



State of Tennessee
Department of State
Tennessee State Library and Archives

Jay Guy Cisco Papers, 1894-1921

COLLECTION SUMMARY

Creator:

Cisco, Jay Guy

Inclusive Dates:

1894-1921

Scope & Content:

The Jay Guy Cisco Papers, 1894-1921, consist of nine biographical sketches, newspaper clippings, various correspondence, estate records, one speech, two publications, two drafts, and 12 scrapbooks.

The biographical sketches include family members of prominent Tennesseans, such as Albigence (Aaron) Waldo Putnam. Albigence was the son of Major General Israel Putnam, for whom Putnam County, Tennessee, is named. He married into the Sevier family twice (Catherine Anne and then Charlotte) and afterward the daughter of Alfred Nicholson, a Tennessee statesman. Later in life, Cisco established his reputation as a historian and collected items related to Tennessee historical figures.

The papers also include clippings from four newspapers: two unidentified Tennessee papers and the *Nashville Banner*. One article details the first four months after Harriman incorporated in 1891. Another concerns the Southern hospitality the writer experienced during his travels Tennessee Governor James Porter. The two from the *Nashville Banner* deal with legislative issues dated 1894 and 1900.

The majority of the correspondence regards local and family histories, which Cisco used to create and publish genealogical notes for Tennessee counties. An entire folder is devoted to letters from Boutwell Dunlap, who wrote to Cisco inquiring about the history of Sumner County. Cisco later wrote a book about the county. There is also a handful of letters from Jere Baxter, founder of the Tennessee Central Railway, to Cisco discussing railroad business.

Included is a copy of the articles of agreement for the deed of Col. John Buchanan, one of the early settlers of Augusta County, Virginia. Additionally, there is a publication about the life of General James Winchester (one of Tennessee's first senators) as read before the Tennessee Historical Society in April 1912.

There are also two manuscript drafts in the collection. Cisco published "Historic Sumner County, Tennessee" in 1909. A copy is available at the Tennessee State Library and Archives. In "Counties and County seats of Tennessee," Cisco included historical information on all of Tennessee counties plus information about the people responsible for their creation.

Finally, there are 12 scrapbooks containing mostly images or prints clipped from newspaper or magazine reproductions.

Physical Description/Extent:

1.5 cubic feet

Accession/Record Group Number:

Ac. No. 90-183

Language:

English

Permanent Location:

IX-C-2

Repository:

Tennessee State Library and Archives, 403 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, Tennessee, 37243-0312

Administrative/Biographical History

Jay Guy Cisco was born on April 25, 1844, in New Orleans, Louisiana, and is thought to be of German and French descent. He served in the Confederate Army with the 6th Louisiana Infantry during the Civil War. Soon afterward, he toured Europe and briefly worked as a newspaperman. In 1870, he married Mildred George Pursley and fathered eight children.

Cisco moved to Jackson, Tennessee, in 1875 and opened Cisco's Bookstore. In addition to selling books and stationery, he displayed various Native American relics in his small office museum. Cisco was fascinated with Native American history as it pertained to their early inhabitation in West Tennessee. He studied

many of their archaeological remains and artifacts in Madison County. One site, believed to be an ancient walled city with outer defenses measuring six miles in length, was named "City Cisco" in his honor. These ruins were relatively unknown in the 1880s, but they attracted widespread interest largely because of Cisco's efforts. Throughout his life, Cisco published numerous works pertaining to American history, politics, and archaeology; he was also a collector of Tennesseeana, such as autographs of historical figures important to the state's growth. For a period of time, Cisco ran a steam printing press when he was a member of the firm Cisco and Hawkins.

In addition to establishing the *Forked Deer Blade* (1883) in Jackson, Cisco took up employment in several other capacities throughout his life. He was the Assistant Special Industrial and Immigration Agent at the L & N Railroad, and he worked for the Trans-Mississippi Department. He accepted an appointment as U.S. Consul to Mexico during the Grover Cleveland administration.

Cisco established a reputation as a dynamic character during his tenure at the *Forked Deer Blade*. Describing his character, one journalist wrote, "Mr. Cisco was a fearless man. When he thought he was right he stuck to his principles to the end even though things became warm at times that he packed his gun, for both he and his friends knew that his life was in danger. That was the day when men took their religion and politics seriously." ("History of the Madison County Press," Chapter V in *The Jackson Sun*, 10-26-44). Cisco died in 1922 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Organization/Arrangement of Materials

Collection is arranged alphabetically by document type.

Conditions of Access and Use

Restrictions on Access:

No restrictions

Restrictions on Use and Reproduction:

While the Tennessee State Library and Archives houses an item, it does not necessarily hold the copyright on the item, nor may it be able to determine if the item is still protected under current copyright law. Users are solely responsible for determining the existence of such instances and obtaining any other permissions and paying associated fees that may be for the intended use.

Index Terms

Personal/Family Names:

Baxter, Jere, 1852-1904
Cisco, Jay Guy
Winchester, James, 1752-1826

Corporate Names/Organizations/Government Bodies:

Louisville and Nashville Railroad Company
Tennessee Central Railway Company
Tennessee Historical Society

Subjects:

Newspapers--United States--History--19th century--Sources
Railroads -- Tennessee -- History
Scrapbooks -- United States -- History -- 19th century
Scrapbooks -- United States -- History -- 20th century
Statesmen -- Tennessee -- Biography

Geographic Names:

Sumner County (Tenn.) -- History -- 19th century
Sumner County (Tenn.) -- History -- 20th century
Tennessee -- History -- 19th century
Tennessee -- History -- 20th century
Tennessee -- Genealogy -- 19th century
Tennessee -- Genealogy -- 20th century

Document Types:

Admission tickets
Biographical sketches
Clippings (information artifacts)
Correspondence
Drafts (documents)
Estate records
Genealogies (histories)
Histories (literature genre)
Lists (document genres)
Publications (document genres)
Scrapbooks
Speeches (documents)

Acquisition and Appraisal

Provenance and Acquisition:

The Jay Guy Cisco Papers were acquired by the Tennessee State Library and Archives in 1990 from an unknown source.

Processing and Administrative Information

Preferred Citation:

Jay Guy Cisco Papers, 1894-1921, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Processing Information:

Processing completed by Sara Horne in September 2016.

Related Archival Materials:

Jay Guy Cisco Collection, 1785-[1850-1912]-1953, Tennessee State Library and Archives

Publication Note:

Cisco, Jay Guy. *Historic Sumner County, Tennessee with Genealogies of the Bledsoe, Cage and Douglass Families and Genealogical Notes of Other Sumner County Families*. Nashville, TN: Folk-Keelin Print., 1909. Print.

Gates, Robert, J. B. Killebrew, M. V. Richards, and Jay Guy Cisco. *Tennessee, Its Advantages, Resources, and Possibilities*. Nashville: Marshall & Bruce. Print.

The Forked Deer Blade. Jackson, TN., 1884-1891.

DETAILED COLLECTION DESCRIPTION

CONTAINER LIST

| Contents/Item Title | Date | Box | Folder |
|--|---------------|-----|--------|
| Admission ticket -- The Tennessee Centennial Exposition | 1897 | 1 | 1 |
| Biographical sketches -- Col. Gilbert Christian | Undated | 1 | 2 |
| Biographical sketches -- James Harvey Macleary | 1894 | 1 | 3 |
| Biographical sketches -- Walter Benjamin Palmer | Undated | 1 | 4 |
| Biographical sketches -- Lulie Kirby-Parrish | Undated | 1 | 5 |
| Biographical sketches -- Albigence Waldo Putnam | Undated | 1 | 6 |
| Biographical sketches -- Joseph Saudek | Undated | 1 | 7 |
| Biographical sketches -- James Hamilton Sedberry | Undated | 1 | 8 |
| Biographical sketches -- St. George Leakin Sioussat | Undated | 1 | 9 |
| Biographical sketches -- Susan E. W. Smith | Undated | 1 | 10 |
| Clippings -- Tennessee history | Undated; 1894 | 1 | 11 |
| Correspondence -- Adams - Ashe | 1906-1918 | 1 | 12 |
| Correspondence -- Bailey - Bledsoe | 1902-1921 | 1 | 13 |
| Correspondence -- Bond - Byrn | 1903-1919 | 1 | 14 |
| Correspondence -- Cage - Chesney | 1901-1911 | 1 | 15 |
| Correspondence -- Cisco - Crockett | 1903-1908 | 1 | 16 |
| Correspondence -- Dalton - Drake | 1903-1916 | 1 | 17 |
| Correspondence -- Dunlap, Boutwell | 1916-1921 | 1 | 18 |
| Correspondence -- Eastman - Fuqua | 1903-1920 | 1 | 19 |
| Correspondence -- Garland - Gensler | 1908-1917 | 1 | 20 |
| Correspondence -- Gentry - Grizzard | 1904-1917 | 1 | 21 |
| Correspondence -- Haire - Hayes | 1903-1920 | 1 | 22 |
| Correspondence -- Head - Holding | 1894-1916 | 1 | 23 |
| Correspondence -- Holland - Hutton | 1900-1913 | 1 | 24 |
| Correspondence -- Inge - Knox | 1904-1909 | 1 | 25 |
| Correspondence -- Lauderdale - Lewinthal | 1907-1909 | 1 | 26 |
| Correspondence -- Link - McGee | 1905-1914 | 1 | 27 |
| Correspondence -- McKamy - Mellen | 1894-1918 | 1 | 28 |
| Correspondence -- Miles - Murray | 1903-1910 | 1 | 29 |
| Correspondence -- Nash - Owen | 1903-1914 | 1 | 30 |
| Correspondence -- Palmer - Pickett | 1904-1908 | 1 | 31 |
| Correspondence -- Pilcher - Price | 1903-1920 | 1 | 32 |
| Correspondence -- Pritchard - Quinn | 1906-1914 | 1 | 33 |
| Correspondence -- Ramsey - Rogan | 1904-1914 | 2 | 1 |
| Correspondence -- Rogers - Scisco | 1906-1914 | 2 | 2 |
| Correspondence -- Scruggs-Shelby | 1905-1908 | 2 | 3 |

| | | | |
|---|-----------|---|----|
| Correspondence -- Shepherd-Smith | 1903-1920 | 2 | 4 |
| Correspondence -- Stephens-Swaney | 1906-1910 | 2 | 5 |
| Correspondence -- Taylor-Thompson | 1904-1911 | 2 | 6 |
| Correspondence -- Thorn-Watson | 1903-1910 | 2 | 7 |
| Correspondence -- Weadock-Wiley | 1906-1908 | 2 | 8 |
| Correspondence -- Williams, D. S. | 1908 | 2 | 9 |
| Correspondence -- Williams, J.-Wynne | 1903-1908 | 2 | 10 |
| Correspondence -- Yancey-Unknown | 1905-1915 | 2 | 11 |
| Drafts -- "Counties and county seats of Tennessee" | 1904 | 2 | 12 |
| Drafts -- "Historic Sumner County Tennessee" | 1909 | 2 | 13 |
| Estate records -- Col. John Buchanan | 1909 | 3 | 1 |
| Genealogies -- Anderson-Malone | Undated | 3 | 2 |
| Histories -- Bledsoe's Lick | Undated | 3 | 3 |
| Lists -- Revolutionary soldiers buried in Tennessee | Undated | 3 | 4 |
| Publications -- History of Madison County | 1902 | 3 | 5 |
| Publications -- Tennessee counties | Undated | 3 | 6 |
| Scrapbooks -- Books 1-3 | Undated | 3 | 7 |
| Scrapbooks -- Books 4-6 | Undated | 3 | 8 |
| Scrapbooks -- Books 7-9 | Undated | 3 | 9 |
| Scrapbooks -- Books 11-12 | Undated | 3 | 10 |
| Speeches -- "General James Winchester" | 1912 | 3 | 11 |