MSS0378. Frank and Alfred Whitman collection

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Frank and Alfred Whitman collection

Title: Frank and Alfred Whitman collection
Collection No: MSS.378
Extent: 1 cubic foot
Inclusive Dates: 1892-1988

Abstract: This collection includes correspondence, newsprint, and images that span Alfred L. Whitman’s civilian military service career between the 1950s and the 1970s. Additionally, the collection includes correspondence, writings, and ephemera pertaining to the life, military service, and career of Frank L. Whitman.

Access: Open to all researchers.
Language: English
Preferred Citation: Frank and Alfred Whitman collection, Special Collections Department, University Libraries, University of Memphis.

Publication date: September 2021
Biographical information

Alfred Littleton Whitman was born in Columbus, Mississippi on August 5, 1916, the son of Frank Littleton Whitman, and lived there until he graduated from high school. He attended West Tennessee State Teachers College (later Memphis State College) and received his degree in 1941. Whitman would later serve in the Army Air Corps as a Captain in World War II. He made his career as a stockbroker, but Whitman served as a military civilian supporter for a great many years of his adult life. His series materials detail his involvement with the United Service Organizations (USO), the Navy League of the United States, Memphis Chapter, and the Army-Navy Club of Memphis. Whitman served local municipal government by acting as a member of the Memphis Chamber of Commerce’s Military Affairs Committee. These different leadership appointments connected him to other civic engagements such as the Memphis Cotton Carnival Association. He married Hylda Bea Hicks (1919-2005). Alfred died on January 3, 1997.

Frank Littleton Whitman was born in Yazoo City, Mississippi on April 21, 1888, and died in Memphis, Tennessee on May 31, 1928. He was educated in Yazoo City schools and built an early career in the insurance industry. He joined military service, first serving with the National Guard at the Mexican border and later joined the First Tennessee Infantry and later served with the 30th Division overseas in France during World War I. His post military life was civil service to various local governments. Injuries that he sustained during World War I service brought him to Memphis, Tennessee where he would later pass away. His series materials focus on correspondence to family during his World War I deployment, military history, his career post World War I, and his death. It was during this service that he would sustain injuries that he would later succumb to in death.

Scope and contents

This collection is divided into two series. The collection spans the military years of Frank L. Whitman, World War I veteran and civil servant, through the civilian military service of Frank’s son Alfred L. Whitman. Series one includes correspondence, images, and newsprint related to the civilian service career of Alfred L. Whitman including the Navy League of the United States Memphis chapter and the United Service Organizations (USO). As part of these organization’s social activities, Mr. Whitman was involved with the Cotton Carnival and the Chamber of Commerce of Memphis. Series two includes correspondence, newsprint, writings, and ephemera related to Frank L. Whitman.

Subject terms

Whitman, Alfred L.
Whitman, Frank L.
Navy League of the United States.
Memphis Cotton Carnival Association.
Army Navy Club (Memphis, Tenn.)
### Inventory

**Series One: Alfred Whitman**

**Box 1**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Folder</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Miscellaneous newspaper clippings and articles re: Life of Alfred L. Whitman.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Certificate for Alfred Whitman from the United Daughters of the Confederacy re: Appreciation of his patriotic devotion to flag and country, 1949.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Correspondence and invitation re: Opening of bridge, 1892, 1892 April 26; 1892 May 13.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Memphis Cotton Carnival Association pictures, 1940s-1950s.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Miscellaneous material re: Memphis Council, Navy League of the United States; Clipping re: navy Day in Memphis, Tennessee, 1980 June 15.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Correspondence and notes re: 1971 Naval Hospital Christmas Party, Millington, Tennessee, 1971; Images from 1969 Naval Hospital Christmas Party.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OS</td>
<td>Excerpt folios from <em>The Bluejacket</em> re: details of planning of the 68th National Convention and coverage of the Cotton Carnival, 1970 May 14, two copies; Folio from <em>The Bluejacket</em> re: Alfred Whitman’s exit as President of the Navy League of Memphis, 1971 April 29.</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Correspondence and notes re: Memphis Chamber of Commerce and Memphis Council, Navy League of the United States forming a calendar of military events, 1958 September.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Correspondence re: Monthly military sponsored by the Member Chamber of Commerce’s Military Affairs Committee and the Navy League of the United States Memphis Council, 1970 February – June.</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Correspondence, position paper, and agenda: Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce’s efforts to keep the Naval Air State Memphis in Millington, Tennessee, 1979-1980; Clipping re: Naval Air Station, Memphis.</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Miscellaneous materials re: 164th Tactical Airlift Group, Memphis, Tennessee.</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Correspondence and notes re: “Salute to Vietnam Veterans,” Mid-South Coliseum, Memphis, Tennessee, 1969 October 15.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Images re: “Salute to Vietnam Veterans,” Mid-South Coliseum, Memphis,</td>
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Tennessee, 1969 October 15.

Folder 18 Programs, planning documents, scripts, schedule re: “Salute to Vietnam Veterans,” Mid-South Coliseum, Memphis, Tennessee, 1969 October 15; City of Memphis proclamation designating October 15, 1969, as “Salute to Vietnam Veterans Day.”

Folder 19 Local newspaper clipping and national article re: Anti-Vietnam protests occurring on October 15, 1969.


Folder 24 Correspondence, plans, contract, ticket, programs, dance card, receipt, image re: Grand Military Ball, Hotel Peabody, Memphis, Tennessee, 1961 November 11.


Box 2


Folder 2 Correspondence, itinerary, list of participants re: the Navy’s Civilian Orientation Cruise, Pensacola, Florida, 1964.

Folder 3 Correspondence and itineraries re: Visits to various military installations, 1949-1956.

Folder 4 Correspondence, itineraries, notes, rosters re: 1963 visit to North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), Colorado Springs, Colorado; 1964 visit to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio; 1967 visit to Eglin Air Force Proving Ground Base.


Folder 7 Correspondence re: Military personnel’s involvement with the Liberty Bowl, Memphis, Tennessee, 1972.

Folder 9  Miscellaneous correspondence, ephemera to Alfred Whitman, 1956-1967.
Folder 10  Bylaws, Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce, Board of Military Affairs Council, undated.
Folder 11  Bylaws, Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce, Board of Military Affairs Council, undated.
Folder 12  Meeting minutes, correspondence, bulletin, news clippings, work sheet, roster re: United Service Organizations.
Folder 13  Newsletters, annual report, ephemera re: United Service Organizations.
OS  Newspaper folio, *The Bluejacket*, vol. 19, no. 5 re: coverage of Al Whitman working on programs for servicemen’s welfare and recreation.
Folder 14  Images: United Services Organizations function, 1969 March, 9 images; Images featuring Alfred Whitman, undated, 4 images.
Folder 15  Bylaws and membership roster, Army – Navy Club of Memphis, Inc., undated; Amendments to the bylaws of the Army - Navy Club of Memphis, 1952.
Folder 18  Dossier re: How to reinvigorate the Army – Navy Club of Memphis and the club’s involvement with Cotton Carnival, 1956.
Folder 20  Miscellaneous correspondence, pamphlet, ephemera re: Alfred Whitman’s activities as a civilian military liaison.
Folder 20a Miscellany.

**Series Two: Frank Whitman**

Folder 21  Promotion warrant issued to Frank Whitman, Troop C of the 1st Calvary regiment of Alabama, 1916 December 15.
Folder 22  Correspondence from Frank Whitman re: spoils of war and experiences in the field, 1918 October 20.
Folder 23  Notebook, Frank Whitman, listings of soldiers killed and wounded in action, Company A, 119th Infantry, 1918 July – October.
Folder 24  “Souvenir of Camp Sevier, Greenville, South Carolina,” 1918 January.
Folder 25  Correspondence from Frank Whitman to his wife and children, 1918 September 11; Correspondence from Frank Whitman to Alfred Whitman, undated.
OS  Issue of *The Stars and Stripes*, 1918 October 25.
Folder 26  Newspaper clippings re: Life and death of Frank Whitman.
OS  Front page of *Newport Daily Independent*, vol. 21, no. 287 re: reemployment of Frank Whitman to the Newport, Arkansas secretary of Chamber of Commerce, 1922 March 18. This page is in three pieces.
Folder 28  Dossier re: articles written by and about Frank Whitman; History of the 30th Division; Image of Frank Whitman, 1918 November.
OS  Felt pennant, American Expeditionary Forces, 30th Division.
Folder 29  Miscellaneous newspaper clippings.
Folder 30  Church bulletin, First Methodist Church, Wadesboro, North Carolina, 1926
December 19.

Separated materials

The following items were disposed of as follows:
West Tennessee State Teachers College: Clippings; barn dance program; “Y Book”, 1940; poem.

Separated to University Archives, University History.