honor.

53 United Confederate Veterans, 1900-1924.
Souvenir program, Tenth Annual Reunion, Louisville, Ky., 1900; Souvenir program, Fifteenth Annual Reunion, Louisville, Ky., 1905; Program: 34th annual reunion, Memphis, Tenn., 1924; ad for Battlefields’ Line railroad for U.C.V. reunion, Richmond, Va., 1915; Divine services, Camp John I. Cox, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1905; Program: G.A.R and U.C.V. meeting, St. Louis World’s Fair, 1904.

54 Confederate Monumental Association, 1893.
Programs for recitals by students and professionals, Covington and beyond. Includes:
concert under the auspices of Ladies of St. Matthews Church, at the Court House,
Covington, 1873; performances by pupils of Anna Simonton, 1907-1908; Dedication of
Memphis Auditorium program, 1924; Woodman of the World Free Entertainment,
Paine's Opera House, Covington, 1929; Lucia di Lammermoor, Memphis Opera Theatre,
Ellis Auditorium, 1966; Eighth District Meeting, Tennessee Federation of Music Clubs,
Covington, 1939.

Broadside: Advertisement for Clyde McCoy and his Sugar Blues Orchestra,
*Variety*, 1938 February 16.

Music performance programs, 1905 and undated.
Programs for recitals by students and professionals, Covington and beyond. Includes:
Morrow Brothers Quartet; "Recital! by Mrs. Augusta Malone Holmes", at the Court
House under auspices of Woman's Home Missionary Society; Covington Concert Band,
Courthouse; Dixie Theatre program; Recital and Musicale, Paine's Opera House.

"The Auditorium Commission Presents Franklin Glynn, Organist and Eugenia


Landon Conservatory of Music, Dallas, Texas, circa 1901. Prospectus and catalog.

Music publications, 1910-1932.
Yearbook: American Guild of Organists, 1910; Columbia Broadcasting System,
American School of the Air, Teachers manual and classroom guide, 1930; National

Music scores, 1888-1915.
"Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, A Juvenile Operetta", Cincinnati: John Church,
1888; "Our Alma Mater" Willis Music Company, 1915.

Beethoven Club, Covington, yearbooks, 1926-1951.

Beethoven Club, Covington, programs, 1890-1952.

Theater programs, 1901-1908 and undated.
"The Adventures of Nell Gwynne", Alcazar Theatre, San Francisco, 1901; "Audrey" with
Eleanor Robson.

*Souvenir Album: Scenes of the Play Ben-Hur*, Klaw & Erlanger, 1900.

Radio programs, 1931 and undated.
"Philco Presents" the Philadelphia Orchestra, 1931-1932, on CBS; "My Little Boy"
presented by Helen Hayes on Textron Theater (CBS), script.

Movie flyers, undated.
"Slander" with Bertha Kalich, Elite Theatre; "The Deep Purple" with Clara Kimball
Young, Dixie Theatre; "Shadow of the East" with Frank Mayo and Mildred Harris,
Palace Theatre.

Miscellaneous programs, etc., 1890-1939, 1971.
Includes: Henry M. Stanley Lecture Tour program, 1890-1891; "Microbe of Love",
Grammar School Auditorium, 1920; Booklet: Tennessee Citizens' Week, 1923,
inaugurated by Tennessee Daughters of the American Revolution; Sesquicentennial
Fourth of July Service, Pantages Theatre, Memphis, 1926; Goodwyn Institute, 25th, 27th season, 1931-1932, 1933-1934; George Washington Bicentennial, 1932; Tipton County Beauty Contest, 1939; Thirtieth Annual meeting of the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, Memphis, 1934 March 29-31.


12 Knights of Pythias, 1902-1920.

13 Miscellaneous fraternal organizations, 1881-1915.

OS3 Relief Fund certificate, Norman H. Murphy, $2000, Supreme Lodge of Knights and Ladies of Honor, Mary Lodge 327, Covington, Tenn., 1884 April 21.

OS1 “Scottish Rite Torch”, Memphis, 6:6, 1939 June.

15 Young Men’s Christian Association, 1888, 1914.

16 Chautauqua Institution, 1882-1920.

17 Tennessee Cotton Growers Association, 1923.
"A Program for Tennessee Cotton Growers"; "By-laws of Tennessee Cotton Growers Association, Memphis".

18 Temperance organizations, 1871-1920.

19 Political campaign cards, 1894-1942. Tipton County and state office campaigns.
20 Political campaign cards, 1907-1942. Charles P. Simonton campaigns.
21 Political party tickets, 1912-1930 and undated.
22 Political Literature, 1878-1918.
Includes: Opening speech of Austin Peay, candidate for Democratic nomination for Governor, 1918; Opening speech of Clyde Shropshire, candidate for Democratic nomination for Governor, 1918; Opening speech of M.R. Patterson, candidate for Democratic nomination for U.S. Senator, 1915; Duty of the Political Parties to the Shippers, Railway Business Association Bulletin, 11, 1912 June 5; “Why Tennessee Needs a New Constitution” by James H. Malone, 1911 November 26; Re-establishment of the State Bank Demanded, Letter from Hon. John C. Burch, Nashville, to Col. Butler
P. Anderson, Memphis, 1878 June 25; Judge Parker’s Opinions on the Rights of Labor, circa 1904.

The Constitutional League, Memphis, Tenn., 1897. 4-page newspaper advocating a new constitution for Tennessee. The League was led by lawyer, and future Memphis mayor, James H. Malone (1851-1929).

23 Presidential election literature, 1912, 1916. Includes two pamphlets supporting Woodrow Wilson as the Black voter’s choice.

24 Political literature, 1917-1940 and undated.

25 Political broadsides, 1906-1922.

OS2 “K.D. M’Kellar on Sound Democratic Platform is Exponent of Competency and Efficiency in the Congressional Race”. Copy(?) of newspaper article dated September 3, 1911.


“Primary Election Frauds in Shelby County: Outrageous Methods Resorted to by Mayor Crump and the Whiskey Ring to Pile up Votes for Mr. McKellar”, 1918.


26 Political broadsides, 1920 and undated.

OS2 Election poster:


“Support the President, Vote for Democratic Nominees, 1934. Democratic candidates for national and state office, November 6, 1934, election. L.E. Guinn, Democratic primary for Governor, 1930 August 7.

27 U.S. Congressional speeches, 1878-1879.

28 U.S. Congressional speeches, 1882-1929.

29 Tennessee speeches, 1916, 1922.


32 Congressional Record, 1917, 1931.

Senator John Sharp Williams reads Simonton’s poem “Armageddon” into Record, 1917 April 6; Cordell Hull's statement on economic problems, 1931 February 16.

33 Election Returns and Instruction Cards, 1908-1933.

Includes list of 1915 Tennessee General Assembly members-elect.

Box 4

Printed Ballots:

1 1901-1942. Sample, primary, general elections.
Delegates to convention on the ratification of the repeal of the 18th Amendment to the Constitution, Tipton County, 1933 July 20.

Bishop T.C. Carter’s funeral eulogy; poem by Phil S. Clairemont (mimeograph).

Poem by Phil S. Clairemont (printed).


County Clerk’s office documents, 1871, 1900-1919.

Includes forms on crop information for Commercial Appeal.


County Court Sale notices, 1909-1920.

"Vote of 1898-1900," lists all elected state officials and vote counts; “Digest of Election Laws of Tennessee”, 1903; “Road Law of Tipton County”, 1911; Tennessee Automobile Law 1915; Military Registration Regulations, 1917; Collateral and Direct Inheritance Law, 1919.


Tennessee Fish and Game Laws and Notices, 1915-1921, 1941.

Legal Cases, Supreme Court of Tennessee, 1879-1911.


William Leach vs. Tennessee, 1912; Tennessee vs. Fred Downing, 1912; Alice Wilson vs. Samuel Wilson, 1917; William Tait vs. Shelby County, 1917; Mrs. L.L. Grove vs.
Supreme Lodge, Knights of Pythias, 1917.


13 Legal Cases, Supreme Court of Arkansas, 1911. Sid Houpt vs. Arkansas, Brief for appellant; Henry Coats vs. Arkansas, 1911; Arkansas vs. Henry Coats, 1911; John McElvain vs. Arkansas, 1911.

14 Proceedings of Tennessee Bar Association, 1882, 1902.

15 “The United States Army as a Career”, 1913.

16 World War I, 1917-1918. "How the War Came to America", “The President’s Flag Day Address”, Committee on Public Information, 1917; "American Loyalty by Citizens of German Descent," War Information Series, No. 6, “America’s War Aims and Peace Program”, No. 21, Committee on Public Information, 1917; Y.W.C.A., "Women's Hearts of America are beating a Victory March," 1918; Selective Service forms; Selective Service classification card for James Weaver Dacus, Covington, 1918; U.S. Department of Agriculture bulletins on sweet potatoes and home canning, 1917.


17 World War I, undated. Forms for adjusted compensation for war service; Flyer: 2nd Red Cross War Fund Drive; "Free War Exhibit: A Special Train filled with interesting things that every loyal American will want to see"; Third Liberty Loan; Ben Cox, "An Army Y.M.C.A. Parson". Cox was pastor of Central Baptist Church, Memphis; "Telephone Service in War Time,"Cumberland Telephone and Telegraph Company; "Liberty Bonds"; Application for Victory medal; U.S. Food Administration advice on saving food, and Tipton County Citizens Agreement card to abide by the rules; registration forms - Woman's Committee, Council of National Defense.


OS2 Address by David E. Lilienthal before the Tennessee Valley Institute of the University of Chattanooga, April 21, 1934. Press release by Tennessee Valley Authority of speech titled: “The Future of Industry in the Tennessee Valley Region”.

John I. Cox, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1905.

OS1    Appointment as Captain and Quartermaster, 1st Regiment Reserves, C.V., 1904
January 5. Name was written as C.P. Simonton but the second initial was changed
(mistakenly?) to a “B”.

22  Poetry cards, 1917-1919.
Simonton poetry: "The Stars and Bars and the Stars and Stripes", 1917; "The Light of the
World," 1918; "The Cross of Liberty and Peace," 1919; “The Hohenzollern Mark of
Cain,” 1918.

23  Tennessee publications, 1860-1923 and undated.
Patriotic songs, Covington, 1860 (photocopy); Y.P.C.U. “Povertie Partie” invitation,
1896; Constitution and By-laws of Tipton County Building and Loan Association, 1896;
Covington Business Men's Club review of past year, circa 1918; “Bulletin of The
Tennessee Anti-Tuberculosis Association”, 1:2, 1917 December; "An Outsider’s View of
Some Inside Facts about a City with a Heart and Soul," Helena, Arkansas, 1919;
“Tennessee State Flag, Flower, Song, Seal and Capitol,” by John Trotwood Moore, circa
1923; Humboldt Guest Card, H.J. Foltz, Mayor; G.A. Avenarius, Covington, card for
selling or trading land in Florida for land or a good photographic studio; Illinois Central
railroad ticket Covington to Memphis; “Sixteen views of Covington, Tenn., Covington
Business Men’s Club; Tennessee Centennial Exposition Official Programmes for weeks
ending June 5, 26; “$300 in Gold for Tennessee History”, essay contest for 7th graders
and up.

Brochure for proposed Memphis hotel, Tri-State Hotel Building Co., 1919; “Hot Shots”,
Memphis Agency, Mutual Life Insurance Company of New York, 10:3, March, 1927;
flyer: “Excursion to Memphis, Sunday, May 4, 1941”, on Illinois Central; Invitation to
opening of new headquarters on Beale Avenue of Fraternal Savings Bank and Trust Co.,
1913; I.B. Tigrett advertising municipal bonds and securities, 1927; pamphlet: “Your
Shelby County Government”, 1965; Sesquicentennial souvenir, 1969.

25  Travel publications, 1891-1941 and undated.
“World's Columbian Exposition, Department of Missouri”, Act of Congress, Law, By-
Laws, 1891; St. Louis Fair Association ticket; St. Louis World's Fair map, 1904; “St.
Louis Exposition” (incomplete), 1904; “Monticello, former home of Thomas Jefferson”,
booklet from Southern Railway in conjunction with 1912 Democratic National
Convention, Baltimore; “Climate and Resorts in Texas” by Tom H. Etheridge, Jr., 1927;
“Illustrated History of Reelfoot Lake” by Paul E. Walker, Ridgely, Tenn., 1929; Annual
Crowley Ridge Peach Festival, Forrest City, Ark., July 23, 1936; “Travellers Rest
Arabian Horses, Franklin, Tennessee”, 1941; “Brief History of the Battle of Shiloh and
Corinth, including Pickwick Dam” by Mrs. John Benny.

26  Travel publications, 1933.
“Souvenir of a Century of Progress International Exposition”, Chicago, 1933. Also tie
clip.

27  Fairs, 1906-1937.
Tennessee State Fair Partial Premium List for Agricultural Exhibits, 1906; Tennessee
State Fair, Woman’s Department, Classification and list of premiums, 1908; Tipton
County Fair, Premium List, 1937; Tipton County Fair program, 19?? September 9-11; Tipton County Fair program, 1915 October 28-29; Tipton County Industrial and Mechanical Association 5th annual fair, rules and schedule of premiums, 1875 (copy).

28 Plant nursery catalogs, 1879-1886.
Storrs, Harrison and Co., Painesville, Lake County, Ohio, 1879. Retail Price List no.5; Ornamental Plants, Francis Morat, Louisville, Kentucky, 1886; Dunreith Nursery, Dunreith, Indiana, Catalog for Spring 1886;

29 Miscellaneous booklets, 1875-1934.

Box 5
1 National Farmers’ Union, 1907 and undated.
2 Pascagoula, Mississippi, 1899-1900 and undated.
3 Miscellaneous items, 1912, 1941 and undated.
5 Memorial booklets, 1915-1939.
In Memorium - Union Banner Hunt, 1864-1915, Indiana; In Memory of John Wilson Lynn and Margaret Ellen McCain Lynn, 1939; Biography of Abraham Clark Freeman, 1843-1915, California.
Compiled by Fred Bauer, Memphis. Spring 1959; Spring 1960.
Advertising:
9 Liquor, undated.
10 Clothing and department stores, 1913-1920 and undated.
12 Medicine, undated.
13 Music, undated.
14 Music: Catalog, 1925. 1925 Victor Records catalog.
15 Office supplies, 1919, 1920 and undated.
OS1 Sengbusch inkstands.
17 Technology, 1913 and undated.
18 Miscellaneous, 1912-1938. Includes Covington businesses.
OS2 Broadside: Bankruptcy sale, Shelton & McGaughey, operated by James E.
Shelton, undated.


OS1 George W. Noble, publishers, Chicago, advertising.
Christian Colony, Florida, circa 1912.

OS2 Notice: Land sale, 170 acres of Fulton Place, near Longtown, Fayette County, December 18.

Newspaper clippings;

21 1901-1971.


Dedication program, National Forest of Discovery, Richardson’s Landing, Tenn., 1941 September 28; Brochure; Our National Park, Great Smoky National Park Project; Business Cards (27 items in envelope), mainly Memphis, Nashville, Little Rock.
Covington Business Men's Club letter head with map on verso; ‘Come to the Young Socialists National Convention’, Cleveland, Ohio, 1972; Flyer: Memphis State University Science Fiction Seminar, 1972.

23 Political literature, 1978 and undated.

24 Anna Simonton, 1902-1919.
Silliman Collegiate Institute letter of recommendation for Anna Simonton as music teacher, 1902 April 1; Anna Simonton's teaching certificate from State of Tennessee, 1912 June 30; High School Teachers' Examination for English Grammar, Literature, 1912 September 4; County Superintendent’s Examination for October, 1912, 21 subjects; receipts; letter: Anna Simonton, Clinton, South Carolina to Charles Simonton, 1918 September 1. Describes the school where she teaches; Anna Simonton, Clinton, South Carolina to Charles Simonton, 1919 June 1. Will stay with Charles in the summer. Asks for pennant “Votes for Women”; letter from Anna Simonton on her school in Clinton, South Carolina. "We are fortunate enough to have plenty of coal to keep us warm and did not feel the sugar shortage much.” 1919 December 14.

OS6 Newspaper: The American Issue: A Saloonless Nation and a Stainless Flag, Westerville, Ohio, 1920 (5 issues). Addressed to Anna Simonton.

Robert Wilson McLaughlin (1850-1934) and later lived in Little Rock, Arkansas, with her two daughters. Her parents came from South Carolina and already had five children when they moved to Tennessee in the 1840s. Harriet’s reminiscence covers the family’s move to Tennessee, her father’s new occupation as storekeeper, and a lengthy account of the Civil War’s impact on the family. See Appendix for transcription.

26 Cobb daybook, 1863-1864. 74pp. (copy) Hezekiah Cobb was a farmer and lumberman in Shelby County. Mostly comments on the weather and crops; some mention of relatives, friends, and neighbors; occasional mention of the disruptions caused by Union troops. Mentions death of Henry Cobb in entry on Wednesday, December 23, 1863. Also copy of muster roll, Henry Biar Cobb (killed fighting at Missionary Ridge on November 25, 1863), Company H, 4th Tennessee Infantry, 1861-1863.

27 Cobb daybook, 1863-1864. Typed transcription.

Lindamood family:
Two folders of correspondence of the Lindamood family, mostly between Emma Smylie Power Lindamood (1873-1958) and her son J.L. (Peter) Lindamood (1914-1972) and daughter Jane Power Lindamood (1911-1980), and other relatives including Anabel Power and George and Catherine Power. Emma was born in Hinds, Mississippi, and married William Stuart Lindamood (1861-1919), who co-founded the Columbus Brick Company in Columbus, Mississippi, in 1890. Jane graduated from the Mississippi State College for Women and then studied journalism at the University of Missouri. Peter was a professional dancer and subsequently a New York antique dealer.

28 Correspondence, undated.

29 Correspondence, 1934-1941.

30 Miscellaneous: Notebook containing alphabetical listing of names. Possibly voters in 1910s.


32 Music, 1893-1933.

33 Simonton, Charles P., “Roosevelt for Four Years More!”, 1940. Sheet music.

Box 6


Box 7

Mercants' Privilege and Advaloren taxes; pp. 148-149. Newspaper clippings and program relating to Woman's Department, Tennessee State Fair; July 28, 1908 letter from Mrs. E.W. Foster, Director, to Simonton; p. 153. Newspaper article on hanging of John Hill for murder at Covington. p. 154; Nashville Banner article, May 14, 1903, "Caucasian or African". Refers to case of Eliza Massey and her right to homestead under Tennessee law, which hinges on her race; pp. 190-193. Newspaper clippings on the Wright Brothers early airplane flights, and the flights of others. Also includes articles on ballooning; Loose newspaper clipping, 1923 obituary, Professor Edward Barnard.

Charles P. Simonton scrapbook, 1920-1921.

Envelope notebook containing loose newspaper clippings, many of which Simonton had written about Tipton County affairs for the Memphis and Nashville papers. The clippings are in nine envelopes, one for each pocket of the notebook to maintain the original order.

Box 8

Photographs:
2. From family photograph album. Many have some identification.
3. Identified. Includes Anna Simonton, 1906.
4. Miscellaneous, identified. Includes Pennels.

Box 9

Photographs:
1. Large mounted, unidentified individuals, undated.
4. Mounted, identified or photographer known, undated. “Henryette Stewart”. Other images identified by photographer, including: Gardner-Park Studio, Fulton, Ky.; Bingham, Memphis, Tenn.; Coover, Memphis, Tenn.; The Fidelity Art Studio; Harris and Ewing, Washington, D.C.
6. Prints, unidentified, undated.
7. Prints, unidentified individuals, undated.
8. Postcards, 1921 and undated.

OS3 Mounted photograph:
2. Cotton gin, S.A. Smith’s Stable, Garrett’s Grocery Store, Covington (?), Tenn., undated.


Box 10

Oversize photographs identified and unidentified. Includes: 2nd Regiment, Tennessee National Guard, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1905; Camp Harvey Hannah, Jackson, Tenn.; Camp John I. Cox, Murfreesboro, Tenn., 1905; Silliman Institute, Clinton,
Box 11

Suffrage magazines:

*Maryland Suffrage News*: November 15, 1919.


Newspapers:


*European Press*, Bremen, Germany, 3:9, 1921 February 1.
Some Reminiscences of My Father and Mother
Robert and Nancy Wilson McDill
by
Harriet McDill McLaughlin

Nancy Wilson McDill, the eldest daughter of John R. and Margaret Thompson McCreight of Fairfield District South Carolina, [and Robert McDill] were united in marriage December 14th, 1837. They went to live on a small farm. On this farm a water mill was operated, grinding much grain for the surrounding country. In those days steam mills were almost unknown in the rural districts.

This place was not far from the thriving little city of Winnsboro. I have heard my mother say that they could hear the town clock strike and the church bells ring. It was here where mother went to school and later to a select school where young ladies were taught fine sewing and embroidery. She became quite proficient in the art, as some samples I have in my possession show. She also taught school for awhile and must have been successful in winning the love of her pupils, for I have had [page 1a (An unnumbered page. All unnumbered pages have an “a” following the number)] the pleasure of meeting some of them since I have been living in Arkansas.

The year before mother and father were married father had returned from Florida, where he had seen active service in the Seminole War. He came near losing his life (not by an Indian’s arrow, but with swamp fever and measles) and General Winfield Scott had him removed to better quarters where he recovered. Father appreciated this act of kindness very much and named one of his boys for the distinguished general.

With all the many hardships experienced in this war he seemed to have learned a great deal and to acquire a taste for things military. Soon after his return, with the help of some of his comrades, the company of which he was captain reorganized, or rather a new company was formed.

A spirit of great patriotism was kept up by holding regular meetings and drills. Fine uniforms were ordered and they often appeared in dress parade in the streets of Winnsboro.

Father’s uniform was very dark blue broadcloth [page 2] trimmed with silver braid and buttons with the motto of the state in Latin and a palm tree engraved on them. The coat had beautiful silver epauletttes on the shoulders and there was a long crimson silk sash worn around the waist holding the scabbard of his sword in place. Mother often pointed to this uniform as it always hung in her private room, and told us how handsome father appeared when he wore it, and so it was made very realistic to us smaller children who considered him a hero.

It seemed as if they had settled for life in this their first home. They were happy and content. Five children had been born to them when something happened that changed the current of their lives.

One day, mother’s favorite brother Robert came riding up from the far west (as Tennessee was then called) where he had gone with his parents several years before. Of
all the family of twelve children but one, my mother, remained behind.

After the hearty greetings were over, he took from his saddle pockets some gifts and among them a very pretty pink and white patch-work quilt (the save all pattern) made by her sisters.

Soon he began to tell them why he had taken the long journey over hills and rivers and mountains: first, to see them all again and to tell them of the wonderful country they had found. Farming was made much easier for the land was so rich and great giant trees afforded fine lumber for building purposes. Everything seemed to grow and prosper and many were coming in to possess it.

Grandfather McCreight had purchased a large body of land and the negroes were clearing it for cultivation.

They listened, and of course mother would be glad to be near her people. They thought it over and agreed that if it could be managed they would sell out and as soon as possible go and join them.

I am not sure of the date but eventually they packed the big wagons with their effects, filled the carry-all with mother and the children and started over the long trail to Tennessee.

They were given a most hearty greeting by all the family and the negroes were overjoyed, for mother had brought with them two of their number, Melinda and Sam.

After resting a few days, father began to look around the country and decided to locate on a farm just a few blocks away from Portersville, where a school would be convenient for the children and a church was already established.

I have no record of the first years, but no doubt they were busy ones before they were comfortably settled in their new home. It was in this house where three other children were born, Robert Shannon, Harriett, and a little sister Candace who lived only seven months, so I was left to be the youngest of a family of seven.

My parents were received into the Portersville church by letter from the Old Mt. Hareb church near Winnsboro S.C. Father was very fond of music and soon became leader of the church music, was librarian and later Sunday-school superintendent.

The town grew in importance and the surrounding neighborhood was settled by a thrifty and prosperous people coming mostly from the Carolinas and Virginia.

Robert McDill was a close observer of conditions and he saw the need of what we now call a department store. He built a good two story store house and took a boat on the Mississippi river, (The landing was eight miles west of town) and went to Philadelphia where he purchased a stock of goods.

Although he had no previous experience in this kind of business, yet he was successful and was so encouraged by his first venture that when the time came to replenish his stock, he added many things not carried by other merchants of this town. He decided to make a study of what the people needed.

In the meantime an academy was built and it proved to be a great asset to the town and community.

Many families moved in to educate their children.

Father noticed the kind of hats and bonnets the women and children wore. They were rather crude affairs although some of the shirred silk ones were very pretty and becoming to young faces. He made a note of these things and when he went back to Philadelphia in the spring he purchased a large stock of millinery.
Most of the hats and bonnets were untrimmed, but he brought samples that were beautifully trimmed and many boxes of flowers and laces and ribbons. My mother assisted in trimming them from the models, sometimes using her own taste and originating novel ideas. Father was very critical that all work should be neatly done. He took great pride in this department and it soon became a flourishing business.

He then noticed the style of clothes the men wore and thought an improvement necessary and possible-in their appearance. He employed a tailor and from the goods he carried and the style sheets he tacked on the wall, a man could be dressed in keeping with his high silk hat and fancy vest.

You may wonder how the ladies kept up with the latest styles in this isolated town. Many of them took Godey’s Lady’s Book, but they could not get the patterns that were beautifully illustrated [page 4a] in them. Father found that he could buy paper dresses and basques, cloaks, etc. They were made of tissue paper and basted lightly together or glued with gold stars, and they were very practical. You could see just how your dress would look when it was cut out and made by the pattern. After it was taken apart you did not have to spend hours studying how to put it together for you needed only to rip half of it up.

Father was a very busy man, but with all of his activities he had a lot of Civic pride, and thought the town needed a brass band, so he proceeded to organize one. It was composed of eight or ten men. He ordered the instruments, selected the music, and wrote and transposed the different parts. The boys made him captain and in this capacity he served as long as he lived. They played for all kinds of entertainments - barbecues, political rallies, picnics, etc. and with their uniforms of dark trousers and red braided jackets and highly polished brass instruments they made a fine appearance. Three of my brothers, George, [page 5] William, and Scott were members of this band.

At this time (about 1859) everything seemed prosperous and we were a very happy family, working, studying in school, playing and too entertaining a great many fine and interesting people. Travelers in their carriages sometimes found themselves far from a hotel or road house and would stop and ask for a night’s lodging; or when there was a meeting of Presbytery or special meetings at the church, mother always made room for all who came. One of our neighbors used to call our house the India-rubber place because it stretched so.

Sometimes a carriage would drive up filled with unexpected guests - young ladies with many band-boxes and sometimes a maid. You never knew how long the visit would last; perhaps a week or ten days.

Every one seemed care-free and open house and hospitality was the custom of the times. The Old South was in the heyday of her glory.

I was brought up when children were to be seen, not heard, yet listening was not forbidden. [page 5a] The table talk consisted in discussing the latest news from the North, and “if so and so happened” there would be war and war meant the dissolution of the Union. Father argued against this. He thought a compromise better if it could be brought about. He knew that the North had many advantages over the South and felt that it would mean defeat for the South. Even after war was declared he told our boys what a terrible thing war between the states would mean; the great financial losses it would bring as well as the loss of life and the hardships on all classes. He said “Dont be too hasty to rush into it.” However when troops were called for, the boys felt that it would be a disgrace not to respond to their
country’s call and three of them volunteered to go.

For awhile the business was continued but it soon became difficult to keep up the stock as father was prevented from going to the North by the river blockade. He made a few trips to Cincinnati but it was dangerous and his last purchases were in St. Louis.

Father visited the camps where the boys were in training. He seemed so proud of them and came home full of enthusiasm. It was not [page 6] long until they were called into active service. Skirmishes soon became battles and almost every day the ranks grew on both sides.

Many fine letters were written home by my brothers and the neighbor boys and we were kept in touch with what was transpiring at the front.

A fine young man Dumpy Daniels, was the letter carrier and brought them to my mother. She kept the letters in two large bags that were fastened on each side of a strong hoop skirt that she wore. When it was safe to send them to anxiously waiting mothers, sisters, and sweethearts, I was called and told to dress for I must go on an errand. Mother tied my bonnet or hood under my chin and put the letters in my cloak pockets. Sometimes the journey was rather long for a child of my age (eight years) to walk and I remained over night. On one occasion I had to stay in the country all night at my Uncle Gladney McCreight’s place. It was Grandfather’s old home, a large plantation. There were many negro slaves but only my three aunts were there as my uncles were in the army.

We had all retired, and were fast asleep when we [page 6a] were awakened by the sound of many foot steps on the porch, the clank of spurs and the rattle of sabers, frightening me almost to death; then orders to “open the door and be d____ [sic] quick about it” or it would be kicked open. “Get up and prepare breakfast for my men”!

My oldest aunt who was manager and house keeper replied “When we are all dressed I will open the doors but not before.” It was about three o’clock in the morning.

Aunt Margaret called Sara the house-maid and together they awakened the cooks and the boys to make the fires, and soon the cooking began. Trips had to be made to the smoke-house to get hams; biscuits were made, ham sliced and fried and eggs too were cooked. Great pots of coffee were prepared.

By this time the men were swarming all over the house and the food was eaten as soon as it could be taken off the fire. I noticed that the men became more quiet after they were fed and warmed by the big wood fire.

After daylight they began to inspect the premises to see what they could take away or destroy. They [page 7] brought out most of the horses and mules. Just as they were about to start with them, Aunt Margaret walked out and called for the Captain. A rather weak looking and shame faced fellow was pointed out and she addressed him and said: “Captain you have seen how many souls on this plantation must be fed and clothed, and it will require every horse and mule I have to make the crop or they will starve, and I am responsible for them.”

After some consultation among the officers, they left a few of their own broken down and blind animals and took with them all our good ones.

As they rode away we were grateful that our lives had been spared from such a mob.

The first heart-breaking news that we had from the line of battle where our boys were
stationed, was that brother Scott had been killed in a battle that took place near Chickamauga Tenn. He was struck by shrapnel from an exploding shell as he was in front of his company when they rushed over the breastworks. I remember that I was told about the place and the meaning of the word. It is an Indian word meaning, “the stream of death.”

Mother was prostrated and it was the first time I ever saw father shed tears. He was so young and a great favorite with everyone. In school one day my teacher was talking to the rhetoric class. He was speaking of the emotions when he mentioned bravery and said: “If Miss Harriet will pardon me I will tell you about the bravest thing I ever witnessed and the effect it had upon me and all who saw it;” and he gave a graphic account of how brother Scott looked as he waved his hat and had the boys follow him as he mounted the breastworks.

The next shock was that George had been desperately wounded in a battle at Perryville, Kentucky. He was left to die on the field but later some of his comrades ran back and found him sitting against a tree with the blood pouring from a bullet hole in his lung. Going through his body the bullet had cut its way out by the seam of his coat (a grey jacket). An ambulance was called and tender hands carried him in on a stretcher. Later he with other wounded companions was placed in a private home that had been turned into a hospital. Mr. James Holmes of Covington Tenn. was one of the boys. Their wounds were almost identical, one shot in the right lung and the other in the left.

Weeks and days of anxiety followed. We hardly dared hope for his recovery. Then in the providence of God something happened. The Reverend David H. Cummins was a brother-in-law of James Holmes and the pastor of our church. He was born and educated in New Jersey but his sympathies were with the South. He knew conditions for he came in contact with all classes in his religious work. He was a striking character, tall and straight as a silver pine, his bright eyes sparkling. His strong personality impressed everyone. He was truly a man of God and wielded great power for good wherever he went.

He came to father one day and said, “Captain McDill, I am going to Kentucky to see our boys and if possible I am going to bring them home.” Father told him that if any man could bring them through the lines, he was the man. He went - for with him to decide was to act.

In about a week or ten days, one morning a buggy drove up to our gate and Holmes Cummins a son of David H. got out and began to assist George out from under the many blankets wrapped around him to keep him warm and pillows to prop him up. Only his pale smiling face was visible. The family all rushed to assist but he could not stand any hearty embraces. The greeting had to be expressed in smiles and tears. He was soon in a big rocking chair before a big wood fire in the living room. Truly a miracle had been wrought.

Mr. Cummins said that when he reached Kentucky, none of the boys had been able to sit up a minute, so he began to prop them up with pillows. Their wounds drained, there was no fever and the hope of getting home helped them to gain strength and he found it safe to start.

The news soon spread and friends and neighbors came bringing many good things to eat, but his diet had to be very limited for awhile. He almost lived on Cod liver jelly. “Scott’s Emulsion” was not known then.

Recovery was slow but his strength grew a little every day and when spring came he was able to walk about the place and entertain his friends by talking with them about his experiences.

They poet of the family, Aunt Mary McDill, wrote a very touching poem about our
hero. I can recall only a few lines of it for it has been so long since I read it.

“On the battlefield near Perryville in eighteen-sixty-two
A gallant Tennessean fell, pierced by a bullet through.
He fell but did not sink in death upon the battlefield.
For his heavenly Father’s sheltering arm
was there it’s power to yield.”

In October his condition was so much improved that he began to ride about the neighborhood and visit some of the relatives and friends. One afternoon he dressed and put a fine new saddle on his riding horse. Just as he was about to mount, he called mother and said “I heard that the enemy had spies posted about, so I am going to ride around and perhaps I can find out something.”

He got his information but in a way he did not expect, for when he came to the cross roads, he was arrested and made prisoner and we never saw him again until the war was over! He was taken to Memphis and placed in the Irving Block, a temporary jail. This house and property belonged to a Mr. Norton who recovered damages from the Government many years after the war. His son was our neighbor here in Little Rock for a time.

Father went to Memphis to beg for his release, thinking that his physical condition would make it easier, but they were determined to send him to a Northern prison.

Father reached home in a very depressed condition and was scarcely able to stand the terrible change that had taken place in his absence.

A company of four hundred mounted men came down upon us late one afternoon. The advance guard first inspected the barns and shouted “Captain, there is enough provender for every horse and food for all the men! Let us camp here for the night.”

You can imagine how we felt when we heard this. By morning the corn, fodder and hay had all been consumed, the hams eaten and most of the chickens roasted. I don’t think Peter could have heard a cock crow but once that night!

In the morning they demanded the key to the store and took everything they could use, and packed great bundles to carry with them. When they came to the millinery rooms they decided to stage a flower parade. They took great bunches of French flowers and tied them to each ear of their horses; then the ribbons and laces were twined about their bridles. The plumes were used on their own hats and what was left of the stock was so trampled and torn by their spurs that it was useless.

There was one thing mother was always grateful for. We should always be willing to give justice and honor where it belongs.

There was not a man on the place that night. My brother was about twelve years old. Sam the negro servant was there, but he seemed dazed and kept himself aloof from the family. The Captain came to the door and asked to speak to mother. He said “Madame, I see that you and your daughters are alone, and if you will permit me I will bring my blankets and lie right here in your living room and assure you and your family protection.” Mother thanked him and we all went upstairs and felt safe in his keeping.

After all this was over Father spent little time in grieving over what had been done. He said that it was now a time for action. He saw the need of a home guard or militia. He called a meeting and helped organize one at once. He was asked to drill the company. The question of
equipment was a serious one. There were only a few old shot guns and muskets in the country. Father fitted up the old shop and told the men to bring what they had and he would put them in condition. He had some shot and lead bars from the store and almost every man had bullet moulds for rifle balls.

Then he made swords, or a kind of long knife from carriage springs. Here I did my part to help along. I turned the grindstone many a weary hour while they were being sharpened. The training and drilling began.

On drill days the large woods lot near town was filled with people who came to encourage and cheer the old men.

[page 11] In the meantime father fitted up another shop with tools and a turning lathe, where he made spinning wheels and reels. My grandmother had brought her’s from South Carolina, and my aunts had it brought out and set up. Soon everything was humming. Thread was spun and some beautiful cloth was woven.

Aunt Emma wove enough to make herself and sister Mary a dress. When the Yankees saw Aunt’s dress hanging in the closet, one of them said, “I will take that and send it to my girl in the North to show what a home spun dress looks like.”

Our girls wore them with much pride, and a song was written about them. The chorus ended with the lines “Hurrah for the homespun dress that southern ladies wear!”

Father was so pleased with the gray jeans that they wove, that he cut himself a suit of clothes from a bolt of it. He was a rather large man and it took several yards for a frock tailed coat.

Mother had to make it as Osborn the tailor had gone North some time ago. She had no machine of course. She worked all the week basting and stitching the long seams. There was much pressing and fitting the notched pieces together.

Late Saturday afternoon the last stitch was taken and the basting removed. Mother drew a sigh of relief. Sunday morning when father went into his room to dress for church, he found the suit all neatly laid out on the bed. Mother waited anxiously for him to appear. Presently the door burst open and he came out and in a very angry voice he said, “Nancy! You have ruined my suit! I wont wear it. I had every notch marked and you did not pay any attention to them.” He stood up and the front coat tails touched the floor! He jerked it off.

Mother who was always so patient in all circumstances, was almost in tears. Father said, “You sewed the bias seam of the tail to the front!” “Well,” said mother, “we have found out what is the matter with the coat Robert and I will rip it up and make it all right.” And then we all roared with laughter for it was so excruciatingly funny.

[page 12] When mother had spent a few more days on the coat, it was all right, and father seemed so proud of it that he had his picture taken in it.

You may ask what became of the McDill Band. True a number of the boys were in the army, but others took their places. In war nothing appeals to patriotism like martial music. Now the marches were not so quick and lively. Sometimes they were almost as slow and solemn as the “Dead March” from the oratorio “Saul”, as it led the funeral cortege of some victim of camp fever or of one who had been killed in battle and whose body was brought home by some relation or friend.

Things moved on as usual. It was work, work until late into the night.

One day a letter came from George who had suffered the terrors of prison life and had at
last been exchanged and finally gotten back to his old regiment and what was left of his company.

When the roll was called so many were absent that it made him very sad. For them taps had long been sounded. On Nov. 30th 1864 the bloody battle of Franklin was fought. It has been called the bloodiest battle and the greatest blunder of the war. George said “It was the greatest trial of my life. Uncle John McCleen, my brother William and many of my best friends were killed. I shed tears and wished that I might have died with them. I realized that the cause for which they died and I had suffered was lost and that the last drama would soon be enacted.”

Lee had already surrendered and Johnston’s army of which George’s regiment was a unit, was camped at Greensboro N.C. The scene was most pathetic. Gen. Johnston talked to the boys and thanked them for their loyalty and support, then ordered them to stack arms, and as they went back to their homes he said “Take this thought with you. You have fought for a cause you felt was right and just (states’ rights) - for home and loved ones. You have won honor for your bravery and great sacrifices that war demands.” They stacked their guns around a tall pine tree. George reached up and cut a twig as a memento and put it into his knapsack.

His home coming was a mingling of joy and of sorrow for those left in their “silent tents whose doors have no outward swing.”

I will not dwell on the “Reconstruction Period” that followed. No true history can ever be written of those dark days of humiliation in the dear old South.

I cannot recall ever seeing my father in the kitchen. It was detached from the other building as was the custom in the South. One morning my sister Annie and I were busy cooking or washing the dishes when father came to the door and asked for a pan or bucket. Annie picked up a large tin pan and he said, “I guess this will do,” and disappeared. In perhaps half an hour he returned with the pan filled with dirt and silver money that he had buried in the old shop. It took several washings to clean it. I don’t remember how much it was. It consisted of dollars, halves, and quarters, many dimes and five cent pieces. We came to the bottom of the pan and were reminded of the Arabian Nights story of the “Forty Thieves” for the print of the money was there just as it was in the measure that was lent to measure their money.

With this money father managed to get a few goods together and opened the store again. My brother Shannon was old enough to assist him. George could not stand confinement and went to work on the farm.

As things became more normal social activities took on new life. There were barbecues, picnics, public celebrations of various kinds. The Band was again organized and added much to the pleasure of the occasions. They would often play a medley of Old Southern airs such as “Listen to the Mocking Bird”, “Nellie Gray”, “My Old Kentucky Home”, but “Dixie” was always the favorite as it is today.

Father seemed still to get great pleasure out of his music. Sometimes as we sat on the porch in the moonlight, he would bring out his violin, prop his chair against one of the columns and play until late into the night. We were all very quiet and I think the mocking birds were listening too, for no other sound was heard. The air was fragrant with the odor of roses and star jessamine and all the old fashioned flowers. I am glad that all of our
people seemed to have the garden spirit and in their own simple way made the world a wee bit sweeter and better for having lived in it. For all these things, and what they have done, I am glad and count it a heritage.

“Deep in my grateful heart there lies
A memory that never dies.”