



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

COBB, PHARAOH LEE
(1866-1957)
PAPERS
ADDITION
1787-1957

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INTRODUCTION

This collection consists of papers relating to Pharaoh Lee Cobb of Virginia and Tennessee, Methodist minister and missionary in Mexico, and the Cobb family. It includes correspondence, genealogical data, biographical sketches of Dr. Samuel Evans Massengill and William McFarland, deeds, and the will of Samuel Chestnut.

The materials in this finding aid measure .84 linear feet. There are no restrictions on the materials. Single photocopies of unpublished writings in the Pharaoh Lee Cobb Papers may be made for purposes of scholarly research.

SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Pharaoh Lee Cobb Papers – Addition, containing approximately 300 items, consists of clippings, correspondence, genealogical data, legal documents, notes, a photograph and sketches.

The bulk of the collection is the correspondence of Pharaoh Lee Cobb, (1866-1957), a Methodist minister and missionary in Mexico, of Virginia and, later, Tennessee. The Cobb letters are of a family and business nature.

Genealogical data concern the Chestnut, Cobb, Ingram, Lee, Morris and Smith families.

There are biographical sketches of Samuel Evans Massengill (1871-1946), and William McFarland (1821-1900). Dr. Massengill was a pharmaceutical manufacturer who established the S.E. Massengill Company in Bristol, Tennessee. Massengill products are distributed worldwide.

William McFarland served as a Representative from Tennessee in the Forty-Fourth Congress of the United States.

The value of the collection resides in the letters of Pharaoh L. Cobb, providing insight into the life and activities of a Twentieth Century minister and missionary.

Further information can be obtained by consulting the Pharaoh Lee Cobb Papers – Ms. Ac. No. 71-200, which are housed in the Tennessee State Library and Archives.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Pharaoh Lee Cobb

- 1866 March 3, born at St. Clair, Hawkins County, Tennessee
- 1887-1888 Attended Emory and Henry College, Emory, Virginia
- 1888-1889 School teacher at Morristown, Tennessee
- 1889-1892 Attended the University of Tennessee; graduated in 1892
- 1892 Joined the Holston Conference, United Methodist Church, Wytheville, Virginia
- 1897 Graduate of Vanderbilt University Divinity School
- 1896-1897 Chaplain, Tennessee Penitentiary
- 1897-1902 Missionary Secretary for the Holston Conference
- 1900 Married Cora Nell Crosby at West Medford, Massachusetts
- 1902-1907 Served as a missionary in Mexico in Monterrey and Mexico City
- 1907-1911 Pastor at Bramwell, Virginia
- 1911-1915 Pastor at Highland Park, Tennessee
- 1915-1919 Pastor at Knoxville, Tennessee
- 1919-1920 Pastor at Morristown, Tennessee
- 1920-1926 Pastor at Nashville, Tennessee
- 1926-1928 Pastor at Clinton, Tennessee
- 1928-1932 Pastor at Big Stone Gap, Virginia
- 1932-1936 Pastor at Galax, Virginia
- 1936-1940 Pastor at Ridgedale, Tennessee

1940-1942 Pastor at South Pittsburg, Tennessee
1942-1945 Pastor at Sequatchie, Tennessee
1945-1947 Pastor at Hixson, Tennessee
1947-1950 Pastor at Daisy, Tennessee
1950-1951 Pastor at Hobson – Nashville, Tennessee
1957 October 4, died, Nashville, Tennessee

CONTAINER LIST

Microfilm Roll #1

Box 1

1. Church records – Ridgedale Methodist Episcopal Church South, Chattanooga, Tennessee, 1894
2. Church Records – Bulletin – Hixson Methodist Church, 1946-1948
3. Clippings – “Georgia Land Grab”, 1941
4. Clippings – “Marriage of Miss Geraldine Roberts to William Thomas”, Chestnut, n.d.
5. Clippings – “Colonel W.M. Nixon”, October 6, 1941
6. Clippings – “Search for “Cornerstone” of Tri-State”, n.d.
7. Clippings – “Loyalty Gave Tennessee Nickname for the Volunteer State, n.d.
8. Clippings – “Lt. Sullens Preston Turner”, n.d.
9. Clippings – “The Beauty of the Tennessee Valley”, October 3, 1937
10. Correspondence – _____ - Brown
11. Correspondence – Cassidy – East Tennessee Historical Society
12. Correspondence – Faris - Grigsby
13. Correspondence – Hammshell - King
14. Correspondence – Lee – Morris
15. Correspondence – North Carolina -- Presbyterian
16. Correspondence – Scott - Stout
17. Correspondence – Cobb, Pharaoh Lee
18. Correspondence – Miscellaneous – Authors Unknown
19. Drama – “Lit and Pub – Trouble Shooters” – Belmont Church, 1951
20. Estate papers – Cobb, William E., (Copies)
21. Genealogy data – Chestnut family
22. Genealogy data – Pharaoh Lee Cobb family
23. Genealogy data – Ingram family
24. Genealogy data – Lee family
25. Genealogy data – Morell family
26. Genealogy data – Smith family

Box 2

1. Legal documents – Indenture – Alexander Blair and Joseph Cobb, 29 June 1833
2. Legal documents – Indenture – Mary Mitchell and Pharaoh Cobb, 16 December 1800
3. Legal documents – Indenture – Joseph Cobb and Bathulamew Smith, 1797
4. Legal documents – Indenture – Robert King and James King, 1787
5. Legal documents – Mark Mitchel and Pharaoh Cobb, 1807 (Copy)
6. Legal documents – Will – Samuel Chestnut (Copy)
7. Letter copy book – Pharaoh Lee Cobb, 1941-1957, n.d.
8. Lists – Condolence cards – Mrs. Pharaoh Lee Cobb, December 17, 1955
9. Notes – Pharaoh Lee Cobb – Miscellaneous

10. Obituaries – Rev. John Wiley Perry, February 8, 1866
11. Photographs, drawings, etc. – Cobb – 50th Wedding Anniversary, June 27, 1950
12. Printed material -- Miscellaneous
13. Program – Sesquicentennial, 1790-1940, October 13, 1940, Kingsport, Tennessee
14. Sketches – Autobiographical – Pharaoh Lee Cobb
15. Sketches – Biographical – William McFarland
16. Sketches – Biographical – Samuel Massengill, William Massengill
17. Sketches – Historical – Morrisetts Chapel
18. Writings – [Pharaoh Lee Cobb] “The Story of Marble Hall”
19. Writings – [Pharaoh Lee Cobb] “Presence of Mind”
20. Writings – Cora Cobb – Organizing a Sunday School Program
 - Church Records – Sunday School
 - They Talk it Over
21. Miscellaneous – “Coutie” game

NAME INDEX

This is a name index of the personal correspondence only in the Pharaoh Lee Cobb Papers – Addition, together with the dates of the letters and information regarding their contents. The figures in parentheses denote the number of letters, if more than one. The last numbers refer to the box and folder in which the material is to be found.

- Allen, Penelope J. to Rev. Cobb, 1940, re: thanks for photostat of old Col. Joseph Cobb's heirs; regrets unable to attend Cobb celebration, 1-10
- Andrew Jackson Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution to Rev. Cobb, 1955, re: attendance at celebration of Constitution Day, September 17, 1955, 1-10
- Andrews, Alice Blalt (4) to Rev. Cobb, 1940-1941, re: Blair and Cobb genealogy, 1-10
- Babcock, Cora C. to Mrs. Cobb, 1910, re: missing Rev. Cobb and family in Mexico City friends and family in YMCA work, 1-10
- Barber, Grace Calvert to Mrs. Cobb, 1913, re: Missionary Society work in her church, 1-10
- Black, Ashby to Rev. Cobb, 1938, re: check sent, 1-10
- Braswell, R.G. to Rev. Cobb, 1904, re: desire to be medical missionary, 1-10
- Bratcher, S.R. Rev. to Dr. Cobb, n.d., re: transfer membership, 1-10
- Brown, O.E. to Rev. Cobb, 1916, re: church business, 1-10
- Cassidy, Mima Kate (Phillips) to Pharaoh L. Cobb, 1897, re: personal affairs; anxious to hear from him, 1-11
- Chapman, J.F. to Rev. Cobb, 1941, re: picture of Rev. Cobb wanted from Livia [Chapman and Cobb are cousins], 1-11
- Chestnut, Maggie Lee to Cora Cobb, n.d., re: sorry about treatment of Miss Head, 1-11
- Cobb, Cora to husband, n.d., re: family news, 1-11
- Cobb, Cora to husband, n.d., re: family matters, 1-11
- Cobb, Cora (7) to husband, 1902-1941, re: baby's first tooth; church and family news, 1-11
- Cobb, Jessie (3) to Uncle (Pharaoh Lee Cobb), 1940, re: family news, 1-11
- Cobb, Lee (4) to family, 1902-1920, re: family news; church conference news, 1-11
- Cobb, Pharaoh Lee (2) to family, n.d., re: home arrival, 1-11
- Cobb, Pharaoh Lee to Belle _____, 1940 re: genealogical data wanted, 1-17
- Cobb, Pharaoh Lee to Rev. R.L. Osborne, 1931, re: unable to return to him circuit and reasons, 1-17
- Cobb, Pharaoh Lee to Rev. D.P. Hurley, 1918, re: flu serious; can't place Bro. Hall, 1-17
- Cobb, Pharaoh Lee to Rev. C.F. Kelley, 1918, re: church business, 1-17
- Cobb, Pharaoh Lee to William, 1956, re: books read about writing his life story, 1-17
- Cobb, Pharaoh Lee (2) to Robert Sparks Walker, 1956, re: wants information for story of his life, 1-17
- Cobb, Pharaoh Lee to Edgar Lotsbeith, 1957, re: missionary campaign to raise a million dollars, 1-17

Cobb, Pharaoh Lee to Library of Congress, 1956, re: copyright expiration of book, History of Holston Methodism, 1-17

Cobb, Pharaoh Lee to Mrs. Penelope Allen, 1956, re: Cobb family history, 1-17

Cobb, Pharaoh Lee to Miss Ellene Ransome, 1956, re: thanks for condolences on death of his wife, 1-17

Cobb, Pharaoh Lee to Hawkins County Court Clerk, Rogersville, 1956, re: records of relatives, 1-17

Cobb, Pharaoh Lee to Carl _____, 1956, re: response to condolence letter on Mrs. Cobb's death, 1-17

Cobb, Pharaoh Lee to Mrs. Samuel Williams, 1955, re: wants date of great-great grandfather Edward Cox, 1-17

Cobb, William (4) to Mother, 1915-1946, re: school news; 80th birthday celebration in 1946; sorry not to be present, 1-11

Cox, Charles E. to Rev. Cobb, 1940, re: thanks for sympathy letter on death of his wife, 1-11

Crenshaw, Douglas to Rev. Cobb, 1953, re: family and church news, 1-11

Crosby, Grace (2) to Cora Cobb, n.d., re: Christmas and family news, 1-11

Cutten, Dorothy to Rev. Cobb, 1940, re: letter of regret in Cobb leaving church in Chattanooga, 1-11

Duncan, R.H. (2) to Rev. Cobb, 1938-1940, re: arrangement for loan repayment; looking forward to visit, 1-11

East Tennessee Historical Society to Rev. Cobb, 1940, re: asking that he write an article about "Bean Station", soon to be covered by TVA Cherokee Dam, 1-10

Faris, Belle to Rev. and Mrs. Cobb, 1940, re: thanks for beautiful picture – fortunate to have such good friends, 1-12

Friar, G. Edward (Department of State, State of Tennessee) to Rev. Cobb, 1954, re: sending Tennessee Blue Books; looking forward to his life story, 1-12

Greene, B.H. to Rev. Cobb, 1940, re: his new charge at South Pittsburg and the election of Mrs. Cobb as President of the Conference of Women's Society of Christian Service, 1-12

Grigsby, J.A. to Rev. Cobb, 1926, re: beginning of St. Clair Academy and names of various Methodist ministers, 1-12

Harrison, William H. to Rev. Cobb, 1940, re: thanking him for hospitality in his home, 1-13

Haskins, James D. (2) to William C. Cobb, 1918-1952, re: admission to University of Tennessee; his impressions of faculty and students when attending the University of Tennessee, 1-13

Hounshell, C.G. to Rev. Cobb, 1919, re: general missionary news, 1-13

J.W. Hunt Monument Company to Rev. Cobb, 1957, re: decision not to make change in monument, 1-13

Huntsman, Mrs. John to Bud (Dr. Cobb), n.d., re: family news, 1-13

James, D. Trigg to Rev. Cobb, 1941, re: church business; Cobb accredited to teach Bible course, 1-13

Kern, Paul B. to Rev. Cobb, 1941, re: unable to give morning service to laymen of church, 1-13

Kilgo, John C. (3) to Rev. Cobb, 1911-1912, re: unable to attend meetings, 1-13

Kincaid, C.S. (6) to Rev. Cobb, 1917-1952, re: church work and local news, 1-13

King, H.M. to Rev. Cobb, 1940, re: promoting church work through improved buildings, 1-13

Lee, Maggie Chestnut to Cora, 1916, re: revival and conference news, 1-14

Lotspeich, E.S. to Rev. Cobb, 1956, re: family news; church news, 1-14

Mayberry, H.D. to Rev. Cobb, 1941, re: how to find genealogical information in deed book, 1-14

Methodist Publishing House to Rev. Cobb, 1941, re: order for New Testament and Story of the Bible and The Harmony of the Gospel, 1-14

Mills, Cobb to Uncle, 1938, re: sick with typhoid and small pox shots; arrangement to travel to Harvard with friend, 1-14

Mitchum, Bob and Catherine to Father, n.d., re: New Years wishes, 1-14

Mitchum, Mrs. Robert (Catherine Cobb) to Father, 1950, re: insurance policy information, 1-14

Moek, Byrd to Rev. Cobb, 1939, re: hymn written by brother; he wants District to approve, 1-14

Momsell, J.S. to Rev. Cobb, n.d., death in the family, 1-14

Moore, J.W. (2) to Rev. Cobb, 191_, re: Bishop Hoss and his lonely life after leaving General Conference [Cobb wrote his thoughts bottom of page; remarks on being sent to Tazewell, Virginia, Church], 1-14

Moore, John Trotwood to Rev. Cobb, 1923, re: Library and Archives future and genealogy department, 1-14

Moore, Mrs. John Trotwood to Rev. Cobb, 1940, re: thanking him for letter and sending complimentary copies of two land grants, 1-14

Morgan, H.A. to Rev. Cobb, 1919, re: Cobb's suggestion that young ministers take University [Univ. of Tenn.] courses and some time to fill mission churches in city, 1-14

Morris, F.L. to Rev. Cobb, 1941, re: genealogy search in North Carolina for "Capt." Thomas Lee, Revolutionary War, 1-14

"Mother Phrony" (2) to Cora Cobb, 1912, re: much family news, 1-14

North Carolina Historical Commission to Rev. Cobb, 1941, re: unable to undertake genealogical research; inquiry referred to a genealogist, 1-15

Ownbey, Richard L. to Rev. Cobb, 1938, re: church work; pleasant time spent together, 1-15

Perry, J.W. to Rev. Cobb, 1940, re: Osborne not to have appointment as pastor, 1-15

Phillips, J.M. to Rev. Cobb, 1926, re: family genealogy, 1-15

Presbyterian Minister's Fund to Rev. Cobb, 1931, re: insurance policies and options to settle, 1-15

Scott, Mrs. Frank H. to Rev. Cobb, 1940, re: doing typing and copying of material, 1-16

Sheffey, Ida Phillips to Rev. Cobb, 1941, re: remembering the past when both were young, 1-16

Sherrod, C.C. to Rev. Cobb, 1955, re: will comply with his request for letter, 1-16

Shippey (?), Margaret to Rev. Cobb, n.d., re: family news, 1-16

Spilman, Lucy Lee (Mrs. J.K.) to Lee Pharaoh, 1939, re: annual conference arrangements, 1-16

Stewart, Randall to Cousin Bud (Rev. Cobb), 1956, re: data received from France, 1-16

Stout, B.R. to Rev. Cobb, 1940, 1940, re: his fox hounds and hunting; personal matters, 1-16

Tennessee Department of State to Rev. Cobb, 1954, re: sending Blue Book and wishing him success in writing his life story, 1-16