



State of Tennessee
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**CHAMPION, S. A.
(1844-1906)
COLLECTION
1876-1885**

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INTRODUCTION

Samuel A. Champion was a lawyer in Paris, Tenn. and a Tennessee State Senator, 1883-1884. This collection includes business letters and postcards. Correspondents include W.H. Cherry, Charles M. Ewing, W.B. Grizzard, James M. Head, W.E. Reigh, A. Rosecrans, F.M. Thompson, A.G. Travistree, John M. Taylor, John R. Thomason, W.L. Utley, John J. Vertrees, R.A. Wade, William H. Washington, and L.R. Willis.

The materials in this collection measures .42 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single copies of unpublished writings in the S.A. Champion papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Champion papers pertain to Samuel A. Champion, a prominent Paris, Tennessee lawyer and member of the State Legislature from 1883 to 1885. This collection throws an interesting light on the details of local and state politics in the 1880's. It also provides glimpses of the life and affairs of the legal profession in a small town.

A majority of the letters deal with civil suits, the collection of fees and other financial matters. As a lawyer, Mr. Champion specialized in taxes, the collection of debts and the settlement of claims. There are a few letters concerning Champion's interest in the financial affairs of the struggling "Morning World" newspaper. There are several letters dealing with the fortunes of the Democratic party, which was at this time attempting to unify its ranks and secure control over the state political machinery. There are also a number of letters concerning Champion's services as a state senator, including letters seeking appointments and political favors and petitions in favor of certain laws, et cetera. Finally there are a few letters from R.A. Wade who managed Champion's Cattle farm near Paris.

Among those who corresponded with Mr. Champion were William H. Cherry of the Tennessee Agricultural Works, William W. Washington, Attorney General for the Nashville District, John M. Taylor, Attorney from Lexington, Tennessee, F.M. Thompson, his assistant in Paris, Tennessee and Leon Tronsdale, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Samuel Alphonso Champion

- 1844 October 12, born at Fulton, Fulton County, Kentucky to James Henry and Elvira Angeline Phipps Champion
- 188? Began practice of law at Paris, Tennessee; President of Bank of Henry County
- 1883-85 Elected to the Senate representing Henry and Weakley counties, Tennessee
- 1884 Removed to Nashville, Tennessee where he practiced law for sixteen years
- 1886 Married May Harding of Mississippi
- 1906 April 25, died, Nashville; buried in Mount Olivet Cemetery

CONTAINER LIST

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