CAMPBELL, JAMES HARRISON
(1905-1957)
PAPERS
1924-1951

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INTRODUCTION

This finding aid focuses on the legal papers of James Harrison Campbell, attorney, of Franklin, Tennessee. The papers are primarily office files and are largely concentrated in the 1930s and 1940s. In the late 1920s, Campbell joined into a law partnership with E.W. Eggleston, which continued until Campbell was appointed as attorney for the Harpeth National Bank in 1950. The bulk of the collection is composed of the legal cases handled by the law firm.

The Campbell Papers are composed of approximately 27 cubic feet of material. The collection is arranged according to series, including: account books, correspondence, legal records and subject files. The collection was presented to the Tennessee State Library and Archives by Boardman Stewart, Franklin, Tennessee, in 1959. There are no restrictions on the use of the material. Single photocopies of unpublished materials in the Campbell Papers may be made for individual or scholarly research.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The James Harrison Campbell Papers containing approximately 27 cubic feet of material span the period 1924 through 1951, although much of the collection is concentrated between 1930-1950. The collection is composed of account books, correspondence, legal records and subject files.

In 1927, James Harrison Campbell formed a law partnership with Edmond W. Eggleston in Franklin, Tennessee. From 1927 through 1950, the law firm handled many hundreds of cases of citizens in Williamson, and other surrounding counties. These legal records of court cases comprise the bulk of the collection. The law firm dealt with civil law, therefore there are few criminal cases. As a result, the legal records in the collection are concerned primarily with estate settlements, land disputes, divorces and personal injury cases. Eggleston handled much of the casework, while Campbell researched property holdings, and wrote deeds and title abstracts.

Each court case is filed alphabetically by the defendant. The file may contain information relating to the case. Estate settlement cases may provide property inventories, lists of heirs and correspondence between the litigants. Property disputes and settlement cases may include a deed history of that property, as well as plats of the land in question. Each file contains a carbon copy of the court records, and may include correspondence, notes, state inheritance forms, and receipts. Since most legal work was done person-to-person or in the courtroom, much of the supporting file material is business in nature. Although some of the more detailed legal disputes may be of interest to the genealogist and local historian, the researcher will probably gain as much information by consulting the original records found in the county courts.

The correspondence is general in nature, and comprises only a small portion of the collection. Topics of interest in the correspondence include: Eggleston’s work in the Gordon Browning gubernatorial campaign, and his work on the National Defense Committee. There is a small amount of correspondence from two former governors, Prentice Cooper and Jim McCord.

The James Harrison Campbell Papers represent a complete collection of the records of a law firm in a small Southern town in the 1930s and 1940s. Although the researcher will inevitably consult the county records first, he should consult the case files in the collection to gain a fuller knowledge of the individual case. This supplemental information, sporadic as it may be, will be the greatest benefit of this collection.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES

James Harrison Campbell
(1905-1957)

James Harrison Campbell (1905-1957), attorney and religious leader, was born in Franklin, Tennessee, the son of William Winder, a Franklin merchant and banker, and Annie Briggs Campbell. He was graduated from Battleground Academy in Franklin in 1920, and then attended Vanderbilt University, where he received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1924 and his law degree in 1927. In 1927, he joined the law firm of E.W. Eggleston, and continued in that partnership until 1949.

In 1950, he became associated with the Harpeth National Bank, which he represented as an attorney for a number of years. He took an active interest in politics and for many years served as chairman of the Williamson County Democratic Committee. For twenty years he served as an elder in the Franklin First Presbyterian Church, and was also a clerk of the annual Presbyterian session for many years. During his career he was a member of the Williamson County Bar Association, Tennessee State Bar Association, and the Williamson County Library Board. His death occurred in Nashville, Tennessee on May 27, 1957, and he was interred at the Mount Hope Cemetery, Franklin, Tennessee.

Edmond W. Eggleston
(1901-?)

Edmond W. Eggleston was born in Franklin, Tennessee on August 10, 1901, the son of Joseph C. Eggleston. He attended Williamson County schools and was graduated from Battleground Academy, Franklin, in 1918. After a period of service in the army, he attended the Virginia Military Institute and the University of Tennessee, later receiving his LL.B Degree at Cumberland University at Lebanon in 1922. Returning to Franklin, he commenced the practice of law with his father, Judge Joseph C. Eggleston. In 1926, he was elected to an eight year term as Attorney-General of the 17th Judicial Circuit. He resigned in 1930 to return to private practice. In 1927, he became affiliated with James H. Campbell and formed a law partnership.

During World War II, he served as Government Appeal Agent for the Williamson County Selective Service Board, and served as Special Judge in the 17th Judicial District. He was the State Chairman of the first committee on war work of the Tennessee Bar Association. In January, 1949, he was appointed the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Highways and Public Works.
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