CROWNOVER, ARTHUR, SR.  
(1874-1942)  
PAPERS  
1880-1942

Processed by:
Harry Stokes  
Archival Technical Services

Accession Number: 95-045  
Date completed: March 13, 2001  
Location: XVIII-C-1-4  
Microfilm Accession Number: 1646

MICROFILMED
INTRODUCTION

This finding aid focuses on the papers of Arthur Crownover, Sr., lawyer and judge, born at Alto in Franklin County, Tennessee, on November 16, 1874. Spanning the years 1880-1942, the papers contain numerous court records concerning lawsuits and lower court decisions which were appealed to the Court of Appeals, Middle Section of the State of Tennessee. Also contained within the collection is extensive correspondence between Judge Crownover and J. Ray Hickerson, a former law partner in Winchester, Tennessee. In addition, there is copious correspondence and reports concerning the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee. The collection also comprises documents created by Judge Crownover's son, Arthur Crownover, Jr., in the form of court records while the latter was practicing law in Nashville, Tennessee in the 1930s and early 1940s. Other items within the collection include account books, estate papers, financial documents, land records, legal documents, photographs, programs, school records, speeches, and writings.

The materials were donated by Arthur Mader, a grandson of Judge Crownover, of Nashville, Tennessee in 1995. The unprocessed materials had been stored for several years in conditions that lacked humidity and temperature control prior to their transfer to the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

The collection measure approximately 11.0 cubic feet. Several printed items, including college yearbooks, were transferred to the library section before the collection was arranged. There are no restrictions on the material. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Arthur Crownover, Sr., Papers may be made for scholarly research.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

1874  November 16, born in Franklin County, Tennessee, the son of William and Laura (Montgomery) Crownover.

1895  Received his LL.B. degree at the University of the South at Sewanee, Tennessee.

1895-  Practiced law at Winchester, Tennessee, as a member of the firms of Billingsley and Crownover, Crownover and Crabtree, Estill and Crownover, and Crownover and Hickerson.

1900-1904 County attorney of Franklin County.

1906  April 26, married at Donaldsville, Louisiana to Emma Sims.

1914-1918 First chairman of the Tennessee Highway Commission

1922  Manager of Gov. Austin Peay's campaign.

1923  Appointed to the old court of Civil Appeals (now the Court of Appeals) by Gov. Austin Peay to serve out an unexpired term.

1924, 1926, 1934  Elected and reelected to the Court of Appeals.

1935  President of Civitan International.

1938  Honorary Doctor of Civil Laws degree from the University of the South where he was a trustee.

1942  June 16, died in Nashville, Tennessee.
SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

The Arthur Crownover, Sr., Papers, containing approximately 2,000 items, span the period 1880-1942, although the bulk is concentrated in the years 1906-1942. The collection is composed of account books, advertisements, associations, institutions, etc., broadsides, cards, certificates, clippings, correspondence, court records, estate papers, financial documents, genealogical materials, insurance papers, land records, legal documents, programs, photographs, publications, school records, speeches, addresses, University of the South correspondence and reports and writings.

A major portion of the collection consists of court records spanning Crownover's law career. Between 1895-1923, Crownover practiced law in Winchester while a member of several law firms. In 1923 he was appointed to the old court of civil Appeals (now the Court of Appeals), and subsequently served as an assistant justice and later as Chief Judge.

Judge Crownover served as a layman on the Board of trustees of the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee for many years. As a result of his long tenure there is a large file of correspondence and reports in the collection covering the period 1913-1942.

Among the prominent correspondents in the collection are such names as Governor Austin Peay, Henry H. Horton, and Prentice Cooper; F.B.I. Director J. Edgar Hoover; and U.S. Senator Cordell Hull.

Both Arthur Crownover, Sr., and his son Arthur, Jr., were members of the civic organization Civitan International. The former served as president, 1935-1936. There is a separate file in the collection of this organization which includes correspondence, programs and reports of local Civitan activities. Among the photographs are photos of Arthur Crownover, Sr., and former law partner Ike W. Crabtree and Judge Floyd Estill.

There is a large file for the Elk Mining Co., of Kelso, Tennessee. As a branch of the Monsanto Chemical Co., the Elk Mining Co., was chartered in 1906 to mine and sell phosphate rock in Lincoln County, Tennessee. Arthur Crownover, Sr., was one of the original stockholders. The file contains correspondence, court records, legal documents, minutes of the annual stockholder's meeting and stock certification.

The Arthur Crownover, Sr., Papers provides valuable information on a prominent legal family in the first half of the 1900's in Middle Tennessee.
CONTAINER LIST

BOX NUMBER 1
1. Account Books—Ledger—Arthur Crownover, Sr., 1910-1919
3. Associations, institutions, etc.—Civitan International, 1929-1942
4. Associations, institutions, etc.—Freolac Club, 1939
5. Associations, institutions, etc., Knights of Pythias, 1908, 1928
6. Associations, institutions, etc., Layman's League, 1933-1937

BOX NUMBER 2
3. Broadsides—“The Veteran’s Ticket,” n.d.
5. Cards—Business—J. Roy Hickerson, Joe T. McCary and Arthur Crownover, Jr., Mar. 1, 1940
7. Cards—Membership—American Red Cross—Arthur Crownover, Jr., 1927
8. Certificates—Auto Registration—Arthur Crownover, Sr., 1931, 1939
11. Clippings—Crownover, Augusta (Maddux)
12. Clippings—Crownover, Emma (Sims)
13. Clippings—Crownover, R.N. Sims
14. Clippings—Crownover, Ruth (Horn)
15. Clippings—Koppel, Emma Sims (Crownover)
16. Clippings—Mader, Heloise (Crownover)
17. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—”A”
18. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—”B”
19. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—W.W. Baldwin, 1932-1937

BOX NUMBER 3
1. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—”C”
2. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—”D-E”
3. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—Estill, Floyd, 1924-1941

BOX NUMBER 4
1. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—”F”
2. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—Farr, W.W., 1924-1941
3. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—”G”
4. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—”H”
5. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—Hickerson, J. Roy, 1924-1928
BOX NUMBER 5
1. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—Hickerson, J. Roy, 1929-1942
2. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—"I-K"
3. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—"L"
4. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—"M"
5. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—"N-R"

BOX NUMBER 6
1. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—"S"
2. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—"T"
3. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.—"U-Z"
4. Correspondence—Crownover, Arthur, Jr.
5. Correspondence—Crownover, Emma (Sims)

BOX NUMBER 7
Court Records—Cases
1. Arthur Crownover, Sr., 1927-1942
2. Arthur Crownover, Jr., 1941-1942
3. Chancery/Circuit Courts of Davidson Co. of Tenn.—John Barry, et ux., v. Mrs. Samantha Jane Clark, et al., 1935
4. Chancery/Circuit Courts of Davidson Co. of Tenn.—Beck v. Steingruber, 1935-1942
5. Chancery/Circuit Courts of Davidson Co. of Tenn.—Blanton v. Blanton-Bonner v. Reynolds
6. Chancery/Circuit Courts of Davidson Co. of Tenn.—"C-F"

BOX NUMBER 8
Court Records—Cases

BOX NUMBER 9
Court Records—Cases
3. Chancery/Circuit Courts of Davidson Co., Tenn.—Dorothy Sloan Search v. David C. Searcy—Lester Staggs v. Chas. Lester Staggs

BOX NUMBER 10
Court Records—Cases
1. Court of Appeals of Tenn., Middle Section of Nashville—"B-G"
2. Court of Appeals of Tenn., Middle Section of Nashville—"H"

BOX NUMBER 11
Court Records—Cases
1. Court of Appeals of Tenn., Middle Section of Nashville—"I-K"
2. Court of Appeals of Tenn., Middle Section of Nashville—"L"

BOX NUMBER 12
Court Records—Cases
1. Court of Appeals of Tenn., Middle Section of Nashville—"M"

BOX NUMBER 13
Court Records—Cases
1. Court of Appeals of Tenn., Middle Section of Nashville—"N-O"
2. Court of Appeals of Tenn., Middle Section of Nashville—"P-Q"

BOX NUMBER 14
Court Records—Cases
1. Court of Appeals of Tenn., Middle Section of Nashville—"R"
2. Court of Appeals of Tenn., Middle Section of Nashville—"Sa-Sh"

BOX NUMBER 15
Court Records—Cases
1. Court of Appeals of Tenn., Middle Section of Nashville—"So-Sz"
2. Court of Appeals of Tenn., Middle Section of Nashville—"T"
3. Centiorari Cases—Tenn., Court of Appeals and Tenn., Supreme Court, 1925-1942
4. Opinions—Judge Arthur Crownover, 1928, 1939-1942
5. Trustee’s Sale—F.W. Hooper to Arthur Crownover, Jr., 1940

BOX NUMBER 16
1. Elk Mining Co.—Corr., etc., 1906-1940
2. Estate Papers—Elizabeth Montgomery Buckner, 1932-1935
3. Estate Papers—Wm. Crownover, Sr., 1936
4. Farm Records—Applications for Parity Payments, etc.—Arthur Crownover, Sr., 1940-1941
5. Financial Documents—Bank Book—Arthur Crownover, Sr., 1929-1933
6. Financial Documents—Bills and Receipts—Arthur Crownover, Sr., 1930, 1941
10. Genealogical materials—Crownover, Wm. Sr., (1816-1885)
11. Genealogical materials—Eaton, Ebenezer/Kittredge, Stephen

BOX NUMBER 17
1. Insurance Papers—Arthur Crownover, Sr., 1925-1942
2. Invitations—Unveiling of Statue of Gen. Andrew Jackson, April 15, 1928
3. Land Records—Deeds—Tennie Greer Adkisson to Nellie Blair Hobson, 1921
12. Land Records—Deeds—Arthur Crownover, Sr., to J.A Corn, Sept. 11, 1940
19. Land Records—Deeds—Arthur Crownover and wife, Emma Sims Crownover to Trustees of Inglewood Methodist Episcopal Church, Mar. 27, 1924
20. Land Records—Deed—Arthur Crownover and Mrs. Elizabeth Myers to J.B. Hunt, May 8, 1934 (copy)
23. Land Records—Deeds—Jesse Fanning to Arthur Crownover, Sr., Sept. 4, 1936
24. Land Records—Deeds—Jesse Fanning to Homer Hopkins, July 12, 1937
25. Land Records—Deeds—Homer Hopkins, et ux., to Arthur Crownover, Sr., July 12, 1936
26. Land Records—Deeds—J.B. Hunt to University of South, Feb. 5, 1934 (copy)
27. Land Records—Deeds—J.F. Jenkins to Horace T. Polk et al., Trustees, 1931
30. Land Records—Deeds—Horace T. Polk et al., Wardens to James F. Jenkins, April 10, 1936 (copy)
31. Land Records—Deeds—Mrs. E.A. Quintard, et al., to Mrs. Maud Crownover, Nov. 15, 1934
32. Land Records—Deeds—A.M. Rutledge, et al., to W.M. Crownover, April 5, 1880
34. Land Records—Deeds—Arthur Rutledge Young, et al., to University of South, Dec. ____, 1939
36. Land Records—Grants—State of Tenn. to Margaret A. Blackwood, Mar. 12, 1839
37. Land Records—Grants—State of Tenn. to Portland I. Curle, Apr. 7, 1841 (copy)

BOX NUMBER 18
1. Land Records—Title Abstract—Arthur Crownover and wife Mrs. Emma Sims Crownover
2. Legal Documents—Affidavits—Arthur Crownover, Sr., Oct. 20, 1927
3. Legal Documents—Agreement—Arthur Crownover and J.T. Abbott, Apr. 4, 1921
4. Legal Documents—Agreement—Estill and Crownover with J.C. Bean, Mar. 10, 1921
5. Legal Documents—Agreement—Purchase—Arthur Crownover and Mrs. Bertha M. Rogers, Oct. 1, 1924
10. Legal Documents—Contract-Rental—Arthur Crownover and Orel Gailor Crownover, Mar. 16, 1936
11. Legal Documents—Contract-Rental—Arthur Crownover, Sr., and Frank Dotson, Feb. 18, 1939
13. Legal Documents—Contract-Special Annuity—Fidelity Investment Ass’n. of Wheeling, W.V., Feb. 1940
14. Legal Documents—Deed—T.E. Farris and wife Mrs. Maggie Farris to Arthur Crownover, Jr., July 3, 1939
15. Legal Documents—Deed of Trust—J.J. Bedwell and wife Bessie Bedwell to W.H. Haynes, June 4, 1930
16. Legal Documents—Deed of Trust—A.J. Been, et al., to Thos. H. Warren, Trustee, Oct. 9, 1925
17. Legal Documents—Deed of Trust—Arthur Crownover and wife Emma Sims Crownover to V. & W. Witherspoon, Trustee, Mar. 21, 1922
18. Legal Documents—Deed of Trust—Marguerite Gerhart Moore to Arthur Crownover, Jr., 1938-1941
19. Legal Documents—Deed of Trust—L.L. Rice to H.J. Hayes, Trustee, Aug. 18, 1938
20. Legal Documents—Endorsement—Arthur Crownover, Sr.
22. Legal Documents—Will—Wm. John and Mabelle Claire White Ellison, June 7, 1940
23. Legal Documents—Will—Bessie Warner Holt, Mar. 27, 1940
24. Lists—Flowers and Telegrams—Death and Funeral of Arthur Crownover, Sr., 1942
27. Lists—Promissory Notes and Property—Arthur Crownover, Sr., 1924
29. Military Records—Pension Claim—Joseph Crownover, 1833
30. Minutes—Proceedings—Mountain Mining and marble Co., Dec. 27, 1905
31. Obituaries—Crownover, Laura (Montgomery), 1850-1932

BOX NUMBER 18A
Photographs
1. Arthur Crownover, Sr., et al.
2. Arthur Crownover, Sr., and Ike W. Crabtree
3. Arthur Crownover, Sr., and Floyd Estill
4. Arthur Crownover, Sr., and Floyd Estill
5. Arthur Crownover, Sr., and Tom Morrison
6. Arthur Crownover, Sr., and Farm, Franklin Co., Tenn., 1940, 1944 (6)
7. Arthur Crownover, Jr., et al.
8. Arthur Crownover, Jr., et al.
9. Arthur Crownover, Jr., et al.
10. John H. DeWitt
11. Judge Floyd Estill, 1939
12. John Marshall
13. Roddy McDowell
14. Lt. Col. Robert C. Rice
15. E.G. Sihler
16. Ivan Stephens
17. Tennessee Constitutional Convention of 1870
18. Unidentified (4)

BOX NUMBER 19
1. Proclamations—Crusade for Freedom Month, Nov. 19, 1952
2. Programs—The American Law Institute, May 6, 1933
3. Programs—American Philological Ass'n.—65th Annual Meeting, Dec. 27-29, 1933
4. Programs—Bellamy Players (Nashville, Tenn.), July 9-14, 1928
5. Programs—Chamber of Commerce of the U.S.A., May 4, 1933
6. Programs—Eta Sigma Phi—Eighth National Convention, Apr. 29-30, 1932
8. Programs—Freiburg "Passion Play" (Nashville, Tenn.), Mar. 19-22, 1930
9. Programs—Honoring Dr. Prestis A. Pugh on Retirement, Feb. 21, 1955
10. Programs—Inaugural Dinner-Gov. and Mrs. Austin Peay, Jan. 18, 1927
11. Programs—Phi Beta Kappa—Annual Meeting, Dec. 5, 1928
12. Programs—Phi Beta Kappa—Vanderbilt chapter—39th Anniversary Meeting, Dec. 5, 1940
13. Programs—Second Inauguration—Gov. Prentice Cooper, Jan. 16, 1941
14. Programs—Tenn. Philological Ass’n.—28th Annual Meeting, Mar. 2-3, 1934
16. Publications—Brochures—The Church of the Advent Church, School, 1945-1946
17. Publications—Brochures—"Tennessee Procedure in Law Cases," 1937
19. Publications—Directory—Church of the Advent (Nashville, Tenn.), 1938
22. Publications—Magazines—The Vanderbilt Alumnus, April 1932

BOX NUMBER 20
1. School Records—Crownover, Arthur, Jr., 1926-1931
2. School Records—Crownover, R.N. Sims, 1932
3. School Records—Koppell, Emma (Crownover)
4. School Records—Mader, M. Heloise (Crownover)
10. Speeches-Addresses—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.,? In Memoriam—Dr. William Haskell Dubose, Oct. 10, 1937
13. Speeches-Addresses—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.,? "The Schools and Loyalty to the Nation," Nov. 11, 1933
16. Speeches-Addresses—Crownover, Arthur, Sr.,? Miscellaneous

BOX NUMBER 21
1. University of the South—Correspondence, reports, etc., 1913-1934
2. University of the South—Correspondence, reports, etc., 1935-1936

BOX NUMBER 22
1. University of the South—Correspondence, reports, etc., 1937-1942
2. University of the South—Land Record—Chain of Title

BOX NUMBER 23
Oversize Documents
1. Land Records—Plat—Travis Heiro Land, n.d.
2. Legal Documents—Appointment—State Highway Commission—Arthur Crownover, 1915
3. Legal Documents—Appointment—Court of Civil Appeals—Arthur Crownover, 1923
4. Legal Documents—Appointment—Court of Civil Appeals—Arthur Crownover, 1924
5. Legal Documents—Appointment—Court of Civil Appeals—Arthur Crownover, 1926
6. Legal Documents—Appointment—Court of Civil Appeals—Arthur Crownover, 1934
7. Legal Documents—Oaths—Judge Court of Appeals—Arthur Crownover, 1926
7a. Legal Documents—Oaths? Judge Court of Appeals—Arthur Crownover, 1934
8. License—Marriage—Arthur Crownover and Emma Sims, April 25, 1906
9. Photographs—Bench and Bar of Tennessee, 1929
10. Photographs—Bench and Bar of Tennessee, 1937
11. Photographs—Bench and Bar of Tennessee, 1947
12. Photographs—Court of Appeals of Tennessee, 1926
13. Photographs—Founders Day Banquet, Delta Theta Phi, May 9, 1934
14. Photographs—Linestock Section, Critical Examination, September 14, 1931
16. School Records—University of South—L.L.B. Degree—Arthur Crownover, 1895