



State of Tennessee
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McCORD, JIM NANCE
(1879-1968)
PAPERS
1953-1958

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INTRODUCTION

The papers of Jim Nance McCord (1879-1968), auctioneer, businessman, journalist, politician, Member of Congress (1943-1945), Governor of Tennessee (1945-1949), and Commissioner of Conservation (1953-1958), span the years 1953-1958. The Jim Nance McCord Papers were taken from Governor McCord's official papers in the Archives Unit and transferred to the Manuscript Unit on October 8, 1970, and July 2, 1971.

The materials in this finding aid measure 2.52 linear feet. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Jim Nance McCord Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Jim Nance McCord Papers, containing approximately 1,800 items, span the period 1953-1958. The collection is composed of correspondence, cards (birthday, business, greeting, and sympathy), citations (awards and certificates), clippings, essays, invitations, legal documents, memorandums, reports, photographs, press releases, and speeches.

Correspondence for the years 1953-1958 includes data on such subjects as auction sales (primarily purebred Jersey livestock), conservation, education, genealogy, journalism, politics and government, public speaking, Tennessee history, and Tennessee Walking Horses. Because of his ability and reputation, McCord was in great demand as a banquet speaker for civic clubs, educational organizations, fraternal societies, and religious groups. Prominent correspondents include Ross Bass, James L. Bomar, Paul M. Butler, Frank G. Clement, Prentice Cooper, Price Daniel, Clifford Davis, Joe Evins, Albert Gore, Lyndon B. Johnson, Estes Kefauver, J. Carlton Loser, Jared Maddux, Tom Murray, J. C. Penny, Dan M. Robison, Allan Shivers, James G. Stahlman, Andrew T. Taylor, Herbert S. Walters, and Ben West. Prominent persons mentioned include Clifford Allen, Alvin W. Barkley, Gordon Browning, Dwight D. Eisenhower, Buford Ellington, Phillip M. Hamer, Ben W. Hooper, Henry H. Horton, Sam Houston, Douglas MacArthur, John Mack, Kenneth D. McKellar, Edmund Orgill, and J. Percy Priest.

Genealogical data for the McCord and related families is included in the family correspondence. Tennessee history is found primarily in connection with the organizations or societies involved in the restoration and preservation of historic houses and sites. Other historical data is provided in the sketches on the major accomplishments of the McCord administration, 1945-1949.

This collection provides a great deal of important data on Tennessee politics and government during the first two administrations of Governor Frank G. Clement. Especially valuable is the insight provided on the operation of the Tennessee state government with useful assessments of prominent political personalities and the positions taken on various issues during the period.

Of the election campaigns dealt with (1954, 1956, and 1958), the gubernatorial campaign of 1958 is most significant. The lines for this campaign were drawn when McCord endorsed the gubernatorial candidacy of Judge Andrew T. Taylor rather than support the choice of the Clement administration, Agriculture Commissioner Buford Ellington. The highlight of the campaign came when McCord decided to enter the race as an independent candidate against Ellington, the Democratic nominee.

Other material included in the collection includes cards of various types, citations and awards, newspaper clippings concerning McCord's political campaigns between 1948 and 1958, essays written by McCord for various publications, legal documents for McCord's insurance company, memorandums from the 1958 campaign, photographs for members of the McCord family and political associates, reports, and McCord's speeches and press releases from the 1958 gubernatorial campaign.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Jim Nance McCord

- 1879 Born March 17 in Unionville (Bedford County) Tennessee the son of Thomas N. McCord and Iva (Steele) McCord (twin brother Ed Cooper)
- Reared on Bedford County farm; attended Bedford County schools
- 1894 At the age of fifteen left the family farm and became a clerk in hardware store in Shelbyville, Tennessee
- 1896 With brother, Dr. W. A. McCord, began operation of a book, stationery and school supply shop in Lewisburg, Tennessee
- 1901 Married Vera Kercheval daughter of W. K. and Mollie (McKinney) Kercheval, of Lewisburg, Tennessee
- 1910 In partnership with W. K. Kercheval, purchased the *Marshall Gazette* and entered the newspaper business in Lewisburg, Tennessee
- 1912 Purchased W. K. Kercheval's interest and became owner and publisher of the *Marshall Gazette*
- 1914 Elected to membership on the Marshall County Court where he continued to serve until 1942
- 1916 Elected mayor of Lewisburg, Tennessee and served until 1942
- 1920 Began career as an auctioneer, specializing in the sale of purebred Jersey cattle and real estate
- Served as president of the Tennessee Jersey Breeders Association; active in the development of the dairy industry in Middle Tennessee
- 1932 Served as Democratic presidential elector for Tennessee
- 1935 Instrumental in the formation of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders Association
- 1940 Delegate to Democratic National Convention; elected president of Middle Tennessee Press Association

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| 1942 | Elected to United States Congress from Fifth Congressional District of Tennessee |
| 1944 | November 7, elected Governor of Tennessee |
| 1946 | November 5, re-elected Governor of Tennessee |
| 1948 | Defeated in gubernatorial election by Gordon Browning |
| 1953 | Served as delegate to the Tennessee Constitutional Convention of 1953 |
| 1953 | July 1, appointed Commissioner of Conservation in the cabinet of Governor Frank G. Clement |
| 1954 | November 3, married Mrs. Sula Tatum Sheeley of Dickson County, Tennessee at Tennessee Governor's Mansion |
| 1956 | Delegate to the Democratic National Convention |
| 1958 | Ran as an independent candidate for Governor of Tennessee |
| 1967 | July 8, married Mrs. T. Howard Estes of Nashville, Tennessee |
| 1968 | September 2, died in Nashville, Tennessee; buried in Lone Oak Cemetery at Lewisburg, Tennessee |

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